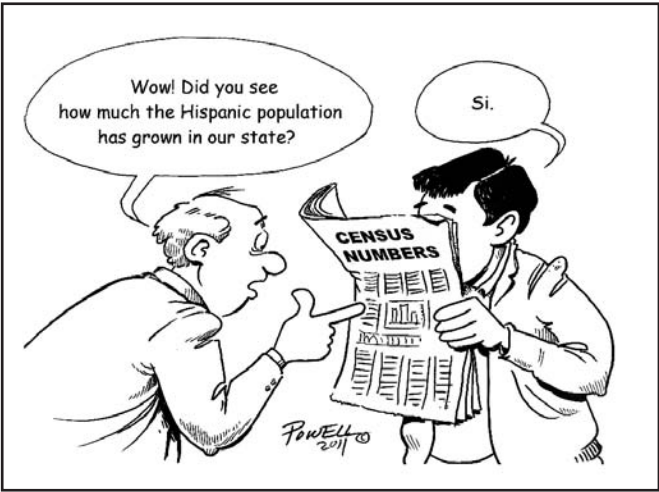


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

I am very pleased with the education my seven-year-old granddaughter is receiving at the Towns County Elementary School. She is reading at a level I did not attain until several years later. However, I am very concerned about the effect her bus ride may be having on the quality of her life. Because she lives sixteen miles from the school, the bus arrives at 6:30 AM, and she does not return home until 4:00 PM. This gives her little time for outside activities or even play. And, of course, the accelerated curriculum which makes her such a good student includes considerable homework.

According to most sources, children her age require ten to eleven hours of sleep per night. Getting up as early as she must means that she might need to go to bed as early as 6:30 PM, leaving her very little time other than to do homework, bathe and eat supper.

I am aware of the current financial constraints under which our schools must operate, but having a family member drive her would be prohibitive as well. Any reasonable solutions to this dilemma would be welcomed by affected parents and children.

Sincerely,
Marilyn M. Pierce



**RARE KIDS;
WELL DONE**
By Don Jacobsen

With this column I am hereby officially launching the annual Dr Don THIRST award. THIRST is an abbreviation for This Is Really STupid.

Let me explain what gave me the idea for this dubious honor: I just read something really stupid. It was written by a family counselor in response to a mother who asked, "What should I do when I'm in a public place and my 3-year old throws a tantrum?"

The response of this "authority" was: "If your child is throwing a full-scale tantrum with arms flailing, thrashing about on the ground, you should get down on the ground beside her, rub her back and speak soothingly to her until she calms down."

Pardon? I suppose you could argue that if your goal as a parent is to grant your little cherub every wish she ever had, that might be the right response. But as a leadership parent our goals are different, right? Tantrums are attempted power

grabs and it is in the long-term interest of our children that they discover tantrums don't work.

What to do then? Here's one idea: If you're at home, select a room – a spare bedroom or bathroom. This becomes the "get happy room." "This is the place where you can holler and cry and fuss as long as you want, honey. You can go potty when you need to and get a drink of water when you want to. When you're happy again you can come out." Trust me, it won't take long.

You see, not having an audience takes the theater out of the tantrum. And tantrums are about theater. Now no one is watching this staged emotional meltdown, and since no one is being moved by it, its effectiveness is neutered.

But what if you're out in public? Let's deal with that next time – and I'll tell you what one mother did.

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

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Musings.... from the mountains

By Gary W. Meier



Mandate vs. battlefield

Riots in the streets. Police attacked. Many legislators head for the hills. Those that stay are heavily guarded from protestors. The head of state is called a Nazi, terrorist and fascist. Gangs rage in the streets. Teachers leave their classrooms to join the protestors forcing schools to close. Posters held by protestors spew hate for the head of state calling him Hitler and Stalin. Some posters have a crosshair over the skull of the head of state with the caption "don't retreat, reload". A camel rushes through the crowds.

Egypt, with protestors demanding democracy?

No, Wisconsin with Democrats running from democracy.

How believable is the situation in Wisconsin? A governor, elected to tackle the problem of a state without money, is excoriated by democrats for doing what he was elected to do. All 14 Democrat State Senators head for the hills of Illinois instead of doing the job they were elected to do, represent the people. The NEA says they are all about children but they leave their students behind to join the protests. After the Arizona tragedy, Obama, in a stirring speech to the nation called for civility on the part of all Americans. Civility in the case of Wisconsin was swiftly flushed down the toilet as Obama stated this was akin to union busting and proceeded to send in the troops, including moveOn.org and Jesse Jackson, from around the nation. House Democrat Representative Mike Capiano from Mass. said it was time to "get a little bloody" in the streets.

Citizens of Wisconsin are under siege by Obama, Democrats and unions. This trio is adamant in their resolve to prevent the duly elected government of Wisconsin from discharging its constitutional duties.

Read every article about this situation. Watch every story. Listen to the pundits. The mantra is "union rights", "union rights", "union rights". Once upon a time, unions served a legitimate purpose, to counteract the abuses of corporations. There is absolutely no validity to public service employees having union rights. They are employees of we, the citizens. Because of weak, spineless and incompetent public servants kowtowing to their union base, state after state is faced with massive shortfalls in their budgets because they allowed public

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 E-MAILED 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.

employees to unionize against the citizens.

Wisconsin has 300,000 public sector employees feeding from the public trough.

They pay nothing into their pension fund as most normal Americans do. In 2009, the citizens, against whom they are rebelling, poured \$1.37 BILLION into the union's pension fund. Public employees pay less than 6% of their salaries for comprehensive health care coverage. The citizens of Wisconsin showered the unions with \$1 BILLION to pay for their premiums this year. That's almost \$8000 per person in benefits over and above their substantial salaries.

Besides the ordinary functions of a governor, Scott Walker was elected with a specific mandate: straighten out the finances of Wisconsin...balance the state budget. Citizens are telling their representatives to live within their means with common sense solutions. A \$3.6 BILLION deficit cannot be made up on the backs of a few...everyone in the state should be expected to sacrifice. However, attention to abuses such as outrageous pay demands, lavish benefits and fat pensions for public service employees should first be addressed and this is exactly what the governor is trying to do.

He is being hindered by:

1. A president who takes the side of protestors rather than responsibility.
 2. Abject hostility on the part of a unionized entitlement class.
 3. A national media who condemn the "union busting" tactics of Walker.
 4. Teachers who don't give a darn about their students.
 5. Elected state senators who don't show up to discuss the matter.
 6. Those seeking to maintain the status quo and defy the will of the people.
- This isn't sacrifice.
This isn't even democracy.
- What it is, is pure irresponsibility.
- Thus, in the final analysis, Obama, Democrats and unions are trying to turn a national mandate for fiscal responsibility into a national battlefield on unionism.
- That is a travesty.
And a war they cannot win.



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

Water Walkers

If anyone becomes a successful water walker there is a bit of knowledge that you need to possess and some principles that you must practice. The old story about the Baptist preacher, a Catholic priest and a Jewish rabbi illustrates this point. These ministers were fishing together from a boat anchored a few hundred yards from shore. The Catholic priest became hot and thirsty but discovered the ice box had been left on the dock. The priest stepped out of the boat and walked on the water to the dock where he got a cold soda from the ice box, drank it and walked back on the water to the boat. The rabbi's eyes were as big as saucers. The priest said, "Just faith in the Lord." He had no more gotten into the boat when the Baptist preacher jumped out of the boat and struck out across the top of the water, got himself a cold soda, drank it and walked on top of the water back to the boat. The rabbi just couldn't believe it. The Baptist preacher said, "Just faith brother, just faith." In a few minutes the rabbi said, "I have as much faith as you Christians, I am going to get me a soda!" He stepped out of the boat and sank to the bottom. They pulled him into the boat drenched through

and through. He sat there for a minute and said, "I can do it." This time he went down deeper and stayed longer. After getting him back into the boat and beating the water out of him, he said, "I am going to try one more time." And the Baptist preacher said to the Catholic priest, "you reckon we ought to show him where the stumps are?" When Matthew penned these words (Matthew 14:23-33) he was not saying that we need to go out and attempt to walk on Lake Nottely.

But he was saying that when we follow Christ we will find ourselves in some violent storms. When we encounter storms and experience a sinking situation remember these instructions:

Resist the temptation to look at the waves.

Reject the advice from the "boat potatoes".

Rebuke the wind in Jesus' name.

Remain focused on the Person of Christ.

Rejoice in salvation from Christ.

You will discover as Peter did, that it is more exciting walking on water than just sitting in a battered boat. You will further discover that it is safer being with Jesus on troubled waters than being in a boat with a bunch of anxious disciples more frightened than you are. Peter was never the same after walking on water. Neither will you be. Why don't you become a water-walker for Jesus in this troubled world? You can and you don't need stumps to do it, only the presence of the Savior!

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Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 6 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. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.
Towns County Republican Party meets the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Daniels Steak House. Dinner at 6 p.m., 706-896-7281.
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 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. Call Eden at 706-896-6921.
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, mtnregartscraftsguild.org. mtnregartscraftsguild@hotmail.com.
VFWD 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 www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.
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.
Fall Storytime at Towns County Public Library Thursdays at 1 PM.
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.
Mountain Coin Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Blairsville Civic Center. Doors open at 5:30. Program and auction begins at 6:30. For more information, call Ye Old Coin Shop, 706-379-1488.