

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor

A great big Thank You to everyone that supported the 1st Annual Jessi's Gift 5K Run/Walk on October 22 at the Clay County Recreational Park to benefit Kingdom Kids. We had a great turnout of over 140 runners and walkers. A special thank you to all of our sponsors that helped make this event become a reality. Jacky Jones Automotive, Nantahala Bank, King of Diamonds, Home Depot, Ingles of Hayesville, Scrubs and More, Absolute Dental Lab, Share and Share Alike, Britt & Capri, Body Sense, Brothers Restaurant, Mountain Graphics, Ridges Resort, Brasstown Valley Resort, Citizens South Bank, Raymond James Hiwassee, Fatz Restaurant, Rustic Rose, United Community Bank, Jones Insurance.

And many thanks goes out to all the volunteers! We appreciated everyone that took part in this special day to remember Jessi and to help make a wish come true for a child!

*Bud & Kathi Patrick
Merri Murphy*

Jodi & Kevin Ford representing Kingdom Kids

Letter to the Editor

National Philanthropy Day is November 15, and I've been thinking lately about that universal spirit of generosity that prompts us to help others. On a national scale, Americans gave \$3.3 billion in charitable gifts in 2010, even in this tough economy. On a local level, too, as the Foundation Director at Murphy Medical Center, I see examples of generosity every day right here at home:

Our incredible volunteers donating over 10,000 hours per year to help us with our important work for the community. A concerned citizen walking through the door with a cash donation to help us fight breast cancer. Hundreds of people turning out to participate in a fundraiser.

The good work of Murphy Medical Center Foundation is possible because of generous spirits like these, enlightened donors who know their gifts help, no matter the size. People who believe that philanthropy creates good in the world, making it a better place.

As a supporter of various causes, including non-profit Murphy Medical Center, I know first-hand that it feels good to give. To make a positive difference in my own community, to personally contribute to helping others.

In recognition of National Philanthropy Day, I thank all the generous folks who support Murphy Medical Center with their time and donations. We provided over \$11 million dollars in uncompensated care to our community members last year, diligently caring for those who need help. We appreciate those of you who support us in our efforts and encourage everyone to be part of our good work in this community.

*Kathi Osborne, Foundation Director
Murphy Medical Center*



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

Q: Dr. Don, do you have any suggestions for us – our almost-teen son won't clean up his room. If you have seen any news reports of a town that suffered a direct hit from a tornado you get an idea of how this room usually looks. Even if I clean it up, it doesn't take him very long till it's back to normal. When we talk to him about it, he says, "Well, it's my room and that's how I like it." Should we just ignore the whole situation and hope he will outgrow it?

A: Well, you can ignore it if you wish, but from your description it is not likely he will outgrow it. I suspect what will happen is that by-and-by it will be his wife hounding him rather than his mother.

Start by getting one thing clear with him – it's not his room. Your name is on the deed, not his. You pay the mortgage, you pay the heat and cooling, you pay the insurance. It is perfectly appropriate for you to explain to him that as the parents it is your role to establish a standard of cleanliness for your home and anyone who lives there is obligated to adhere to it.

Since I don't know what you've taught him through his

pre-teen years let me make some suggestions. Tell him there's a new sheriff in town and you are establishing some new occupancy rules. Set a day to help him clean it up to make sure he understands what that means, where everything goes, what an acceptable level of cleanliness looks like.

After that, anytime he leaves the house and the room does not meet that standard you are going to remove something... computer, Game Boy, bar bells, TV, chest of drawers, etc. He will get it back when the room passes inspection for two weeks straight. If it falls below that line, the time starts over.

When I first went away to boarding school there were a couple of hundred guys in my high school dorm. Every morning the dean did a room inspection. If your room didn't pass muster he came and got you out of class and you had to clean it. I don't remember any of us who had that happen more than once. Interesting how, with the proper motivation, you change even deeply ingrained behaviors. You'll see that happen with your son. Be strong.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

continued from last week...

We sympathize with the couple trying to enjoy a relaxing drive through the mountains. We pity the family in pursuit of their urgent needs. It is not difficult to imagine the factors pressing down on the accelerator. Consider this likely scenario: Both parents work. With two children to be supported by the small selection of jobs in our area, they work more than forty hours each during the week. After work they have to pick up the kids at soccer practice or any of a number of other activities in which our children must participate in order to become what we consider to be "well rounded" and able to compete. On the way home with the kids they must "run by" the grocery store and rush home to make dinner while the kids are doing homework. On the weekend there is a game to attend and more shopping for necessities – and more driving. By Sunday the parents are wondering why we call Saturday and Sunday "the weekend." The week, in fact, never ends, but they feel an obligation on Sunday to do "something fun," which in our culture usually involves more driving. If that "something fun" is in any of the metropolitan areas which surround us, that activity requires at least five more hours on the road. By Sunday afternoon the parents are exhausted, but the sun is going down and they still have to cross the mountain to get home, make dinner, finish the laundry and get themselves ready for work and the kids ready for school the next day. Unfortunately for all, their way is blocked by Ted and Alice, retired, visiting from Orlando and driving 30 mph to better enjoy the fall colors.

Recently a tribe was discovered living in a remote area of the Amazon. The people of the tribe have no language for time. They have no concept of hours, minutes and seconds, much less the increasingly small units of time which dissect modern existence. They do not count days, weeks, months and years. Their names are related to their appearance, and as that appearance changes over "time," they give away their old names and take on new ones. Their lives are not without struggle – they must gather food and build shelter. They must experience sickness and death. However, these simple people appear to be extraordinarily healthy and happy and free from much of the stress which accompanies modern life.

We often consider ourselves, by virtue of our advanced technology and sophistication, to be superior to simpler people; superior to our ancestors

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, Hiwassee, 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.

who lived without our modern conveniences. Science tells us, however, that though our knowledge has increased, our intelligence has not. And what of wisdom? One could make a strong argument that this elusive quality has actually diminished. What have we gained in our pursuit of speed and convenience? We work far more hours than our ancestors who hunted and gathered. The quality of our living is polluted by, not only the exhaust from our passing, but the chemicals of fight and flight coursing through our bodies under stress. We medicate ourselves and we medicate our children just to be able to cling to the fingertip ledge of mental health on the steep ascent of our progress.

There is an ancient symbol of a serpent swallowing its own tail. It is a symbol of the cyclic nature of existence, of creation out of destruction, of life growing out of death. I think it is also a fitting symbol of our relationship with time. We have embarked on a journey of pursuit: Pursuit of speed, pursuit of instant information and instantaneous gratification. We pursue time, but in doing so, we are pursued by it. It is sad that, for too many of us, we only begin to question that pursuit as we near the end of life. Only then, with less time before us than behind, do we choose to slow down and enjoy the fall foliage, and wonder why we didn't make the choice years ago.

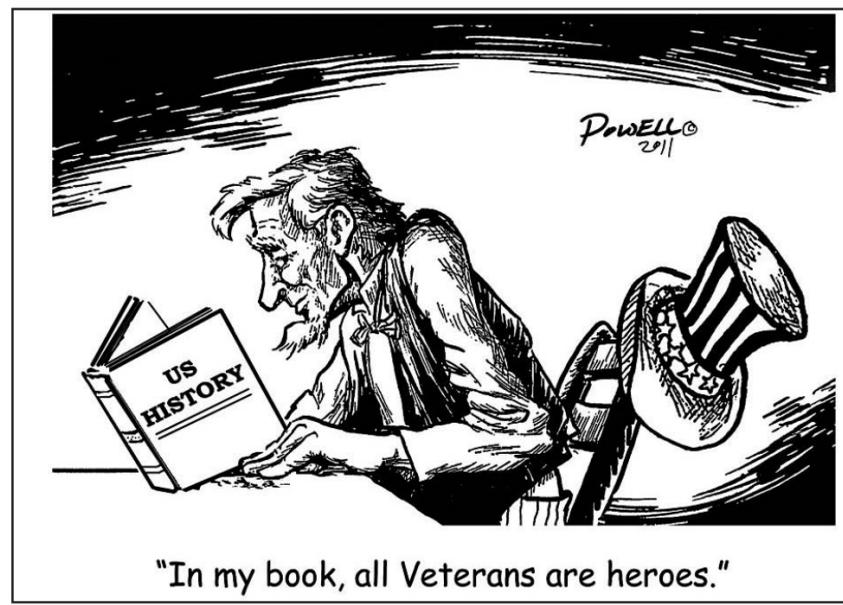


"IT'S ON MY MIND.."
Danny H. Parris

Fall best of all

The writer of Ecclesiastes said, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (3:1). I was born physically in the spring and I was born again and baptized in the spring. So springtime is very important to me. I like the summertime and wintertime, but fall is best of all. There is something that is very quiet and peaceful as fall approaches. A mysterious tranquility seems to encompass all of God's creation. The frosty mornings and the clean crisp air seem so refreshing and invigorating. Watching the trees turn loose the summer leaves that have turned from the varied greens to yellow, gold, orange, red and now brown and brittle remind us that our lives are seasonal as well. Fall reminds me of my childhood. As a young boy with three other brothers and two sisters, I always remember fall activities. There was hog-killing time. With a large family to feed, my dad would "fatten" two hogs to provide meat through the winter months. As soon as the weather was cold enough the hogs were killed. To a small boy this seemed a little gory. However, I helped to stoke the fire to heat the water to just the right temperature. The hog was lowered headfirst into a 55-gallon barrel of hot water. This was done by using what

my dad called a set of chain-falls. The chain-falls had to be fastened to a suitable limb of a strong oak or hickory tree at just the right height. The hog was then attached to the chain-falls to be lowered into the barrel of water. The heated water loosened the hair. The animal was cleaned, cut into the various sections, and processed. This task took all day and half of the night. The shoulders, hams, side meat, etc. were saturated with salt and placed in the smokehouse. All of the other parts were processed into food sources. Everything was saved except the grunt and they didn't know how to catch it! Sausage was made; liver mush was made; lard was rendered and cracklings were saved for crackling bread. These memories are very vivid in my mind, but the thing that stands out more than anything else was that my mom and dad shared with all of our neighbors "a mess of meat." All of us – my brothers and sisters were given generous portions of meat and assigned houses to deliver this fresh meat to. All the neighbors did likewise when they killed hogs. That was a different day, a quieter and calmer world where neighbor shared with neighbor. From childhood to adulthood I have had a desire to share. As a little boy I was taught to share "a mess of meat." As a minister of the gospel, Christ has allowed me the glorious privilege to share "a message of man grace." Jesus said that "my shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Have you accepted that life-giving message?



Community Calendar

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 Hiwassee 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.

Hiwassee 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 Hiwassee 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 Hiwassee at 5 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiwassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org

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), Hiwassee. 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.

VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be the 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.

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.

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