

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:
Newborn babies are born with as many as 200 man-made chemicals in their bodies. They come into the world toxic.

Many of these toxins come from their mothers. An average woman ingests as many as 150 chemicals into her body each day as she gets ready to go to work. She does this through her personal care products such as shampoo, soap, cosmetics, hand and body lotion, spray and even the mascara she uses. She is toxic, and if she is pregnant, she passes these chemicals on to her unborn child.

On June 24, 2011, Representative Jan Schakowsky, D-III, joined by Representative Ed Markey, D-Mass. and Representative Tammy Baldwin, D-WI, introduced the Safe Cosmetics Act of 2011 (HR 2359). This bill would give the Food and Drug Administration authority to ensure that personal care products such as shampoo and cosmetics are free of harmful ingredients.

The existing law, which has not been updated since 1938, has loopholes that allow chemicals linked to cancer, birth defects, learning disabilities and other illnesses to be used in products we put on our bodies every day.

We must let our political leaders know that we care about this bill and any bill that will help protect us from toxic chemicals in products we deem safe since they are sold everywhere. The air we breathe inside our homes and places of employment is often polluted and dangerous for our lungs, our brains, and affects us mentally and physically.

While staying in the hospital with my husband for several weeks, we had to be vigilant that I didn't become sick from the chemicals worn by the staff and used in the room. My sensitivity to chemicals in scented products often brings on asthma and bronchitis. Even with a sign on the door asking staff not to enter if they had on fragrance, we were continually asking them to leave.

The odors lingered after the nurse or tech left. It was not the fault of the wearer. She didn't know she wore a toxic substance. That is why it is important that personal care products be labeled properly.

"The growing number of reports of serious health problems arising from the use of dangerous chemicals in personal care products shows a need to update our laws and protect men, women, and children from harmful exposure," said Rep. Schakowsky. "Currently, manufacturers are not required to disclose all their ingredients on labels, and the FDA has no power to supervise the use of toxic chemicals in cosmetics. Americans are left in the dark about harmful mystery ingredients in personal care products; consumers deserve confidence that the products that they use will not hurt them."

Glenda C. Beall

Letter to the Editor:

I love the majestic mountains and appreciate the heritage our forefathers gave us. Putting all politics and power aside and the lovely Independence Day could be celebrated for months, years, centuries and more. We do have some rare kids indeed. They learned the customs and trades of the early frontiers. We sit back and enjoy the time with family, friends and loved ones. Teach us, Lord, to be ever mindful of this majestic glory. The anchor holds.

Nancy W. Ferguson



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

If my mail this week is any indication, I apparently struck a nerve with my last column when I talked about how important it is to teach our kids good manners, actually more important than seeing that they get into the right college.

One reader said, "I was coming out of a fast-food restaurant and was nearly trampled by a bunch of kids coming in." Another lady said, "My friend and I were watching a movie and a bunch of middle school kids came in and sat in front of us. They laughed, they talked out loud, they totally took over that section of the theater."

I know, that's not universal, but it's all too common. That's why I suggest launching a Manner-of-the-Week Club at your house. Take one "manner" you'd like to see your kids learn and spend a week working on it.

A good time to do that is around the dinner table. You do eat dinner together, right? Let me tell you why I ask: In fami-

lies that eat at least one meal together daily, the kids are less apt to use drugs, less apt to use alcohol, and less apt to be sexually active. That makes it worthwhile to put forth the effort for a daily meal together, without cell phones or television, even if it takes a parental decree to get it started.

This week's Manner-of-the-Week topic might be: Not interrupting when others are talking. Or, remaining at the table till everyone is finished eating. Or, helping clear the table. Or, remembering to ask if there is anything they can do to help.

We are born selfish and if nothing happens to reset that clock we never get over it. One of my roles in helping my kids become successful in life is to help them learn to think beyond their own needs to how they can be helpful to others. That'll probably be more useful than getting into an Ivy League college.

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

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Once again a holiday has passed on the Monday just before you receive this newspaper, but unlike so many of our holidays moved from their true dates to create a long weekend, this Fourth of July actually fell on a Monday. Many thanks to those of you who will have worked on that day: public safety workers, police and firemen, the people who keep the power on and the water running, the nurses pulling double shifts in the hospital, and indeed the hardworking staff at the Towns County Herald who work every Monday throughout the year. Sincere gratitude goes out to the men and women on duty and in harm's way halfway around the world.

On this holiday we generally celebrate ourselves, and for good cause. The contribution of America and Americans to the free world has been and remains nothing short of remarkable. In this age, however, of ever increasing government power, of government intervention in the free markets, and of government intrusion into our daily lives, it would behoove us to keep a watchful eye on Washington while we celebrate.

Though the holiday will have receded into the past by the time you read this, I want to share some words from the past which still ring true, on the holidays and on every day. They were written by Thomas Paine and published in a little pamphlet with a big impact in 1776, a pam-

phlet entitled, "Common Sense." History once learned does not need to be repeated.

"Some writers have so confounded society with government, as to leave little or no distinction between them; whereas they are not only different, but have different origins. Society is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness; the former promotes our happiness positively by uniting our affections, the latter negatively by restraining our vices. The one encourages inter-creations. The first is a patron, the last a punisher.

"Society in every state is a blessing, but government even in its best state is but a necessary evil; in its worst state an intolerable one: for when we suffer, or are exposed to the same miseries by a government, which we might expect in a country without government, our calamity is heightened by reflecting that we furnish the means by which we suffer. Government, like dress, is the badge of lost innocence; the palaces of kings are built on the ruins of the bowers of paradise."

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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.



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

The Joyful Sound

Many of you recall the by-gone days of bells. Traditionally, we have been a nation that celebrated our freedom with the ringing of bells. We were called to worship by the ringing of church bells. The little church where I attended as a young boy had a rope hanging down in the foyer. That rope was attached to the bell that was housed in the belfry on the roof. Mr. Albert Pruitt seemed to be in charge of ringing the bell. Mr. Pruitt was a fine Christian gentleman. The rope did not hang low enough for boys with short arms to reach, but Mr. Pruitt would lift little boys up in his arms and let them pull the rope to ring the bell. What a thrill!! Of course, if you got to ring the bell you had to get to church long before service was to begin. The church bell has always reminded me of my freedom to worship. That sound has always been precious falling on my ears. When I started first grade at McCaysville Elementary School, bells seemed to be essential to keep order and keep everyone on schedule. The teacher had a small round bell on her desk that she would just tap to restore order to the class. The large board (shaped to fit a rowdy boy's bottom) next to the bell gave additional power to the bell. When recess was over, a teacher, or a student, selected by the teacher, would walk to the middle of the playground and ring a bell that had a long wooden handle to signal playtime had ended. The school bells always reminded me that I had the freedom to pursue knowledge and learning. I haven't forgotten that sound. At Christmas time bells have always been prominent. We sing songs of Christmas bells such as "Jingle Bells" and "Silver Bells". We play hand bells and listen to the Salvation Army bells calling us to remember that we still

have the poor among us. The bells of Christmas remind me that I am free from darkness and bondage because the light of God in Christ Jesus has set me free. I refuse to forget those sounds of freedom at Christmas. At Christmas we sing songs like "When They Ring Those Golden Bells". At death we are reminded that we have won the ultimate victory. Thank God, we are free at last. Thank God for the sound of those Golden Bells. To every true American the most famous and revered bell is the Liberty Bell, which can be seen in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It may surprise you, however, to learn that comparatively it is not a large bell. Moscow has the bragging rights for the largest bell in the world. It weighs 180 tons, but it has never been hung or rung since it cracked in the furnace. Moscow's second bell weighs 128 tons and is the largest in use in the world. The largest bell in the United States weighs eighteen and one fourth tons. It is in the Riverside Church in New York City. The Liberty Bell weighs 2,080 pounds. It was cast in England in 1752. It broke in ringing on its arrival in Philadelphia in 1753. It was recast using the same material and inscription: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10). As we are now engaged in resisting the enemies of freedom, both at home and abroad, may I remind all of us to never forget those joyful sounds of freedom. The Psalmist said, "Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of Thy countenance. In Thy name they shall rejoice all the day: and in Thy righteousness shall they be exalted. For Thou art the glory of their strength: and in Thy favor our horn shall be exalted. For the Lord is our defense; and the Holy One of Israel is our King" (Psalm 89:15-18). Pause on this 4th and thank God for the joyful sounds of freedom and pray God's blessings on those men and women who are at this very moment standing in the gap to maintain our liberty.



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 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, mtnregarts-craftsguild.org, mtnregarts-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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