

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

### Letter to the Editor:

Congratulations to the Young Harris College "Family" on a wonderful Commencement on May 5th. Cathy Cox presided masterfully throughout the ceremony, Senator Johnny Isakson delivered (without teleprompter) a wonderful address full of wisdom and common sense and students were singularly impressive in their achievements, appearance and conduct. This was the most uplifting event that my wife and I have attended since we returned to Towns County in 2005.

Wm. Ronald Gibson

**From the Desk of:**



**Sheriff Clinton of Towns County**

This Friday, May 18, the Chatauge Gun Club and I will be hosting our 4th annual fundraiser to benefit the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes. This year's event is being sponsored by Jacky Jones' Automotive Group. There are also numerous local and regional businesses and individuals who are supporting this cause. There will be raffles, food, and fun as well as door prizes. All proceeds go directly to benefit the children of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes and because the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes is a public charity, any donation to the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes qualifies for the highest tax deduction allowed by law. The purpose of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes is to provide for our state's most at-risk children. These children are provided the love, safety, and structure they need to become mature, successful adults.

In the late 1950s Georgia Sheriffs became concerned with the growing numbers of abused, neglected, and abandoned children. The sheriffs understood the importance, not only to these children, but to our state, to provide these disadvantaged children with an opportunity to grow up in a safe and loving home environment. In 1960, the sheriffs opened the Georgia Sheriffs' Boys Ranch near

Hahira, where children could learn: Strong moral values and spiritual awareness; How to overcome adversity; Teamwork and accepting authority; Personal responsibility; Hygiene and manners.

Over the years, four additional homes have been opened for both boys and girls. Based on the same model as the Boys Ranch, these homes have provided thousands of disadvantaged young people the opportunity to live normal, positive lives in a full time residential environment. House parents instill in the children a strong work ethic, emphasizing education and training for future success. These values help to prepare the children to become mature and responsible adults.

The Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes also offers an outdoor camp, Camp Pioneer, near Lagrange. Camp Pioneer offers a summer camp program for children who would otherwise not get to enjoy an outdoor experience.

Participating in the Fourth Annual Fundraiser to benefit the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes will help provide a brighter future for some of Georgia's children. Your donation to this cause will provide hope for children who would otherwise have very little to hope for.

Please join us on Friday, May 18, 2012, at the Chatauge Gun Club Range located on Owl Creek, for what is sure to be an exciting time. You do not have to participate in the trap shoot to participate in the other events of the day. There will be raffles and door prizes as well as other fun and exciting challenges. Please call (706) 896-8343 for more information.



**RARE KIDS; WELL DONE**  
By Don Jacobsen

You may have seen Dr. Manny, the health guru, on Fox News. Although he is a bright guy, I want to take issue with him today. In a recent column he bemoans the rise of teen drug abuse (on which I agree with him) but concludes his lament by saying, "The reason for all this abuse: We've become too relaxed on the flow of these drugs."

His argument is that the reason teens use drugs is because drugs are available. Now it's obvious that if kids can get the stuff, more will likely use than if they can't get it. But that's like saying that the availability of lakes is what makes kids drown themselves. Lakes may make the temptation greater or raise the ease of drowning, but they are not the cause. A teen who chooses to drown himself in a lake has other issues than simply the presence of a body of water.

Granted, we have an ever-increasing teen drug problem in America. One recent report indicates that "heavy" marijuana use among teens is up 80% in the last decade. A jarring study by the CDC reveals that one out of five teens in this country abuses prescription drugs - that is, uses medicines (generally pain medications) that have been prescribed for someone else.

Any way you define it, that's an epidemic. Why are these figures true?

The reasons kids use drugs are complex and beyond the scope of this column. But we do know some of the things that help kids make good choices. The more items your family has on this list the less likely your kids are to abuse drugs:

1. Families that regularly sit down together for an evening meal, without the TV playing or cell phones ringing, are generally apt to have less problems with teen drug use. (Also less smoking, teen-pregnancy, and school dropout.)
2. The family has spiritual resources. Parents who have an active faith in God and who regularly pray for their children are less apt to have at-risk kids.
3. Parents work at communication with their children, talk to their kids about the dangers of drugs, but also learn to be good listeners. Family relationships are the key.
4. Get to know their kids' friends - and the friends' parents.
5. Aren't afraid to set limits and insist on compliance. Secretly kids welcome it.
6. Tend to be an example their kids can safely follow.

So, how did you do?  
Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

## Towns County Herald

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## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven. This profound passage from Ecclesiastes is a poetic rendering of universal law. Simply put, it means that everything which comes into existence has a life expectancy, including ourselves, our institutions and our nations.

As individuals we make choices which can extend or decrease our life spans. The same is true of our institutions and our nations. In the republic which existed for much of American history, we made choices for our nation through the democratic process. These choices were moderated or refined by the system of checks and balances created by our founders. It was a brilliantly conceived system which served to promote the will of the people while at the same time restraining the impulse of the mob and the shortsightedness of popular opinion.

The hollow shell of this system of checks and balances still exists, but we have entered a new season in the life cycle of our nation. In the past, the will of the people through the mechanism of government was capable of affecting fundamental change. Today the will of the people is a succession of changing images projected onto a screen while a greater will grows ever stronger off stage and out of sight. This is the will of institutionalized government which has intruded into every aspect of our lives.

The problem transcends politics and political party. The growth of government has been consistent regardless of which party occupied the White House or claimed the majority in Congress. As government's power grows and its reach extends, its will to survive also grows stronger along with its insatiable appetite. Government in its many forms consumes half of our productivity. Those of us who pay taxes work almost half the year to feed it. The hunger of the ruling class now threatens to strangle the very businesses upon which it feeds. We now have the highest corporate taxes in the world, and as government suppresses the ability of business to create jobs, it creates more and more people dependent on government for survival. It is indeed a vicious cycle.

We sometimes speak of government as if it were

### GUEST COLUMNS

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE EMAILED OR MAILED TO:** Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc. Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.\*  
*Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.*

something alien to ourselves. It is not. Government is entirely human, but it consists of humans exercising almost unchecked power. Wielding power and spending money is addictive, and every addict's fear is a loss of the addicting substance. Every administration since Bill Clinton has quietly increased the coercive power of the executive branch. Congress has given us institutions with names and abilities that would have fit comfortably within the regimes of Adolph Hitler and Joseph Stalin. Most of us could care less.

This year we once again witness the stylized dance of election cycle. The shrinking minority of those of us who bother to bear witness to the spectacle at all are greeted with the same "pas de deux" of democrats and republicans as always. The same old divisive issues will be presented to us: Reproductive rights, gun control, entitlements. This year many of us will choose a candidate based upon our opinion of gay marriage.

By the end of January, 2013, all of these issues will likely be receding quickly into the background, not for the people who are affected by them but certainly for the elected officials keen on sending money to their districts and getting re-elected and most assuredly for the hordes of unelected officials swelling the ranks of the nanny state.

Some of us may not vote this year, weary of having to choose the lesser of evils, but this is not a choice that will extend the lifespan of our nation as we know it. We must keep voting, not because it will change our lives for better or for worse, but because we must preserve what leverage we have in the hope that we can still somehow build a better machine. We must preserve the power of the vote for our children, whom we hope will be able to make better choices than we did.



"IT'S ON MY MIND.."  
Danny H. Parris

**If These Walls Could Talk**  
One of the Seven Wonders of the World is "The Great Wall of China." It was built over 2500 years ago and is the longest human-made architectural structure known to man. The Great Wall of China is the only man-made object that can be seen with the naked eye from outer space. It is constructed of masonry, rocks and packed earth. Originally, it was over 5,000 km long and its thickness ranged from 15 to 30 feet and up to 25 feet tall. The Great Wall was enlarged to 4,000 miles during the Ming Dynasty. I have never visited the Great Wall but always found it to be an interesting piece of history. In fact, there are many stories about walls that are very fascinating. One of my favorite Bible stories is recorded in Joshua, chapter six. Jericho was shut up, but God had told Joshua that the city belonged to the people of Israel. All they had to do was march around the city for seven days. They marched around Jericho once a day for six days. On the seventh day they marched around the city seven times. On the seventh time the priests blew the trumpets and the people shouted and the walls fell flat. It was a miracle of God. The walls of Jericho have a great story to tell. Right now in America, about the only wall that most folks are interested in is Wall Street. It tells a story every day about our economy. Some days it makes

people happy, on other days it makes investors very sad. Wall Street is important to most of us as far as investments and retirements are concerned. We certainly want the market to do well. However, Wall Street is not to dictate life and living for Americans, or the rest of the world. For months many people have felt that their backs were against a brick wall or a blank wall. In fact, many of us have been like Belshazzar (Daniel 5:5); we have seen the writing on the wall. Sometimes that writing on the wall (street) will make the knees of the most courageous knock! My personal opinion is that America has replaced the wall of worship and the wall of prayer with Wall Street where millions bow down in worship and prayer each day. I am afraid that in trying to build a materialistic wall we have done what the owner of a castle did. He became worried about his castle and hired workers to build a wall to protect it. The workers did not go out and find stones to build the wall; instead they removed the stones from the castle to construct the wall. The result was that they ended up with a wall but without a castle. In America we have been taking the stones out of the castle and building walls to protect liquor peddlers, the pornography peddlers, the political plotters, the drug destroyers, and every perverted agitator and instigator until there is not much left to the castle of America. Every Christian needs to see the handwriting on the wall and do like Hezekiah did, turn our faces to the wall and pray. If the walls in your house could talk what would they say?



## Community Calendar

**American Legion Post 23** meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support!  
**Towns County Water Board Meeting** 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.  
**Mountain Community Seniors** meet the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 2 p.m.  
**Towns County Democratic Party** meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at the Senior Center. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.  
**Towns County Republican Party** meets at 6:30 PM the 2nd Thursday of each month at Daniels Steak House. For more info call 706-379-1371.  
**Towns County Planning Commission** is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse.  
**Towns County Commissioners** meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse.  
**School Board Meeting**, 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.  
**Hiawassee City Council** 1st Tuesday of month 4 p.m., at City Hall.  
**Young Harris City Council**, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 p.m., Young Harris City Hall.  
**The Hiawassee River Valley Kennel Club** meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 828-835-1082.  
**The Unicoy Masonic Lodge** #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.  
**Stephens Lodge #414 F & AM** meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris.  
**Board of Voter Registrars** meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.  
**Towns County Board of Elections** holds its monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each

month at 4 p.m. at the Elections Office (Old Rock Jail).  
**Towns County Historical Society** meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org  
**Bridge Players** intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Recreational Dept.  
**Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG)** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartsandcraftsguild.org. mtnregartsandcraftsguild@hotmail.com.  
**Mountain Computer User Group** meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Goolsby Center at YHC. Q & A at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.  
**FPL Retirees Breakfast** will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Hole in the Wall Restaurant on the square in Blairsville at 9 a.m.  
**Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter, Trout Unlimited** meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Cadence Bank in Blairsville. 5 p.m. Fly Tying - 7 p.m. General Meeting. Everyone welcome. www.ngatu692.com.  
**Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)** meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call John Quinlan at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridge-mountains.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous:** 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.  
**Mothers of Preschoolers** meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information.  
**Chatauge Regional Hospital**

**Auxiliary** on the 3rd Monday of each month, except the months of July, October and December, in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m.  
**Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club** meets 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.  
**We do Family Oral History** of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded and would like to do so, please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.  
**Prostate Cancer Support Group** meets the 3rd Monday of every month from 5-6 PM in the Cancer Treatment Center Auditorium in Blairsville. For more info call Steve 706-896-1064.  
**GMREC Native Plant Garden Tours:** Mondays 9 AM-1 PM, May-Sept. (except holidays). 706-745-2655.  
**The Humane Society Mountain Shelter** Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Cadence Bank in Blairsville.  
**The Towns County Alzheimer's Support Group** meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the Family Life Center of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church. Caregivers or family members of those with dementia are encouraged to attend. For further information, call Carol at 706-896-6407.  
**The Appalachian Shrine Club** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Allegheny Lodge in Blairsville. For more info call William 706-994-6177.  
**Georgia Mountain Writers Club** meets at St. Francis of Assisi Church the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 AM.  
**VFW Post 7807** will have their all you can eat fish fry on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month from 4:30 to 7 PM. \$9 a plate. See you there!  
**GMREC Garden Tours** every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.