

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



T.C. Herald Editor It rolls down (Capitol) Hill By Charles Duncan

For those representatives in Washington, DC supporting the shutdown of the federal government and everything that falls under that umbrella, I have a solution.

I think it's high time to furlough the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate and the White House and the U.S. Supreme Court.

If you stop those paychecks, I think we'll get back to the bargaining table and come up with a compromise.

Those high and mighty U.S. representatives, senators, justices, and all those folks in the White House are too busy playing games with the lives of the American people.

Case in point, the Pre-K programs in Union and Towns counties, and countless counties around us, have been closed indefinitely. Those teachers have been furloughed. Mommas and daddies have no place to take their children during work hours.

Another case in point, our National Parks, U.S. Forest Service campgrounds, our TVA and Army Corps of Engineer campgrounds and boat ramps have been put on lockdown.

What's next? The only mail we get will be email?

The bottom line is I hope 9th Congressional District U.S. Rep. Doug Collins is taking note. 2014 is an election year. U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss isn't worried about an election year, he's retiring. U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson isn't up for election next year.

I do bring this all up about election year because term limits begin at the ballot box and irresponsible representation is coming to the surface.

I say irresponsible because I don't think these folks

or the other 532 representatives in Washington have a clue about who or what their actions are impacting.

Shutting down Pre-K will create chaos in our communities. It will lead to parents having to quit their jobs and stay at home and take care of their children.

Of course when you take momma or daddy out of the employment picture, you run the risk of increased local, state and federal assistance to those individuals.

You take away our parks, campgrounds and lakes during the height of tourist season and put a tightrope around our local economies.

The carnage doesn't end there. The more time we waste, the more problems are created.

Let's get to the point. Rep. Collins, your colleagues in the House and Senate, and those careless people in the White House should know time is running out for all of you on this high-profile issue. If America turns its back on its debts, everyone loses.

Without a compromise, your chances of returning to Washington by getting re-elected are drawing up like a Hanes t-shirt left too long in the clothes dryer.

Should this government shutdown continue, don't be surprised if you have a number of protests ahead when you arrive in your districts.

You're losing support faster than former NFL quarterback Josh Freeman did in Tampa Bay. Freeman settled in Minnesota. Y'all might not be that lucky for you must face the consequences of your actions.

It's time to take back our government at the ballot box. Hey, it is what it is.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

As the partial shutdown of government continues, anger and frustration with Washington is growing steadily. Much of this anger has been directed at a small contingent of the Republican Party for "holding the country hostage," for trying to leverage changes in a law which has already passed over both houses of Congress and for a host of implied motives that would make a Borgia cringe.

At the root of this deadlock is the argument over the Affordable Care Act, which is, indeed, the law of the land. The House of Representatives seeks to modify "Obamacare" by withholding funding for its implementation.

However, if we peel off some of the layers of media hype and political posturing, we see that Congress, at least in this instance, is actually functioning as it was designed to do. Our nation was born in a struggle against tyranny, and safeguards against tyranny are built into the core of our system of government. Checks and balances exist to protect us, not only from the ascendancy of a single individual or party, but they are there to protect us also from the tyranny of the majority. Our Founders understood that the intent and desire of the "majority" is as changeable as the weather.

The ACA is as sweeping in its scope as Medicare laws were when they were first enacted. It seeks to change in significant ways the business of approximately 14% of our GDP. It will change forever, for good or for ill, our dysfunctional healthcare system which, with or without Obamacare, was destined to change whether we wanted it or not.

In the coming weeks we will be looking more closely at whether the many thousands of pages of rules and regulations which make up the Affordable Care Act may or may not effectively address the problems they were designed to fix, but for today, let's focus on a fundamental problem which affects all Americans and not just the ones seeking affordable healthcare.

Take note of the tone

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.

of the objections to the government shutdown trumpeted by the media and by many in Congress. The doom predicted by many of the most fearful voices may or may not manifest, but the implications are troubling. Take note of the image of government intimately entwined in every aspect of our lives; government monitoring us, managing us; government, without which too many of us cannot own homes, educate our children or afford to see a doctor. Behold an economy that cannot function properly without government at the helm, spending our way into the future.

Over the weekend I drove from Hiawassee to Atlanta and back. If traffic, crowded parking lots and busy shopping centers are any guide, at least some parts of the economy are currently functioning just fine without the help of the Federal Government. What happens next remains to be seen. Stay tuned!

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

The indestructible book
Someone has said that the Bible is God's revelation of God, from God, to man through man. The Bible has always had its critics. These critics have been without and within the church, political and religious, educated and uneducated. Before W. C. Fields died someone noticed him examining the Bible. Asked what he was doing, he replied, "looking for loopholes." Some spend a lifetime digging through the wheat of God's Word trying to find one piece of chaff. There are others who wish to destroy the Bible altogether. Jehoiakim, the vile puppet king, sought to destroy God's message by cutting and burning the scroll (Jeremiah 36) but found that God could not and would not be silenced. It would be as foolish as a man armed with a water pistol thinking he could extinguish the flame of the sun to think he could destroy God's Word. Tear out its pages and burn them if you like but that does not change its truth or its teacher. John Clifford wrote the following entitled The Anvil of God's Word which demonstrates the indestructibility of the Bible.

"Last eve I paused beside a blacksmith's door, and heard the anvil ring the vesper chime; Then looking in, I saw upon the floor, Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," I said,

"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"

"Just one," said he, and then with twinkling eye,

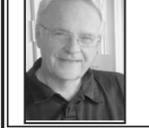
"The anvil wears the hammers out you know."

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's word, For ages skeptic blows have been upon, Yet though the noise of falling blows was heard, The anvil unchanged, the hammers gone."

By the grace of God and through the blood of the martyrs and the faithful fighting for freedom we still have God's Word today. A little girl explained to her mother, "The Bible is like a loaf of bread. Each chapter is a slice, and every verse is a big bite." Henry Drummond, Scottish writer and evangelist, was on his death bed in 1897. He asked his good friend George Adam Smith to pray for him and to read the New Testament to him. As Smith sat down by his bed, Drummond remarked, "That is the book one always comes back to."

The Bible is our book. God gave it to us. Let us love it, read it, follow its teachings, and live by its directions. Selah

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RARE KIDS; WELL DONE By Don Jacobsen

Dr. Don: I have a hard question for you. At least it's hard for my husband and me. A professional photographer in Taos, NM, was asked to photograph a same-sex "wedding," but the photographer refused, saying, "(As a Christian), I cannot in good conscience, (allow my work to) communicate the messages of this wedding." The prospective customer sued the photographer and the case went clear to the state Supreme Court. The photographer lost and was forced to pay a \$7,000 fine for discrimination. We were discussing it at supper one evening with our kids (almost 10 and 13) and I don't think we did it very well. What should we have said?

A: Wow. I have to admit that is indeed a dicey issue. A recent Rasmussen survey found that 85 percent of Americans surveyed support the right of a photographer to refuse to participate in a same-sex wedding but it seems to me the New Mexico Supreme Court has decided that homosexuality trumps Christianity as a protected right of American citizens. Whatever your belief system, that's a worrisome outcome.

But back to the dinner table with your kids. First, I commend you for making it a matter of discussion. I talk often with parents about the

crucial 10-year window between ages 3 - 12 which we call the season of discipline. Not punishment, but discipline. Punishment means bringing some penalty on your youngster to express displeasure at his or her behavior. Discipline on the other hand means to help the child become a believer or a follower. It's related to the word "disciple." It's the process by which mom and dad seek to hand off family values, to help their kids understand what is important to the family and why. A forthright discussion around the dinner table can be an excellent place for that to happen.

Given the age of your kids I would try to lead them in some discovery. Kids 10 and 13 are well aware of issues like right and wrong and justice. You could define marriage from your family's perspective. Would you agree with the photographer? Why/why not? Questions can help shape the direction of the discussion. An answer you're not comfortable with could generate a response from you like, "Well, I see what you're saying, but here's what helps me come to my conclusion." Caring and conviction will buy you good credibility with your kids.

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!
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 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 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 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.

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