

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

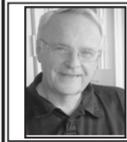
Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

I am an 83-year-old woman. One night recently I was sound asleep and at 11:35 PM I received a phone call on my cell phone. The male voice on the line said he was from United Community Bank and that my card was on lock down, do not try to use it. The next morning I went to the bank and reported it. They immediately told me it was a scam. The bank does not call people, especially at night. They told me to ignore it, and asked me if I gave any information. I did not as I immediately hung up. The caller's number is in my phone.

Last month I had a computer virus telling me I was going to be arrested unless I paid \$475 to keep it quiet. I was told that they had a report that I was having porn on my computer. I could not use my computer at all. I had to get a repairman to remove it. He told me that I was not the only one with that complaint. Something has to be done about the scam artists.

Thank you,
E. Smith



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Ruthie and I had an evening open on the road recently and I was in the motel reading a fairly good book on parenting. As often happens, even in a mediocre book, I found a gem that set me thinking. It said, "We are developing a generation of under-fathered children that has little idea of what a real man is and how much a woman is worth."

Bingo. I had never used the term "under-fathered," but it really fits what's going on all around us. It doesn't mean a generation of boys that isn't being taught to be macho or how to shoot a rifle. It means a generation of boys that isn't learning about the care and feeding of a lady. Your son is learning to treat the girls and later the ladies in his life like he sees his dad treating his mother. Respect, courtesy, gentleness are some words that come to mind. If Junior isn't getting the right script from dad, Junior's being under-fathered.

We know that a boy needs the right kind of dad and a girl needs the right kind of mom, and I'll not try to undermine the wisdom in that little truism. But a girl needs the right kind of dad, too. Here's why. The better I treat my wife,

the better my daughter will want to be treated when she starts looking for a husband. When Suzy begins bringing home those hopeful hunks from college, her decisions will usually have been strongly influenced by the traits she saw in dad that she knows helped create a childhood of stability and happy memories. Respect, courtesy, and gentleness will probably be high on her checklist of the traits she is looking for in Mr. Right. Having observed the best she is likely to have decided she doesn't want to settle for less.

Here is a potent rule: Family relationships are often repeated in the next generation – and beyond. That isn't cast in stone but it's a pretty dependable template. Unless... Unless, for instance, something happens to re-shape the mold. Like one or more of the kids has a transformational spiritual experience and decides, I inherited a broken family but I'm not going to leave it that way. My dad may not have given me everything I needed, but I am determined that I will create a new benchmark and my kids will not be under-fathered.

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



"I wish they'd had this career path stuff back when we were in school. I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up!"

Push-mowers, Keds, swamp rats, & Southern justice

Butler, GA the small town where I grew up back in the 60s, was a non-descript rural town in middle Georgia that had no industry, no shopping centers, and no fancy restaurants, but it offered the citizens a quiet, and peaceful place to live and raise a family. We didn't lock our doors, we let our dogs run free, and kids just had to be home before dark. Everybody had gardens and "put up" real organic vegetables for the winter. The Western Auto store was where we bought hardware, BBs, 22s, and our "Wizard" push-mower that PaPa bought every couple of years when we wore out the old one. We actually had to push it to cut the acre of grass at our house and when PaPa bought a mower that was self propelled, we thought we had seen the end of technology.

My sister, Sissy, had a lawn mowing business around the neighborhood where she pushed the mower to the neighbors houses and cut lawns for a couple of bucks. Sissy used her money to buy material and patterns for my mother to make dresses for her and Judy. We were not poor, but had to be somewhat self sufficient because we couldn't jump in the old Volkswagen and run 50 miles over to Macon to pick up a few things. We had Coolik's Dry Goods where, before school started, we would buy our new high top Keds... never could figure out why I couldn't wear them out of the store, some sort of law I guess. We would ride our bicycles to Walker's grocery store to get bread and milk and Miss Linney would "charge" it with a paper ticket that they put in a big cabinet until the end of the month.

There were plenty of choices of churches, Methodist, Baptist, and Nazarene in town and many smaller churches scattered around the county where on Sunday morning and night, and Wednesday night you were expected to be. Kids understood that they would be in church come "Hell or high water" unless they could fake a good stomach ache.

Our gang, Bubba, John, Bobby, Pin Ball, Benny, and yours truly was the "Swamp Rats" and we rambled around town on our bicycles and had china berry battles with sling shots that we bought at McCorkle's 5 & 10. When the rubber bands on our sling shots broke we resorted to throwing dirt clods at each other until somebody got hit in the eye and everybody ran home. Today kids would be outfitted with eye protection, ear protection, helmets, knee pads, first aid kits, cell phones, insurance cards, and their law-

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.**



Executive Director of RC&D
Frank Riley

yer's number on speed dial. You would've been laughed out of the Swamp Rats if you showed up with a bike helmet. Justice in Taylor County was swift and firm because we had a Sheriff, who didn't wear a gun because everybody respected (and feared) him. One night he broke up a poker game and had too many players to put in his car to take to jail so he drew a circle on the ground and told those remaining to stand in the circle until he got back for another load. When he got back, the players were still standing in the circle because they knew if they ran, he would just come over to their house and pick them up. Butler offered what is missing from our towns today and that is a sense of a close community where everybody watched out for each other and kids could grow up without fear and the only influences we had was from our parents and teachers who were friends and neighbors, (and Walter Cronkite).

We didn't have any of the "worldly" influences that kids have today shaping their lives. I know we can never go back to those days, but as adults, can be living examples for our young people to help them grow up into useful, productive citizens to the leaders for our city, county, state, and country in the future.

Frank Riley, CF, is the Executive Director - Chastatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council



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

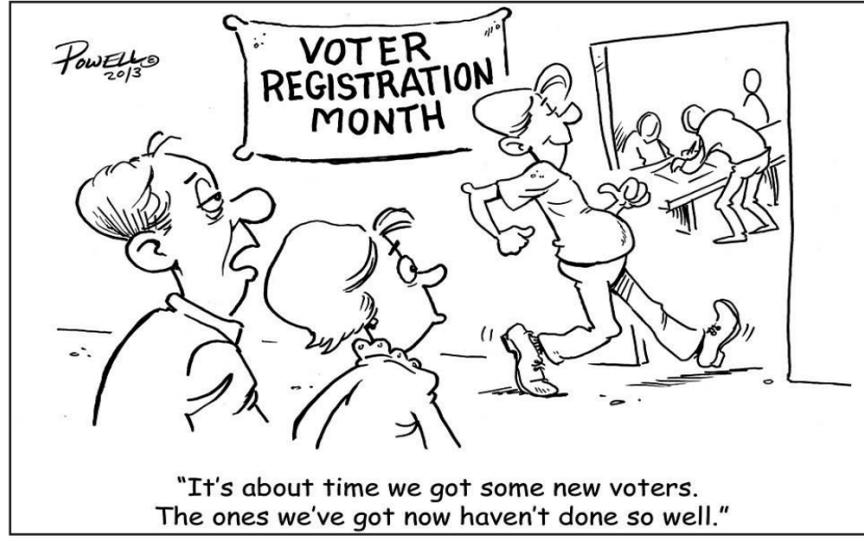
Fishing and preaching

When I was a young boy I enjoyed fishing. I loved to hear grown men tell of their fishing experiences and my thoughts were that someday I would be a skilled fisherman. But I must tell you that my luck with fishing was always bad. If it had not been for bad luck I would not have had any luck at all. The first fish that I ever caught, I did so with a straight pin fashioned as a fishhook. Boy, was I thrilled. I put the fish in a gallon can of water that I had setting next to me. I knew my brothers would be filled with envy when they saw the fish I had caught. While I was trying to hook another fish, I heard a kerplunk in the water. Looking over into my can I discovered my fish had jumped back into the creek. That was just the beginning of my fishing disasters. Once my FFA class went on an overnight fishing trip to Blue Ridge Lake and while fishing from a boat, one of my fishing buddies hit me in the head with a plug that could have caught a whale. One of the hooks was deeply embedded in my head. We got back to camp and my teacher cut the hook off with wire-cutter pliers and pushed the hook out of my head. I didn't suffer any brain damage. After I married and our son came along, I tried taking him fishing like every good dad should do. I would get his line, float and hook into the water. About the time I was ready to fish,

he would say, "Here daddy, you hold my pole while I throw rocks." If you couldn't throw it, bat it, bounce it, or kick it, he didn't have anything to do with it. We moved to Louisiana and there was water and fish everywhere but I didn't go fishing once. God sent our family to South Georgia to serve a church and almost every family had a lake on their property, plus Patrick's Ponds in Enigma, Georgia boasted 35 lakes and the world's largest bass. Although I fished there, I didn't catch it. One day our entire family decided to go fishing in a pond owned by one of our deacons. I situated my wife and our daughter on the bank with rods, reels and bait. Our son and myself were fishing in another area. My wife and daughter kept saying that a log was floating toward their lines and would get them entangled. Finally, they threw down their rods and reels and began running. The log turned out to be an alligator. That was over forty years ago and I have not been fishing since. I gave all my equipment to a neighbor boy who was tickled pink.

I came to the conclusion that God had called me, not to catch fish, but to be a fisher of men. There are many similarities in fishing for fish and fishing for men. Every fisherman I have seen had a passion for it. That same passion exists in fishing for men. I don't have any big fish stories to tell about catching fish, but I have some beautiful stories that are exciting and unforgettable about catching men for Christ.

Jesus said, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." (Mark 1:17).



"It's about time we got some new voters. The ones we've got now haven't done so well."

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 Hiwassee 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 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 at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.

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 St. Francis of Assisi Church 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 (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 Hiawassee Senior Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch. Call 706-379-2191.

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.

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!
Contact us at 706-896-4454

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Towns County Herald
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