

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

Last month I was disappointed to learn the community pool at Chatuge Shores Golf facility might have to close permanently due to major repairs needed. I'm happy to report that the Clay County Rural Development Authority Board has authorized my committee to apply for a 50/50 grant to make those repairs. A grant of this nature means they will match our dollars raised - dollar for dollar.

I appeal to all businesses, clubs, organizations and individual families to help us raise the funds necessary to keep this community asset. I'm open to any fundraising ideas and can be contacted at 828-389-2501. I especially reach out to all who learned to swim at this pool as a child. Let's band together and raise the funds so current and future children can swim there also.

All checks should be made payable to Chatuge Shores Pool Fund and sent directly to Matt Liss, Chatuge Shores Manager, 2600 Golf Course Road, Hayesville, NC 28904.

Nancy Coldiron

To the Editor:

In all the dust-up over the Navy Yard attack/assassinations/murders/slaughter/executions/massacre, why has nothing been said that the Navy Yard - like the Sandy Hook Elementary school - were both soft targets, i.e., designated Gun-Free Zones?

Since America is becoming more "diverse" with time, perhaps signs written in all the world's languages should have been posted at every door, identifying the Navy Yard as a Gun-Free Zone.

Surely signs such as these would have prevented this act of savagery. Surely Aaron Alexis would have read the warning in English - or Thai - and would have realized the horror of what he proposed and he would have turned away.

Since Alexis "heard voices," perhaps digital speakers, placed all around the Navy Yard facility, should have been playing soft, calming, "elevator" music underlying spoken commands which might have dissuaded his attack. You know, substitute other, rational voices for the voices that Alexis was hearing.

If one life could be saved, if one act of "workplace violence" could be forestalled, wouldn't such "preventive" measures be worth it?

That's the rubric that Senators Feinstein, Boxer, Schumer, Durbin, Manchin, Gillibrand, Landrieu, Leahy, Mikulski, Murray, Nelson, Reid, Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Vice-President Joe Biden, President Barack Obama - like almost all other Democrats - would have us believe.

To hear them tell it, saving one life is worth more than the Second Amendment.

P.S. Let's call him what he was. Alexis was an assassin, a murderer, a terrorist, executioner, killer, butcher, savage. He wasn't a "shooter."

There are Olympic "shooters" and BB gun "shooters" and clay target "shooters" and bullseye "shooters" and IPSC and Steel Challenge "shooters" and Bianchi Cup "shooters" and Sharps "shooters" and Cowboy Action "shooters." Alexis was none of these.

George Mitchell

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

The first days of fall have greeted us with a preview of the weather we wait all year to enjoy. Signs of the ancient cycles of change are visible just around the edges of things in a curled leaf, a splash of color. The birds have picked up the pace of their activity and the rhythms of the insect world have taken on an increased sense of urgency.

We humans, though insulated from so many of the cycles of nature, are not immune to them. As the greening of summer yields to bright and bracing days of color, our imaginations turn to thoughts of harvest and celebration. Pumpkins are beginning to collect at the entrances to stores which are already offering us Halloween costumes and Christmas decorations, side by side. This, too, has become an expected part of the yearly cycle, rooted in natural rhythms even though expressed by brightly colored plastic from China.

As the earth follows its ancient sidereal precession, we look forward to the fairs and festivals of fall in our mountain communities. In the nation's capital, the circus is back in town.

One would think that watching the baseball playoffs, tailgating at football games, carving pumpkins and slicing turkeys would be enough to occupy us, enough to stimulate the apparently perpetually under-stimulated economy; enough to fill the shorter days and longer nights with breaking news and live coverage.

Think again. The clown show is preparing a drama rarely ("only" fifteen times since 1977) seen in Washington: The threat of a government shutdown.

Frightening, isn't it? Scariest than one of those zombie costumes in the Halloween section of Walmart. But if you can't quite grasp the gravity of the situation, then consider this for comparison. During the "devastating" slowdown in government activity caused by the Sequester, the Federal Register, which records most of the activity of government agencies, has recorded "only" 17,679 entries since March 1, 2013.

Imagine the doom that might be inflicted upon us if, perish the thought, the government should again shut down for a few days or perhaps a few weeks. Granted, the military would still protect the nation; law enforcement

and public safety agencies would still function and the Post Office would still deliver Social Security checks. Drones would still fly and electronic eaves would still be dropped, but the rest of government, particularly the hordes of bureaucrats, would be unable to do...whatever it is that they do.

Perhaps there is a better, more positive way to look at the situation. Instead of dreading the doom, maybe we should look forward to the upcoming drama as entertainment: "Wrestlemania 2013 - Obamacare." This could be the biggest event of the decade as republicans and democrats fight for the future of civilization in a prolonged, televised breaking news talk show commentary cage match.

It could be entertaining. It could also be educational. We may just be able to see, many of us for the first time, the consequences of allowing the permanent political class and its burgeoning entourage of bureaucrats and special interests to continue to dominate the national stage. Now that would indeed be a Fall Classic.

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

Debt free

Who is the happiest person you know? Is it the man or woman with the biggest house? The man with the best automobile? The lady with the finest clothes? The man or woman with the greatest job in all the world? The teenager with the most beautiful girlfriend? The teenager with the most handsome boyfriend? The senior adult who has just retired? The sick person who has been declared whole? Just who is the happiest person you know? Well, probably all of the above would qualify as happy people but from my observation of life, not any of those listed above would qualify as the happiest persons that I know or have known. While serving a church in South Georgia, on a bright sunny fall day, I met a farmer coming out of the local bank with his face shining as the sun. I greeted him with some silly question like, "Why are you so happy?" "Did you just rob the bank?" "No, Preacher," he said, "I just paid off my loan and I am debt free!" I have never forgotten the thrill and joy he expressed in his reply. For the past two or three years, farmers in the area had not fared so well in their harvests. The weather had not been suitable for bountiful crops and the farmers had relied on the bank to finance their next crops. But this par-

ticular year had proven to be good and Mr. Tucker was the happiest man I had seen in a long time. Debt free! What a feeling to experience. Maybe, you have retired a house mortgage, paid off a college loan, paid your last car payment or perhaps you have completed the final payment on a hospital bill? If you have finished paying any debt, you know the joy of receiving a statement stamped with the phrase "Paid in Full!" What a blessing! But the happiest person is the person who can say, "I am debt free spiritually." Without doubt the one who can say, "my sins are forgiven and my sin debt has been "Paid in Full" by Jesus Christ, is the most blessed and happiest person in all the earth. Recently, on a local church marquee was the message for everyone for all time: "Jesus Christ died to pay a debt He did not owe, because we owed a debt we could not pay." A bumper sticker reads: "I owe, I owe, so off to work I go." You can go to work, earn money and pay off your financial obligations but you can never work hard enough or long enough to pay off your sin debt. Our sin debt has been Paid in Full by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

You can be debt free spiritually this very day! Accept His payment for your sin debt. The Psalmist shouted with joy, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile" (Psalm 32:1-2). Are you debt free?

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
By Don Jacobsen

Q: Dr. Don, I know you urge us that our family shouldn't raise our voices when we are talking to each other. But we have some friends who won't let their kids yell and the kids only repress it and are full of anger. Isn't a little yelling better than keeping it all in?

A: I think you're assuming those are the only two options. Either you keep it in and you get angry or you let it out and make your whole family angry? There's gotta be a better way, don't you think? How about a major injection of mutual respect, where mom and dad and the kids can talk, even disagree, but not raise their voices? Yelling is a sign that mom and dad are not respectful of the feelings of their kids, but also that they fear they have lost their authority as leaders in the family. When the kids yell it is a sign that they have lost their respect for the authority that mom and dad are supposed to have in the family. Neither of those outcomes is healthy.

Actually, both of the parental strategies in your question are ineffective - they don't result in the outcome you want - plus, with both behaviors kids are more apt to

do other things you don't like, such as bullying, vandalism, sarcasm, and rebelliousness. When parents holler, swear, or use insulting language it may temporarily stop the undesired actions, but it doesn't fix the problem. Volume actually decreases our authority. So, how to get where we want to go?

The goal here is to educate, not "win." It's to help the youngster understand that if you raise your voice, you lose. When mom or dad try to manage their kids by hollering Junior figures he also has to shout to be heard. Fact is, of course, both lose.

A mother once told me, "But I'm just a yeller; I grew up in a family where we yelled at each other and that's just the way I am." OK, but that's not the way you have to be. To discipline a child means to help him become a disciple, a follower, and to live by the values the family decides are important. Respect is one of those values. So leadership parents model the family value: We have deep respect for each other and we demonstrate that even when we disagree.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net

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.



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 Unicy 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 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 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.

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