

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the previous letter in the TCH which was written by a non believer. First, I would like to say that I AM A Believer and Preacher by definition and serve The Most High God. By reading your letter I can see why you don't believe. It is pretty obvious that you don't know anything about the Bible or God. The reason I say this is because you want to talk about all of the killings and wars that religion has produced but if you knew the Bible you would know that all the wars and killings from Genesis on through the Bible were God's way of removing the wicked away from his people. So you should be glad and thankful for the Lord Jesus Christ. Simply because God has mercy on people and does not just destroy unbelievers.

Second, you want to say that our government and country does not need to support any kind of religion. That tells me again you have no knowledge of the Bible. If you did you would want our leaders of this country to promote and to serve God All Mighty! If you knew your Bible you would know that when any King, leader, or anyone else for that matter prospered very much. When they followed and listened to GOD. When the King of any land believed and trusted in God, his whole kingdom prospered. When the United States of America had presidents and leaders that followed and trusted in GOD! Did we not prosper? I pray anyone that reads this letter and is an unbeliever and you have never read the KJV Bible and you are only going on what you have heard from others, that have never read the Bible their self and has some terrible idea of God. I pray that you would pick up a KJV Bible and read Genesis thru Deuteronomy and see with your own eyes and mind how great God is. Then, read Matthew through John and see what Christ Jesus did for you, I, and the whole world. Unbelievers I pray that you find it in your heart to do what I suggested and come to repentance and accept Jesus Christ who is the Son of God as your Lord and Savior. I do not want you or anyone to spend eternity in a burning hell. If you have any questions about the Bible find a good God fearing preacher and ask him. Amen

Waylon Gibby

Hooray for Bill Kendall!

When I read the original letter to the editor complaining about the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center being used for a prayer breakfast, I feared the usual outcome. You know what that is: a malcontent takes offense at the sight of a cross or the sound of a prayer, and whole cities are forced to give up their traditions. All crosses are banned. Valedictorians may not acknowledge God. Prayers before games are forbidden. Christmas parties become holiday parties. *Silent Night* replaced by *Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer*. Easter is reduced to bunnies and colored eggs. Restaurants may no longer serve angel food cake. (OK, I made up that last one, but wouldn't be surprised to see it implemented somewhere).

So I was delighted to read Mr. Kendall's response to the letter writer in which he affirmed that in Towns County the same rights, including access to county facilities, will be granted to believers as to non-believers. WOO HOO. Thank you, Mr. Kendall. And God bless you.

Carol Gibson

Dear Editor,

My letter may not be political, or religious, or comical, or any of that nature as most letters are and have seemed to be. But it is of great importance to me, and I am sure to many of those out there who like me, are pet and animal lovers and have pets that are family.

Each and every week I read and see stories in the paper as well on social media, of lost pets. It breaks my heart with each and every one I read and see. But the thing is, why aren't these pets wearing some form of ID? I mean, not every one would know if that pet has been micro chipped or not and what good is just wearing a collar if there aren't any ID tags or contact info on them? I know many of you will say, "Mine has never worn any and won't." Or "What if they get tangled up in something." Well there are safety break away collars for that issue. Mine wear them. Along with all forms and kinds of ID. Even a rabies tag is helpful as it has the name of the clinic and a number that corresponds with the animals information.

Properly training an animal to wear a collar is helpful as well if you especially start them out young. I would never dream of having a pet if they weren't equipped with some form of ID on them just in case of the unfortunate. I know many people do not want to come in contact with any animal though they are unsure of or uncertain of but usually any pet wearing a collar or ID can be approached with caution though, as they are used to contact. Still I would be careful though just in case of rabies. I also know there is Animal Control for stray or lost pets but with a proper ID, even they can help reunite a lost pet and it often is quicker than with no micro chip or with a micro chip. I hope each and every one will consider. Blessings to all.

Thank You,
Mrs. D. Barnes

Letter to the Editor:

It's always a great feeling to come back to the lovely mountains of north Georgia. I know that lots of folks agree with me and feel like it is God's Country especially when at moon church bells are pealing and invite us to be grateful for God's bounty. Hiawassee is a jewel of a small town protected by the good Sheriff Chris Clinton and his work force, the Mayor Barbara Mathis is grand at her job with good helpers like Rick Stancil, and a special mention to the Water Department which responded promptly to a late PM call on a Sunday! I really appreciated that, especially after driving over 500 miles. Carl and Bryan were most patient with me. Thanks a lot. And last but not least, to have an exceptional Senior Center, well managed by Pat Nicholson and her staff - you are all great!

Monique Gauthier

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

As we anticipate the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan and the end of what some consider to be our longest war, wisdom would suggest that we mark with particular attention the 100th anniversary of another war, a war that in some ways never ended; a war which still invites conflict to this day.

On 28 June, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of the Austria-Hungarian Empire, was assassinated in Sarajevo by a Bosnian Serb named Gavrilo Princip. The death of the Archduke did not cause World War I, but the shots fired from Princip's Browning FN Model 1910 were the match that lit the fire, the crack in the dam of civility holding back a flood of consequence wrought by the European powers and their intrigues. When the dam broke, the flood carried away the lives of tens of millions, washed away empires and redrew the map of much of the world.

There are many who believe that WWI marked the end of a kind of innocence for Western Civilization. This belief, once shared by your author and written about here, holds that before the Great War and the atrocities that followed, humanity was more hopeful, more optimistic. People had more faith in their leaders and in the technological wonders that were just beginning to transform civilization.

After the arrogance and stupidity of incompetent leaders who treated entire nations as their personal possessions; after the slaughter of millions enabled by technology and the industrialization of war, it is true that those who bore witness to WWI never looked at the world in the same way again. But the War to End All Wars was not the beginning of the degradation of humanity, and the problems which contributed to that war did not end when peace was declared.

For decades before the official beginning of WWI, the Great Powers of Europe had competed, allied and intrigued with each other. British, French, German, Austria-Hungarian, Russian and Ottoman empires were drawn and redrawn on paper with little regard for the culture, ethnicity and religion of the people who lived within those lines. Dozens of "little" wars were fought from the mid 19th century to the beginning of WWI. The Balkan states alone saw two wars and several armed confrontations in 1912 and 1913 and in the Middle

East, tribal conflicts continued which had persisted for four thousand years.

About mid-way through the European conflict, oil began to replace coal as the fuel that powered armies and navies, and thus began the realignment of geopolitical interests toward those areas of the world which occupy our headlines today. Long before the Americans invaded Iraq in 2003, the British captured Baghdad in 1917. The oil fields of Persia were coveted by the British and the Soviets in WWI and again in WWII. From WWI onward, fossil fuel became a primary mover of history.

After WWI ended for Europe and America, the maps of the world were redrawn to favor the economic interests of the victors. The French controlled Lebanon; the British, Palestine and Iraq. Persia was torn between the British, the Soviets and a collapsing Ottoman Empire. Anatolia was torn between the Turks, Greeks, Kurds and a long list of other ethnic minorities. WWI did not really end for the Middle East until the mid 1920's and many historians agree that WWII was a direct result of problems created by the victors of WWI.

So here we are today, with a legacy of ill-considered borders, the ghost of empires still drawn around peoples with a long history of ethnic and religious conflict. The "great powers" of the 21st century still spread intrigue, topple governments and assassinate rival leaders. The world still covets fossil fuel, but with an even greater hunger than it did a century ago.



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

A message to fathers

Father's Day is a time to buy ties and tools, telephone dad and mail Hallmark cards. Of all the days on the calendar, Father's Day grabs my attention more than most other days. I visualize my dad when I was a small lad. He was strong physically. I was never afraid of anything or anyone while I was in my dad's presence. He was confident and in control. No matter the difficulty or crisis I believed that my dad could handle any situation. I never worried about shelter, food or clothing. My dad took care of all of those things. In essence, my father was my protector, provider and the pride of my life. When I got hurt, I ran to my father; when I needed answers to mysteries of life I felt certain my dad could answer them. I believed in him because he was my earthly father. I looked up to him despite flaws that I sometimes saw.

On Father's Day, I also visualize my own role as a father to my son. Most dads who read this probably feel as I do. I could do a much better job now than I did while my son and daughter were growing up.

Dads with young children need to be committed daily to loving, nurturing

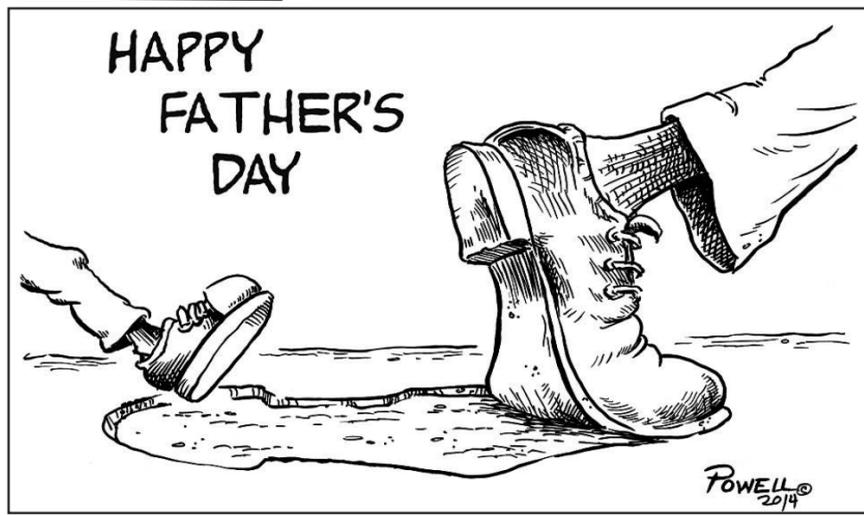
and growing their offspring. You need to so live that you lead and teach by example. I heard about one boy who said to his father, "Pop, one of the kids said I looked and acted just like you!" "Really," his dad said. "What did you say to him?" "Nothing," the boy said. "He was a lot bigger than me!" Happy is the boy or girl who has a dad who is an example of love, honesty, integrity, prayer and who values the Bible and seeks to live by its standards.

On his last visit to Philadelphia, President John F. Kennedy gave a man his pencil. On one end was an eraser that showed signs of great use. A friend asked him, "What do you cherish most about that pencil?" "The eraser," he answered. "Why?" asked the friend? "When I look at the eraser I am reminded that great men also make mistakes." There are no perfect earthly fathers. We all have and will make mistakes. However, every dad who is in the process of rearing children should seek the Heavenly Father's instruction to be the best father possible. None of us had perfect earthly fathers, but thank God every one who lives has the glorious privilege of having a perfect father through Christ Jesus.

Dads, there is an eraser for the mistakes we make with a pencil. But what about the mistakes we make with our personal lives? There is a Divine Eraser - "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from every sin." God bless our fathers!

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Community Calendar

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.

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 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 Thursday 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 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.

Stevens 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 artguild-store.com.

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 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 evenings 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.

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.

The Board of Directors 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.

Towns County Herald
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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