

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Thankful for Lowell

When you've worked with a person for several years, sometimes it's easy to take that person for granted. Not so when it comes to Lowell Nicholson.

Lowell has been taking photographs for Kenneth West since September 1990. That's almost 25 years for the mathematically challenged.

Newspapers were 15 cents in those days, and for those counting years, that's really not that long ago.

Today, those newspapers are 50 cents, but Lowell is exactly the same.

He's probably the most dedicated employee that has ever worked for and with me. Regardless of the detail, Lowell is ready to go when news breaks. In most cases, Lowell discovered that the news was happening, and gave me a call.

He's covered car wrecks, house fires, homicides and many other tragedies just to name a few.

However, if you've ever had a child at an Easter Egg hunt, you've probably noticed Lowell taking pictures of the little ones. Nothing warms Lowell's heart more than having the opportunity to put a child's face in the newspaper.

And, more often than not, we have a ton of calls after every event that Lowell covers asking for a copy of a photograph that appeared in the newspaper.

I can say this, the name Lowell is synonymous with the word 'loyal.' He's 67 years old, and every time Lowell says he's going to retire, Kenneth says he can retire all he wants, but, he's still going to have to take pictures for the newspaper.

Lowell claims he sticks around as long as he has because he enjoys the people that he works with. I for one appreciate that, just as much as I appreciate Lowell.

If every business had a worker as loyal as Lowell Nicholson, that business would be very prosperous. Lowell is dedicated to his trade, he's dedicated to the people that he works with and he's a professional from the word go.

Here at the *North Georgia News* and *Towns County Herald*, we're thankful to have had Lowell Nicholson as an associate for as long as we have had him.

Come Sept. 2, we'll celebrate 25 years of having been blessed with Lowell Nicholson as a friend and compatriot in the news business.

### Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Is it true? Is it kind? Does it improve upon the silence?

How much would ever be spoken (or written) if we followed this ancient guideline? The answer to the last question is probably: More than we might imagine, but a lot less than we currently experience.

Passing our communication through the filter of truth alone would eliminate much of what we say and write, and much more of what is broadcast. But we live in an imperfect world where deception is intentional and often carefully calculated. Government, politics and marketing (not to be redundant) elevate deception to an art form, but in our personal lives the question of truth would at least eliminate gossip and rumor, and the world would be a better place for that alone.

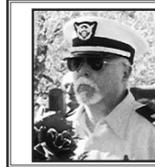
The question of kindness would further quiet the cacophony and clamor of the modern world. Any gossip or rumor that might have escaped the filter of truth would surely be stilled by a conscious effort to be kind. In a culture where it is more important to be "right" than to be effective, perhaps the arrogance of our egos would begin to yield and cooperation would begin to be valued as much as competition. How often is unkindness rationalized by "I'm just expressing my feelings," as if every notion that passes through the volatile

domain of our consciousness must be given free reign? If we were intent on being kind, how much would anyone have to protest the question of political correctness?

As for what might improve the silence, the extreme gulf between Mozart and hip-hop alone immediately demonstrates the subjectivity of this question. I live in a house where the wife prefers constant background music to enliven the daily chores, and she lives with a husband who prefers the sounds (and silence) of nature.

Silence is problematic for modern humans, and as we become more accustomed, even addicted, to constant stimulation, it is increasingly hard to find. Very rarely do we ever sit alone with our thoughts, prayers or meditations, and usually it is only the very old who are wise enough to enjoy each other's company in silence.

Like much of what is ancient and wise, the questions which began this discussion do not seek to describe some ultimate reality, but rather to remind us to consider carefully our words, or at least to think before we speak. There will always be different interpretations of what is true, what is kind and what improves the silence, just as the three blind men describing an elephant will perceive very different creatures depending on where they stand.



## The Veterans' Corner

By Scott Drummond, USCG Veteran

August 14, 1945

Why is that date, 70 years ago so very important? It's called VJ day, and we often forget or overlook so many events which set the course for future freedom, liberty and blessings which we today would have never known had it not been for those who sacrificed so much in order to protect those freedoms, our USA and indeed civilization. VJ Day or "Victory over Japan" day was announced on August 14, 1945 as well as August 15 although the actual formal signing of the surrender documents aboard our U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay didn't occur until September 2, 1945. WWII, thankfully, was coming to an end with the NAZI regime surrendering several months earlier. It is of utmost importance to remember that Japan and Germany were allies sworn to destroy and conquer America and divide the global spoils of war amongst those tyrannical elements of that not so long ago era.

Even though there had been a steady decline in relations between Japan and America, the final straw occurred on December 7, 1941 when Japan committed an ultimate Act of War with their surprise attack on our Naval Base on Oahu, HI. Almost immediately, Naval Marshal General Isoroku Yamamoto is quoted, but not documented, as saying, "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve." An obvious question as to why the Japanese forces didn't go ahead and invade our mainland after they had utterly destroyed our Navy can be attributed to the logistical nightmare of distance

from Japan to our mainland, the Battle of Midway, the fact that Japanese ground forces (army/marines) had a terrible relationship with their navy, and according to many our armed citizens who would have taken a toll on invaders from any country.

As we know, President Truman gave the final order for our newly developed atomic bombs, "Fat Man" and "Little Boy" to be deployed and incinerate Hiroshima, August 6, and Nagasaki, August 9th. This horrific, albeit necessary, final act of war killed more than 110,000 Japanese people instantly. However on August 15th (August 14th our time), in a radio address on the afternoon of August 15 (August 14 in the United States), Emperor Hirohito urged his people to accept the surrender, which was decided one day after Nagasaki by the Japanese government. Finally in acceptance of the previously rejected Potsdam Declaration. This decision saved untold thousands of American, allied and Japanese lives in lieu of continuing a conventional ground war against a determined, stubborn and dedicated enemy. Today, the Japanese people, in spite of cultural and racial differences are friends and allies. We, and even our friends the Japanese, must never forget those who gave so much for all of us.

As a note, did you know that Rhode Island is our only state that actually set aside a state holiday called "Victory Day", celebrated the second Monday of August every year, to honor the end of those terrible hostilities. *Semper Paratus*

## Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor,

Of course my kids are all grown up now with children of their own, so it doesn't really matter to me when school starts back or when it doesn't. But I do have the grandchildren.

Any way I discovered on Facebook, where a few schools right here in Georgia, still do the old fashion way of when school starts back, by going back after Labor Day, and still getting out the Friday before Memorial Day. No Fall or Spring breaks, no teacher days, etc. and they still get the amount of days required to go to school in a calendar year or semester/term.

By omitting all of these so called breaks, and days off and teachers days, each and every school can get the required number of days still. I just see no need for all of these days and weeks off.

We never had them when I was going to school so why should it be any different now days?

In discussing this with the main Georgia BOE, they said it was not up to them to determine the time of release, and the time to go back that it was up to each individual school system.

Well, I wont go there.

I do understand the majority though of both parents have to work now days to keep their family up, and that causes a situation and problem with the kids trying to find a place to stay through the summer.

Surely there are relatives though or appropriate sitters available as well as sufficient day cares and etc. for them.

And of course we all know they had to move the Fair to the middle of July because of all of this, and the majority of people are out on vacation from their work at this time too, so, regardless of record crowds each and every year I know by passing by late in the evenings and all at what I see, and know people who work booths there and all and it is seldom record breaking. And it is way too hot at that time of year too. Not like it use to be when it was in August.

Any way, I am only voicing my opinion and my phone number is unlisted and private so please don't go calling around trying to get it.

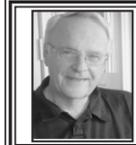
Thank you very much.  
God Bless, have a great day!  
D. Barnes

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 defama-

tory 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.



## RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Q: We have a teenage boy who has his dad and me worried. We don't think he gets enough sleep. For whatever reason he goes to bed really late and can hardly get up in the morning. By the weekend he's like a zombie and sleeps till noon. We are worried about his health and his grades. We don't want him to think we're still babysitting him, but we're not sure what to do.

A: I wish I had a dollar for every time a parent sent me a question that began, "We have a teenage boy who has his dad and me worried." But the question you've raised is a very important one.

Surprisingly, your teen needs more sleep than his younger brother does. We logically figure, well he's moving along toward young adulthood so he can probably get along with less sleep now. Not so. As a teen there are enough significant changes going on in his body that he needs more sleep, since that's the time in his day that more of the body's systems develop.

The experts tell us that a maturing teen needs about 9½ hours per night, while his middle school brother can get along on 8. Studies show that the average sleep among teens who are students in school is 7.4 hours per night. So you're right to be concerned because not only his grades and his grumpiness, but also his long range health are issues here.

Have you discussed it with him? There's a difference between making him feel like you're still babysitting him, and displaying wise leadership in your family. That's why God assigned parents to kids. Tell him what you know about what sleep deprivation can do to a teen. Things like compromising his memory and his ability to concentrate. Other factors being equal, the less he sleeps the lower his grades will be. Mental health issues are frequently higher in sleep deprived teens, and even substance abuse, obesity, and frequency of traffic accidents are factors.

Suggestions for helping him get more sleep? No TV or computer in his room. His phone plugged into a charger somewhere else in the house. Work out a schedule for going to bed and for rising and work at maintaining it on weekends, too. Cut down on the caffeine, especially late in the day. Physical activity can help but it needs to be a couple of hours before bedtime. Summary: He needs sound sleep for the rest of his life. Get it?

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



## 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 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. at new Senior Center. Newcomers welcome. Questions please contact the T.C. Dem's at Townscountydemocrats@gmail.com.

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.

Stephens 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 & Crafts Guild meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Calvary Chapel on Hwy. 76 in Hiawassee. All local artists and crafters are welcome, for information call 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 Gary at 706-896-4308 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.

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.

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 PM at the Shrine Club, Industrial Blvd., Blairsville.

GMREC Garden Tours every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Shooting Creek Basket Weavers meets 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. 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.

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 AI 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.

The Board of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce meets 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.

Monday morning BINGO at Brasstown Manor every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Players meet in the Bradford. Questions 706-896-4285.

Towns County Lions Club meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, 273 Big Sky Drive, Hiawassee.

## Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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