

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

### Letter to the Editor

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Towns County Food Pantry. Our family has experienced the desperation of loss of employment, and the lack of resources to keep a family fed. Without the generous support of the Pantry, we are certain our situation would have been very serious. It has truly been a blessing to know that we could rely on the Food Pantry to help meet our needs. The staff and support from the Food Pantry is outstanding. There is genuine love and compassion represented by the volunteers. There is no better time than Thanksgiving to say THANK YOU!

*A Grateful Family in Towns County*

### Letter to the Editor

In response to Mr. Kendall's voting "No" on the new one cent tax increase, I agree with him 100%. There are some big-time lobbyists in the state capitol with, in my opinion, some very deep pockets. Do we really need a 5-lane road expansion for only about 1 mile? Does our traffic pattern require this?

Now, on to the most important tax of all - food! Both the price and quality of food available have changed for the worse, without a tax. Do you realize that the makers of peanut butter have already increased the 1 brand 30%, and another 40%? For working families with small children, peanut butter is a fast, nutritious lunch or snack. I suggest you read the labels to see what I mean.

Last winter, the wheat crop was the worst in U.S. history. Along with floods and drought, there is no end to rising food costs. Corn subsidies to farmers for ethanol have been a huge failure. The USDA does not have enough inspectors to inspect all the food imports and state food. For example, look at the recent lysteria outbreak in cantaloupes in Jensen, CO, that has already killed 29 and sickened 189 more. 12 weeks prior to the outbreak, this company received a 96% passing grade from an inspector who had only 2 8-hour training classes 2 weeks prior to the inspection. Furthermore, the imports of farm-raised fish and shellfish are beyond our inspection controls.

Along with corn, wheat and other crops, floods and droughts have affected food in all categories. Many cattlemen in Texas have already sold not only their cattle, but also their calves, affecting the next generation of beef.

I have been in the food and hospitality business for 37 years. One of my priorities was always to watch prices, but most of all, to ensure the quality for the health of my guests. Take the time to examine the prices and quality of produce, meat and fish as well as canned goods before you decide how to cast your vote on this tax. We need to stop, step back and look at the big picture for years to come. Hard working families cannot afford more food price increases in this great recession. My advice to you is to join with Commissioner Kendall and vote "no" on this tax increase.

*Thank you,  
Chef Ben Sutton  
Culinary Institute of America alumni, 1977  
Fellowship, Escoffier Room 1978*



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

There are a lot of "research studies" showing up these days and frankly they don't all excite me. Some of them use what appear to be sloppy research methods, and at best, some are about as exciting as watching paint dry.

But here's one that caught my attention. It's from "Pediatrics," the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. It studied the amount of swearing middle school kids do as it relates to the amount of TV they watch.

Over the past half century there have been hundreds of studies of the influence of television on kids' sexual values, on violence, and on substance abuse. The outcome of that research is pretty consistent - and virtually all negative. But I had never seen a study measuring the effect of TV-viewing on the profanity that shows up in kids' language. Let me tell you why it caught my attention... Not "taking the Lord's name in vain" is pretty basic Christian behavior, yet it is becoming epidemic in our culture. And not just on television.

Just a few days before I read the report, a pastor's wife told me of a little incident in her home - she had dropped a jar of beets on the kitchen floor and it broke. Their 3-year old came rushing to see what had

happened. She stopped at the door of the kitchen, put her little hands on her hips, and said in a loud voice, "O my god!"

Quite understandably Mom was flabbergasted because that kind of language doesn't exist in her family. She couldn't remember anyone, family or guest, ever making that statement around their daughter. Mom knew the 3-year-old didn't understand the significance of what she had said, but she was puzzled to discover where she had learned it.

A few days later she phoned me to say she thought they had solved the mystery. She and her pastor husband were reflecting on the fact that they had recently had a lot of out-of-town company and the TV had been on just about around-the-clock; perhaps she had picked it up there. It's not difficult for me to believe they're right. I have been amazed at the increasing frequency of those kinds of expletives, even in "family-friendly" television programming.

So my question today is really pretty simple: What are they learning at your house? From the television. And from you. Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

An unfortunate aspect of human nature is our tendency to abuse power. We could argue the reasons, debate the underlying psychological motivations or discuss the biological imperatives until blue (or red) in the face and nothing would change. Human institutions are lenses which magnify human effort. Institutions which survive do so because they are structured to account for the vagaries of human nature so that our creative rather than our destructive tendencies are magnified.

One of the most powerful organizations the world has ever seen is the United States Government. It grew out of a framework established by one of the most brilliant documents of all time, the United States Constitution. The genesis of our nation was an enlightened effort to find a balance between the rule of law and the expanding horizon of innovation found in the free enterprise of a free people. The vagaries of human nature, the corrupting influence of greed and the lust for power were well accounted for in the checks and balances originally intended by our Founders.

All human institutions have a life cycle. Out of chaos an institution is born. It evolves as it attempts to survive and in the process it may become a completely different kind of institution - or it devolves and is destroyed, setting the stage for the genesis of new institutions. Most institutions already contain the seeds of their own destruction at birth. A representative government begins to devolve as soon as its participants discover the ability to vote themselves benefits and to extract wealth from the system without creating any wealth. In time the framework of laws designed to account for human nature are weakened to allow greater leverage. Our nation is well along this path.

The "State" is an abbreviated reference to all the institutions which govern a people from the local to the national level. The State, if we look at its components, is comprised of people no different than you or I except for their ability to leverage power and influence. The State provides benefit to its members, and people receiving benefit tend to want to perpetuate the status quo. Thus the State has a tendency to grow over time. It grows naturally as population grows and it grows unfortunately as its participants become more adept at leveraging benefit. It is unfortunate because, like a host weakened over time by parasites, a culture, an economy and a nation becomes weaker as non-productive elements weaken the productive.

Which brings us to today. A burgeoning, all powerful State is struggling to maintain power. One of the methods the State

### 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.

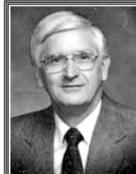
### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:

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.

has of maintaining power is by bribing the people with benefits. Congress is continuously occupied in diverting money from the productive free market directly to its districts to facilitate re-election (maintaining the status quo.) The State bribes the non-productive members of the population with benefits paid for by the productive members in the many forms of welfare, both personal and corporate. Unfortunately our productive sector has weakened beyond its ability to fund both the welfare state and the adventures in imperialism enjoyed by the political class in conjunction with the military industrial complex.

It is a perfect storm of civil unrest, and the "Occupy" movements around the country, now spreading around the world, are a natural consequence of the devolution of our system of government. The protestors have our sympathy, but we feel that they are fighting the wrong battle. We believe that they are occupying the wrong street in the wrong town. In many ways the Occupy movement has become an attack on free enterprise and a condemnation of success. Income disparity is a symptom of our economic problems, not the cause. The root of the problem is not to be found in the desire of a company to be profitable. Profitable companies provide jobs, pay dividends and, in most cases, pay taxes. To put it in better perspective, you could take 100 percent of the profits of all the Fortune 500 companies and this amount of money would not even scratch the surface of the federal deficit.

The problem, as we see it, is centered in government, not in business. Business will always and naturally seek to increase leverage, but it is government which has allowed these interests to penetrate the rule of law and corrupt it. We could write volumes on corruption in government, but a recent revelation is a perfect example of the larger problem. Last week CBS broke the story about how Congress has allowed itself the right to trade stocks and bonds on inside information - an action which would result in a jail sentence for someone on Wall Street. Today the Stock Market is crashing again, further injuring the viability of wealth producing companies, doing more damage to pension funds, all because Congress has admitted failure in its effort to spend less money. Think about that....



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

### The most populated prison on Earth

Our prison population is growing at an alarming rate. Almost all of our jails and prisons are housing more lawbreakers than they were designed to house. This overcrowding is dangerous not only for the prison population but for the general public because of the early release program, prisons riots, etc. The fact is that we can't build facilities fast enough to confine our lawbreakers. But do you know that there is one prison that houses more prisoners than all of our jails and prisons combined. These prisoners have not engaged in any criminal activity that they can be prosecuted for, nor are they confined in a prison behind steel doors and concrete walls. Their prison is called THE PRISON OF WANT. They are shut up behind doors far stronger than any metal bars that have ever been created. They are locked up to a tormenting life that can never be satisfied unless the Lord Almighty becomes their shepherd. Their prison of want is probably motivated by the want of possessions, the want of pleasure or the want for power. As we celebrate this Thanksgiving season why

don't you break out of your prison of want by letting David's Shepherd of Psalm 23 become your shepherd. Mrs. J. R. Mott has beautifully interpreted Psalm 23 for us:

The Twenty-third Psalm  
"I shall not want"  
"The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want!"  
I shall not want rest.  
"He maketh me to lie down  
In green pastures."  
I shall not want refreshment  
"He leadeth me beside  
The still water."  
I shall not want forgiveness.  
"He restoreth my soul."  
I shall not want guidance.  
"He leadeth me in the paths  
Of righteousness for  
His name's sake."  
I shall not want companionship.  
"Yea, though I walk  
Through the valley  
Of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
For thou art with me."  
I shall not want comfort.  
"Thou preparest a table  
Before me in the  
Presence of mine enemies."  
I shall not want joy.  
"Thou anointest  
My head with oil."  
I shall not want anything.  
"My cup runneth over."  
I shall not want  
Anything in this life.  
"Surely goodness and mercy  
Shall follow me  
All the days of my life."  
I shall not want  
Anything in eternity.  
"And I shall dwell in the  
House of the Lord forever."

## Have something to sell?

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Deadline for the T.C. Herald is  
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"There go some real hometown heroes...  
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# 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 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

**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.org. mtnregartsandcraftsguild@hotmail.com.

**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.

**Aleocholics 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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**OFFICE LOCATED AT 446 NORTH MAIN STREET  
"THE MALL" HIWASSEE (706) 896-4454**  
Publication Number 635540. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points.

**EMAIL Address: tcherald@windstream.net**

**POSTMASTER: Send change of address to:  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
P.O. BOX 365 HIWASSEE, GEORGIA 30546**

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