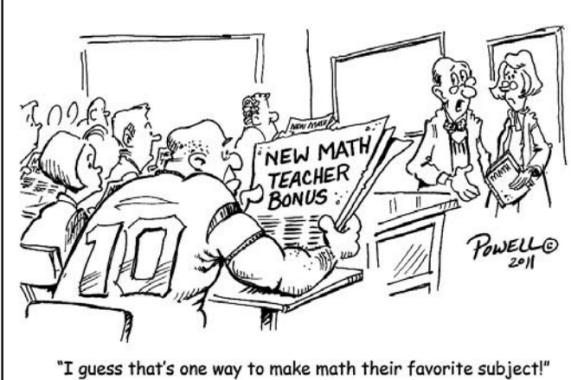


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



The Middle Path

by Don Perry

To everything there is a season and summer has arrived; not the meteorological season of hot weather which seems to come earlier and stay later each year, that has been with us for a while, but the summer of the Solstice, the season of solar and sidereal progression. With my bags packed for another business trip, I linger at the window this morning to watch mist rising on the mountain and I long for the days when the passage of time was measured in summer vacations and Christmas holidays. Time measured in such a way is the wind which moves a child's balloon across the sky; punctured by schedules, appointments and deadlines, time is the air escaping from the balloon.

Our ancestors observed the seasons and understood better than we do the cycles of life. Divorced from the natural rhythms of the Earth, we move through time like a bullet train through a forest. We miss the details of the scenery along the route and when the train stops long enough for us to notice, we are continually surprised at the distance we have traveled. Our civilization is moving very rapidly now. We are aware of accelerating change in the blur of scenery which rushes by outside of our mental boxcars, but for the occasional student of history we have lost a sense of the cyclic nature of all things.

Unnoticed by many, we have in this country entered into a new season for the culture which has dominated life in the United States for generations, and this day has been approaching as inexorably as the movement of the Earth around the Sun. For the first time in our history the number of Caucasian babies being born is less than the number of minority births. While Caucasians still make up the majority of the adult population, this season will pass as surely as summer will pass to autumn.

Changes of season are often accompanied by stormy weather. This is a useful fact to keep in mind while attempting to understand the thunder and lightning and the strong winds of

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 E-MAILED 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.**

politics in this country as younger generations with a different cultural literacy that our own gradually replace the status quo. History is very instructive on this matter: when the status quo changes, those in power will struggle to remain in power, to conserve it, if you will. Those who seek power, who desire change, will be viewed by those who enjoy the status quo as liberal, radical or revolutionary. As the wheel of time turns, today's liberals will be tomorrow's conservatives.

We have a tendency to take our politics personally. Individuals will become identified with and will carry the banner for various causes. We will applaud or we will vilify them, but it would behoove us to remember that in a very real sense they are simply occupying positions in job descriptions written by the changing times. To everything, and everyone, there is a season.

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

The land of the living

This is the last of eight articles pertaining to death. Some of you probably had rather read something else, but if you will let your best thinking prevail, you'll realize it is not your emotion I am addressing, but your reason. Until funeral homes go out of business for lack of business, until people no longer die, we should talk about and prepare for death.

The question keeps coming up, "If a man dies, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). The answer to that is a definitive, "yes" (John 11:25-26). Not only will the Christian live again, but he will live in a land of "no more" death (Rev. 21:4). When I was a young boy one of the most dreaded diseases was polio. But one day great rejoicing was heard when it was announced that Doctor Salk had discovered a vaccine against polio. Mass inoculations took place. Today, only the afflicted bodies of former victims remain to remind us of the once conquering disease. However, the greatest sigh of relief went up when Jesus died on the cross. He conquered death by dying. He arose from the grave and because He lives, we shall live also. While John was banished on the Isle of Patmos, God gave him the final revelation of the "land of no more!" It truly is a land that is "fairer than day, and by faith I can see it afar." Domitian, the Roman Emperor commanded that his people worship him, addressing him as "Lord Caesar." Christians refused, and instead said, "Lord Christ." Many of them died, but God

revealed to John and to us that these ancient martyrs stand around God's throne to live forever. John records in Revelation 21:4 that because heaven is a sinless habitation there will be "no more tears." God will wipe them away. If there is "no more sin," there will be "no more disease"; if there is "no more pain"; if there is "no more sorrow"; if there is "no more crying." If there is "no more sin," there will be "no more death." In heaven, there will be those who were grave diggers and undertakers on earth but they will never dig another grave nor prepare another dead body, nor lead another funeral procession. As a minister here on earth, I have preached to hundreds of people with tear-stained eyes, but never will I or any minister do this in heaven for "the former things are passed away." Just yesterday, before I sent this article to the newspaper I helped with the funeral of a dear brother and friend. Thank God "Mr. George" was a Christian and has gone to the land of "no more" death. Perhaps someone is reading this article who is frail with age and the shadows of evening are falling across your life, or you may be young with a fatal illness, take heart if you know Jesus. You will soon arrive in the land of "no more": no more pain, no more sickness, no more sorrow, no more separation, no more sin, no more curse - "no more death." I preach a funeral and after the committal of the body I leave the cemetery. However, someday everyone else will leave and I will remain, for I too must die and journey to the land of "no more death."

May I remind all of us that "This world is the land of the dying; the next world is the land of the living!"

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

Did you know there used to be only 10 Pet Friendly Disaster Shelters in the whole state of Georgia that would accept companion animals in the event of a disaster such as winter storms, tornados, wildfires, hurricanes, flooding, hazardous material release, and acts of terrorism?

On behalf of the citizens of Towns County, we thank Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall who gave his full support to EMA/EMS Director Rickey Mathis to work with PUP (Prevent Unwanted Pets) to help develop a FEMA Animal Disaster Response Plan with direction from the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) and University of Georgia (UGA). Towns County now has two certified Pet Friendly Shelters: one at the Towns County High School and one at the T. C. Recreation Center. Both of these shelters also take humans so people can care for their pets in a near-by area. Plans have also been made for horses and livestock.

This letter is to say thank you to all who participated in any way in this effort: Venessa Sims-Green, GDA; Ray DeLuca, UGA; Dr. George Chambless, FEMA, USDA; Rickey Mathis, EMS; Robert Brewer, T.C. Extension Coordinator; Sally Varao, T.C. Red Cross; Dr. Richard Behrens, Superintendent of T.C. Schools; Young Harris College; T.C. Sheriff's Office; Fire Chief Mitch Floyd; Brenda Hunt, T.C. Fire Corps; Pastor Jim Blair, UMC & T.C. Ministerial Assoc.; Dr. Bill Wendel, T.C. Coast Guard Auxillary; Dr. Hilty Burr, DVM, Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital & No. Ga. Emergency Hospital Consortium; Dotti & Jack Carter, Ga. Equine Rescue League; Georgia Mountain Fair; Towns-Union Mountain Shelter; Castaway Critters; Whiskers Project; United Community Bank; and Towns County Herald.

Lastly, we thank all those community volunteers that came out and gave freely of their valuable time to be trained for disaster response.

Marsha Grogan and Joan Crothers, Operation PUP, Inc.
1-888-496-2587



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

People who excel in life do not necessarily go to the best colleges. Rather, they tend to be those with the best social skills.

"Does that mean a part of my role as a parent is to help my kids develop good manners?" Yup, I couldn't have said it better myself.

"That's really a boring assignment, Dr Don." OK, but if you want your kids to succeed it's helpful if people like them.

"But my kids are pretty polite."

Then your kids are exceptional. Think of the last time you were trying to get off an elevator and some teens were trying to get on. How did you do? Recall the last time you were trying to get off of a bus and a bunch of kids were trying to get on. How did that work out for you? The consensus in our culture is that we're raising a generation of rude dudes.

But I have a plan for you. How about establishing a Manner-of-the-Week Club at your house? Beginning sooner rather than later. Select a social skill you'd like

your kids to learn and then take a week to coach them in using it. Like Please and Thank you. Like holding the door for people. Like not grabbing for the biggest piece of pie.

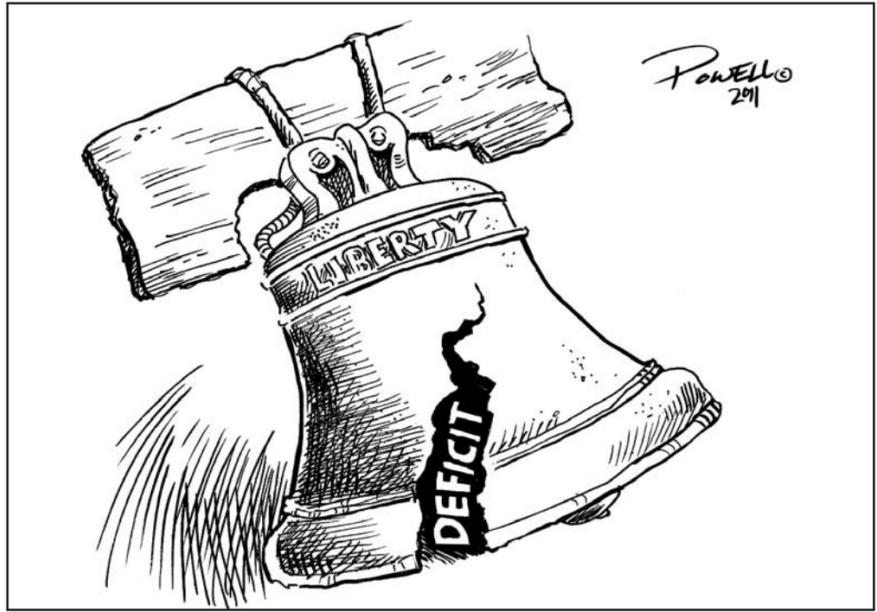
Another fun exercise is What if. For instance, What if we are eating dinner at Aunt Martha's and she serves celery soup, but Junior doesn't like celery?

Or, What if, when Aunt Martha passes the salads around Junior finds a big bug in his? Or, well, have your kids make up their own What-ifs. That's part of the fun.

Late middle school is a good time for Junior to take Mom on a date so he learns how a young man treats a young lady. And Dad takes Sis on a date so she learns how a young gentleman treats a young lady and how the young lady responds.

Kids with good manners in our day? Rare Kids. You might want to re-read the first two sentences at the top.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.



Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 6 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 3rd Thursday of every month. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.

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 Elec-

tions 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 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. Call Eden at 706-896-6921.

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, mtntregarts-craftsguild@hotmail.com.

VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m., \$9 a plate, all you can eat.

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.

Chatuge 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.

Towns County Herald
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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