

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

In reading the lady's letter in the paper about her "autistic angel" and asking people to be kind to him, I was brought to tears.

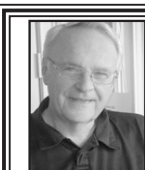
We should never pass judgement on a person because they might be a little different. God made us all different, we know. We should understand that God had his reasons for doing just that. We should be very careful about the stones we throw. We should always be kind to everyone no matter how they might look or act, especially children.

I'm praying for your "autistic angel" and I'm proud to know that we have good mothers like you in this world.

I say God bless you and Tyler House too.

I just know that your "angel" is going to be just fine. With the love of a mother like you and also the love of God, how could he not?

*God bless you all,
Marie Spiva*



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE By Don Jacobsen

Q: Dr. Don, my husband and I went to our friends' home for dinner a few days ago, and I thought the evening would never end. Their two youngsters, maybe four and five, were totally out of control. For example, all during the meal they would run to the table, grab a bite of food, pop it in their mouths, jump down and run through the house in full banshee mode. They got food on the floor, on each other, on my husband, and they absolutely destroyed the evening. We love these people but we can't stand to be around their kids. What would you do in a situation like this? Grit your teeth?

A: Well, I probably wouldn't accept another dinner invitation there until their kids leave for college. Do other stuff with them, stuff that requires their hiring a babysitter.

Of course the issue you describe is not about the kids. It's the parents. It's true that some kids seem to have been born with bees in their pockets, while some are more easily manageable, but whatever their metabolism, children can be taught to obey. That's a basic parenting assignment.

If the kids were two and three I'd recommend

that they be fed before the guests arrive and then either put to bed or that grandma be asked to come and keep them occupied. But at four and five they are old enough to learn to sit at the table and eat quietly through the meal. Some new rules: Please and thank you are non-negotiables. No one leaves the table till everyone is finished and once they get down from their chair the meal is over. This will need some practice when no one else is around in order for them to get an idea of what mealtime is going to feel like from now on.

Don't promise them a reward - like a special dessert - if they get it right. However, if they insist on the banshee thing the consequence should be memorable. Not violent, but memorable. Don't react out of your own frustration, but remember that part of your to-do list as a parent is to civilize the savages.

I know, you are not the ones who need to read this, I've really written it for the parents. Whether you want to show it to them is up to you. It depends on how much you value their friendship.

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

Coosa-North Georgia Water Council

The 2004 Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Planning Act authorized the development of the State Water Plan which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2008 and calls for the preparation of regional water plans; the establishment of ten regional water planning councils to prepare the plans; and charged the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to provide technical assistance to the councils including contractor support, guidance, resource assessments and forecasts.

The Coosa-North Georgia Water Council is one of the 10 river basin councils formed to develop a regional water plan for 18 counties in the Coosa River Basin - Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Dawson, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Habersham, Lumpkin, Murray, Pickens, Polk, Towns, Union, Walker, White, and Whitfield. These counties rely on surface or groundwater resources within the Coosa-North Georgia region.

The Coosa-North Georgia Council is composed of residents of those 18 counties who were appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House to prepare a regional water plan. I was nominated by the Georgia Forestry Commission and was appointed to the council to represent forestry and natural resource issues in the Coosa basin and I have participated in council meetings all across the 18 county Coosa basin since the Kickoff meeting at the Georgia Aquarium on March 13, 2009.

The role of the Coosa-North Georgia Council is to prepare a regional water plan which will include resource assessments, estimates of current and future water needs, and those management practices necessary to meet the region's needs within the capabilities of the resources.

Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) will provide the Coosa-North Georgia Council with the results of Water Resource Assessments that model how much water is available from the water resources on which the region relies. Assessments will also estimate the capacity of the surface water resources to assimilate pollution.

In addition to the Water Resource Assessments, the Council will also use 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-year water and wastewater demand forecasts for the region to 1) understand the likely changes the region will experience; and 2) identify any "gaps" that may exist between the capabilities of the resources as shown by the Assessments and the future regional needs. In the event "gaps" between available water and future (or current) demands are identified, the Council will determine which water and land use management practices should be employed to ensure there is sufficient water and as-



simulative capacity to meet future needs. EPD will use computer models to test the ability of the recommended practices to close any identified "gaps."

The Coosa-North Georgia water planning region borders other regions or shares surface or groundwater resources with other regions; therefore, the Coosa-North Georgia Council will communicate and coordinate with adjacent, upstream and/or downstream councils as well as EPD to ensure the appropriateness of the recommended management practices.

EPD and the Coosa-North Georgia Council will use an iterative process of recommendation and modeling, to arrive at a set of management practices to meet the Region's future needs. The Coosa-North Georgia Council submitted the Initial Recommended Regional Water Plan for the Coosa-North Georgia Region to EPD, which was available for public review and comment May - July 2011.

The Coosa-North Georgia Council considered comments made on the plan, and made the necessary and/or appropriate changes. The plan was re-submitted to EPD on September 30, 2011, and was officially adopted by the Director on November 15, 2011. Now that the Regional Plan is adopted, all EPD water permits and Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) grants and loans for water projects will be guided by the Plan.

For more information on the Coosa-North-Georgia Water Council's plan, contact Frank Riley at www.frank.ccrd@gmail.com or go to the Coosa-North Georgia Water Council's web site www.coosanorthgeorgia.org.



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

The problem of dust

There is a great mystery about dust that I have never unraveled. I am allergic to dust. All kinds of dust - dirt dust, paper dust, wood dust, saw dust, leaf dust, carpet dust, dusting powders, etc. The various dictionaries define dust as "earth or matter in fine or dry particles: Any finely powdered substance such as an insecticide or a pollen, what is left of a dead body after decay." The air is filled with dust but I must breathe and when I breathe I inhale dust and dust makes my eyes water and my nose run and my throat dry. If I stop breathing my eyes won't water and my nose won't run and my throat won't be dry because I will die and turn to dust.

Here's the problem, the Bible confirms that God formed man of the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7). I guess you could say that dust is just mud with the water squeezed out of it. In other words God formed us from dry dirt. Since we (our bodies) came from dust then why are we allergic to dust? Does anyone know? All my life I have heard about dust balls, dust bowls, dust bunnies, dust catchers, dust

counters, dust mites, dust storms, dusting powder, etc. Just writing these words make my eyes water and my nose run. I expect to start sneezing any minute. We have dustpans to sweep the dust into, dust mops to mop up dust, dust cloths to wipe up dust and dust covers to protect from the dust, but I have never figured out what purpose dust ruffles serve. You really don't get rid of dust; you just move it from one place to another. Being from dust I have been exposed to all kinds of dust except gold dust. Without doubt I would be allergic to gold dust also. Personally, I am looking forward to a dust free environment. For that to become a reality I know that I must "bite the dust" or "lick the dust".

In plain language I must die and return to the ground: "For out of it wast thou taken: For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:19). When the dust has settled and the resurrection of my body has taken place, I no longer will have a dust body, but I will have a divine body or as the Bible states, "A glorified body like the Son of God (Philippians 3:21). My dwelling place will be in heaven where there is no more death (biting the dust), neither will there be any more dust period. We won't be wearing dust masks in heaven because heaven will be dust proof. By now you are probably ready "to shake the dust off your feet."

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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 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 mtnregarts-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.

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 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 (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 their 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.

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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.