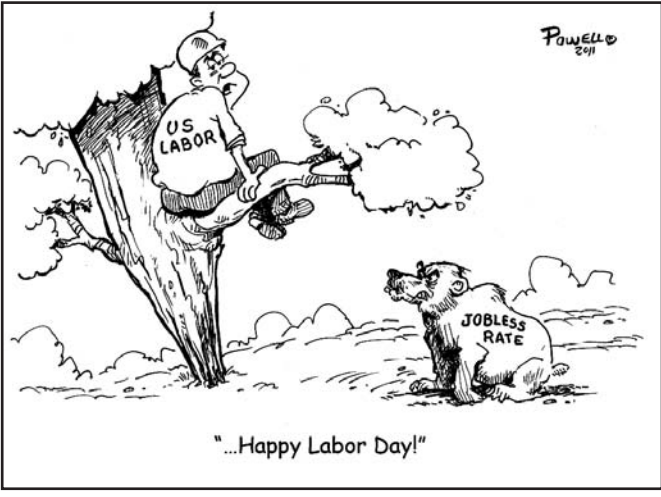


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:
 "Please press 2 for Spanish." "For Spanish, please say 1." "We speak Spanish for your convenience." Day in and day out, no matter where you go, whom you call, or what you read, Spanish appears to be taking over our communication.

I am not a racist, nor am I concerned when people wish to speak their native language in their homes or with their families and friends. However, when people who do not speak the language are subjected to it throughout the day, it is upsetting.

My grandparents emigrated to the U.S. from Poland at the turn of the 20th century. When they arrived, they were unable to speak English, but they wanted to assimilate into "American" society and to do so required speaking English. They were proud to learn and speak English.

Granted, at home, among family and friends, Polish was spoken. They read Polish language newspapers, but mostly to remain knowledgeable on the happenings in their home country. They also read English language newspapers because that was "the American way."

People from other ethnic backgrounds, Polish, French, Japanese, Chinese, and others, are discriminated against when businesses use only English and Spanish. While I despise frivolous litigation, I am almost to the point of seeking legal representation for a class action suit against companies doing so. Maybe if someone did sue, if the case were not thrown out of court for being "Politically Incorrect" the discrimination would end. Maybe not.

Sincerely,
 Christopher D. Mazur

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
 By Don Jacobsen

A few months ago, you may remember, this column bestowed the first Dr Don THIRST Award. (THIRST standing for THIS Is Really STupid). It was given to a family counselor who told a mom that when her 4-year old daughter pitches a tantrum on the floor in a public place that she, the mom, should get down on the floor beside her and rub her back till the tantrum is over. Yeah, right.

Anyway, it's time to grant the second Dr Don THIRST Award. This time to a French clothing designer, Jours Après Lunes, for a line of "loungerie" for four- to eight-year old girls, including panty-and-bra sets, make-up, and jewelry intended to cast them as tiny hussies. One fashion magazine commented, "There is something undeniably disconcerting about the styling of the photos... It's off-putting to see 4-year olds made up to look like seductive, self-aware young women." Four-year olds!

My question is, What ever happened to childhood? Actually my quarrel is not so much with the French designer as it is with the mom who would fall for the marketing ploy and buy the stuff. History teaches us that the fu-

ture of these little pint-sized model pixies is likely to be difficult as they grow older. Think Miley Cyrus, Lindsay Lohan, Britney Spears, and a host of others you and I could name. In my view this is Consumerism run amok and qualifies as child abuse. I mean, it really is stupid.

Childhood is preparation for adulthood. When we rob our kids of their growing-up time, we risk taking away some of the key building blocks they need to become healthy adults. I don't mean we shouldn't stretch them. I don't mean we shouldn't challenge them. It's just that of the stretching and the challenging should be age-appropriate. To raise a daughter who is 4-going-on-21 is not doing her any favors.

You've read it here in this column before that in our culture the accomplishments of the child become the measure of the mother. The fact is, though, childhood is not about Mom. Being a Mom or Dad is about helping our kids birth the dream they believe the Creator has put in their hearts, and then coaching them to help bring it to pass.

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

From the Desk of:

Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

Property crimes such as thefts, burglary, stolen vehicles, etc., are increasing in many areas of the country. It can be very frightening to return to your home or business after being away to find that your property has been entered and your personal items stolen or damaged. You can help protect yourself and aid your Sheriff's Office in finding the criminals and recovering your property if you follow these practices for safety and security recommended by the Georgia Sheriffs' Association:

- When you return to your home or business, always do a quick visual inspection for signs of forced entry. These signs may include broken windows, removal of screens, doors kicked in, or locks damaged. If you see signs of forced entry, do not enter. It is important that you stay outside of the building. Call 9-1-1 immediately, but try to do so from a safe location, such as a neighbor's house or your own vehicle. If necessary, leave and drive to a safe location.

- Do not enter the building without law enforcement. When they arrive, advise them of any weapons, animals, alarms, or dangerous conditions in the building.

They will let you know when it is safe to re-enter your home or business. When they do, don't touch anything without first asking. Try to do a walk-through with the deputy to advise of any stolen or damaged items.

- If you enter your home or business before noting signs of a burglary, leave immediately and call 9-1-1.

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, Hiawassee, 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.

- If you return to your vehicle and see signs of damage, entry, or theft, call 9-1-1 immediately, and do not touch anything.

You can help your Sheriff's Office recover your property by providing as much information as possible on any stolen items, such as complete descriptions, make, model, color, or any serial numbers or identifying marks. It is often helpful to also make a video or photo journal of valuable items and provide it to the deputy in charge of your case. Ask your insurance company if they recommend inscribing identifying marks on electronics or other valuable items, such as lawn equipment.

For additional information, log on to www.townscountysheriffsoffice.com. Use the links on the home page to log on and follow the Sheriff's Office with Facebook and Twitter.

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

One iron – too many fires!
 Most folks walking through our house for the first time usually have a lot of questions, like: What is that? Where did you get it? What is its purpose? Why would you want to keep it? The answers to those four questions are simple – I tell them what it is; where I got it; what it does; and I keep it because I am odd. I just like old relics from the past. Among those relics are some irons. We have flat irons that have been passed down through the family and some that have been given to us. Before electricity became available our ancestors used these irons to press wrinkles from their clothing. Usually, they had several irons because they stayed hot only for a short period of time. They either heated these irons in the hot coals of the fireplace or placed them on wood-burning or coal-burning stoves. With several of these in the embers or placed on a stove, when the one being used became cold, they would replace it with one that was hot. This took no small amount of skill keeping them at the right temperature. When a person tried to keep too many irons heated, they simply had too many irons in the fire, thus the saying, "Too many irons in the fire." It is said of our generation, because we are so busy and involved in so many activities, that we have "too many irons in the fire." Even though that statement has been around a long time, I am not sure that it is true. My personal opinion is that we have only one iron. We just have too many fires going

and that is the reason we get burned in life. We have only one life to live, not several. Among our collection of irons we have a different kind of iron that our ancestors used years ago. It is made of iron, but not solid. It is hollow on the inside. The top has a hinged lid that gives access to the inside. Our ancestors didn't put this iron in the fire; they put the fire (hot coals) in the iron. I hear people say "they are going through the fire" or "they are in the fire." I think I understand what they are trying to say, but maybe they need to get some things "ironed out." Perhaps they need to get out of the fire and get the fire on the inside. Some people spend their lives putting out fires. They operate from the outside. We live in an iron-fisted, iron-handed, iron-hearted and iron-willed world to the extent that we become iron-headed – we react and respond only to the outside. Paul characterized the latter days as some "having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (1 Timothy 4:2). Their conscience has been withered, dried, scorched, and burned with the hot iron of evil thinking to the extent that they no longer can make moral decisions. My assessment of some of the so-called "modern-thinkers" and "open-minded individuals" is that they are not modern, nor thinkers, neither open-minded, they just have a seared conscience. Whether we recognize it or not, many of our world leaders are persons with seared consciences. They are incapable of making moral decisions. But then we shouldn't be surprised as these are the last days. The conditions are favorable; the fields are ripe for harvest. Therefore, let every Christian get fired up and strike while the iron is hot. Share the good news of the gospel.

Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.
Mountain Community Seniors meet the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 2 p.m.
Towns County Democratic Party meets the 3rd Thursday of every month. 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.
Hiawassee 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 Hiawassee River Valley Kennel Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 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 Hiawassee at 5 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org
Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Recreational Dept.
Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartsandcraftsguild@hotmail.com.
VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m., \$9 a plate, all you can eat.
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 [mountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: 24-hour phone line 828-837-4440.
Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information.
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 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee \(828\) 389-0924.
We do Family Oral History of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded and would like to do so, please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.
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 of those with dementia are encouraged to attend. For further information, call Carol at 706-896-6407.](http://www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridge-</p>
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Towns County Herald
 Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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