

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

Agency to designate Peace Officers to act as agents on behalf of the State Board of Pharmacy and Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency in regard to Emergency Rule 480-34-.04.

On Tuesday, June 12, 2012 the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency authorized any Georgia P.O.S.T. certified Peace Officer employed by any state, or local law enforcement agency to act as agents of the State Board of Pharmacy and Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency, giving them the authority to enter retail, wholesale, distributor, or manufacturing facilities, per the Official Code of Georgia 16-13 and 26-4 for the purpose of identifying and seizing drugs, compounds, and/or articles identified in emergency rule 480-34-.04. They will further have the authority to maintain such seized items as evidence.

Any substance identified by the Department of Forensic Sciences that is marketed, sold, or used as a synthetic cannabinoid which is not currently banned under existing law, or emergency rule 480-34-.04, will be reported to the State Board of Pharmacy to be included in additional emergency rules. Emergency rules will be codified during the next session of the Georgia General Assembly.

Anyone with any information about synthetic marijuana being sold or distributed in Towns County, GA is encouraged to contact the Towns County Sheriff's Office at 706/896-4444.

Additionally, this week Towns County Anti-Drug Coalition board had its regular meeting. We discussed the current anti-drug/drug prevention training being offered to local ninth grade students. That program is in addition to the DARE program offered to fifth grade classes. The group has made plans to assist in offering local meetings for Narcotics Anonymous. The Towns County Detention Center offers Alcoholics Anonymous and will begin offering a Narcotics Anonymous program to benefit inmates in the Detention Center. This program will be offered based on requests from inmates as well as input from the TCADC.

When it comes to protecting her citizens, the State of Georgia has taken a strong stance against the illicit manufacturers of synthetic marijuana. These highly dangerous chemicals are being promoted as "legal" and even "safe" alternatives to marijuana. The fact is they are anything but safe. Our state's law makers and law enforcement are working hard to protect our young people and all Georgia citizens from these dangerous chemicals.

Almost as quickly as the General Assembly passes legislation banning all forms of synthetic marijuana by chemical compound, the manufacturers came out with an entirely new chemical compound. In a blatant disregard for the safety of their uninformed customers, these illicit manufacturers have decided they would circumvent the law and maintain business as usual. These manufacturers have little or no concern for the well-being of their victims.

This total disregard for the safety of Georgians will not go unanswered. Georgia has taken steps to remove these hazardous products from the shelves in an effort to protect unsuspecting consumers. The following information was brought to my attention by the Georgia Sheriffs' Association this week:

On Monday, June 11, 2012, The Georgia State Board of Pharmacy voted to enact an emergency rule to immediately schedule newly identified compounds which have been classified as synthetic cannabinoids by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Department of Forensic Sciences.

Further, the State Board of Pharmacy has directed the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

The clerk at the store in the mall walked towards me falteringly, taking care not to trip over her own two feet as she attempted to finish sending her text. I asked my questions and her replies were brief, curt and punctuated by frequent glances at a phone which, for many people, has become a permanent attachment.

I am having difficulty understanding why a sales person in a company still losing market share to big box stores and online shopping would insist on continuing to poke inanities into a smart phone at the risk of alienating a customer trying to choose between two expensive items, but the unfortunate clerk's ambivalence is nothing new for many of us who have grown accustomed to employees who would rather be any place but at work, employees who do not seem to understand that we expect politeness, at least, in exchange for our choice to spend a hard earned dollar. On the other hand, those of us who have spent any time as a wage slave behind a counter or in a cubicle might feel some compassion.

There have always been ambivalent clerks as well as demanding customers. What seems different today is the growing number of people whose performance at work, success in school and even the quality of their relationships is degraded by an apparent addiction to...to what?

Are they addicted to communication? How much real information is exchanged when your waking hours are punctuated by abbreviated streams of consciousness and "status updates?" Don is drinking coffee. Don is driving to work. Don is uploading the latest pictures of his dog. Don "likes" the latest picture of your dog. AAMOF, IFYP!

Communication? I saw a family sitting silently in a restaurant recently. Mom was reading her Kindle. Dad was texting. Both kids were either texting or updating their Facebook status. They were all "communicating," but not with each other.

Some classrooms have banned smart phones because the learning process has been so disrupted by the distraction of little boxes of flowing information. The same technology which opens up new frontiers of education can also handicap the ability to learn.

In an addiction, one

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.

chooses the addicting substance or activity without a logical consideration of the consequences. Drinking and driving and texting and driving can have similar consequences. Choosing to text personal messages at work can adversely affect a career. Choosing electronic distractions over quality family time can weaken our most important relationships.

Is reality so unpleasant that we form addictions to anything that can effectively distract us from day to day existence? Are we haunted by fears and anxieties which must be constantly self-medicated by instant gratification? Having set aside God, nature and family in our pursuit of more, are we attempting to fill the void with the vapid and ever changing trinkets of technology? If we live our lives any place but here and any time but now, where will we be when our lives contain more yesterdays than tomorrows?

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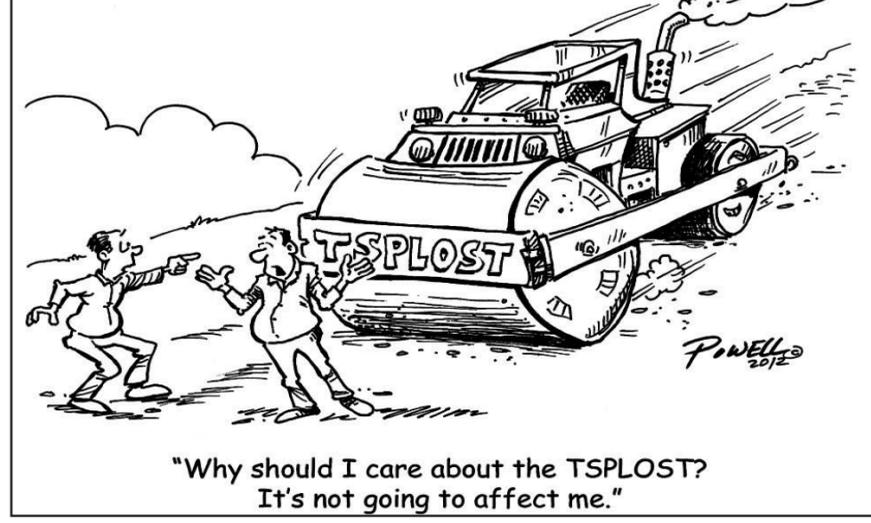


"IT'S ON MY MIND.."
Danny H. Parris

Down here for up there

In America, our nation that has been so abundantly blessed by our heavenly Father, seems to have lost its vision of an afterlife. With so much emphasis placed on "the right" and "the left", it seems that we have forgotten that there is an "up" and a "down." We would do well to renew our acquaintance with the place called heaven and the place called hell. Most Americans at one time believed in the reality of heaven and hell but I am not sure this is true of this present generation. We believed that at death we either went to heaven or hell. Further, we believed that our eternal home was determined by our personal choice and preparation while here on earth. We believed flesh and blood could not inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 15:50). That is, our earthborn bodies were not equipped to inherit heaven, but had to have a heaven born experience to abide in heaven eternally (John 3:7). Jesus said to Nicodemus, "You must be born from above." I believe and I hope our readers still believe that this truth is eternal and absolute. I remember hearing the story of a good man who during the great depression lost his job. As a result he depleted his savings and lost his home. Added to this loss his dear wife died and his grief

was intensified. The only thing he had left was his faith and it was dwindling very rapidly. One day while searching for work he stopped to watch some workers who were doing stonework on a church building. One man was very skillfully shaping with hammer and chisel a triangular piece of rock. Not seeing a place where it would fit he asked, "Where do you plan to put that piece?" The worker pointed to the top of the building and said, "You see that small opening near the spire? That's where it will go. I am shaping it down here to fit up there!" The man began to weep as he walked away. God had spoken to his heart through the words, "I am shaping it down here to fit up there!" There are some of you who are experiencing very difficult days. Some of you live with pain both day and night due to some physical disease. Others have great burdens due to financial reverses. Some are suffering from devastating family situations. Scores of workers go to work each day wondering if they will have a job tomorrow. Multitudes feel the weight of the hammer and the cutting of the chisel but you need to keep your faith knowing that everything down here is temporary and preparatory for up there. All of us down here need to keep believing, praying and preparing for up there. In spite of modern day skepticism and denial of the hereafter it does exist and be assured that "God is working all things together for good, to those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
By Don Jacobsen

A short time ago I was speaking at a parenting conference in Arizona, and a mother came up during a break to ask me a question. It went like this: "My husband and I don't agree on how we should raise our two (pre-school) children. I like order and obedience and he just sits back and says things like, 'Ease up, just let them grow up without a lot of hassle...that's how I was raised.' Can we raise happy children if we are so far apart in our goals?"

Here is the short version of my answer. Your question is an important one. Kids find the music very hard to follow if mom and dad aren't singing out of the same hymn book. Kids early on learn how to work the system. Mom tells them they can't do something, so they run to dad and he gives them permission. Mom gives instructions; by his attitude dad undermines her plan.

That's like having a sign post alongside the road with two signs on it - one says Speed Limit 50 mph; the other says Speed Limit 70 mph. Who do you believe? How do you decide which to follow? This is a discussion mom and dad

should have had before they were mom and dad. Actually, this is a discussion mom and dad should have had before they were husband and wife. But it is what it is; where do they go from here?

Mom and dad need to talk. They need to agree to move to a position of unity on an issue this fundamental. Neither may get all he/she wants from the discussion, but the message they present to the children must be in harmony else the family dissonance will create increasingly damaging disunity. How do the kids decide which speed sign to follow? It might help if mom and dad would read a book - separately or together - and then talk about what they read. The deep respect for each other their love provides will help make the talking useful. They may also choose to talk to a friend, a counselor, or a pastor.

The strength and stability of a family grow from the tight bond and common goals of husband and wife. It takes harmony between mom and dad to get the kids to sing along.

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 Hiwassee 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 So-

ciety 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 Recreation 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.org. mtnregartsandcraftsguild@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!
GMREC Garden Tours every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Shooting Creek Basket Weavers meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. All welcome. For more info www.shootingcreekbasketweavers.com.
Friendship Community Club meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76, 706-896-3637.

Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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OFFICE LOCATED AT 446 NORTH MAIN STREET

"THE MALL" HIAWASSEE (706) 896-4454

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

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