



SHE DECORATES EARLY AND OFTEN

Sharing the joy of Christmas traditions | C1

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT



PAUL B. JOHNSON | HPE

The Rev. Robert Williams, left, senior pastor at Williams Memorial CME Church in east High Point, and church member Eddie Raynard sort food items on Friday that will be part of a massive meal giveaway on Tuesday morning. This is the ninth consecutive year that the church at 3400 Triangle Lake Road has distributed thousands of meals for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Victim of domestic violence works to aid others

BY JIMMY TOMLIN
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

HIGH POINT — A 44-year-old High Point woman says she never really considered herself at risk of domestic violence.

Until it happened. Today, more than seven years after the harrowing ordeal that could've cost her her life, the woman wants to help others who may find themselves in a similar situation.

"I know domestic violence is a taboo subject, but I feel like it's something that everybody needs to discuss," said the woman, whose name The High Point Enterprise agreed not to publish. "It happens no matter your socioeconomic status, no matter your race, creed or color. It happens. It's been over seven years for me now, and I've healed, so I want to talk about it and help others."

The woman's ordeal happened in June 2012, when her estranged husband broke into her home, pistol-whipped her, tied her to a bed and taped her mouth shut, sexually assaulted her three times, slit her wrist and brutally chopped her hair.

"This went on for eight hours," said the woman, a mother of three. "He originally told me it was gonna be a murder-suicide — no one was leaving the house alive. I said, 'What about our son? Who's gonna take care of him?' He said he didn't care."

According to the woman, she and her husband had been separated for about a year and she

Church offers thousands of holiday meals

BY PAUL B. JOHNSON
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

HIGH POINT When the Rev. Robert Williams sought a message from the Bible to do something monumental for the community, he took inspiration from the book of Luke.

The passage from Luke relates how Jesus and his

disciples fed 5,000 people in a remote area, a miracle deriving from five loaves of bread and two fish.

"You give them something to eat," Jesus told his followers.

For the past nine years, the minister and his congregation at Williams Memorial CME Church

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LAURA GREENE | HPE

A crowd gathers outside Williams Memorial CME Church during the 2018 meal giveaway.

Budd resolution tackles stigma of substance abuse

BY CINDE INGRAM
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

HIGH POINT — U.S. Rep. Ted Budd introduced a House resolution recently seeking to end the stigma of substance abuse treatment and recognize addiction as a treatable, chronic disease.

"Getting substance abuse treatment is essential in helping people recover from drug

addiction and plays a key role in preventing folks from relapsing," said Budd, R-13th, who represents the majority of High Point. "So we've got to do everything in our power to destigmatize substance abuse treatment and encourage more people to seek help when they need it the most."

SEE STIGMA/PAGE A2

Christmas Cheer Fund kicks off today

BY JIMMY TOMLIN
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

HIGH POINT — A holiday tradition in High Point returns today with the kick-off of the 2019 Christmas Cheer Fund drive.

Now in its 96th year, the annual campaign — which is organized by the High Point Kiwanis Club — raises money to purchase Christmas presents

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WANT TO DONATE?

- The High Point Enterprise is again partnering with the High Point Kiwanis Club for the 96th annual Christmas Cheer Fund, which kicks off today.
- Donations should be made payable to Christmas Cheer Fund and mailed to: Christmas Cheer Fund, P.O. Box 5467, High Point, NC 27262.
- All donations, which are tax-deductible, will be acknowledged with listings in The Enterprise.
- Gifts can be made in honor of or in memory of someone special, or the donor can remain anonymous if he or she so chooses.



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Sunny | High 54, Low 35

RAHAF KAZAR
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CHRISTMAS TRADITION:
HPU sets annual prayer breakfast.

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HIGH POINT MEDICAL CENTER

THE GOLD STANDARD OF HEALTH CARE



Don't let feelings trump the truth

OK, it's time to set the record straight, confront the gorilla in the proverbial room, call a spade a spade, and so on and so forth.

I recently published a column on "The Portal" — the black hole in academic cyberspace that has trapped many a mother — in which I used the female pronoun almost exclusively.

I am told by a 60-year-old grandmother who agrees, she says, with "most" of what I write (which is about all I can ever hope for) that I offended women by implying that the female parent is the parent most likely to become obsessed by and enslaved to The Portal. According to my accuser, my "1950s prejudice" was showing.

I counter the assertion with the prevailing Twenty-First Century

prejudice: One should not tell the truth if the truth might disrupt someone else's view of themselves.



JOHN ROSEMOND
LIVING WITH CHILDREN

This prejudice is why so many teens are cutting themselves, on medication for depression and various anxieties and phobias, and running for the shelter of "safe spaces" on college campuses all over America.

In contemporary America, feelings trump the truth, which is why child mental health has so precipitously dropped since the 1950s. It also explains why and how this thing we now call "parenting" has been transformed from something once done straightforwardly and matter-of-factly into the most difficult, stressful thing a woman will ever do in her adult life.

When children were simply raised up to adulthood

by adults who possessed a practical understanding of what that responsibility necessitated, child mental health was about as good as it's going to get (at least 10 times better than it is today) and mothers did not agonize about childrearing micro-details. Then the collective "we" bought into the bogus notion that people with impressive capital letters after their names — psychologists and other mental health professionals mostly — knew more about raising children than the average grandparent.

Mental health people stress the importance of feelings, so the primary concern became that of making children FEEL good about themselves. (That, by the way, defines the salient difference between childrearing and "parenting.") And since women are vastly superior to men at relating to feelings, women began to believe that

if the rearing of children was going to be done in proper accord with the new psychological parenting (feelings-based) prescription, they were going to have to take charge.

And they did. Today, the female parent is the default parenting decider. The male parent is the "parenting aide," there to follow instructions and fill in when the decider has "had it." Yes, there are exceptions, but no person who's been paying attention of late to something other than his or her smartphone would deny the general rule. (Note the use of both pronouns in the previous sentence! I am enlightened!)

Today's mothers tend to believe that if parenting is successful (the child gets into a top-flight college, makes the Olympic curling team, and leaves home by age 30), it will be because of their unilateral dedication, doting and devotion. The

weight of that imagined responsibility, which my mother and mothers of her era and before never allowed on their shoulders, has turned the all-too typical mother into a micromanaging bundle of raw and constantly inflamed nerves. Her feelings-challenged husband self-medicates by memorizing football statistics while his wife darts from task to task like a plate-spinner. (Note: The reference to plate-spinners is another example of my inability to move past the 1950s.)

So, to the issue: Which parent is much, much more likely to be enslaved by The Portal? Why, the mother, of course! That would require, then, female pronouns. And to whomever that offends, you're letting your 21st century prejudice show through.

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

OTHERS

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

had filed for divorce, but the husband wasn't happy about the breakup. She claims he stalked her, called her repeatedly and on one occasion broke into her house by cutting her kitchen window screen.

"I told him he needed to leave, and I called the police," she said. "He said he needed to gather his belongings, and I told him he wouldn't do it without a police escort."

The kicker came on the day he broke into the house and held her hostage for eight hours,

AT A GLANCE

- It is estimated that one out of every four women will be abused by a partner in her lifetime.
- On average, nearly 20 people per minute in the United States are physically abused by a partner. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million people.
- More women aged 15-44 are injured due to domestic violence than due to muggings, rapes and car accidents combined.
- Domestic violence can happen to anyone. If you need help or more information, call the Family Service of the Piedmont's crisis line at 336-273-7273.

assaulting her and threatening to kill her. The ordeal began early that morning and ended late that afternoon, with a hostage negotiation team taking the estranged husband into custody. He was ultimately convicted, sentenced to 30 years in jail and is still serving his time today.

"That day was terrify-

ing," the woman said. "I never would've thought he would do anything like that. He had never hit me before, and I didn't think he was even capable of anything like that. He had never put a hand on me."

Following the assault, the woman faced a long road to recovery — not just physically, but also mentally and emotionally.

She attributes her healing to Family Service of the Piedmont, which offers free support services for victims of domestic violence to help ease the trauma, and makes referrals to other community agencies for further assistance.

"I went through coun-

seling for a full year, and that really helped me become myself again," the woman said.

"It was such a traumatic event. I had to figure out how to explain to my children what had happened. I had to explain why I was injured, why I couldn't write, why I wasn't going to work, things like that. I didn't want to hide the truth from them, so I had to figure out how to tell them."

In addition to counseling, Family Service provides the following services:

- Support groups.
- Accompaniment, information and emotional support during medical,

law enforcement and court proceedings.

- Assistance in applying for victim compensation.
- Personal safety and crime prevention information.
- Emergency shelter.
- Referral and relocation information.
- Domestic Violence Intervention Program.

"Family Service made a big difference for me, so I want other people to know about their services," the woman said. "By sharing my story, it can help others, and it provides healing for me, too."

jtomlin@hpenews.com | 336-888-3579

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