

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

January 30, 2013
 Hon. Doug Collins
 Hon. Saxby Chambliss
 Hon. Johnny Isakson
 Greetings,

I write to you today out of a sense of duty to the citizens I serve. It seems that the media is ablaze with half truths and misleading information when it comes to certain rights of every citizen recognized in our United States Constitution – rights, which our Declaration of Independence recognizes were given to us by God and are “inalienable.” Our founders considered the existence of these rights to be self-evident.

When these words were penned, they were not new ideas. Rather, they brought to memory ideas that, even 236 years ago, were of such great antiquity that they were easily forgotten or disregarded by governments and men.

I believe that the world today is, for the most part, the same as it ever was. Throughout time immemorial, there has been a struggle in the human experience – a battle between two opposing forces. Through the ages, there have been those who would give all authority over to a central form of government, and those who believe in liberty. Our English heritage records this struggle as it waged in the thousand years prior to our declaring independence. To say that the Constitution, or any portion of our Bill of Rights is outdated, is to say that mankind is outdated, because the arguments for and against freedom have been with us from the start.

The bedrock of freedom is recognizing the rights each human being is given by their creator and, “That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” The words of our Declaration and of our Constitution were chosen very carefully by our founders. They were chosen carefully because words have meaning and their purpose is to convey thought. It is most unfortunate that we live in an age in which misguided and often self-serving politicians twist the meaning of words for the purpose of misleading the well-meaning and law-abiding average citizen.

It seems that many who are charged with representing “we, the people” have begun to think of themselves not as public servants, but as our masters. Rather than citizens, they see us as subjects they are entitled to rule over. They would have us believe that crimes are committed, or at least caused, by inanimate objects which have no will of their own, rather than placing the blame on the criminals who choose, in and of themselves, to commit these crimes. They would have us believe that certain firearms belong only in the hands of police, or that the right to keep and bear arms is about sporting, rather than defending oneself and one’s family.

Sheriff Chris Clinton

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

I have a friend who enjoys talking about the good old days when life was simpler and people were more self-sufficient. He speaks admiringly, almost longingly of the time when the mountaineers of our area, indeed when many Americans chopped wood and carried water, raised their own food and created their own entertainment without the benefit of the high tech tools and toys we now take for granted. He spends a lot of time on the Internet researching alternative energy and communicating with other people who share his image of the past.

When the wind and lightning of recent storms deprived over 7 thousand people in our area of electricity, my friend sat in the dark and called the power company on his cell phone. Repeatedly.

We sit at the top of a pyramid of technological wizardry so removed from the bottom layers of the bricks that support us that we can barely conceive of the existence of those bricks. As I look around the room in which I am currently seated, the only thing in it that I could reproduce with my own hands, badly, is the clay vase holding a bouquet of flowers. I might be able to grow the flowers, but certainly not in the middle of winter and not without some technological assistance – and plenty of electricity.

Every day, when we drive our cars to work, when we take the elevator to the top floor, when we sit warmly in our shirt sleeves while snow covers the ground outside, we encounter what author, James Burke, called “technology traps.” When the timing belt breaks in our car, when the power goes out while our elevator is between floors or when we lose electricity in the middle of a snow storm, we are trapped as surely as a mouse in a maze.

I understand my friend’s admiration for times past. The distance between our goods and services and our own hands and feet was not nearly as great in 1880 as it is today. In 1880 I might be able to cut logs for shelter, chop wood for heat and plow a field for food. I would be dependent on the supply chain for my iron axe or my plow, but I would probably be able to walk to a local blacksmith to replace or repair any lost or damaged tools. Take away the blacksmith and I could use a wooden plow (as long as I still had a horse or mule.) I might be able, with a lot of practice, to fashion some of the stone tools our ancestors used for survival.

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.

Life would not be easy, but it would be possible. After all, it took generations of stone tools and iron implements to get us here today.

Today I earn my living with a box of sand and wires. I have a basic understanding of how the computer that earns my living works. When it breaks, if I have the proper manufactured component, I can fix my computer. I have a working knowledge of the complex programs that allow me to access my bank account and pay my bills. My computer reminds me of my next appointment and remembers all those phone numbers I cannot afford to forget. When the battery is dead, however, my computer is absolutely useless and without a replacement I am cut off from the network of information and services that makes my life work the way it does. If I lost my computer and the long, long chain of supporting industries and trade networks required to produce it, there is not a single screw or plastic widget I could manufacture with my own resources.

Take away the majority of the things that surround us and interrupt the supply chain necessary to manufacture our technology traps and we are all more or less in the same boat. Take away electricity, even for a few hours, and life for most of us becomes unrecognizable.

For this reason, I want to take this opportunity to thank the crew who left the warmth and comfort of home, drove out in the middle of a storm, stood in the rain, climbed a slippery pole in the dark and did what was necessary to restore electricity to my community. I want to thank the people who worked overtime, well into the night, to answer calls from people who, like the friend I mentioned, were not always courteous or reasonable in their demands to have their power restored. The crew that rescued my neighborhood was friendly and professional and performed a difficult and dangerous task under miserable conditions with politeness and good humor. Thanks also to Chris Kelley, Director of Operations at Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, for continuing a long tradition of providing exemplary service, even when we take it for granted.



“IT’S ON MY MIND..”
 Danny H. Parris

If...

IF is one of those big little words that is based on conditions. We use it frequently during our conversations and with all these sayings that begin with IF: If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again. If you can’t stand the heat get out of the kitchen. If it ain’t broke don’t fix it. If worst comes to worst. If the shoe fits, wear it. If you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em. If push comes to shove and a host of other “if” idioms. A friend sent me the following e-mail that I thought should be shared with everyone. Since it did not have a title, I entitled it “IF”. I have no idea who the author is but I hope it will speak to your heart.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who won’t survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harass-

ment, arrest, torture or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish some place, you are among the top 8% of the world’s wealthy.

If your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, especially in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone’s hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God’s healing touch.

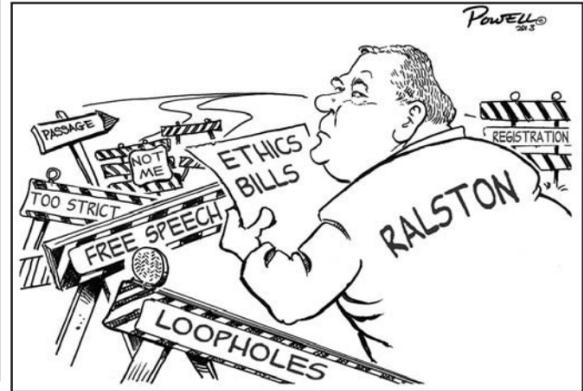
If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all.

You are so blessed in ways you may never even know. There are no ifs or buts about it, most of us are blessed in ways we don’t even recognize. One of the greatest things that all of us could do today would be to pause right now and thank Almighty God for His goodness and mercy that is extended to us both night and day.

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



Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee. 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 Hiawassee at 2 p.m.
Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at the Senior Center. 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 in Murphy. Call Kit: 706-492-5253 or Peggy: 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.
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 Hi-

wassee at 5:30 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, 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, Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Call us by 706-896-0932 or mtnregartsandcraftsguild.org.
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/blueridgemountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.
Mothers of Preschoolers meets the third 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.
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.
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 are encouraged to attend. 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.shootingcreekbasketweavers.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 Hiawassee. 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., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.
Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Hiawassee Senior Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch. Call 706-379-2191.

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
 By Don Jacobsen

Dr Don: Recently I read a question that asked me to stop and ponder. It asked, “Do You Allow Your Children to Settle for Easy?” I thought, Is that bad? And if so, why is it bad? Isn’t it ok if I’m just trying to make life happier for my children?
 Answer: Great question. Especially “good parents” want to make life happier and more comfortable for their children, right? I mean, it begins when the kids are very young. Suzy, playing on the floor, stretches to pick up a toy but she can’t quite reach it. Mom rushes to push it a little closer so it’s easier to get to. Ethan, 5, is trying his best to make his bed, but he is having trouble getting the bottom sheet, the top sheet, and the spread all headed the same direction. A little parental help could save him some time. After a couple of tries Sean still can’t get his shirt buttons in the right button holes, so mom unbuttons the wrong ones and does it right for him. Lowers his frustration level and helps him get to school on time. “Mother of the Year!” she tells herself.
 Freddy is trying to pump up his bike tire with a hand pump, but as much air is leaking out as is going in. Dad comes to his aid. Dad is stron-

ger, more experienced, and Freddy wants to hurry and catch up with his friends. Dad to the rescue. Yea, Dad.
 A theme you’ve heard often in this column is, We should not do for our children anything they are capable of learning to do for themselves. Why? Because we grow best when we struggle. Age-appropriate struggle is one of a child’s best friends. Teaches them self-reliance. Teaches them skills they’ll need as they grow.
 Mom and Dad as teachers are still essential. Mom started helping Ethan make his bed when he was about three. Another couple of start-overs and Sean will get that shirt right. Dad showed Freddy how the tire pumps works. Another couple of tries and he’ll be able to do it himself.
 But back to your question - your main assignment is not to make your children happy by serving them. That’s short-term happy. They become the happiest when they see themselves as achievers. Our goal is to monitor that process so they learn the skills they need without undue failure. Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

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