

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

### Letter to the Editor:

The only community pool in Clay County is not going to reopen next spring unless funds can be raised to upgrade the pool to current standards including adding the new federally mandated handicap lift. To this end the Clay County Rural Development Authority is applying for a federal grant. If we can raise \$50,000, the federal grant will match that amount and years worth of deterioration can be upgraded as well as adding the handicapped lift and special parking. We are appealing to all businesses, clubs, organizations and individual families to help raise the funds necessary to keep this community asset.

A special appeal goes 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 as well. All checks should be made payable to: Chatuge Shores Pool Fund and sent directly to Matt Liss, manager at Chatuge Shores, 260 Golf Course Road, Hayesville, NC 28904. Time is of the essence as we have to have monies by November 12, 2013 when we apply for the grant.

Nancy Coldiron

### To the Editor:

Scaring people away from health insurance that could save the lives of the most vulnerable among us is a sad betrayal of morality and responsibility. What is sadder still is that we are in one of the most uninsured areas of one of the most uninsured states.

Every area citizen should be encouraged to investigate the Affordable Care Act Marketplace for themselves. Every person's eligibility is different based on income, family size, and personal choice of coverage. Call 1-800-318-2596 or wait awhile to go to the website: [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov)

Governor Deal has declined to help Georgia residents apply; therefore, the Federal government is providing the marketplace or "big stores." The insurance companies are the "store owners" who set the prices, but they must allow every person to enroll who wants to. Everyone has until March 31, 2014 to decide on a plan that will allow them to participate. The website will help eligible people apply for subsidies to help pay for an insurance policy; it will compare health plan options and help people, if they wish, to enroll in their personal choice of plan.

Patricia McCarthy

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

My wife and I usually prefer the views and vistas we earn by placing one boot in front of the other or the contentment of watching the old hickory tree in the front yard wearing the seasons to any view through the windshield of a car. Nevertheless, last weekend we opted to join the stream of motorists that help feed our local economies this time of year and we drove about the northern part of the state to see how fall was progressing outside our own little cove.

As much as I have written over the years about the ills of petroleum based civilization, I am not immune to that uniquely American enjoyment of the sense of freedom and self-mastery that comes from the road. Traffic jams and morning commutes aside, there is nothing as liberating and nothing as American as piloting our vehicles where we want, when we want. From horse and buggy to wagon train, railroad to Interstate, the appetite for movement is written into our history and ingrained in our culture.

We enjoyed our trip, the fresh air, the smattering of fall color in the highlands, the quaint roadside shops, a homemade cinnamon bun with a bad cup of coffee and a winning smile from the proprietor. The overcast day was drawn up like a blanket over the muted colors of the highlands as if the mountains were taking an afternoon nap, dreaming of pumpkins and frost. The occasional shaft of sunlight made brilliant by the somber silver and slate sky created a sense of expectation over the next hill and around the next bend. It was gentle day, a sleepy day, a day that hinted of changes to come, inspired thoughts of the woodpile and the axe and suggested a pot of chili bubbling on top of the woodstove.

The fall colors have been less than spectacular this year, but we thoroughly enjoyed our trip through the mountains. It was a good day for us, but our contentment was not shared by a couple we overheard at a local shop who had driven all this way only to be disappointed by the failure of the foliage to perform to their expectations. For them there was nothing worth photographing and the weekend was ruined. Surrounded by the sounds of water falling on rocks and the music of a mandolin playing in the background, immersed in the smell of caramel apples and hot boiled peanuts and

### 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 E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:** Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: [tcherald@windstream.net](mailto: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.**

in plain sight of an array of pumpkins that would have been the envy of any backyard gardener, these unhappy travelers grumbled and poked their discontent into the ubiquitous little boxes to which most of us are now attached. They headed for home annoyed at having no colorful pictures to post to prove to their friends what a wonderful time they were having, oblivious to the subtle beauty all around them.

For many of us, expectation often exceeds experience, and when this becomes habitual, we are destined for disappointment. It does not help matters that a virtual world of idealized images and intensity now stands between us and direct experience. Our species has been staring at screens for over a generation now; big screens at the theater, screens in the living room and the bedroom, screens at work and screens in our pockets. Advertisers have asked all along that we compare our lives to what we saw on those screens and now, we do it without their prompting; comparing our own idealized images to those of our "friends."

Are we losing our ability to perceive reality with our own native senses? Are the idealized images enhanced by technology muting the colors of everything else? Will our need for the intense and the instantaneous lead us ever onward into the undiscovered territory of the virtual world, where happiness and contentment are entirely dependent on technology - and marketing? What will we do when the power goes out or the battery dies?

I don't know, but I can smell that pot of chili on the stove. I suppose I could post a picture of it, but I would much rather savor it up.

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

### Men and trees

This is the time of the year that trees claim the attention of much of our population. People travel hundreds and even thousands of miles to their favorite mountains where the leaves put on one of nature's spectacular shows. The mountains fill up with leaf lookers as they view the beauty of leaves. Personally, I am an avid leaf looker. I don't care too much for leaf raking, leaf blowing, leaf burning and leaf mulching but I love to look upon the beautiful fall colors. Indeed, God has made everything beautiful in its time. Trees are a wonderful part of God's fascinating creation. In the very beginning God called trees into being (Genesis 1:11). They are essential for sustaining life on this earth. Before God made man he made fruit-bearing trees. Trees provide air for man to breathe, food for man to eat, fuel to keep man warm, a shade to keep him cool, weapons for protection, lumber to provide him shelter, medicine for his sickness, paper for hundreds of needs, plus numerous other daily essentials and if that is not enough, they demonstrate at this season of the year the power, the glory and the beauty of the God of creation as nothing else can for the exception of man. From my childhood I have been intrigued by trees. Like Zaccheus, I have climbed a few trees and even talked to God from the branches of a tree. And yes, I have been up that proverbial tree a few times when I created situations that had me treed like a coon. In all of my observations and investigations of trees I have never located that much talked about money tree. As a love-stricken teenager I do admit that I carved a few love notes in the bark of trees. And truthfully, as a Baptist minister I have met a few people that I believe could absolutely talk the bark right off trees. Again,

as a Baptist minister I am sure that in some of my sermons I was barking up the wrong tree. Sometimes preachers have a hard time seeing the forest for the trees. If you read God's Book, the Bible, you understand that men and trees have a close relationship. It all started when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in eating of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. Their willful disobedience brought the curse of sin upon all mankind. Since then men and trees have been important to each other. Biblical writers have likened men to trees. The Psalmist said, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:1-3). The prophets detailed the foolishness of the Israelites that would go into the forest and cut a tree. They would use part of it to decorate their house, another portion of it for heating fuel and carve part of that same tree for a god to bow down and worship. Men are not to worship trees but to worship the God who created trees. Jesus said in His Sermon on the Mount that the fruit identified the tree. Likewise, a man's works (fruits) will identify his true nature whether good or evil. Someone has said that a man is like a tree. He is best measured when lying down. The first man, Adam, messed things up by eating of the fruit of the tree in the garden. The second Adam, Christ Jesus, came and died on the cruel tree to put away the sin of Adam's generation (1 Peter 2:24). As a result someday we will live in a garden where the Tree of Life stands on either side of the River of Life. And its leaves are for healing and not for viewing. "I will look unto the hills. From whence cometh my help? My help comes from the Lord, which made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1-2).



**RARE KIDS;  
WELL DONE**  
By Don Jacobsen

**Q:** Dr. Don, our son who is 14 is bringing home kids we can't like. They are frumpy, gross, lazy, and they're not good for him. Their language is crude, their music is loud, their clothes are sloppy and their whole attitude is disrespectful. What if he becomes like them? Can you give us some help please?

**A:** First, take a deep breath. It's not unusual for kids in their early teens to admire kids who are pushing the limits. I didn't say it's healthy, just that it's not unusual. Sometimes good kids see it as kind of a safe way to rebel. They get some of the thrill of living on the edge without having to do anything wrong themselves. I'm not suggesting you should be happy about it; just don't panic because parental panic often brings an added incentive for the teen to push the boundaries.

Now to your question. You can be thankful he's bringing his friends home rather than meeting in the alley behind the ABC store. So build on that. Get to know them. Don't try to be cool like they are or talk hip like they do. But make the effort to get acquainted. Ask questions. Not, "Have you ever stolen money from your dad's

wallet," or "How often do you take a bath?" But rather like, "Any brothers or sisters," or "Who's your favorite team this year?" You're not gathering information, you're building bridges.

With your son, I suggest you take the same positive approach. Instead of, "I wish you would choose a better brand of friends...", try something like, "I'm glad you bring those kids home so they can get to know you better and you can be a positive influence on them. I know you like to do that, and it looks like you're going to have lots of opportunities to do it. Let us know when we can help."

You asked, What if he becomes like them. Any time we spend ten minutes with another person we become a little bit like them. That's both good news and bad. The good news is that some of your son will rub off on his friends. How much of them will influence him? Well, you have the advantage of having had 14 years to help him learn to love and respect your family's values. Keep the communication open; you'll get through this.

Send your parenting questions to: [DrDon@RareKids.net](mailto:DrDon@RareKids.net).



"I hate it when they mess with the clocks. It always makes the hour before quitting time the longest day of the year."

## Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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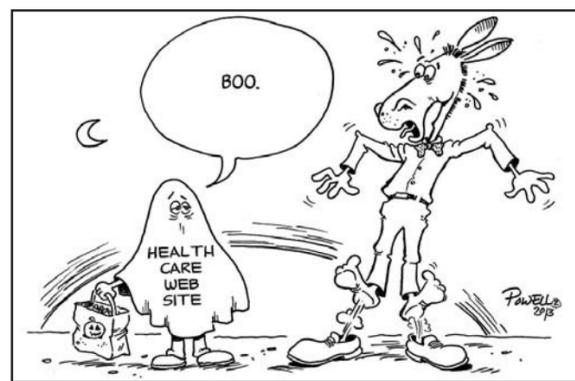
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## Community Calendar

**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 Hickey 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](http://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 [mtnregarts-craftsguild.org](http://mtnregarts-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](http://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](http://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](http://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 706-996-9614 after 6 PM.