

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

To the residents of Towns County:
My autistic angel

I am writing in reference to my son, Tyler House. Tyler is 17 years old; bright, full of life, and big-hearted. Tyler has autism. I am sure a lot of you have seen him out walking up and down the sidewalk with his headphones on. I am aware that he has made some of you feel uneasy because he does things that a "normal" person would not do. Tyler loves attention but he does not always know the proper way to go about getting the attention that he loves. He may also say things before he thinks about what he's saying. Tyler has a big heart and would never hurt anyone and I'm not just saying that because I'm his mom. But who knows a child better than their parents? Tyler has been through a great deal in his life and a lot of people judge him without even knowing him. No one should be judged because they're different.

To me he is an angel sent from Heaven and his being different makes me love him even more. The good Lord makes us all different for a reason. God created this angel to help people appreciate the way they are and to know that others, though different, still need love, understanding and guidance.

I would like to say that I am deeply sorry to anyone he may have ever offended or made feel uneasy, but if you ever got to know him you would see he is a completely wonderful person inside and out. He would do anything to be of help to someone.

Tyler will be with me at all times from now on but I would like for everyone to remember him in their prayers and know that he is the most precious gift that God ever made. He is my Autistic Angel.

Thank you,
Tonya Denton

To the Editor:

The man is so proud of the Veterans Park that is located below the Towns County Comprehensive School in Towns County, GA. The Veterans Park was erected May 28, 1984 by the Towns County Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools (Bill Kendall), and the Student Council. Each service personnel that gave their lives has an individual memorial with the name listed. A standing memorial lists the names of service members who served in WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Grenada invasion and Gulf War. The Veterans Memorial Park is a permanent place to recognize and pay tribute to all American military veterans and all our servicemen and women who continue to fight for our freedom. The park gives special recognition to those American servicemen and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in order to preserve our freedom. The man is sure that there are different feelings when visiting the park but one can express appreciation. It is a place of dedication, inspiration, education and meditation.

The man is glad that he and others committed their time, under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools, to construct and complete the Towns County Veterans Memorial Park.

James I. Moreland, the man



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

We talk frequently in this column about how to bring up kids who look for ways to be helpful to others. There is a basic selfish streak in us all and unless something happens to reset that clock, most of us go through life more concerned about our own needs than anyone else's.

Every once in a while, though, a story shows up that is so out of the ordinary it proves the rule. Have you met Cayden (Taipalus, from Howell, MI, a Detroit-area suburb? He's eight years old; third grade. One recent Monday, going through the lunch line at his school, he noted that just ahead of him his friend didn't get much to eat. Then he saw that other classmates weren't getting the same full lunch either. It bothered him so he asked about it.

He learned that some of the kids didn't have enough money in their lunch account, and while the school provided some food for all students, those who couldn't pay didn't get the full meal. He says, "When I saw that, it made me sad." So Cayden went home from school that night and decided he should do something about it. He began recycling cans and empty soda bottles, running errands, and collect-

ing donations to pay the lunch account for other kids in his class. Within a couple of weeks he had collected enough money to pay for 295 meals.

Then his story showed up on social media and within a few days donations began to appear from everywhere - including one from Hong Kong. As of now, more than \$11,700 has come in for his project and Cayden has been able to pay for the delinquent lunch accounts in all 21 of the elementary schools in Livingston County where he lives. He doesn't like the publicity his project has created and does his best to duck the media-types who show up and want to talk.

His "Pay It Forward; No Kid Goes Hungry" project has helped change the lives of hundreds of kids and the idea has caught on in other schools across the nation. It has also changed Cayden. The deep joy that comes from helping someone has been etched in his soul. His mom, Amber, says, "As a family we've always tried to look for ways we could help others. I guess he picked it up from watching." We hear you, mom. You're on to something.

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

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Last week we began the story of the introduction to beekeeping my father and I shared when I was a teenager. At 15, indeed at any age, a rebellious or irresponsible nature benefits from any lesson which teaches that there are consequences for our actions. There are immediate consequences from any action with bees. If you hurry while working with them, they protest. If you get angry, they get angrier, and if you are scared or nervous they will react to the pheromones those emotions release. If you work with bees on a regular basis you learn to develop an almost "zen" state of calm, or you will get stung on a regular basis.

For my father, beekeeping became an avocation that brought him contentment for the rest of his life. A corner of his basement became a workshop for preparing hives and frames. He and my mother spent many hours extracting honey with a hand-cranked extractor and our entire family gradually overcame hay fever eating large quantities of raw honey.

As a mountaineer, my father had a tremendous respect for Nature. When he spoke the word you could always tell that the "N" was capitalized. To him, honeybees were one of Nature's most mysterious and fascinating creatures. Their stylized dancing to communicate the location of nectar sources, their ritualized mating flights, their ability to tell friend from foe and to recognize individuals were all part of God's plan partially revealed in the mysteries of Nature. Everything, he believed, is connected to everything else, and the truth of that statement could be found everywhere we might care to look in the natural world.

At the height of his beekeeping career, my dad had hives from central Georgia to the mountains and after he retired he even had his own honey label for a while. As he grew older, his activity diminished, but not his interest. In his eighties he was down to a single hive in his back yard, but his desk was still covered with beekeeping books and periodicals.

When my mother passed away, we thought my father might die from a broken heart. He lost interest in everything for a while, including his bees. When his one remaining hive succumbed to one of the many ailments that plague honeybees, he sadly remarked, "I guess I'm finished as a bee man." But when I surprised him with a new package of bees and a new

queen that spring, his interest rekindled, and soon he was back in action.

Dad's last beehive was still thriving two years later when he had to leave home for assisted living. Fortunately, his retirement community was only 4 miles from the family home, so we were able to take him back home to visit on a regular basis. On just about every visit to the old home, Dad would want to walk to the back of the yard and visit his bees.

During the third year of the life of his last beehive, Dad was able to make that walk under his own power with the help of a cane. In year four, the terrain was too uneven for his walker, but he could make the journey using two walking sticks. In year five, the short walk to the back yard took about half an hour both ways with several stops along the way for rest and conversation.

When we visited his bees, my dad would stand quietly just a few feet from the entrance of the hive and watch them coming and going. He was always happy to see their legs covered with an abundant supply of pollen because he knew that this meant the hive was getting plenty to eat. The bees would fly all around him. Never once did they offer to sting.

Dad's beehive was healthy and thriving last fall and he, still looking forward to the future, planted turnips and cabbages in his garden at the retirement home. Nature never pauses to consider our plans. My father passed away quietly in January of this year. His last beehive died soon after him.

That beehive was five years old when it died, which these days is a ripe old age for a hive. Science could probably discern a technical cause of death. It might have been disease, colony collapse, or the brutally cold winter. But Dad always said that science could only scratch the surface of the mysteries of Nature. The year my uncle passed away, the three remaining apple trees in his beloved orchard all died as well, as did my grandmother's oak tree when she passed. I can't prove it, but it pleases me to believe that Dad wanted to continue his hobby on the other side.

As for me, I'll be looking for a package of bees from Walter Kelley in early May, and I will be grateful for the gift of my own avocation, and all the lessons that came with it, for the rest of my life.



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

The faith life and the flesh life

Last week we discussed the fleshly life. The body, the flesh is mighty important because it is our house in which we dwell. However, if we fail to recognize man is body, spirit and soul, life can become one-sided or totally out of balance.

Our present generation is bombarded twenty-four hours a day on radio, TV, with magazines and books advertising medicines, cosmetics, diets, exercise programs, machines, pills, herbs and endless ways to keep the body fit, trim, looking good and healthy. Certainly, we are under divine mandate to properly care for these temples. There is no sin in such an endeavor. The problem is some folks totally neglect the body. Their whole life is just one bad habit. They feel bad, look bad and even smell bad. Others go to the opposite extreme. They are constantly looking in the mirror examining themselves and utterly consumed by their appearance. All of life is spent making the body look good, feel good and smell good. Some people feel it is a sin to give attention to the body. They even object to women wearing make-up. My personal opinion is that it is a sin for some women not to wear make-up. How much make-up should a woman wear? My answer is, "However much it takes." Both men and women need to look their best, feel their best and live their best. We need to rid ourselves of bad habits or habits that are taken to the extreme.

A lot of us would identify with Robert Maynard Hutchins who wrote: "I never run when I can walk. I never walk when I can stand still. I never stand when I can sit down. I never sit down when I can lie down. When I feel the need to exer-

cise, I lie down until it goes away." Take care of your body but avoid extremes.

While most people are diligent about their flesh life they are oblivious to their faith life. What is your inner life? The life that only you and God have knowledge of. The life that is sealed within your heart. The one who created you said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Our faith life appropriates to us the plus life. It produces abundant, overflowing life. The faith life makes it possible for the flesh life to endure sickness, hardship, loss and even death without defeat. Faith provides power in the flesh life to enjoy this world that God has created to the fullest, relationships to the highest and love to the nth degree. While the faith life intensifies, expands, multiplies, enhances and enriches every facet of this fleshly life, it promises a future life that cannot be compared with life in the here and now. It can only be described by this one word - Heaven.

The fleshly life is vanishing away however slowly. It is temporary. But Jesus offers to us the faith life that secures for us eternal, everlasting life beyond physical death and this present evil world system. How can I enjoy this faith life? It is simple. All of us came into this world through a physical birth. God tells us we need a second birth or a new birth. This is called a spiritual birth. It takes place when you ask Christ to come into your heart, forgive your sin and take up residence in your life.

If you have experienced only a physical birth you are experiencing and living only a fleshly life which is limited to the here and now of eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you die. The second birth gives to you eternal, everlasting life that has no end. The quality and quantity of that life begins immediately when you recognize Christ to be your Savior and Source of Life.



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 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.

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 Hiawassee 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 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.mcutg.org.

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 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.

Georgia Mountain Writers Club meets at Cadence Bank the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 AM.

AMREC 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 Hiawassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meets every Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. 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 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.

VFW Post #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), Hiawassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.

Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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