

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Q: We are dealing with a situation that has us troubled. Our son who is 14 recently put up some really gross posters in his room. They are rock stars we think, they have ghastly makeup on and some have really skimpy clothing. We don't approve but we don't want to overreact. Counsel?

A: I feel keenly on this issue because music is one of the most persuasive influences in the universe. Many of today's kids are listening to the most debasing ideas imaginable, hammered into their minds with a hypnotic beat. The music represented by the posters you describe has no place in the lives of our kids if we are serious about helping them develop high moral character, purity, and respect. Music tattoos its message on the soul. We become like what we think about. Nearly every parent I talk to is deeply concerned about the plunging morals of our culture. I lay much of the blame at the feet of today's vulgar, rebellious music.

And I am not distracted by the charge that it's a generational thing, that no generation likes the next generation's music. It's true, my parents didn't much like the music I liked, either. But make no mistake, much of today's music is as different from my generation's

as soda pop is from whiskey. Hopefully you began several years ago to help your son understand that your family is a special place and you want everything that happens there to help you reach the goals you've set. Some TV programs do not. Some music does not, so you are intentional about your choices. This is a benchmark principle and as early as six or seven it is simply part of your casual conversations.

He's 14 now. Your assignment is more complicated but still essential. Make time when you and he can be alone together. Explain that you and mom don't want the posters or the music they represent to have any place in your home. Tell him why and that you'll help him take them down and destroy them. You are not asking a favor; this is a directive. If he counters with the "But it's my room..." routine, remind him that as parents you are responsible for what goes on in your home.

I would insist that it be done today. Every hour the posters are there they are at cross-purposes with your goals for your family. There are huge issues at stake here; the posters are a first step.

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

Wildfire & Firewood; Good Forestry Management

As I write this week's article, I am on the "other" coast in Calabasas, CA attending a National RC&D workshop for RC&D Council leaders who facilitated the 16 Wildfire, Safe, & Code Smart Wildland Urban Interface Building Code workshops held last year all around the U.S.



Executive Director of RC&D

Frank Riley

The workshop that Chest/Chatt facilitated in Hiwassee in August and was attended by 42 representatives of various agencies from around the state. The purpose of the WSS&CS workshops was to present the new Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) building code that has been adopted by the State of Georgia.

The WUI building code if adopted by a county can be used as a guide for those who build their houses in the WUI. This code describes suggested types of materials, building methods, and landscaping that can reduce the risk from the wildfires that can happen right here in our North Georgia Mountains. The group includes representatives of RC&D councils from California, Virginia, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Alaska, Hawaii, and Georgia. Yes, they even have wildfires in Hawaii. The common theme around the table is that all of our RC&Ds are constantly looking for ways to create programs that can protect the citizens that we serve from events that can cause economic harm and loss of lives.

The event that we are all most passionate about is wildfire, which not only can cause loss of homes and businesses, but community infrastructure and can destroy recreation attractions that will cause people to take their vacation dollars elsewhere.

There are things that we can do to lessen our risk from this kind of loss and one of the most effective ways is by us-

ing good management in the forests that are all around us up here in North Georgia.

Good forest management reduces wildfire fuel by several tried and true methods that have been used for many years and are proven to work. The most economical and effective method is prescribed burning which eliminates wildfire fuel under controlled conditions. Another is thinning the trees to reduce tree mortality from infestations of insects and diseases which if left unchecked can wipe out a lifetime of growth in a very short time and create wildfire fuel. Most of the insects that have wiped out many of our native trees are "foreigners" that were brought in as stowaways on many types of transportation. These foreign invaders are brought in and spread on people's clothes, in vehicles, on building materials, packing materials, and even firewood that are hauled from one region to another.

There are many precautions that we can take to lessen this risk of invasive insects and one way is described in the following article that has been reprinted from the *Georgia Grown* magazine. As the temperatures continue to drop, Georgians are using increasing amounts of firewood in fireplaces, wooden heaters and campfires. The Georgia Department of Agriculture would like to remind consumers to limit the movement of firewood due to potential pest and disease infestation.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

We have inherited an intriguing dichotomy of belief in America. It has been described in both philosophical and religious terms but it expresses itself politically as "conservative" or "liberal."

It is not necessarily a logical next step to extend those core beliefs to include all that is conservative under a republican umbrella and all that is liberal under a democrat one, but that is the way politics is reported to us by the media.

We are more than familiar with the projected images of conservative and liberal ideas and where we should all stand, with respect to our political affiliations on abortion, gun control, affirmative action, religion and so on. What is truly puzzling is the additional beliefs herded under these crowded umbrellas, particularly the great divergence in republican and democrat belief about... the weather.

Generally speaking, liberals, and therefore, democrats, are seen as wishing to conserve the earth's resources. They believe that the liberal use of fossil fuels is causing or has contributed to warming weather and they want to limit, or conserve, the use of fossil fuels in favor of renewable resources.

Conservatives, and therefore republicans, are supposed to believe that changing weather is part of natural cycles that render insignificant the influence of human activity on climate. They point out that the warming of our planet has been on "pause" for the

last 15 years. They support the continued liberal use of fossil fuel and an aggressive search for more.

Indeed the fracturing of the belief system of an entire nation appears to have traveled along a rather jagged line of thinking that does not provide for a smooth, instantly recognizable division between "them" and "us." As a democrat I might not be able to reason, without being told, why my liberal nature would lean towards conservation. As a republican I might not deduce from my conservative desire to see things stay the same the need to remove entire mountaintops in order to burn coal. Yet these are exactly the beliefs we are told we should have.

Party politics is a mechanism which is intended to represent the will of the people expressed from the local level all the way to the national. The will of the people has for many years been channeled, more or less equally, into two opposing camps with a pendulum swing of public opinion maintaining a dynamic balance from election to election.

Our system has provided stability. However, it has often been ineffective in making any real progress on the lightning-rod issues, including the weather, that are presented to us by our two party system, year after year after year. In fact the only thing our votes, for democrats or republicans, seem to have been able to change is the size of government, which grows ever larger.

Firewood can transport many invasive pests such as the emerald ash borer, Sirex wood wasp, Asian longhorned beetle and gypsy moth as well as diseases such as beech bark disease, sudden oak death, and oak wilt. Infested trees can be cut, split into firewood, and sent to other parts of Georgia and the U.S., thereby expanding the range of these pests.

Campers, hunters, RV'ers, etc. also move firewood, often hundreds of miles, before their stash is burned. Given time and right temperatures, these insect pests can leave the firewood and infest new areas before the wood is burned in a campfire. Due to this pest movement, several states have passed state regulations and quarantines on firewood. In order to prevent and control the movement of these invasive pests, it is important to follow a few simple rules when handling firewood.

1. Wait to buy firewood when you reach your destination.
2. Use firewood from the area where you plan to burn it.
3. Do not leave any unused firewood behind.

For more information on the pest and firewood movement, please contact the Georgia Department of Agriculture or Frank Riley, Executive Director of Chatstate/Chattahoochee RC&D Council.

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, 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.

One altogether lovely

In the month of February we celebrate Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Valentine's Day, President's Day and Groundhog Day. February is looked upon as Love month. Therefore, I think it appropriate to focus upon the One who is Altogether Lovely.

The Lord Jesus Christ

- To the artist He is the Ideal Portrait.
- To the architect He is the Chief Cornerstone.
- To the astronomer He is the Bright and Morning Star
- To the baker He is the Living Bread.
- To the banker He is the Hidden Treasure.
- To the biologist He is the Life.
- To the builder He is the Sure Foundation.
- To the carpenter He is the Door.
- To the doctor He is the Great Physician.
- To the educator He is the Great Teacher.
- To the farmer He is the Sower and the Lord of the Harvest.
- To the florist He is the Rose of Sharon and Lily of the Valley.
- To the geologist He is the Rock of Ages.
- To the horticulturist He is the True Vine.
- To the jeweler He is the Pearl of Great Price.
- To the judge He is the Righteous Judge, the Judge of all Men.
- To the juror He is the Faithful and True Witness.
- To the laborer He is the Giver of Rest.
- To the lawyer He is the Counselor, the Lawgiver, the Advocate.
- To the newspaperman He is the Good News of Great Joy.
- To the philanthropist He is the Unspeakable Gift.
- To the philosopher He is the Wisdom of God.
- To the preacher He is the Word of God.
- To the railroad man He is the New and Living Way.
- To the sailor He is the Pilot of Life's Troubled Sea.
- To the sculptor He is the Living Stone.
- To the servant He is the Good Master.
- To the soldier He is the Captain of Salvation.
- To the statesman He is the Desire of all Nations.
- To the student He is the Incarnate Truth.
- To the theologian He is the Author and Finisher of our Faith.
- To the sinner He is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.
- To the Christian He is the Son of the Living God, the Savior, the Redeemer and Lord.



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

Have something to sell?
Let the Herald work for you!
Contact us at 706-896-4454
Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM

"Wow! I can't believe how fast this session is going."

POWELL 2014

Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiwassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support!
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 Hiwassee at 1 p.m.
Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at the Senior Center.
Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 4th Thursday of each month at the new Senior Center. For more info call 706-994-3919.
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 in Murphy. Call Kit: 706-492-5253 or Peggy: 828-835-1082.
The Uncino 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.
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 5:30 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiwassee, GA. We do oral family histories

of residents. 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org
Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Rec Center.
Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, Hiwassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Call us by 706-896-0932 or mtregarts-craftsguild.org.
Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month in Young Harris. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. A "Q & A" session follows. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.
FPL Retirees meeting 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 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 the 3rd Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church at 706-745-2469.
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 3 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Jerry (828) 837-7658.
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. For more info 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.
Georgia Mountain Writers Club meets at St. Francis of Assisi Church the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 AM.
GMREC Garden Tours every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Shooting Creek Basket Weavers meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreek-basketweavers.com.
Friendship Community Club meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76, 706-896-3637.
Goldwing Road Riders meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiwassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meets every Wednesday evenings at 7 PM at the Red Cross building (up the hill from the chamber office on Jack Dayton Circle).
Caregiver support group meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Church St., Hiwassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.
Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch.
Brasstown Woodturners Guild meets 1st Saturday of month at 9:30 AM in HHS shop. For more info call J. C. at 706-896-5711.
Fish Fry #7807 will be hosting a fish fry they 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month April - October. \$9. all you can eat from 4:30 - 7 PM.
Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC) meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiwassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.

Towns County Herald
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

KENNETH WEST.....PUBLISHER
CHARLES DUNCAN.....EDITOR, ADVERTISING
SHAWN HENRIKSON.....COPY EDITOR
MASON MITCHAM.....STAFF & SPORTS WRITER
JOE COLLINS.....ADVERTISING SALES
LOWELL NICHOLSON.....NEWS,SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER

OFFICE LOCATED AT 518 N. MAIN ST. SUITE 7
"THE MALL" HIWASSEE (706) 896-4454
Publication Number 635540. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiwassee, 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

DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS COPY & ADVERTISING
Fridays at 5 PM

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
TOWNS COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$15
OUT OF COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$25
The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All subscriptions must be paid in advance.