

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

The more I learn about Obama from Fox news, Rush Limbaugh, the one million talk radio shows out there and all the emails I get the more he impresses me. No one else could ever do all the stuff he has done in four years and get away with it. First he got elected into office being an illegal immigrant from Kenya. He has become the leader of a communist USA and he did it with all of these people saying he was doing it and got away with it. He not only did this in a normal way but how many Muslims do you know that are communist? Now that is pretty amazing. The Congress and Senate does not even exist anymore of course we would have not noticed because they have not done anything in at least 12 years. He has changed the way people look at the healthcare industry even though we were warned that it is socialistic. Now the Supreme Court went in his favor and most of them were appointed by Republicans. Now that is amazing. What a guy. He has made even bigger enemies out of Russia, Iran, North Korea and is working on Pakistan. They hate him and you would think him being a communist and a Muslim at least one group would like him. But no they even have a contract out on him. The military hates him so much that he had to take it upon himself to take out all those top ranking Al Qaeda leaders. At first I thought it was a military action but I have heard from good sources that the people in the military hate him and will not follow any orders that he commands. So he had to control those drones by himself and the talk of those seals taking out Bin Laden was just a cover. Obama must have done it all by himself. I guess since he returned the military over to the gays it has just gone down hill. Let's not forget about Obama Motors, he went out on a limb and took our tax money and bought GM and Chrysler and now they are making a profit for the first time in years. He tricked people into thinking that we were loaning them money and was going to be paid back with interest. It ended up he took control of the companies and now owns one of the biggest automotive corporations in the world. Even came out with his own car the Obama Volt. Some people think it is a Chevy Volt but don't be fooled, check out the report on FOX news. Can Obama get anymore cunning? He must never sleep because there is no way one person could screw us over in so many ways in a 12 hour day. There is not enough room to type everything he has done to this great nation. I think he has cloned himself and he did it without Fox news even knowing it, how could this have happened? Then what might be the final straw we now have Fast and Furious, no it's not a movie yet but will be a big hit when it hits the big screens. What a great ideal, give Mexicans guns, let them kill each other and before you know it we have no illegal immigrant problem. Plus it makes jobs for the people who build guns. He has to be the smartest man alive. All I can say is good luck Romney, you are going to have a heck of a time beating such a smart opponent.

The funniest thing is some people will read this and really think all of it is true, or is it funny?

William Dailey



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

I was speaking recently at what I call a SkillShop for Parents. We had been together for several hours and I made time at the end of each session for questions from the parents. I like to do that because it helps me make sure I'm scratching where they itch - that I'm dealing with issues they want to discuss.

After several questions a mother raised her hand to speak. She waited a few moments while they brought her the mic, then she said something like this: "I came here hoping to get some answers. I have a 16-year old son who has become incorrigible. He is disrespectful, talks only in grunts when I ask him something, spends most of the time in his room with the door locked when he's not in school, plays video games constantly, refuses to do any chores, and complains about whatever I fix for supper." Then somewhat wistfully she concluded, "I had hoped you would give me a magic formula I could apply and when he woke up the next morning he would be the kind of son I want him to be."

Here was obviously a frustrated mom, disappointed at the outcome of her parenting, pleading that someone would help her find a magic pill, a silver bullet, that would

"fix it."

How would you have answered her? In the short time I had, I saw two things I might do to help: give her some courage, and also make some suggestions. I reminded her that even parents who do everything "right" sometimes have troubled kids. The Adam and Eve story in the Bible is a classic example. Even though they had the perfect Father, they chose to disobey, lie, and blame others for their own misdeeds. It is not uncommon, even for kids from strong homes, to make really bad choices.

Then, I suggested she read a book, like "Teen-Proofing" by my friend, John Rosemond, or, "The Well-Behaved Child," by the same author. This 16-year old has taken over the leadership in her home; these books would help her learn how to take it back. Parenting kids who are respectful and obedient is not an event, it's a process. Oh, and another idea: I suggested she not overlook the option of his going into the military next year (he can enlist at 17 with parental consent). That often serves as a reality check for a lot of strong-willed kids.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

A popular saying that sometimes follows the death of a famous person goes something like this: "Do you remember where you were when 'so-and-so' died?" I have heard the question applied to various celebrities from Elvis to Princess Diana, and no, I don't remember where I was on either of those two sad occasions. I do remember where I was when Andy Griffith died on July 3, 2012. I was right in the middle of Mayberry.

Towns County has been favorably compared to the fictional Mayberry, North Carolina from time to time. That comparison was called into question when we saw a sheriff and a deputy sent to prison in 2008. The national media wondered whether our small community had lost its "innocence," but the fictional Mayberry and the fictional Towns County were never "innocent." Both have had their share of bootleggers and bank robbers, gossips and drunks just like any other town of any size.

Mayberry does not live in so many hearts today because it was innocent. Mayberry is special because of the ideals it represents. Andy Griffith's Mayberry is the best of what small towns have to offer, which is a sanctuary from the tribulations of a world that has lost its small town values. When Andy Taylor was sheriff of Mayberry, the Vietnam War was tearing the country apart at its seams. The Cold War was a fearful backdrop to nightly news reports of violence and unrest in the heartland. School children practiced "stop, drop and cover" as the "innocence" of childhood was eroded by the specter of nuclear holocaust. Yet then as now, for at least a half hour at a time we could escape the troubles of the world for a place where children roamed the neighborhoods freely - and safely; where neighbors compared pickles at the county fair and where the loudest thing that ever disturbed the peace was the town band.

Towns County does not look very much like Mayberry. We are the petroleum version, with most of our activities squeezed through a single highway stretched out over distances that are not conducive to children playing or neighbors walking to town. We can't even safely cross the street between the post office and the hardware store as our men and women in a hurry ignore the crosswalk while trying to maneuver around pedestrians. Too many of us have become the "Man In A Hurry" of that favorite episode of the Andy Griffith Show, frustrated that he could not get his car repaired on a lazy Sunday afternoon in Mayberry.

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.

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Yet on the day that Andy Griffith died I was right in the middle of a town that somehow manages to hang on to a bit of Mayberry. I had been to the bank in Hiawassee where the tellers all knew me by name, then to the hardware store where more familiar faces found exactly the bolt I was looking for during a laid back discussion of weather and ripening tomatoes which completely erased the time of day until my stomach reminded me. At the restaurant the daughter of a friend waited on us with stories from her recent graduation.

Walking to my car I saw Sheriff Clinton, which is not unusual if you drive anywhere in Towns County. Our sheriff doesn't look much like Andy Taylor and his department is much more state-of-the-art than the single squad car from which Andy and Barney defended Mayberry, but there is the same quiet confidence and the same feeling of sanctuary and assurance typical of Mayberry that allows me, against my better judgment, to sometimes forget to lock my car when I am in town.

I am saddened and a little bit annoyed when I hear people say that Mayberry is just a fantasy or that the small town values of Andy and Barney have disappeared from modern America. If that is the kind of world you choose to live in, go live in it and good luck. On the other hand, if you wish your town was a little more like Mayberry; if you believe that the values of friendship, community and peacefulness are important no matter what size town you live in; if you want to live in a community where children can play safely, then welcome, neighbor.

A key to happiness can be found in carefully choosing what elements of life to emphasize, and we have an almost infinite selection of positive and negative experiences from which to choose. Being happy does not mean hiding our heads in the sand and ignoring everything negative. We would not survive very long on that path. We can however, focus our intent on the positive. This is why we have ideals to believe in, and from Andy Griffith's small-town Mayberry to St. Augustine's "Shining City," believing leads to being. Andy Griffith gave us something good to believe in, and if we focus on those values, we can all live in Mayberry, wherever we might be.



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

Giddy-up horse

Over the years of serving Baptist churches I have encountered individuals and institutions that were addicted to riding dead horses. Frequently, families and churches keep on doing the same things, but expect different results. When we experience failure over and over it is a good indication that something is wrong. When you think that you are riding a horse, but getting nowhere, it might be a good idea to see if the horse is still alive. Dakota tribal wisdom says that when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. Steve Pharr, Vice-President of Sunday School and Evangelism with the Georgia Baptist Convention, lists ten ways that churches in particular deal with the problem of riding dead horses:

- 10 - Provide additional funding to increase the horses' performance.
- 9 - Provide training to teach people how to ride dead horses.
- 8 - Appoint a committee to revive dead horses.
- 7 - Change the person riding the horse.
- 6 - Say things like "This is the way we always have ridden this horse."
- 5 - Appoint a committee to study the horse.
- 4 - Harness several dead horses together for increased speed.
- 3 - Pass a resolution declaring the horse is not dead.
- 2 - Arrange to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses.
- 1 - Buy a stronger whip.

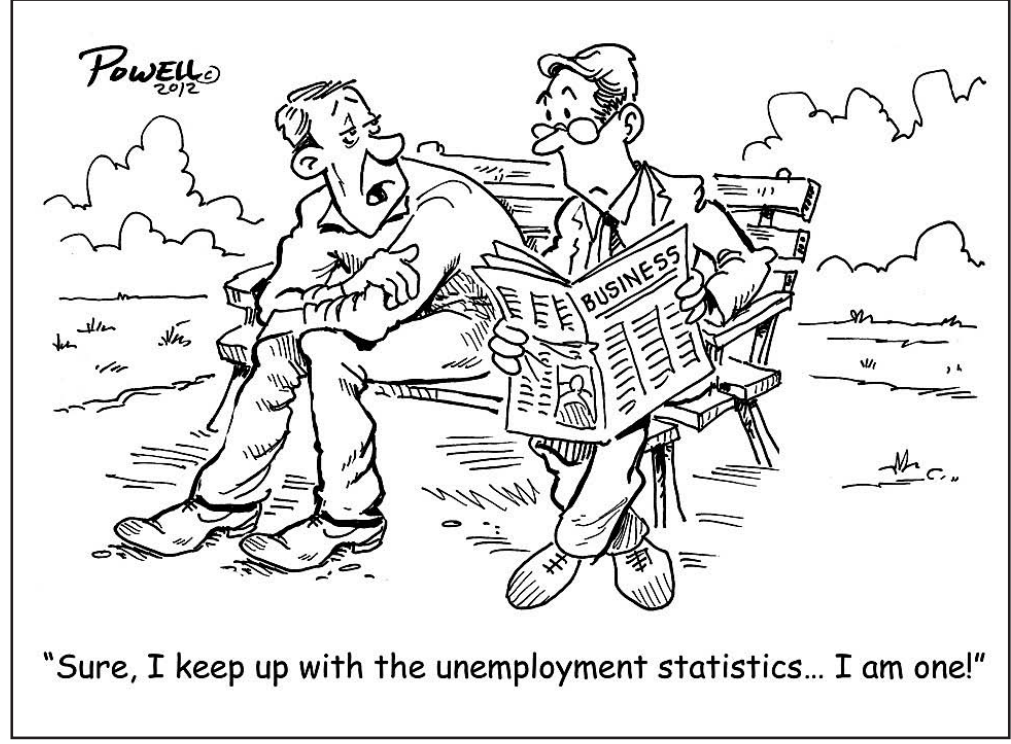
Well, no matter how hard you beat a dead horse or

how loud you scream "giddy-up horse", you will never experience any get up and go. The wise thing to do is to switch horses even if it is in the middle of the stream. If you don't have enough horse sense to do so, a stink is sure to arise shortly. I am convinced that a lot of church stinks would be avoided if leaders of churches would decide to dismount from their dead horses. The most frustration that I have encountered in the ministry has not been so much from churches, but from individuals and families. Too many families place the cart before the horse. Counseling husbands-wives often becomes very difficult. Marriage sometimes becomes a one-horse race rather than a loving hand-in-hand journey. The old warhorse arises and daily battles are at the top of the agenda. I am sure that I have not been the best counselor. I have violated all the principles of counseling. Sometimes, I would get on my high horse and just blurt out to couples, "hold your horses." Then I would proceed to preach them a sermon on "stopping their horseplay" and "quit horsing around." But you know, it worked more often than it failed. Over the years of ministry I have learned some valuable lessons: (1) I have learned you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. (2) I have learned to put salt in his oats - a thirsty horse will drink (Preachers, put salt in those sermons). (3) Husbands if you have enough horse sense to treat your wife like a thorough bred; you will never have to live with an old nag. (4) Churches who dismount dead horses will grow and avoid nauseating stinks and will be more than conquerors with Him who rides the white horse of Revelation. Families and churches need to ditch those dead horses before they start stinking.

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