

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

### Letter to the Editor:

In response to the recent Letter to the Editor with respect to climate change reveals the typical sort of fear mongering among global warming cultists. He makes the claim that "97% of experts in climate science say that climate change is real." This is actually a quote from Secretary of State John Kerry who last year warned graduating students at Boston College about the "crippling consequences" of climate change. The "97 percent" figure comes from the Zimmerman/Doran survey which represents the views of only 79 of the 3,146 who responded to the survey. Thus, there is no basis for the claim that 97% of scientists believe that man-made climate change is a dangerous problem. The debate over global warming has been going on long enough that we've had time to see whether some of the predictions people made about it have panned out in the real world. For example, Al Gore predicted all the Arctic ice would be gone by 2013. Meanwhile, Arctic ice is up 50% since 2012 and the South Pole is thicker and wider than it's been in 35 years. There are tens of thousands of well-educated, mainstream scientists who do not agree that global warming is occurring at all and people who share their opinion are taking a position grounded in science. These scientists question the accuracy of climate projections, argue that global warming is primarily caused by natural processes, argue that the cause of global warming is unknown, or that global warming will have few negative consequences. If the climate predictions about global warming aren't even close to being correct, wouldn't it be more scientific to reject hasty action based on faulty data so that we can further study the issue and find out what's really going on?

Tim Groza



### RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

I haven't seen the movie, "Fifty Shades of Grey." I want you to know that. I don't plan to; I want you to know that, too. I recommend that you not see it either. If your teen wants to see it I urge you to do whatever it takes to talk him/her out of it. In my view, nobody should see it, especially a teen. It's not that I'm a prude; it's that I'm a granddad and I happen to love teens. If I thought the teens in my life were going to go sit in a dark room for 125 minutes and listen to someone lie to them in the most persuasive terms possible about the most important beliefs they hold, I would pitch a fit. I don't wrangle easily, but I've read enough reviews of the film and seen enough of the trailer that I am in flat-out wrangle mode.

I want to be specific. The film was released on Valentine's Day weekend as though it were a love story. It isn't. It is the fabricated tale of a very sick man and a very sick woman, neither of whom has the faintest idea of what love is or how to nurture it. Love doesn't even have a walk-on part in this travesty. One reviewer said, "[this movie is] about a narcissistic man's controlling and violent sexual desires and his sense of entitlement to use and abuse a vulnerable young woman's body and mind as tools for his own gratification." How's that for the description of a great courtship run-up to a joyous marriage? Our culture wants us to think that's normal; it isn't. Love is gentle. Love gives, it does not take. Love is patient and never demanding. Love is never abusive; never. This is poorly written, violent pornography.

But here's what happens, and I understand you have to watch for it because it's subtle. The jerk in the story (aka the "star," Christian Grey), is cast as a ridiculously handsome billionaire, complete with fast cars, a penthouse office, jets, helicopters, gliders, and all the money he could ever spend. This glitz is the ambience inserted by the producer to help distract you from the pain Christian is causing. Clever marketing but a loathsome template. If you aren't careful you are inclined to forget that this is an emotionally stunted stud who uses stalking, manipulation, abuse, control, assault, intimidation, shame, breaking and entering, and rape to accomplish his selfish, hedonistic fantasies. You want your kids to feast on that garbage? Me, either.

Oh, it's popular. I know. Author E L James sold 100 million copies of the book before the movie even opened, making her the highest-earning author in history. Opening weekend grossed \$248 million. It's on track to sell a half billion dollars in tickets. The Damson Dene hotel in the UK has removed the Gideon Bibles from its night stands and replaced

them with copies of *Fifty Shades of Grey*. The book is available in 52 languages. But remember that the marketers aren't interested in your character or your kids'.

Let me make some observations and then I want to offer some good news.

1. The film encourages violence against women. Professor Amy Bonomi, chair of Michigan State University Department of Family Studies observes, "... Emotional and sexual abuse is pervasive in the novel, appearing in almost every interaction between the main characters." One out of every five adult women in America report having been sexually abused. And now we have a new blueprint for young adults who have reason to believe it's ok, which also includes an attractive \$40,000,000 (production cost) template for how to make it happen.

2. According to those who keep these kinds of statistics, 68% of those who have seen the movie are women. America's teen girls don't need any more coaching on how to envision themselves as subservient to men who do not have their best interest at heart. The original work from which the screen play was adapted in 2010 was titled, "Master Of the Universe," which describes the mindset of the male lead.

3. There will no doubt be more like it. Culture drives entertainment and given the disintegration of America's moral fiber, we can hunch there will be others who will seek to capitalize on the fact that sex sells. But make no mistake, the message of the film will enter your mind and make you less than you are and make your future less than it could be.

Some good news:

1. The appearance of this kind of global anomaly is a great opportunity to talk to our kids about the real thing. The reaction to the movie will be on a lot of people's lips, and here is the occasion for those of us who care to help our kids understand our values.

2. Here is a chance to help our kids learn to distinguish between genuine emotional intimacy and a cheap substitute. Any form of erotica dehumanizes the participants and limits that which is intended for our supreme happiness to something merely physical.

And while we're on that subject, there is lots of sex in the film outside of marriage. Sorry, but one without the other is a foolproof recipe for disappointment. This is a grand opportunity to do some parental teaching. Like about right and wrong. Like about respect. About love. About purity. About a willingness to stand alone. As parents we look for teachable moments. This is one.

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

## Transportation Tax goes to State Senate

House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison (R-Blairsville) voted no in regards to the Transportation Funding Act of 2015.

Rep. Allison heard the voices from his constituency. To be honest, Rep. Allison has heard several ways to address the funding shortage for the Georgia Department of Transportation.

We've heard those same ideas and we're none too pleased with any of them.

The bottom line is that GDOT has lost credibility with the general populace. What Rep. Jay Roberts and the others who sponsored this legislation don't realize is that taxpayers have been funding transportation in Georgia forever.

And now, those 123 House lawmakers that passed this legislation last week are telling Georgians that the state is digging a deeper well to mine for dollars to pay for transportation projects.

Over the years, we've never heard of an accounting of how transportation dollars have been spent. Beginning in 2006, we began to hear rumblings that the transportation well had run dry and long-range projects would not be completed.

We've been subjected to a toll bridge on Georgia 400, one that finally is gone. If we travel to Metro, we're subjected to HOV lanes that charge based on the traffic count, and now, we have the Transportation Funding Act of 2015.

Basically, if this most recent legislation passes the State Senate, we'll be forced to pay a tax that this group of legislators say is not a tax. That is, if Gov. Nathan Deal signs this legislation into law.

We applaud Rep. Allison for voting no on this piece of legislation. He truly represented his House District, which includes Union and Towns counties.

We understand that there needs to be a definitive way to fund transportation costs. However, we believe that methodology should include improving roads, bridges and other transportation needs in Northeast Georgia, not just Metro Atlanta.

The legislation defines transportation as roads, bridges, public transit, rails, airports, buses, seaports, and all accompanying infrastructure and services necessary to provide access to these transportation facilities, including general obligation debt, revenue debt, and other multiyear obligations issued to finance such purposes.

Honestly, we don't have public transit, rail, or seaports in the mountains. We know this legislation is geared toward the Metro and Port of Savannah.

That's why we don't support it. It's time to stand up for the Mountain counties in Northeast Georgia. Thank you, State Rep. Stephen Allison.

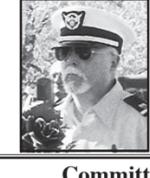
**Editor, Towns Co. Herald**



Charles Duncan

### The Veterans' Corner

By Scott Drummond, USCG Veteran



### Committed to Service/Jim Hoyt

Jim Hoyt, American Legion Post 23 Commander, Hiawassee, born Arlington, VT 1 July 1931 is truly committed to serving America. His next door neighbor, Norman Rockwell and his world famous all American renditions often seen in the old Saturday Evening Post, may have contributed to Jim's good nature. Jerry Rockwell, Norman's son was one of Jim's friends growing up. Rockwell gave Jim and his pals Cokes from his in-house Coke machine during summers and on weekends. Jim's mom, Rose and baby brother Gene are reflected in some of Rockwell's images. After HS 1949, Jim attended Vermont School of Agriculture and acquired a one year degree in animal husbandry.

After Ag school, Jim enlisted in the Air Force in January 1951 stating that he never considered not serving America. All seven of Jim's brothers served, three USAF; one USN; three USA infantry. Jim had no desire to be a ground pounder so he enlisted Air Force. To quote Jim it has always been "duty, honor, country", and he has lived it his entire life. He attended basic aviation school and qualified basic A and E, then chose jet engine schooling. He always wanted and volunteered for Flight Line and was transferred to Lackland AFB and assigned to the new B-45 flight line crew, as a requisite to be assigned to Schulthorpe, England, a converted WW2 RAF Base as part of the new B-45 deployment for patrols over Russia. Jim served until December 1954 and was honorably discharged from Camp Kilmer, NJ, then

returned to Vermont.

Working his way through University of Vermont, with employment at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, he earned his BA degree in June 1960. Working for John Deere soon became Jim's career and passion. As such he was assigned to offices in Pennsylvania; Syracuse; Hamilton, Ontario; Minneapolis; Montana; South Dakota; and Wyoming, just to mention a snippet of career travels. Sales, Sales management, Advertising, tractor demonstrations, future programs and introduction of JD products all over Canada and our Northern USA were all part of Jim's successes with America's Favorite Tractor, John Deere. Jim retired June 1, 1986.

Having been an American Legion member since 1957 and maintaining Legion activity in each and every locale he lived during his JD career, it stands to reason that when he moved to Hiawassee, GA in 2005 that when the position of Post Commander became available in 2009, he would take over. An outstanding job he has done here too! He will celebrate his 59th year as Legionnaire July 1st. He and his sweet wife, Brenda, life member of the VFW and American Legion continue their dedication to all veterans with their community work at our post, and within our mountain and North Georgia regional areas, always willing to do whatever needs to be done. Any activity, anytime in our wonderful mountain communities you may find Jim and Brenda volunteering their time for all manner of veteran's affairs, including the VFW Thrift Store.

*Semper Paratus*

### 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, 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.



## 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!

**VFW Fish Fry** April - October on 2nd & 4th Fridays each month from 4:30 - 7. \$10 per plate.

**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 1 p.m.

**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.

**Democratic Party of Towns County** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5 PM at the new Senior Center.

**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 Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259** meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

**Stevens Lodge #414 F & AM** meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris. Sat. morning breakfast 2nd Sat. of each month from 8 - 10:30 AM. \$6 adults, \$3 12 & under.

**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 old Rec Center in Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. 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 Daniel's Steakhouse, Hiawassee. The Board meets at 4 p.m., and the Guild at 6. Call us 706-896-0932.

**Mountain Computer User Group** meets the 2nd Monday of each month. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.

**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 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.

**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.

**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 each 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 evening at 7 PM at the Red Cross building 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 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.

**Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC)** meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiawassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.

**The Board of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce** meet the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.

**The Quilting Bee** at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Family Life Center, Room 216. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 AM - 3 PM. Bring a sack lunch. For more information call Kathy at 706-835-6721 or Marilyn at 706-897-4367.

**Mountain Coin Club** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the North Georgia Tech campus in Blairsville. Guests are welcome. For more info, call 706-379-1488.

## Towns County Herald

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