

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



"Wow, looks like something is finally headed this way!"

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

I hope most sincerely that everyone who was eligible voted on Tuesday. We cling to the crumbling remains of democracy by a fingertip ledge, those of us who have not already released our grip on accountability and self-reliance, too weary or too afraid to chart our own course or too distracted by the seductions of instant gratification and popular culture to care. An iron hand in a velvet glove waits to catch us if we fall, financed by the ability to conjure money out of thin air and backed up by the labors of millions of wage slaves content to sacrifice the vital years of their lives for the fuzzy promises of casino style retirement accounts and socialized security.

This hand has been busy attaching "safety lines" to protect us from ourselves. (Any resemblance to puppet strings is coincidental.) The nanny state monitors what we spend, in case we want to buy anything "bad," and to make sure that we all pay our fair share. The state monitors our travel in case someone who hates our freedom tries to blow us up. The state sends armies overseas to protect our oil from terrorists who insist on living where our oil is found. (Our freedom depends on having plenty of cheap gasoline so that we can drive to work and back.) The state monitors our communications. It listens in on our phone calls, reads our emails and scans our texts to protect us from bad opinions.

As we grow weary of having to form our own opinions, of having to choose the best options, in short, of having to think for ourselves, the state will again provide. What a comfort it must be for New Yorkers to have a mayor who will choose for them what size soft drink they can buy; an old man, successful, experienced, who will choose for mothers how they should feed their newborn babies. Residents of Boston and Chicago can sleep well at night knowing that their protectors will not allow them to buy chicken tainted by an opinion which does not conform to the popular notion of tolerance and diversity. We will tolerate no dissenting opinions when it comes to diversity.

By the time this newspaper goes to print, our own state will have decided whether we should pay more so that

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.

our area is not constrained by the inability to grow. We must always grow. That opinion rarely leaves room for dissent, and the best way to ensure growth must be for the state to extract more wealth from the stream of economic activity. Perhaps it would be best if all economic activity were channeled through the state, which could then provide for all of us equally, from the cradle to the grave, nurtured, secure, growing... drones protecting us overhead, watching, listening, always deciding in our own best interests. How simple life would then be.

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

Your innards and your conscience Elbert Russell said, "Huckleberry Finn, realized that a man's conscience takes up more room than all the rest of his insides." He went on to say "we must live with ourselves. The conscience is one's own self sitting in judgment of the moral character of his own deeds." The reason Huckleberry Finn felt that way is because conscience is that throbbing, pounding, screaming hurt when everything else feels good. Conscience is a mighty monitor in every breast. Perhaps that's the reason George Washington, the father of our nation, said, "Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience." The Bible has a lot to say about the conscience. Maybe that's the reason lot of folks don't have much knowledge concerning the conscience? Somewhere I read the Indian chief's definition of conscience: He said, "It is a little three cornered thing in here, pointing to his breast. When I do wrong, it turns around and around and hurts very much. If I keep on doing wrong, it will turn until it wears the edges all off, and then it won't hurt anymore." The Bible talks about a guilty conscience, a good conscience, an evil conscience, a clear con-

science, a corrupt conscience (defiled), a cleansed or clean conscience and God forbid, a seared conscience incapable of determining right from wrong. One of the most frightening and dangerous situations is to place in positions of leadership, leaders, whether in churches, schools, government or nations those who have lost their conscience. To be under authority of leaders without moral boundaries or a sense of right and wrong will surely awake at night and will surely result in chaos and social anarchy. Today all of us have the blood-bought freedom to vote. I hope that every registered voter will express their gratitude of this freedom by casting your vote. If you don't, your conscience and all your innards ought to hurt.

Someone has written: "I have to live with myself and so, I want to be fit for myself to know; I want to be able as the days go by, always to look myself in the eye, I don't want to stand with the setting sun, and hate myself for the things I have done. I want to go out with my head erect; I want to deserve all men's respect. Here in the struggle for fame and wealth, I want to be able to like myself. I don't want to look at myself and know, that it's bluster and bluff and empty show. I can never hide myself from me; I see what others may never see; I know what others may never know, I can never fool myself and so, Whatever happens I want to be, self-respecting and conscience free."

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor: In regards to Mr. J. Patrick Mahon's letter to the editor in the July 18 edition, it's hard to know where to start, mostly because of his pointless ramblings. Just when you figured out that his point was his support of the Affordable Healthcare Act (AHA) or better known by its nickname "Obamacare", he throws us a curve about not losing his freedoms by state required auto insurance, but losing them when he pays a copayment for medical services. What was that all about? Starting at the bottom of his letter, one can not compare state required auto insurance to Obamacare. The states may require us, but have not gone into the insurance business. Wish we could say the same about Obamacare. A state can not oblige us to buy auto insurance if we don't own a car, obviously. However, with Obamacare the only ones exempt are Congress and the White House. Why is that? Because they do not want to be tied to such a disastrous bill. As to the three questions, the first is now irrelevant. The second, can we afford it? NO, we can not afford it today nor will we be able to afford it in the future. The ramifications in that bill are going to change medical services and it's costs as we know it. To say nothing about job losses across every type of industry. Now comparing it with the cost of the wars is ludicrous. And who made Mr. Mahon the High Priest to declare them immoral? The third, is it the right thing to do? Again, NO. Sure we need health insurance restructuring, but getting the federal government to run it is not the answer. Keep in mind that we can never afford anything the government gets involved in. There are many ways to correct the health care crisis if the Democrats would just get out of the way. Let the private sector do what it does best. For starters remove the state line restrictions to open free competition and have the States regulate them, not the Feds. Then put our collective minds together and work out from there. If Mr. Mahon wishes to pursue what may be immoral, maybe he can concentrate on the laws that tie law enforcement's hands from preventing a tragedy before a crime is committed. Just because too many bleeding hearts are too concerned about the rights of an unstable individual who then massacres 12 people and injures dozens more as has just happened in Colorado.

Respectfully submitted, John Fitzgerald

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE By Don Jacobsen

Q: Our daughter is transitioning from Middle School to High School in the fall and it looks like it's going to be a nerve-racking time for all of us. Since she will be in high school she no longer wants to be treated like a child, but she still often acts like one. Do you have maybe a neat little 3-step formula that will make it possible for all of us to survive this?

decisions, more freedom. Bad decisions, less freedom... it's up to her determine the outcome. The better decisions she makes the more freedom she gets.

Here's the sequence you're after: When she was a toddler, she was expected to do as she was told, without argument. She learned to respond to your authority. As she grew older she began to understand that her parents' decisions were made for a reason, that obeying you was the way of happiness. So as she learned to respect you and trust you she learned to respond to your heart.

But now the next step - you are looking to her to make decisions because she knows they're right. You are looking to see that she has internalized what you have taught her and that she makes right choices because she believes they're right. Her peers don't determine her behavior; she has this internal compass that you and God have been nurturing. When she forgets - and she will - she will be reminded that all choices have consequences. Help her understand you're both on the same side in this process.

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



Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 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 7 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 on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 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. Board of Voter Registrars meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse. 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 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org. Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Recreation Dept. Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartsandcraftsguild.org. mtnregartsandcraftsguild@hotmail.com. 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/blueridge-mountains. Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440. Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information. 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 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.

We do Family Oral History of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded and would like to do so, please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060. 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. GMREC Native Plant Garden Tours: Mondays 9 AM-1 PM, May-Sept. (except holidays). 706-745-2655. 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 of those with dementia are encouraged to attend. For further information, 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. VFW Post 7807 will have their all you can eat fish fry on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month from 4:30 to 7 PM. \$9 a plate. See you there! 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. All welcome. 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.

Towns County Herald Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County KENNETH WEST.....PUBLISHER CHARLES DUNCAN.....EDITOR, ADVERTISING SHAWN HENRIKSON.....COPY EDITOR LIBBY SHOOK.....STAFF WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER ADAM GILREATH.....ADVERTISING SALES LOWELL NICHOLSON,NEWS,SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER OFFICE LOCATED AT 446 NORTH MAIN STREET "THE MALL" HIAWASSEE (706) 896-4454 Publication Number 635540. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points. EMAIL Address: tcherald@windstream.net POSTMASTER: Send change of address to: TOWNS COUNTY HERALD P.O. BOX 365 HIAWASSEE, GEORGIA 30546 DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS COPY & ADVERTISING Fridays at 5 PM SUBSCRIPTION RATES TOWNS COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$15 OUT OF COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$25 The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All subscriptions must be paid in advance.