

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

**To the Editor:**  
Dear Sir: While vacationing in Towns County I had the distinct pleasure of attending the Veterans Day Program at the Veterans Memorial Park, the subsequent luncheon at the Foster Park Recreation Center, the program with the various speakers and the recognition of the WWII veterans there. Finally the dedication of the beautiful sculptured memorial of the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima. What a wonderful and patriotic show of support to the Veterans of Towns County. I would like to congratulate Commissioner Bill Kendall and the local VFW organization for taking on the monumental task of putting such a program together. I can only imagine the planning and the time spent getting it all together. Being a Towns County Veteran myself, I can tell you that it was a very humbling and touching experience. All of the county employees, boy scouts and volunteers should be proud of the ceremony. It was wonderfully done.

I have lived in various places throughout the US since leaving the military in 1961 and have never seen a more impressive program. Towns County residents should be proud of those involved in organizing this event.

Congratulations to all who took part in this event.

Sincerely,  
Buddy Hood  
Cottonwood, ID

### Letter to The Editor:

On November 17, 2015, I attended the "Mayor's Park Public Hearing". It was well attended and organized and presented. There are some issues with the project that are problematic. Hiwassee tax dollars are being used to develop a park that is located outside of the city limits. There was no mention of participation by the county. The annexation of that land into the city requires application and approval by State and County authorities. If the area to be annexed includes county residents and businesses would be required to pay City taxes. There will be no user fees. The expense of maintaining the park would come from taxes. The Park is hoped to be an economic draw to keep people in Hiwassee. When they stop and see the lake and the mountains, they will want to stay. That happens without the park. The park is relatively small, 4 usable acres, plus boat ramp and dock, with 28 parking spaces and overflow parking. 30 or 40 bass tournament boats would overwhelm the park at the exclusion of local residents. The budget has risen from \$125,000 to \$175,000 and a shortfall of \$30,000, totaling about \$200,000. The City is seeking an "over \$150,000 in other state, federal and private grants to fund the Park". It is not clear if this is in addition to the original budget or replaces it.

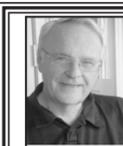
There is a problem in the county with Hidden Valley Subdivision. A new larger water line is needed to solve a water pressure problem, correct frequent failures, and add fire hydrants. The hydrants are a safety and fire insurance consideration. The cost is \$175,000 to \$200,000 collected from taxpayers. County residents don't pay city taxes. **CITY RESIDENTS PAY BOTH CITY AND COUNTY TAXES.** Why is the City selling water outside of the City Limits, especially if they can't or won't maintain the system? Hidden Valley is not the only out of the City account. Yes, they all do receive and pay bills, but the original installation, maintenance and upgrades come from City taxes.

This is not the only infrastructure project that goes begging for attention. I'm still running over a pot hole that was here when I moved back 16 years ago.

The questions are: "What do we need? What do we want?" Which \$200,000 project do we need?

Please continue to attend the City Council Meetings. It is our community.

John L. Holmes  
Taxpayer, Property Owner, Hiwassee Resident



## RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

This is my sixth year to write this weekly column. That's nearly 300 times that I have sat down at my keyboard and sought to help parents in their desire to raise kids who are respectful, responsible, and obedient. If I can believe my mail, it has helped a lot of people and for that I'm grateful. If you had a wobbly toddler when this weekly rant began he is now moving along in the elementary grades. If she was just beginning school she is likely now a teen. If he was in middle school then he may be in college now or married and on his own. How quickly transitions come; I hope these words have been useful.

I meet folks everywhere who tell me they have been helped by what they have read here, and I am gratified when grandparents tell me they have forwarded the column to their own children who are now parenting. There is something about leaving a legacy to a new generation that I find extremely rewarding.

You have not always agreed with me and I like that. I am not always right. But most of the journey we have taken has been principle-driven and those never change. Most of what we have talked about here was as true

two centuries ago as it is today. So if we have had a thoughtful and stimulating conversation about these youngsters that is guided by inflexible compass points it has been time well spent.

In looking over the archives I see we've covered potty training, rules for dating, allowances, chores, and pornography. We've talked about things parents have always talked about - surly teens, sassy 8-year olds, siblings who squabble, and 4-year olds who won't share. We've also talked about a new generation of issues: technology, the web, our new distorted moral climate, and a new generation of parenting experts who are wrong. I hope we have helped restore some sanity.

So this is my final column. I trust your kids are better off because you read them. I may gather up some of the best and put them in a book. Maybe I'll call it "Dr. Don's Greatest Fits." Meanwhile, "Rare Kids; Well Done" is available at Amazon.com. I hope we have helped you help your kids discover the reason God put them here and to believe that the two most important days in their lives are the day they were born and the day they discovered why.

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

My father's military service was a source of great pride. He survived typhoons, torpedoes and kamikaze attacks in the South Pacific, and like many who have seen combat, he was haunted by some of his memories. He was patriotic to the end of his days, but his patriotism was matured by his experience of war.

In an affluent society such as ours where experience of the world is often of the armchair or virtual variety and where opinions are abundant and cheap, requiring little or no accountability, we should rank very highly the perspectives and opinions about war by those who have actually seen it.

When many of us were kids, there were still quite a few WWI veterans alive. Think about that for a moment. We have had the opportunity to experience the memories of over a century of warfare: two world wars, Korea, Vietnam and now a quarter century of conflict in faraway deserts full of oil and gas. I'm betting that you may have noticed something about people whose lives have been impacted by war. They are often highly patriotic, but also highly skeptical of the government that sent them to fight.

America was polarized by the Vietnam War. It was a difficult time to be a veteran. Like many WWII vets, my dad was often dismayed by the blanket condemnation of the men and women serving in Vietnam by those protesting the war. He was suspicious of our involvement in the war, but he could not understand why anyone would condemn a soldier who served his country with honor. Perhaps it is a mark of youth that ideals become passions and passions become lenses which make the world seem to be only one color or another, when reality is multi-hued and shaded by many perspectives. It is ironic that a generation which sought to expand consciousness could have such a blind spot when it came to their fellow citizens who held to different ideals.

By 1977 enough fact had precipitated from the propaganda about our involvement in Vietnam that many were beginning to question the motives of government and the people who manipulate government in sending over 58,000 Americans to their death. I was just a child when President Carter pardoned the hundreds of thousands of draft dodgers who sought to escape military service in Vietnam, but I will never forget my father taking me aside to discuss the matter. My dad told me that, in his opinion, there was very little honor left in Washington, and that if I should ever be drafted, I should head for Canada like so many had already done to escape.

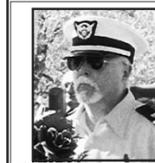
The wheel of history is kept turning in part by children who don't listen to their parents. Not too many years after my dad's hard fought advice, the draft had ended, but I enlisted in the Marine Corps nevertheless. I'm not sure whether it is a blessing or a curse that maturity allows us to move beyond ideals and hold onto seemingly contradictory positions. My dad was at once proud of my decision, and worried. America was at peace at the time, but the rise of patriotism during the Reagan years saw huge increases in military spending and the expansion of the American empire. We were setting the stage for what was to come, and for what will come next.

What may come next concerns me. If you are reading this, you are probably of the late boomer generation or just after. Our generations inherited the greatest opportunity and affluence of any Americans that ever lived, and we squandered much of our inheritance on material pursuits and instant gratification. We are better educated than our children, who have even less practical knowledge of the world than we do. We are the generation most capable of sifting the truth from the flood of propaganda and marketing that surrounds us; we are capable of an informed and mature world view, but as time moves on we are less

inclined to do anything about it, as our natural tendencies are to preserve what we have and to avoid rocking the boat.

As a nation we have done a poor job resisting the rise of the mass psychology of fascism, and chances are that our children will have an even more difficult time in doing so. The fell beast of business that moves governments has been masterful in its use of the media it owns. We support our veterans now, at least virtually, with handshakes and social media memes, but our awareness of war is also virtual, and badly focused on faraway places. We have a common enemy now in the insanity of the jihadists, but it is an enemy that draws strength from our patriotism as well as our fears and our prejudices. Tragically, we disconnect from the history of how that enemy was created by our own government and the banks and corporations which control it. We are blissfully unaware that, for example, one of the biggest media sources on the planet is owned by one of the biggest defense contractors.

As we move through another season of the political circus, the business of war is good. Defense stocks are profitable. Republican administrations touting conservative values spread the empire of resource extraction around the planet. Democrat administrations posturing social values flood our borders with innocent, but uneducated votes that are immediately dependent on government, less able to discern truth in propaganda and ripe for the harvest should more bodies be needed for war. Republicans and democrats have different faces, but they drop the same bombs. The wheel of history turns.



## The Veterans' Corner

By  
Scott Drummond,  
USCG Veteran

December 7, 1941

Monday 7 December, 2015 will mark 74 years since our Navy was decimated at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii by surprise attack from Japanese forces. Our Navy, nearly 300 aircraft, airfields and dry docks were almost destroyed. The attack, beginning at 8 a.m. and lasting only two hours killed almost 2,500 innocent American sailors and soldiers, another 1000 were wounded. Eight of our huge battleships, 18 more US Naval vessels, were destroyed or crippled in this unprovoked, sneak attack.

America and Japan had been at odds with one another ever since Japan had declared war on China in 1937, in the minds of the Japanese for economic gain and equality with the rest of the world's nations. Japan had created numerous economic and demographic problems within its island country and their aggressive solution was to expand territory by sacking China. As an aside, the often inflated notoriety of Western Civilization's racism, in particular America pales in comparison to what the Japanese thought of and did to thousands of innocent Chinese. And once WWII was declared, due to the events of that "Date which will live in Infamy", per President Roosevelt, the Japanese aggression towards the rest of the world, and our allies proved to be just as horrific.

American response, to hostile Japanese expansionism of 1937, in an effort to stifle or limit the Japanese aggression and stop the terror being inflicted upon China consisted of a conglomerate of economic sanctions, withholding basic supplies and oil. Sound familiar? The best that we got

was months of negotiations while the Japanese government began "island hopping" in the south Pacific, and planning an attack upon America. War was inevitable and as we know, within three days of FDR's "Day of Infamy" speech and our Congress almost unanimously declaring war, Japan allied with Germany and Italy declared war upon our USA. More cautious and thoughtful minds in Japan responded with the acknowledgement that "We have awakened a Sleeping Giant". Indeed they did.

Fortunately all of our Pacific Fleet aircraft carriers were away from Pearl on that date. Others had returned to our mainland and, in preparation for what was looking more like the inevitable and unavoidable armed conflict, were delivering aircraft to troops on Midway and Wake Island.

Our nation was united as never before, and possibly never again in our effort to save not only our USA but our entire civilized world from what some would define as fascist aggression, both from the Japanese and German governmental plans and their respective political ideals and philosophies erroneously meant to rectify the failures and economic crises within their own countries.

Today, we are losing WWII veterans to our Creator, as nature has it. These honorable men and women flocked to enlist in all of our armed forces and to serve in civilian jobs to implement our forces, immediately after Pearl Harbor. If you are fortunate enough to know any of these Americans, honor them, speak to them, and hug them. We should all try to be more like them.

Semper Paratus

BLACK FRIDAY + CYBER WEEK = BROKE YEAR



## Community Calendar

**American Legion Post 23** meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiwassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support!  
**VFW Fish Fry** April - October on 2nd & 4th Fridays each month from 4:30 - 7. \$10 per plate.  
**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 Hiwassee 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 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. at new Senior Center. Newcomers welcome. Questions please contact the T.C. Dem's at Townscountymocrats@gmail.com.  
**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.  
**Hiwassee 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 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. Sat. morning breakfast 2nd Sat. of each month from 8 - 10:30 AM. \$6 adults, \$3 12 & under.

**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 old Rec Center in Hiwassee 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 & Crafts Guild** meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Calvary Chapel on Hwy. 76 in Hiwassee. All local artists and crafters are welcome, for information call 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.mcutg.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 Gary at 706-896-4308 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous**: meets every Friday and Sunday evening at 7 at Red Cross Building at 1293 Jack Dayton Circle. 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.  
**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.  
**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 PM at the Shrine Club, Union Blvd., Blairsville.  
**GMREC Garden Tours** every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Shooting Creek Basket Weavers** meets 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreekbas-

ketweavers.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 Hiwassee. 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., Hiwassee. 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.  
**Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC)** meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiwassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.  
**The Board of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce** meets 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 Kathy at 706-835-6721 or Marilyn 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.  
**Monday morning BINGO** at Brasstown Manor every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. 108 Church St., Hiwassee. Players meet in the Bradford. Questions 706-896-4285.  
**Towns County Lions Club** meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, 273 Big Sky Drive, Hiwassee.

## Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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