

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## From the Desk of:



**Sheriff Clinton of Towns County**

Prescription diversion has become an epidemic in much of the United States over the past several years. So much so, that I feel it is something that should be discussed often. One of the major problems with prescription diversion is that young people often see these drugs as "more safe" than the common street drugs like cocaine or methamphetamine. Often they believe because these drugs were originally prescribed by a doctor, they are safe. The truth is, when prescription medications are used for purposes other than prescribed, they can be just as deadly as any street drug. In fact, they are often more deadly than their street drug counterparts when they are abused. According to the Georgia Sheriffs' Association, almost 85% of Georgia's fatal drug overdoses each year are caused by prescription drug abuse.

There are some things parents can do to help protect their children from the dangers of prescription drugs and their abuse. Parents should become aware of the types of prescription drugs that young people are abusing. Parents should be willing to share that information with others who may be in contact with their children such as school administrators, counselors, coaches, youth ministers, etc.

Parents should always communicate with their children. If we don't tell

our own children the truth, who will? Don't be afraid to speak honestly with your child. Often, the best form of prevention is to have good lines of communication with your child. Find out what they may be facing in terms of peer pressure. Use the opportunity to educate your child on how to make good decisions. It is important that we teach our young people the truth about prescription drugs. They should know that these drugs can be just as deadly as any street drug, especially if taken with alcohol or other prescription drugs. The combinations can be deadly!

Never leave prescription medications where they are easily accessible to young people. As a parent or grandparent, take an inventory of any prescription medication in your home. Keep it out of reach and out of sight. Make sure that you monitor the amounts to see that none is missing. Always take an active role in keeping your child safe and informed about making the right choices. No one is in a better position to protect your child than you are.

This information is meant to help you, as a parent, to be aware of the dangers of prescription drug abuse. Odds are your teenager is aware of others who are already abusing prescription medication. It is my hope that this information will help you protect your loved ones.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact us at the Sheriff's Office at 706/896-4444, or visit us online at [www.townscountysheriffsoffice.com](http://www.townscountysheriffsoffice.com). You can now follow us on Facebook and Twitter by clicking the like and follow buttons on the Sheriff's Office website.

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

No matter how far back we turn the pages of history, we find that human beings have remained essentially the same over the centuries. Though each generation has felt itself to be unique in some way, the sum of all these differences has not changed or evolved as individuals any more than putting on a new shirt changes our blood type. Throughout the centuries we have loved and hated for the same reasons, been driven by the same lusts, feared the same unknowns and aspired to the same truths.

There have been a few in every generation who have recognized the common threads of humanity that run through the historical tapestry; fewer who recognized that these commonalities not only bridge the centuries, but they bind us together in the present as well. Today we have a clearer view of more history than any generation before us, but we still suffer the same prejudices, still fear what we do not understand and often hate what we fear.

The Anasazi cliff dweller of 500 AD and the urban cliff dweller in today's megalopolis both share the same range of human possibilities. Both love their children and wish for them a better future. Both see themselves as part of something larger than the individual. Both attempt to peer across the gulf between life and afterlife for some sign of God, some promise of hope.

Across the years we all share the same strengths and weaknesses of character that allow the wide range of human conditions between sheep and goats, grasshoppers and ants, saints and sinners. Whether we prefer Shakespeare or Sun Tzu, study the Hindu, the Hopi or the Hapsburgs, we hear the same stories and see the same archetypes. Some generations learn from the past and build on what has gone before, while some, through circumstance or bad judgment, become rubble for the building blocks of future construction. Civilizations rise and civilizations fall in patterns that, if they do not exactly repeat, very often rhyme.

I often look to the ancient Romans for lessons of history. For good or for ill, we resemble them in many ways. Rome began humbly and grew into a great republic. The reins of the republic were seized by greedy hands grasping for empire and the seeds of Rome's destruction were planted along the imperial road to world power. As Roman military and political power concentrated into fewer and fewer hands, Rome prospered or declined according to the vagaries of personality bound to a long succession of despots. As it is with our own dear nation, Rome was cursed with some of the most corrupt, and incompetent leadership of all time.

Lucius Annaeus Seneca was born in 3 BC and lived during a time when Rome was greatly debased by a succession of bad emperors. Roman culture was not so much different than our own. The Romans were economically, technologically and socially advanced and prosperity gave them a wide range of choices for education, career and leisure as well as a wide range of possibilities for dissolution and decay. As a tutor to the mad emperor, Nero, Seneca was able

to hold Nero's madness in check for a time, but a solitary voice willing to speak truth to power is not enough to keep a nation from decline when good people, out of distraction or despair, fail to act.

Seneca the playwright touched on themes that are as alive today as they were 2000 years ago. Seneca the philosopher wrote extensively on a wide range of topics, but the power of his intellect shines brightly on his discourses on the intents and purposes of life itself. The success of his efforts to illuminate life can perhaps best be judged by the bravery and sobriety with which he faced his own imminent demise when his life, like so many others, was also made forfeit by the madness of Nero.

I leave you this week with an excerpt from Seneca's "On the Shortness of Life." Though it was written 2000 years ago, it mirrors our own lives as clearly as if it had been written this morning.

"Why do we complain of Nature? She has shown herself kindly; life, if you know how to use it, is long. But one man is possessed by an avarice that is insatiable, another by a toilsome devotion to tasks that are useless; one man is besotted with wine, another is paralyzed by sloth; one man is exhausted by an ambition that always hangs upon the decision of others, another, driven on by the greed of the trader, is led over all lands and all seas by the hope of gain; some are tormented by a passion for war and are always either bent upon inflicting danger upon others or concerned about their own; some there are who are worn out by voluntary servitude in a thankless attendance upon the great; many are kept busy either in the pursuit of other men's fortune or in complaining of their own; many, following no fixed aim, shifting and inconstant and dissatisfied, are plunged by their fickleness into plans that are ever new; some have no fixed principle by which to direct their course, but Fate takes them unawares while they loll and yawn—so surely does it happen that I cannot doubt the truth of that utterance which the greatest of poets delivered with all the seeming of an oracle: 'The part of life we really live is small.' For all the rest of existence is not life, but merely time."



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

### Football and church

Since I have been preaching for fifty years and been a football fan for about seventy years I have discovered there are a lot of similarities between football and church. Some of these definitions and explanations have been garnered from various sources down through the years and some of them I just plain made up. I'm sure you can add to the list:

**\*Backfield in motion:** Those making two or three trips to the bathroom during the worship service.

**\*Bench warmer:** One who only sits in the pew, but fails to serve when the call is made to join the team already on the field.

**\*Blitz:** The stampede for the door when the service is over.

**\*Draw play:** What a lot of folks do with their bulletin.

**\*Draft choice:** Laying a claim to a seat nearest the door.

**\*Flag on the play:** When a deacon drops a tray during the Lord's Supper.

**\*Fumble:** When the usher drops the offering plate and everyone dives for it.

**\*Game time:** When the pianist and organist begin playing and the choir makes

its entrance.

**\*Half-back option:** When half the congregation chooses to stay home Sunday night.

**\*Holding call:** What happens to a lot of money when the offering is received.

**\*Off sides:** When those who normally sit on the left side pews switch to the right side pews.

**\*Penalty:** When a visitor takes a seat and someone approaches and says, "Sorry, you can't sit here this is my seat." Big Penalty, the REFEREE is gonna come down hard on that one.

**\*Playbook:** Also known as the Bible, God's Holy Word, that contains plays for all of life's situations – both offensive and defensive.

**\*Quarterback sneak:** Members who sneak out before the service is over.

**\*Stays in the pocket:** When the preacher preaches from behind the pulpit (not my pastor).

**\*Sudden death:** When the pastor preaches past twelve o'clock.

**\*Two minute warning:** When the pastor says "finally" and preaches for fifteen more minutes (one I am frequently accused of breaking).

**\*Touchdown:** When the pastor extends the invitation and scores of people come forward to make life commitments to the Man Up in the Booth.

Let the real game begin!

## Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!

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Deadline for the T.C. Herald is

Friday at 5 p.m.



"I'm concerned about the rising number of job losses. If they continue, I'm afraid one of them might be mine!"

## RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

"Cleavage aside, what does real sex appeal look like?" asks author AJ Kiesling in a recent book. It's a valid question because our generation, perhaps as none other in history, is being bombarded with wrong answers.

The very word modesty has fallen on hard times as though it had become distasteful and extinct in a previous era. But let me suggest that, although it may not be a popular concept in many places, modesty is a powerful idea.

It is true that the male of the species may be titillated by a flirtatious female, but that is far different from being respectful toward her. A teenage boy may be infatuated by a suggestively dressed girl (guys are highly visual), but that is far different from this admiring her for the person she is. A group of guys may be excited by the enticing company of a provocative classmate, but that is far different from holding her in high esteem as a young woman.

If you are the parent of a daughter, let me assure you that the allure of modesty is strong to those you want her

to befriend. The appropriate reserve and unwillingness to play the temptress game sets a young woman apart in our sultry culture. It means she is looking ahead rather than to the cheap compromise of the moment and is setting herself apart as one whose friendship is to be sought after and treasured and valued.

My stepdad, an insurance salesman, taught me a lesson when I was a teen. One day he threw away a beautiful tie tac he had worn for a long time. When I asked why, he told me that it had become a distraction. He said, "When I sit in people's living rooms and talk to them about providing peace of mind for their family, I find them often staring at my tie tac. I discovered that what I was wearing was distracting them from the message I wanted them to hear." So does risqué dress. As your daughter/granddaughter looks to the future, talk to her about who she wants as friends and the message she wants them to hear.

Send your parenting questions to: [DrDon@RareKids.net](mailto:DrDon@RareKids.net).

## 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](mailto: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.**

**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 3rd Thursday of every month. 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 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060, [www.townshistory.org](http://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@hotmail.com](mailto:mtnregartsandcraftsguild@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](http://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](http://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.

**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.

## Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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