

DURANT NEWS *by Rowena Hill*



Living With Children

By John Rosemond

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ternet; phones that will call and text (laboriously) only. Without exception, said teens are not suffering socially. They may be at times inconvenienced, but they are not suffering. They are somewhat behind the information curve in their peer group, but they are not socially isolated. Albeit not happy with that one aspect of their lives, they are not clinically depressed. Can someone please explain to me why it is bad for a parent to say to a child, "So, if I understand you correctly, you're telling me your life's not just as you would have it; in which case, all I have to say is 'welcome to the real world, kiddo.'"

Let's face it, folks. Smart phones create problems for parents. At the least, and even in the case of children who only use them responsibly, they make extra work for parents. Can someone please explain to me why, when an alternative exists, otherwise clear-thinking parents would choose to make extra work for themselves?

C'mon. Stop fooling around with this. In your son's hand, a smart phone becomes instantly toxic. Take his phone away...for good. Give him a "Model A." Tell him he can have a smart phone when he's living on his own and can pay for it and the monthly bill. That will certainly motivate him to emancipate as early as possible, which is certainly a win-win.

Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.

Q: Our 15-year-old daughter is very demanding and, to be honest, self-centered. One of the things she does is ask one of us for something and demand an instant decision, as in, "Can I go to the mall with my friends?" If she doesn't get the right answer, she begins to yell and become disrespectful and/or she goes to the other parent (in person, phone, text), but cleverly fails to tell him/her of the first parent's decision. That, of course, causes tension and sometimes conflict between the two of us. We feel caught between a rock and a hard place. If we tell her that she must wait on a decision until the two of us can collaborate, she begins to throw a temper tantrum. On the other hand, if one of us makes a unilateral decision, we often regret it. Any suggestions to help us resolve this?

A: Yep. First, make a list of "permissions" that the two of you agree upon, that don't require collaboration. Henceforth, either of you can make any one of those decisions unilaterally. When the list is complete, share it with your daughter, making perfectly clear (or

are for Katherine and her loving family. We miss seeing and being with them.

and Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, Saturday night. It was a blessing to attend. They were beautifully done.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hathcock visited Sunday afternoon with their daughter Stacy Jones and family in Yazoo City.

I joined my Aunt Sara Cain and husband James Pilgrim last Friday when they attended the Durant School Reunion at Holmes Community College in Goodman. It was a good attendance, fellowship and good lunch. We enjoyed seeing and being with friends and old acquaintances. There were lots of Durant residents and former ones, some which I had not seen in quite a while. Thanks to each for welcoming me. It was a pleasure to see and be with everyone.

Shirley and Sammy Higginbotham visited Friday afternoon while passing through to return Jay home with them. He is to return Wednesday for the Durant First Baptist Church and Goodman Main Street Baptist Church Choirs' combined Christmas musical on Thursday, December 13. All are invited.

Friends of Harold and Bettie Bunch regret that he isn't well and has been in a convalescent home for some time.

It's good to hear that Mrs. Carson (Katherine) Cagle is feeling some better but still stays close to home. Prayers

Williamson. All those who are singing in the Durant, Goodman and Lexington Baptist Churches can look forward to seeing our families and visitors at the musicals. The dates will be in the local paper each week. Goodman's is Thursday, December 13 at 7 p.m.

Intended for the week of 12-6-18:

One news item I unfortunately misplaced earlier: Judy and Donald Broyles enjoyed a week in Milton, Florida with family, Their niece Laura Stafford and her husband had a new baby. They enjoyed keeping the new baby Gavin and his big brother Gabriel for mom and dad briefly. Judy said she didn't want to come home and leave her two great nephews behind.

The First Church Choir Kosciusko will present their Christmas musical program on Sunday December 16 during the worship service. Mrs. Joey (Jackie) Hill is the music leader. All are invited.

We are thankful Milton Hoover is feeling some better after spending time in a hospital. Hope he will be feeling much better very soon.

May God bless and give healing to those of the community who aren't well. Also friends who are no longer a part of our small town.

Joey, Jackie and this writer attended the Christmas musical at First Baptist Jackson, Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m.

Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Eddie Ruth Boatman and family because of the recent loss of her brother.

The First Baptist Church Choirs of Durant and Lexington along with Main Street Baptist Church in Goodman will be singing a Christmas musical at all three churches. Main Street Baptist will present on Thursday, December 13 at the church. The music leader is Mrs. Stephanie Diffey.

It was a real blessing to see Mr. and Mrs. Joe Crowder and son Mike at First Baptist Church morning service last Sunday. We were so thankful to see them in church. Sure hope they will be feeling better and come again soon.

Shiley, Sammy and Jay Higginbotham of Clinton drove up Saturday afternoon to bring Jay while they go on a trip to Gatlin for the week.

Mr and Mrs. Ed Hathcock visited Lynn and Keith Marchant in Winona Sunday afternoon.

The Durant Christmas parade Sunday night was a treat for many people. It was certainly lit up beautifully by the decorated vehicles, floats and marching bands. Also lots of food to eat.

Family and friends are thankful Mr. Milton Hoover is feeling somewhat better.

The many local friends of former resident, Sandy Land, regret that he isn't well and pray for his recovery.

Best wishes, prayers and healing are for Mrs. Betty

The Sweet Side of the Holidays

Do all children dislike school or is it just my children? This displeasure for book learning has been handed down through the past three generations at the least - their grandmother, their mother, and now the grandchildren. I honestly do not believe that it is the education part that is so insufferable but the distaste of being confined for seven hours a day with restrictions, rules, and the exertion of learning just does not set well with some. I was probably the worst of the lot. I can remember at a very early age, maybe first grade, on Friday and Saturday nights I was happy and healthy. But come Sunday my head, stomach, or throat or perhaps all three if I was desperate, would pain me something terrible. I would start at bedtime trying to convince my mother that

I probably had an ailment that would last into the next morning. It would doubtless be so severe by that time I could not conceivably go to school. And if she perhaps did not believe how sick I was the next morning and put me on that yellow school bus, I would wait until we stopped a house down from mine and get off the bus and run back home. We only had one car, my daddy went to work in it, and I knew she could not take me

where my daddy worked, and he would take me home. Jordan Auto was a business where the now Attala County Flea Market sets. Not too far at all! He was always willing to take me home because I was so sick!

This conniving worked very well for me until one drizzling cold rainy day and I had "jumped" the bus again and ran back home. My mother put on her old long ugly green coat and said, "Let's go Peggy Jo." Going out the door she broke off a keen little switch from the China Berry tree by the porch and we walked, in the cold drizzling rain from Rock Hill all the way to the little school house on the hill with a smack from that little tree switch all the way down Highway 12, through town, by Jordan's Auto to tell my daddy, (he never disagreed with mama) and on to the school and Miss Annie Smythe. I believe that was the very last time I 'jumped the bus' or left school by myself. That little whack I got for miles changed my mind about school. I tell my grandchildren this story, a very true story, and

they just cannot believe such a thing could have happened. Their parents take them to school, so no bus jumping, and they know better than to walk away so that escape is of no use to them. However, they do usually get to feeling really poorly on Sunday nights.

We have several traditions we enjoy at holiday time. One of them is making homemade cookies. Each one brings the ingredients for the cookies they will make. We have the grandchildren in on the fun too.

This is my favorite Sugar Cookie recipe:

- 3 cups self-rising flour
- 1 cup of butter
- 1 cup of sugar
- ½ cup sour cream
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 375 and spray cookie sheet. Beat butter and sugar, sour cream, add eggs and vanilla. Flatten dough into disc and chill for 1 hour. Roll out and cut with Christmas shapes. Bake for 7 - 10 minutes.

*Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.



Peggy's Take

to school as it was several miles away. I went to first and second grade in the little school building that used to set across the street from the now Attala County Library. If by some miracle I stayed on the bus all the way to school, I knew I still had an escape plan in place. I would get off the bus and go down the tall steps and walk to Jordan Auto Company

Holmes County NAACP ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Holmes County Branch of the NAACP will be holding Elections for branch officers on January 12, 2019 at 11:00 at the Milton Olive Building, Highway 17 in Lexington. Any persons interested in holding an office of participating in the Elections are encouraged to come. For more information contact 662-834-6133.

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