

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:
Moose, my Chocolate Lab rescue, and I were walking at Chatuge Lake Day Park today. As we were coming off the nature trail out of the woods, I noticed a royal blue PT Cruiser parked in a real weird spot. As we got closer to the end of the trail, I could see the Cruiser better and the person inside the car was leaning over the front passenger seat and I heard a car door slam, then I saw the PT Cruiser quickly drive off. As Moose and I stepped onto the blacktop all of a sudden there was a Bassett hound standing there by the side of the road. He was wandering around and was a super sweet doggy that Moose started to play with. I felt really weird and unsettled about it. When Moose and I returned home I mentioned it to my roommate and we went back up to the park about an hour later. Three people came up to me and asked if I was looking for a Bassett hound. They all reported that he was just walking around the trail with no human attached. Several of us hit the trail to see if we could locate him. We all rallied together which was so nice to experience and feel. Well, I spotted him right where the Cruiser dropped him off earlier and I went running through the woods to try to get him, but to no avail. We stayed into the dark hours hoping we would spot him again and a lovely lady that volunteers with Castaway Critters left food out for him. So this poor little man was in the woods alone and probably afraid. Wandering around aimlessly not understanding what just happened in his world.

We had no luck finding him anywhere. I don't understand the level of cruelty that it takes for a human to do this to an animal that is nothing but unconditional love.

Route 288 folks, here in Hiwassee, have told me these past two days that these kinds of events happen all the time. They say the park is a dumping ground for unwanted pets and this insanity needs to stop. Whatever it is the pet did to their human that led to them being abandoned in the woods, I truly believe the animal didn't deserve it. What is in question here is not the animal's behavior it is the human's behavior.

For the love of God I wish for these injustices to stop. Be the Human and take responsibility for your actions and be a good Human and do what is Right and Ethical for the animal and take them to a shelter. I am a nice person and don't wish harm on anyone, but I hope this many of a person will indeed reap the karma of this act.

Rev. Zan T. Emery

Dear Editor,
After the Carbon Monoxide scare at a school near Atlanta this past week, I would just like to offer a word of caution to anyone who owns, or even plans on purchasing a CM Detector for their home, and for the schools in the area as well. If I am wrong on this issue please by all means some one step up to correct me. CM Detectors will NOT work on PROPANE, UNLESS they specify they will! Most of them are for NATURAL GAS use. I did find some on EBAY that says for BOTH Propane and Natural Gas.

I found this out myself several years ago when we installed a new gas oven after the one we had went out. Our service man found a little hole big enough for your little finger in the line at the back. He was so shocked he just had to go outside for awhile. He said it was a miracle we had not been totally blown away. I told him, and then showed him our CM Detector we had purchased from a local hardware store. He said they weren't worth anything to us around up in here because we don't have natural gas, and mainly use propane. He said unless they specified for propane as well, they were useless to us. Well, it must be true because it was right next to the oven up above the sink in the plug in there and NEVER went off. However, my cat used to sit right at the oven and would look underneath. We should have relied on the cat!

Have a happy life!
Delores Barnes



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

Maybe it's working. A recent survey of 23,000 high school students in the US by the California-based Josephson Institute of Ethics indicates that dishonesty is down rather significantly – the first drop in a decade. For instance, at the time of the last study, two years ago, 59% of students surveyed admitted they had recently cheated in an exam. In the current study the number dropped to 51%. Granted, that's still more than half who had cheated, but a drop of 8% in a category this key is still worthy of note. The number of students who admit they had lied to a teacher about "a significant issue" declined from 61% in 2010 to 55% in 2012. Again, more than half still admitted guilt, but the trend seems to give us some hope.

The study is an important one in my judgment because of the credibility of the organization that did it. Michael Josephson and his group have a track record of impeccable integrity in their research. Asked what he thought was the reason for the changes in student conduct, his answer is informative: "Changes in children's behavior of this magnitude," he states, "suggest a major shift in parenting and school involvement in issues of honesty and character."

I talk to a lot of parents who are deeply concerned about character issues they want to see developing in their children. True, I get questions about thumb sucking and potty training, but when we dig into the big issues I sense the energy rise in the room. How can I help my kids be honest? What should I do when my daughter lies to me? How can I help my son remain sexually pure as a teen?

Dr. Josephson's response is helpful to us here when he describes, "a major shift in parenting and school involvement in issues of honesty and character," as one of the reasons that suggest a hopeful trend in high school students' integrity. What would that look like? Let me suggest at least a couple of the pieces:

Mom and Dad taking seriously their own moral footprint; seeking help from other positive entities in the community – church or synagogue for instance; talking to teachers about being intentional in including character issues in the curriculum. Dr. Josephson observes that we are beginning to see some movement in the right direction. Hooray! Let's all help push the bus.

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

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The Middle Path

by Don Perry

The holiday season brings with it the full spectrum of human emotion. The happiness of gathering with friends and family and the thrill of opening presents mingle with the sadness of empty chairs around the table and the stress of traffic and travel, parking spaces and crowds. Holidays during uncertain times can be difficult as our budgets in this material world stretch thin like a too-small piece of cellophane over a big bowl of stuffing. There is a good measure of sadness in a season designed to bring joy to the world.

Much information is available on depression. Every other talk show exploits it and every other commercial hawk the latest drug claiming to treat it. Yes, we can cure your depression if you don't mind headache, fatigue, nausea, tremor, nervousness, insomnia, sexual problems, constipation and death. If the drugs don't work, the happiness industry is ready to help. There is such a wealth of information on happiness that the new \$40 book of the month will probably be on the reduced table for \$4.99 within a year.

Science has weighed in heavily in the effort to understand depression. Beyond the hype there exists a vast body of work, clinical studies and well-documented research focused on being able to qualify and quantify depression. Science is just beginning, however, to understand happiness. The results are informative, especially for the holiday season.

About half of what it takes to be "happy" is apparently genetic. About 10 percent of happiness is circumstantial, which relates to money, career and status. Forty percent of what it takes to be happy is therefore related to individual choice.

The brain is, in its most basic functions of consciousness, a "differencing machine." It compares one stimulus to another. The hot sensation that signaled the pain of sunburn is compared to the cool sensation of shade to help make a choice more conducive to our survival. The brain is, of course, capable of making much more complex comparisons, which is where we are often stimulated towards sadness and depression.

Technologically savvy Americans, well insulated from most natural environmental stimuli, are still bombarded by information that the brain processes in much the same way that it perceives sunburn – bad, shade – good. Media bombards us with information focused on the 10 percent solution to happiness: money, career and status. Our brains compare the images we receive from our own lives to the images media offers us of

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, Hiwassee, 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.

happy people making lifestyle choices in the purchase of new and improved products. The forty percent of happiness we can directly affect is then often invested entirely in the pursuit of the 10 percent, like pumping forty gallons of gas into a ten gallon tank.

Science tells us that, once our basic needs are fulfilled, there is very little happiness to be gained from an increase in money, yet so many of us sacrifice family, friendship and health in the pursuit of money. Ironically, science also tells us that the things we so often sacrifice for money, career and status are the very things that can contribute directly to our happiness.

In its most basic functions, the brain registers "happiness" with a neurotransmitter called "dopamine." The ability of many illegal drugs to create a temporary "high" derives from their ability to stimulate dopamine receptors in the brain. There are several human behaviors that can stimulate the production of dopamine. Among them are interpersonal relationships – friends and family – and exercise. These are the very things we often set aside to pursue money, career and status.

As the holidays approach, the media bombardment intensifies and the season that grew out of faith, gratitude, family and community is pushed towards materialism once again. A good "litmus test" of our national happiness might be found in the large number of Americans who sacrificed time with family and friends to stand in line at shopping centers, pushing and shoving for the privilege of paying less for something they don't need. The quick fix of dopamine that these people may have received from gaining the discount object of their desires is gone. However, for those who lingered at the Thanksgiving table with Grandma and Grandpa, who sat with Mom and Dad instead of standing in line, the memories will linger, preserving happy echoes of times past when they are most needed, when Grandma and Grandpa, Mom and Dad are memories as well.

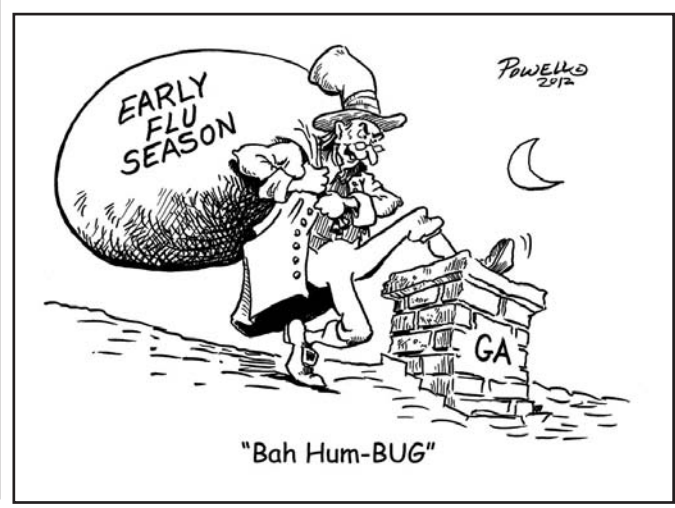


"IT'S ON MY MIND.."
Danny H. Parris

The name given Him

The Bible describes the events leading up to Christ's birth in Matthew 1:18. This passage tells us that Mary was expecting a child before she and Joseph were husband and wife. Joseph was troubled about this and was in the process of working out something whereby Mary would not become a public spectacle to live in shame. While he was attempting to come up with a compassionate solution, the Angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream to inform him God had already worked it out. The Angel instructed Joseph to marry Mary. He further instructed him to name this child Jesus. The name given to Him was a CHOSEN NAME. Neither Mary nor Joseph had the privilege to name this child. The name given to Him was chosen by God. That CHOSEN NAME was the name Jesus (Matthew 1:21). The name Jesus was a COMMON NAME. In Hebrew the name was Joshua. When Mary and Joseph called the child Jesus no one thought that unusual. Running up and down the streets of Bethlehem and Nazareth were many boys named Jesus. This name was about as common as John is today. Thus, the name Jesus identified Him with humanity, but

it also described His mission to save us from our sins. His name is a CONQUERING NAME. The Bible declares He shall save, that means to deliver, to give salvation. The Bible says He shall save people. God's creation has deliberately fallen prey to the dominion of Satan, sin and darkness. The result is death – eternal separation from God. Jesus saves. Jesus saves people. Jesus saves people from their sin. The only way to avert eternal separation from God is to be saved by the only Way which is Jesus (John 14:6). We are saved by the only name given (Jesus) under heaven whereby men on earth can be saved (Acts 4:12). His name is a CHOSEN NAME, a COMMON NAME, a CONQUERING NAME and the CROWNING NAME of all the ages. Name the oldest, the bravest, the best, the richest, and the greatest among men and you must place His name at the very top because Paul said when Jesus died on the cross that "God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11). Jesus is truly the name that calms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease. That name is music to the sinner's ear. It is life and health and peace.



Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunny-side Rd., Hiwassee. 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 Hiwassee at 2 p.m.

Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at the Senior Center. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.

Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 2nd Thursday of each month at Daniels Steak House. For more info call 706-379-1371.

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 Hiwassee 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.

Stephens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris.

Board of Voter Registrars meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.

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 Hiwassee at 5:30 p.m. Annual

dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiwassee, GA. We do oral family histories of residents. 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org

Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Recreation Dept.

Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, Hiwassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Call us by 706-896-0932 or mtntregartsandcraftsguild.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 Quinlan 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.

Prostate Cancer Support Group meets the 3rd Monday of every month from 5-6 PM in the Cancer Treatment Center Auditorium in Blairsville. For more info call Steve 706-896-1064.

GMREC Native Plant Garden Tours: Mondays 9 AM-1 PM.

May-Sept. (except holidays). 706-745-2655.

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. Caregivers or family members are encouraged to attend. 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.

VFW Post 7807 will have their all you can eat fish fry on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month from 4:30 to 7 PM. \$9 a plate. See you there! April - October.

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.shootingcreekbasketweavers.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 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., Hiwassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.

Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Hiwassee Senior Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch. Call 706-379-2191.