

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

Sincere apologies are extended to those who missed the Melody Boys Quartet concerts at Woods Grove Baptist and Sharp Memorial United Methodist Churches last weekend as a result of my error in an article in last week's newspaper. I am embarrassed to confess that in editing last year's article, I failed to change those dates of August 16 and 17 to August 22 and 23 for this year, giving the appearance that the concerts at Woods Grove and Sharp Memorial had already been held.

I want to especially be sure that readers know that this newspaper bears no blame for the incorrect information being published as the article was printed as submitted to them. Those who missed the events of last weekend and those who desire to hear more from the Melody Boys will have that opportunity locally in the Anderson Music Hall during the Georgia Mountain Fair Fall Festival on October 10, 2010.

Jerry Kendall

Letter To The Editor:

As a newcomer to the mountains, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the friendly, caring service I recently received at the Chatuge Regional Hospital in Hiawassee.

From July 24 to 26, I was a patient at the hospital, and I was treated with kindness and professionalism by all members of the staff, from admissions to housekeeping. The nurses, especially Bobbie, were always very pleasant and kind. I was blessed to have the most wonderful attending physician, Dr. Kilee Smith. And the food was delicious.

Having worked in many large hospitals in the tri-state area, I can honestly say bigger is not always better. Towns County is well served by the Chatuge Regional Hospital staff.

Anne Redd

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

The West has long feared China. Centuries of impenetrable mystery preceded our fairly recent awareness that 1.3 billion people and an autocratic government are ready to compete for the very same energy and resources we have long assumed were ours by birthright. Recent headlines warned that China now has the second largest economy in the world because their GDP exceeded Japan's in the last quarter.

Headlines are designed to entice us to read what sits under them. While it is true that 1.3 billion Chinese produced an output greater than 127 million Japanese, Chinese production amounts to about \$1000 per person while in Japan that number is about \$10,085 per person. Multiply those quarterly numbers by 4 for an average yearly income and then consider whether you would want to be "middle class" in China or "poor" in Japan. The CIA World Factbook ranks China 120th in GDP per capita; the United States, by the way, ranks 11th.

Just a few years ago the headlines warned of the rise of Japan in some of the same terms now being applied to China. Japan was destined to replace America as the dominant world power. Of course this did not happen, but cursed with short attention spans as we seem to be, we missed a cautionary tale. The rise of Japan's economy

coincided with a shrinking of its government. The decline of Japan's fortunes paralleled the bloating of its government. China's market reforms have lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty, but in eight years of Bush now accelerated by Obama, we have chosen Japan's path instead. Predictably, a small percentage of our population has prospered while the majority of us have seen our economic fortunes dwindle.

The competition paradigm assumes that when one part of the world prospers, another part of the world must suffer to the same degree. It doesn't work that way. The world economy is not a zero sum system. When Americans prosper it stimulates the economy in other parts of the world, and vice versa. So the Chinese are not to be feared for their ability to elevate their people out of poverty. If you want to fear something, however, fear the effect on the planet of an ever increasing population consuming and excreting resources in a feeding frenzy driven by 19th century methods and fueled by fossil fuels. Beware, also, of an American government bloated to a degree beyond George Orwell's worst nightmares. Beware a welfare state sapped of the strength of innovation and free enterprise that we will desperately need to meet the challenges of the future.

That being said, I also believe it is incumbent upon each of us in government to be fiscally responsible. We, at the Office of Sheriff, will continue to seek ways of providing essential services through alternative means of funding; however, providing for the needs of the community does require the use of public funds. Therefore, we are seeking the public's guidance and direction in providing those services that we, as a community, deem necessary and appropriate.

Once in place, this long range plan will serve as a frame of reference, a kind of 'road map' for the direction in which we will move forward into the future. We recognize the fact that any long range plan will need to be reassessed from time to time to ensure we continue moving in the direction that is most beneficial to all of Towns County's citizens.

Please join us for this very important meeting and make your voice heard. Please invite your friends, neighbors and family to attend as well. As I have said many times, I believe this office belongs to all of us. It is important that we work together to help the Office of Sheriff become exactly as it should be for the people of Towns County.

Let me say once again that I believe that government should always conduct business on behalf of "we, the people." This idea, which was so fundamental to our country's birth, seems to be easily replaced these days with a sense of catering to special interest. I want to be sure that the Office of Sheriff remains as it was always intended to be: an office of the people, in place to serve the public as a whole.

Please join us this Thursday, August 26, at 6 PM. Your attendance and voice will help us to know how we can better serve Towns County, GA. We are a unique community with unique needs and goals. Let's all work toward the common goal of protecting and preserving our future for the benefit of our children and grandchildren.

Also this week, allow me to offer an apology. I failed to mention earlier, that my office is now located in the Towns County Courthouse. I believe that this will make me more accessible to the citizens of Towns County.



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

Thankful in August

It's August. It's hot as blazes. At my house, as old-timers used to say, it's as dry as snuff dust. It's not November but we can still be thankful in August. During these hot, dry, dog-days it is easy to become fretful, fussy, cantankerous, irritable and downright ornery. (Maybe that's what's been wrong with a lot of politicians). Perhaps the hot weather got to Stephen Slater, the flight attendant? In spite of this unusually hot weather we need to look on the bright side of life. As I write this column the weather prediction is for cooler days ahead. So be thankful for more favorable weather conditions. In this month of August I am grateful for air-conditioning. Outside it may be scorching hot but we have learned to beat the heat with air-conditioned homes, cars, businesses, offices, churches and sports arenas. It's interesting the things people do to stay cool. I have never understood why people want to go to the beach when it is so hot. When the heat gets unbearable I want to find a cool stream and a shade tree. Let me tell you the beach is not the place to go to find a shade tree and a cool stream. Some of my preacher friends believe that God called them to preach, teach and go to the beach. Not me! In this month of August I am thankful that God has allowed me to preach the gospel for almost 49 years. I am thankful that in all of those 49 years I have never forgotten to turn off the cordless mike while

using the restroom; nor has my church ever voted to change my off day to Sunday. I am thankful that I have never preached the same sermon two Sundays in a row (at least I don't think I have). I am thankful that I was never assigned nursery duty during the Sunday morning preaching hour. Sometimes when I have asked women where their husbands were, I have never had one to say, "Right where you buried him a month ago." Thank the Lord for that! I am thankful that I have never fainted while performing a wedding. (Once at a grave side service I did call a deceased man by the wrong name). I am thankful that in all these years I have never drowned anyone while baptizing, but I have bumped a head or two. I am really thankful that I have never had one of my sermons to win the prize on America's Funniest Home Videos! I am thankful that my wife still laughs at my jokes. I am thankful that God blessed our marriage with a son, a daughter, a son-in-law, 4 beautiful granddaughters and a handsome grandson who is a junior at the University of Georgia. I am thankful for the Georgia Bulldogs. I am thankful and proud of our granddaughters even though they strayed from the Georgia path (one graduated from Florida, one from Auburn, one just started her freshman year at Auburn, one a senior at the University of South Alabama). I am thankful for America, the land of the free. I am thankful that God loved me when I was unlovely. I am thankful for Friendship # 3, the church where I'm serving as interim. I am thankful that God is good-all the time. I am thankful even in August.



ASK DR. DON

By Don Jacobsen

We've talked about helping kids learn respect and responsibility at 3 and 5. Today a nine-year old. Next time we'll look at a teen.

So, let's say that, after a couple of reminders to bring her bike in, nine-year old Cindy leaves it out in the front yard... again... and it rains. Since the bike is her responsibility mom and dad remind her but don't rescue her by bringing it in.

A few days later she wants to take a bike ride with a couple of friends. She remembers her bike. Oops, it's still outside. Very wet. The cable to the front handbrake is rusted stuck and the seat is soaked.

You know the drill... "Daadd, my bike won't work. Will you fix it?"

Dad takes a look and says, "Honey, I'm sorry but the cables that work the brakes are rusted and you can't ride a bike with no brakes."

"Daadd, will you buy some new ones?"

"Well, Cindy, I'm really sorry, but they're only ruined because the bike was left out in the rain. Since that was your choice it means it will be up to you to solve the problem. If you want to buy them I'll help you put them on, though."

"But then I can't go riding with my friends today."

"I know honey, that's a bummer, isn't it? But you're creative, so you can probably think of something else to do that's fun."

See all the healthy stuff that's going on here?

Cindy is learning responsibility.

She is discovering that her choices have consequences.

Mom and dad haven't used up their coaching collat-

eral by nagging her to bring in her bike. The bike didn't become the focus of a shouting match.

They have treated her with respect...dignity and fairness.

If Cindy is angry with anybody it is likely herself, not her parents.

Mom and dad are feeling gratified that they didn't allow the bicycle incident to escalate into World War III. No bike is as important as the relationship Dad and Mom want to retain with Cindy.

The bicycle problem stayed in the hands of its rightful owner.

Oh, and if they're wise, they'll also make sure that Cindy pays for the bike parts herself from her allowance. "But, dad, this week's allowance is all gone." Will dad and mom give her an advance? Nope. See, you never really learn how to manage money until you learn how to be broke. There's a little mechanism called Saving for a Rainy Day, and Cindy is just figuring out how it works.

Or she may choose to rake leaves or sell lemonade or dog-sit or develop some other entrepreneurial skill. This bicycle thing is turning out to be a multi-faceted educational event; all the while Cindy is discovering that her parents believe in her, trust her, and love her. And this is the atmosphere in which a youngster comes to understand how people treat each other when they have deep respect for one another.

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

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

This week I would like to reiterate what I spoke of last week. As I mentioned then, there will be a public meeting at the courthouse this Thursday, August 26, 2010 at 6 PM to discuss the long range vision and goals of the Office of Sheriff in Towns County. It is important that we continue to focus on the needs and goals of the community. With your attendance, you have a voice in shaping the future of the Office of Sheriff and help us to better serve you.

I believe that safety is a paramount concern to any community. In fact, I believe that if we are honest, safety is our chief concern. Our need to feel safe is of the highest importance. I know that for me, if I'm in danger, it doesn't really matter what is for supper tonight. The only thing that matters is being safe. I want to know that when I dial 911, someone is coming, and when they get there, they will be prepared to help me.

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.

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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.

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