

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor
Whereas the charter school amendment sounds like a good idea when you read the ballot question, in fact it is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Jim Fitzgerald

Editor:
During my 40+ years as an attorney, I've often been confounded trying to reconcile logically the various interpretations of the U. S. Constitution by federal judges

Let's break down the essential components of this First Amendment: 1) Congress can't establish any one (or more) specific religions(s) to be observed by all - good;

So, logically, if you and/or I and/or others assemble peaceably at a town hall meeting, ball game, school function, etc., wish to speak (i.e. pray for, among other good things, the wisdom of our leaders, the safety of the players, the progress of the children, etc.) out loud

Claudio G. Spears

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

October is a fine time to live here in the North Georgia Mountains. The relentless heat of summer gives way to cool nights and brisk mornings.

October requires that I forego all obligations for a little while and spend some time in the woods. Indeed every month inspires the same compulsion, but the need is particularly strong when temperature and humidity are so perfect for long hikes in the high country.

October this year brings an added impetus to the call of the wild. I've spent too much time rolling on asphalt; too much time staring at phantom numbers of virtual economies on boxes of sand and wires.

Longtime readers of this column might be surprised to know of my familiarity with tractors, bulldozers and trackhoes. I have maintained for many years that my middle path is often a footpath leading away from the highway and we have made a conscious effort to err, if we must, on the side of the environment.

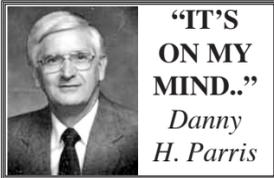
My defense of the environment has never targeted hard-working, honest people who spend hours in uncomfortable seats breathing diesel exhaust and listening to the loud roar of engines.

and women who maintain roads, build dams or grade earth for homes to be built. Our problem has been and continues to be with those who move much more earth with the stroke of the pen or the tap of the mouse than any one person could ever hope to move with a machine.

The last category includes all of us, to a certain degree. Every passing year technology and affluence brings another degree of separation between us and the earth that sustains us.

These thoughts all ran through my head while I was digging out stumps and widening the driveway for a place to park my tractor.

A few days in the forest was a good balance for a few hours on a trackhoe. The quiet vitality of birds and breezes, the smell of wet leaves and the calm of clear running water was invigorating.



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

Doors of opportunity

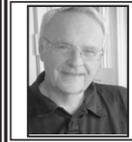
I read a story some time ago about a young man who had fallen in love with a farmer's beautiful daughter. He wanted to marry her so he confidently approached the farmer to ask for her hand in marriage.

Perhaps our world is in a great crisis today because too many of us have been looking and waiting for the easiest, safest and least challenging opportunities in life. We had better be careful waiting to grab that third opportunity it may not have a tail.

bull rushed toward him. At just the right moment he lunged and grabbed - but he came up empty handed. The third bull had no tail. What a life lesson. God opens many doors of opportunity for us in this life, but sometimes like the young man we are looking for safe and unchallenging situations.

Perhaps our world is in a great crisis today because too many of us have been looking and waiting for the easiest, safest and least challenging opportunities in life. We had better be careful waiting to grab that third opportunity it may not have a tail.

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
By Don Jacobsen



If your kids drink a lot of "sugary beverages," that is, soda, pop, etc., they are very likely overweight. That's no surprise, but it's not as simple as it seems.

I am writing this from San Antonio, Texas, which recently hosted a major obesity conference showcasing research that has been in process for decades.

"A huge, decades-long study involving more than 33,000 Americans has yielded the first clear proof that drinking sugary beverages interacts with genes that affect weight, amplifying a person's risk of obesity beyond what it would be from heredity alone."

What that means is, drinking a lot of sugary sodas is likely to make you fat, but it is more likely to make you fat if you have some of the so-called "obesity genes," those genes that predispose some to gain weight.

We have known for years that sugary drinks are the

single biggest source of calories in the American diet, and they are increasingly blamed for the fact that a third of U.S. children and teens and more than two-thirds of adults in America are obese or overweight.

In one phase of the study, 224 high school students in Boston were provided with soft drinks and another similar group was provided with non-sugar drinks including water. At the end of one year the soda-drinkers had gained an average of four pounds more than the non-soda drinkers.

Because obesity is linked to several very serious health problems (such as increased propensity for heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer) many experts now believe that this generation of kids will be the first in America to live shorter lives than their parents did.

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

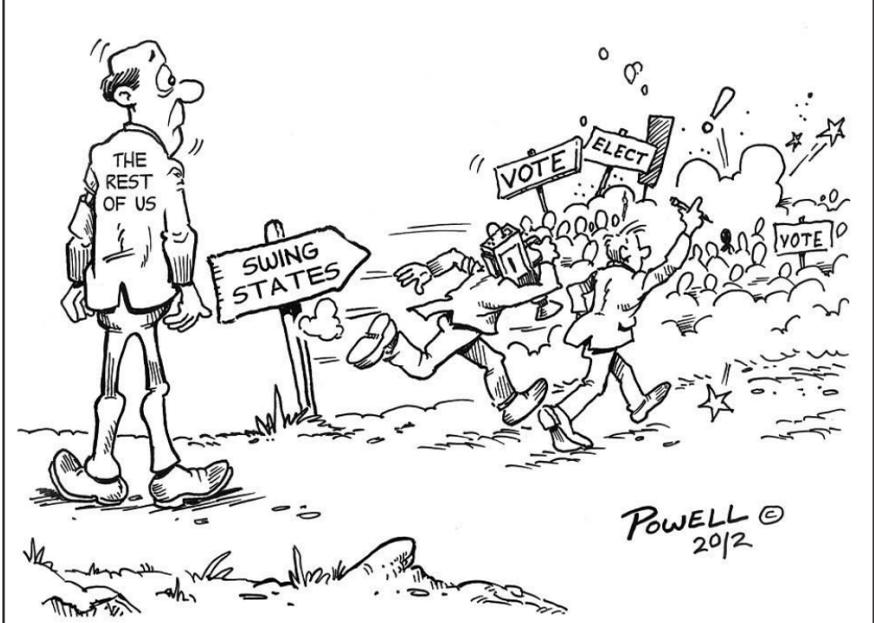
GUEST COLUMNS

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED

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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
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