

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

"BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD."

PSALMS 33:12



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

MAY 3RD



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

Look at me

There is an old fable about the turtle who wanted to fly. He devised a plan that he knew would work. This turtle convinced an eagle to clutch a stick in his claws and let the turtle grip the stick with his mouth. Sure enough the eagle went airborne with the turtle holding fast to the stick. Up, up and away. The turtle was soaring above the trees and everything was going well until a rabbit saw this amazing feat. "Who thought up that idea," shouted the rabbit? The turtle so filled with the pride of his accomplishments, opened his mouth and said, "I did," as he fell to his death. It is difficult to keep your mouth closed, especially if you have an advanced case of pride. The mouth spews forth inflated egos and exaggerated or overrated opinions of one's self. You cannot spell pride or sIn without the "I" in the very center. Someone has said EGO stands for Edging God Out. Pride or ego places "I" as the focus.

According to the prophet Isaiah (chpt. 14) and the prophet Ezekiel (chpt.28) the sin of pride began in heaven. Lucifer wanted to be God and got kicked out of heaven. We live in a world that has a "look-at-me" syndrome. People do and say all kinds of crazy and weird things just to be noticed. Willie Nelson sings "You're always on my mind" but pride says "I am always on my mind." Pride takes many forms. There is Face pride, Race pride, Place pride and even Grace Pride (we're the chosen ones, the only ones going to heaven).

Some people have a fatal dose of the pride of composition. They think they look better than anyone else. You can't convince them they came from dust. But after a few years they will die and be placed in a grave and their proud composition will turn to decomposition. Other folks are eaten up with the pride of position. The title on the door, the carpet on the floor and the degrees on the wall make them feel overly

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.

proud. However, in just a few years someone else will have their position and will be sitting behind their desk and probably making more money.

Then there are those who have been deceived with the pride of acquisitions. Their land, house, car, boat, clothes and jewelry give them an overrated feeling of importance. People who place a priority on acquisitions need to be reminded that everything is going to rust, rot and decay. Inflated pride is hard to swallow. Paul said, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think: but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" (Rom.12:3). The Preacher in Proverbs said, "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (16:18). And again he said, "When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom" (11:2).

The writer of Hebrews says that we are to be "Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith." (12:2). Finally, Paul said, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Phil. 2:4).

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

Identity theft and identity fraud have become fast-growing crimes and can impact significant portions of the population. Related crimes can include check and credit card theft, check and credit card fraud, and theft of telephone and other utility services. In some cases, thieves may take out loans or mortgages under the victim's name or file for bankruptcy as the victim. They may submit fraudulent tax returns and collect the refunds. They may even submit applications for services, such as for social security, and collect the payments.

Studies conducted by the Federal Trade Commission indicate that thieves may collect identity information from various sources, including information searched out on the Internet, through records of legitimate business transactions, from trash bins or discarded files, from mailboxes, or from thefts of wallets or purses. Listed below are several ways you can help protect yourself from identity

theft or identity fraud.

Invest in a paper shredder. Shred documents such as credit solicitations, statements or records that contain sensitive information.

Drop outgoing mail containing checks in a postal drop box or at the post office, rather than your mail box.

Guard your wallet, purse or bag when you're out in public or when people are in your home, such as service or maintenance personnel.

Limit the release of your personal information, including your birth date. If you discover that you have been the victim of identity theft, contact your Sheriff's Office to file an incident report immediately. Some banks or credit card companies may require you to file an "identity theft affidavit," along with the copy of the incident report.

Contact the major credit reporting agencies to flag your account. (Equifax, PO Box 74021, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241, Telephone 800-916-8800, www.equifax.com; Experian, PO Box 8030, Layton, UT 84041-8030, Telephone 888-397-3742, www.experian.com; TransUnion, PO Box 390, Springfield, PA 19064, Telephone 800-916-8800, www.transunion.com).

For more information, contact the Federal Trade Commission at www.consumer.gov/idtheft and www.ftc.gov or at 877-ID.THEFT.

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

I write this letter with great respect and gratitude for the great men and women of the Towns County Fire and Rescue Department. On March 3, 2012, a devastating fire roared through two campers in our campground destroying both and damaging two others. It was your efforts and prompt response that saved more property from being lost. The new fire hydrant installed a few days earlier was placed into service. The high winds were no match for the volume of water from the new hydrant. It seems the fire was out only a short time after you guys arrived. Thanks again for your service to our county.

Sincerely yours,
Jack Corley, Secretary,
and the residents of Enchanted Valley Homeowners Association, Inc.

Dear Editor:

Since mid-January 2012, the price of chicken has risen 7%, beef 11%, cheese 14%, ham from \$1.28 to \$2.20/lb., and peanut butter, a family staple, 36 to 38%.

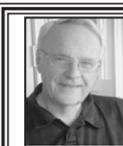
Now to my point: here are some items that are exempt from the penny tax: motor fuel, jet fuel, locomotive fuel and public mass transit fuel, to name a few. Now here are some that are not exempt from the tax: food, beverages, home fuel, electricity, clothing and all household goods. We all know that America is run by truck. With the price of diesel fuel, this is having a huge trickle-down effect. Food prices are not going to recede.

I took a look at two fast food restaurants in Towns County. To feed a family of four your basic burger, regular fries and medium beverage meal runs around \$22.75 to \$24.50 and up, as we all know that in our society we upsize everything. With our high unemployment rate, every penny counts to ensure the purchase of healthy food items, not just filler.

This proposed penny tax will not benefit Towns County in any way. It all boils down to our bottom line: food, clothing and fuel to heat and cool our homes.

My former boss, an orphan raised by Jesuit priests in Chicago, became a billionaire and great philanthropist through hard work and watching every penny he earned and spent. That is why I support voting "no" on this tax - remember, pennies chasing dollars!

Chef Ben Sutton
CIA 1977, Fellowship, Escoffier Room, 1978



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
By Don Jacobsen

Recently in our state a six-year old kindergartner was arrested, handcuffed, and taken to the police station in the back of a squad car. Whether that was an appropriate action toward a six-year old is a topic on which there will be many opinions, but there are some parts of the story you and I need to explore.

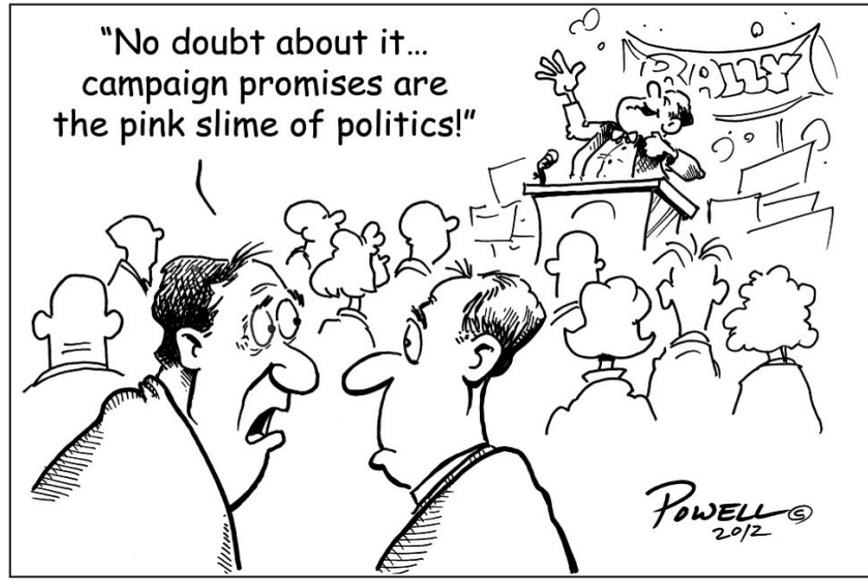
First is the report of what the little girl did. Among other things, she "tore pictures off the walls," threw toys and books across the classroom, wrote on the school walls, jumped up on a paper shredder attempting to break a pane of glass above it, and threw a shelf at the principal striking him in the leg. The term, "out of control" was used to describe her outburst.

However, the part of the story I find the most intriguing is the parents' response to the school and the police. "Well, she has mood swings some days," the mom explained in a media interview. "I guess this was one of her bad days." Dad observed, "Some other child must have done something that made her react like that."

Is that to suggest that it's OK then, that Mom and Dad are going to look the other way? Here's the issue: temper is a device some learn to use in order to control others. People learn not to make them unhappy because they will create an unpleasant - or violent - reaction. I grew up in a home like that. Does the phrase "walking on eggs" paint a picture for you? This six-year old has discovered that she can make life so unpleasant for others if she doesn't get her way that they'll give her anything she wants. Can you imagine, for instance, how the teachers are going to relate to her after this event?

And can you imagine what she's going to be like at 17 if her parents don't deal with the issue now? And when she is married? And when she has children of her own? Mom and Dad can fix this by making the consequences of her tirades more uncomfortable to her than it is to them. They'll all be happier.

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



Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support!

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 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.

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.

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

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 5:30 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, 308 Big Sky Drive, Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 6:30. Call 706-896-0932, mtnregarts-craftsguild.org. mtnregarts-craftsguild@hotmail.com.

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/blueridge-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.

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!

Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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Publication Number 635540. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points.

EMAIL Address: tcherald@windstream.net

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to: TOWNS COUNTY HERALD P.O. BOX 365 HIAWASSEE, GEORGIA 30546

DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS COPY & ADVERTISING Fridays at 5 PM

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