

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Editor: The following letter has been sent to Governor Deal, with copies to our State Senator, Representative, Senators, Senator-elect and Congressman

November 18, 2014
The Honorable Nathan Deal
Dear Governor Deal,

Georgia citizens are living under a growing and justifiable fear as the President of the United States continues to use powers not granted him under the Constitution. Many fear that action on the part of the federal executive will soon sweep aside the legal citizenship process and he will declare amnesty for millions of illegal alien immigrants.

Reliable news reports indicate the many of these persons may have multiple criminal convictions, membership in organized drug cartels and a prevalent use of fraudulent identification and citizenship documentation. Also, recent events require us to consider that some of these people are carrying contagious infectious communicable diseases which constitutes clear and present dangers to citizens of Georgia and the nation.

If this reckless and unconstitutional amnesty action is allowed to proceed without opposition, Georgia and the nation will suffer further subversion of the foundations of orderly society based on the rule of representative government by the consent of the governed.

And as citizens of the state of Georgia, we therefore respectfully request that as Governor you exercise all authorized power and remedies to resist the federal executive's usurpation of power and forcible insertion of illegal immigrants without the application of the immigration laws of the United States.

Additionally, we request that you take appropriate action to determine the present extent of residents already illegally-placed within the state by the federal executive and develop a plan to ensure the safety of the citizens of Georgia, deal equitably with any illegal immigrants and protect the citizens from any future illegal or unconstitutional actions, of any kind, by any department or office of the U.S. Government.

Finally, considering the executive authority vested in the office of Governor, we ask that you publicly declare your intention to provide protection for the citizens of Georgia against an over reaching federal government.

Sincerely,
Pat Thibodeaux
Union/Towns County Tea Party
Blairsville, GA



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

Nearly 300 years ago, Andrew Fletcher, a member of the Scottish Parliament, wrote: "Let me write the songs of a nation, and I care not who writes its laws." If he was right, then it adds a whole new imperative to being savvy about what our kids are listening to.

Does what kids listen to affect them? Everything we hear changes us in some way. And remember: The entertainment industry is not focused on building character in America's youth.

We wonder at the mental health of this culture's young. Ask anyone from my generation if they remember a schoolmate ever threatening suicide. Ask if they recall a classmate who was hospitalized for an emotional disorder or sent to rehab for a drug overdose. Most of today's high schoolers will tell you they know someone in all of those categories.

How to account for the fact that today's teens are eight times more likely to see a mental healthcare professional than my generation was?

Curious, I researched the favorite songs from the year I graduated from high school. Here are the top three: Good Night, Irene (I'll see you in my dreams) (#1 my senior year); Vaya Con Dios (May God Be With You) Tied for #2; Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White (Made famous by Pat Boone and Bing Crosby.) Tied for #3.

Here are the titles of some of the songs I found at the top of today's charts: Talk Dirty; We Might Be Dead Tomorrow; Hot Boy; Demons

(by Imagine Dragons); The Monster.

So, does the culture create the music or does the music create the culture? Actually, they feed each other. Whenever I start talking to a roomful of parents about controlling what our kids listen to, the inevitable first question is: How? Let me try to answer that.

1. Stay close to your kids as they're growing up. We talk about that a lot in this column. Listen. Lead. Let them know you're on their side. Discuss your family's values and why they are important.

2. Introduce them early to the good, the grand, the glorious. Help them develop a healthy view of where they're going and what they can become. If they learn to love that which is noble it helps create a distaste for that which is raw and ugly.

3. No smart phone or web-accessible tablet till they've shown the character necessary to control them. A simple phone - one that makes phone calls only - is all they need. They take it when they leave home, and put it on the charger when they return. It is not "their phone," they borrow it from the family when they're away from home.

It's time to take back the authority God has given to parents. Studies consistently show that kids do better with strong family leadership, clear expectations, and memorable consequences. Let's launch a revolution.

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

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

The audacity of the man! He claimed that millions of illegal immigrants live in fear of deportation, and with millions of Americans out of work, he said in his State of the Union Address that "we will never fully secure our border until we create a lawful way for foreign workers to come here and support our economy." He orchestrated blanket amnesty for 12 million illegal aliens and permitted US businesses to go abroad and bring in even more foreign workers. He claimed that we could never take the pressure off of our borders without a guest worker program.

In another State of the Union Address he said, "We hear claims that immigrants are somehow bad for the economy, even though this economy could not function without them." He opposed English-only public school education and made sure there were school funds for the children of illegal immigrants.

There are many who would dispute these words, and many who would criticize the president who spoke them. President Obama has not found a great deal of support here in this column, but these are not Obama's words. They belong to President George W. Bush, who also said:

"Latinos come to the US to seek the same dreams that have inspired millions of others: they want a better life for their children."

On the whole, we are a well-intentioned people, but our memory is short, and the keepers of that memory, the networks, the publishers and the pundits, present us with a selection of facts chosen more for dramatic effect than for understanding. The truth is out there, but it is often drowned out by the "truthy."

And so it is that when a democrat president attempts to do by executive order what a republican president believed only a few short years ago should be done, our newly elected republican Congress vows to thwart his every move.

Undoubtedly there are many among that august body of aging, wealthy white men whose primary objection is an overreaching of executive order in a continuing expansion of the imperial presidency, though the majority of republicans were silent when Bush expanded executive power beyond Clinton, who doubled the number of executive orders signed by George H. W. Bush, but did not equal the number penned by Ronald Reagan.

It is a matter of record that Barack Obama has, so far, issued about 150 executive orders. Clinton signed 364; Dwight Eisenhower, 484. Franklin Roosevelt signed 3,522 executive orders during his 12 years in office.

So while many of us would prefer that the immigration problem be solved by Congress, which was unable to generate a single bill in 6 years, an honest appraisal of the situation would illuminate the fact that there are also many who would prefer that the problem not be solved at all.

This is regrettable, but it is not so unbelievable nor unforgivable an attitude as many on the left would assert. Rapid demographic change simply does not occur without some form of social upheaval. We are wired to fear the unknown, some more than others, and to look with suspicion upon those

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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.**

who are different from us. The older we get, the more difficult it is to embrace change. So we resist change when and how we can, and with whatever means we have at our disposal. We now have a majority in Congress which represents the votes of the older and more affluent of our society, and they have considerable resources to bring to bear in protecting their perceived interests.

There are others, some in government and quite a few in business, who recognize the inevitability of demographic change in the United States. The birthrate among Americans of European descent is not, and has not for some time been sufficient to replace the number of Americans dying. Without immigration, legal and illegal, our birth rate would be close to zero or declining, and one of the largest demographic groups, the baby boomers, is rapidly crossing the finish line into retirement age. Without an influx of new and younger workers, there is no hope for Social Security, and there are bleak prospects for an economy utterly dependent on infinite, perpetual growth and expansion.

And so there you have the back story to the immigration stalemate, a political football, a logical consequence of demographic change, and an intensely emotional issue for all concerned. These changes are inevitable, and the fact is that they would be self-sustaining even if the border became impermeable overnight. Even so, most would also agree that an open border and an unregulated, unguarded influx of people adding millions more unemployed who do not speak English, would be extremely unwise.

This is the challenge which must be met, and it remains to be seen whether our governing celebrities will choose to legislate, or whether they will spend the next two years seeking to damage their political opponents while millions of people continue to live with an uncertainty which was not at all dispelled by Obama's recent actions.

As for the rest of us, it would behoove us to keep in mind this final thought: "Family values do not stop at the Rio Grande. Latinos enrich our country with faith in God, a strong ethic of work, community & responsibility. We can all learn from the strength, solidarity, & values of Latinos. Immigration is not a problem to be solved, it is the sign of a successful nation. New Americans are to be welcomed as neighbors and not to be feared as strangers."

Barack Obama? No. George W. Bush.



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

God or the gobbler

Our modern Thanksgiving Day is sandwiched between Halloween and Christmas and is so compressed that very little gratitude (if any) is expressed to the giver of all blessings. The centerpiece for most of our Thanksgivings is a big ugly bird that has only one word in its vocabulary that it just keeps on repeating; gobble, gobble, gobble. This bird is killed, stuffed, cooked and placed in the center of the table, surrounded by numerous bowls and platters of vegetables and desserts. We humans gather around the table overflowing with all of this food with the gobbler in the center and engage in the ritual of gobbling up the gobbler. Sometimes individuals gobble up so much of the gobbler that they are gorged to the point of gagging. Over-indulgence of the gobbler and the giblet gravy has been known to cause severe reactions in some individuals with their speech becoming a lot of gobble-dy-gook. If I understand the tradition of Thanksgiving, I believe God is to be the center of attraction and not the gobbler. When we gobble up the gobbler without giving thanks to God we become like an animal that does not recognize his maker. I heard about a farmer who made a trip to the city. At lunch time he went into a café and ordered his meal. When it arrived at his table he bowed his

head and gave thanks. Seated at a table next to him were some young men who snickered and laughed at him as he prayed. When he finished his prayer one of the young men, in a loud voice for everyone to hear, said, "Hey, Rube, where you come from does everyone pray before they eat?" Very calmly and collectively, he replied "Everyone except the hogs." John Milton describes those who live like hogs as "Swinish gluttony (which) Ne'er looks to heav'n amidst his gorgeous feast, But with besotted base ingratitude, Crams and blasphemes his feeder." Samuel Johnson defined such people when he wrote, "Gratitude is the fruit of great cultivation; you do not find it among gross people." James says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17). Paul says that Christian people should always have the attitude of gratitude, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20). Each day that we live is a day of Thanksgiving. Charles Kingsley instructs us to "Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work and forced to do your best, will breed in you temperance and self control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and content, and a hundred virtues which the idle never know."

The Psalmist reminds us, "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord." (Psalm 150:6)

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!
Contact us at 706-896-4454
Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM



"Lord, let us remember to make Thanksgiving a part of every day."



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 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.
Democratic Party of Towns County meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5 PM at the new Senior Center.
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 Unicorn 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. 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 Daniel's Steakhouse, Hiawassee. The Board meets at 4 p.m., and the Guild at 6. Call us 706-896-0932.
Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.
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/blueridge-mountains.
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.
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 evening at 7 PM at the Red Cross building 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 Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch.
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.
The Board of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce meet the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.
The Quilting Bee at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Family Life Center - Room 216. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 AM - 3 PM. Bring a sack lunch. For more information call Kathryn Taylor at 706-835-6721 or Marilyn Bostrom at 706-897-4367.
Mountain Coin Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the North Georgia Tech campus in Blairsville. Guests are welcome. For more info, call 706-379-1488.

Towns County Herald
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OFFICE LOCATED AT 518 N. MAIN ST. SUITE 7
"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) \$20
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