


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY




From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

like a fitting time to pay respect to those who have given all that they had to give while protecting our community. Towns County has lost both a deputy and a sheriff in the line of duty. Deputy Sheriff James Taylor was killed in the line of duty on September 11, 1981. Sheriff Jay Vernon Chastain, Sr. was killed in the line of duty December 08, 1974. There are bronze plaques on the courthouse walls commemorating these men and their sacrifice. Each time I pass by I think of the families they left behind. We would do well to remember and honor these men who have given their very lives for our safety and to remember their families in our prayers. According to Concerns of Police Survivors, "Each year, between 140 and 160 officers are killed in the line of duty and their families and co-workers are left to cope with the tragic loss." Our thoughts and prayers are with them.



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

Criticism
 Criticism is as old as the human race. One of the hardest things to take is one of the easiest things to give. Most of us are better at giving criticism than we are at receiving it. Frequently when failure is pointed out we become defensive and attempt to point out the failures of others. Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent. Of course, there were some areas that Adam and Eve had the advantage over us. Eve didn't have to listen to how good his mother could cook and Adam didn't have to listen to Eve tell about all the men she could have married. I am sure that eliminated a great deal of marital criticism.

She didn't make a stew, And she didn't darn his socks. Like mother used to do. So when one day he went the Same ole rigmarole through. She turned and boxed his ears. Just like mother used to do.

The next time someone says to you, "I don't mean to be critical but..." don't panic and become defensive. Don't deny and say, "That is not true." The better approach is to be patient with your critic. Use the situation for a Christian witness. The first thing we need to do is evaluate it. Listen to what is being said with an open mind. At one period of crisis during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln sent an important message to Stanton, his secretary of war. The messenger returned in obvious embarrassment. "Did you deliver my message?" the president asked. "Yes I did." "And what did Mr. Stanton say?" With hesitation the messenger looked down at the floor and said, "Mr. Stanton tore up your letter and called you a fool." The president paused for a moment and said, "Well, Mr. Stanton is usually right. If he called me a fool I had better look into the matter." There is an old proverb that says, "If one person calls you a horse, laugh at him. If a second person calls you a horse, think about it. If a third person calls you a horse, you should go buy a saddle." Evaluate criticism you receive.

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

I hear a lot of nonsense from our elected officials about "creating" jobs in small businesses. Typical Washington hot air. If our President AND our Congress are serious about creating jobs and bringing our economy back to where it was, there is only one solution. Pass a law that does not interfere with "GLOBAL" economy, and provides jobs (all kinds) in the USA. The law should state that if companies want to sell their products in the USA, they will have to build or make them here. Japanese, German, Korean, Italian car companies are selling their products here, while they are building them here. Japan is selling Hondas, Toyotas, Nissans, and Subarus, while they are built in USA. Germany is doing the same with Mercedes, BMW, Volkswagen, Korea with Hundais and Kia. Fiat bought Chrysler so that they can also produce Fiats next to Jeep, Dodge and Chrysler. GM tried to sell Chevrolet in Croatia, and to do so, GM had to build a plant in that country. By the same token, GM was going to export Buicks to China, and China told them (GM) to build Buicks in that country.

It seems to me that every country is trying to protect jobs of their citizens, and their economy. Only US companies do not care about US economy and use excuses that it is "too expensive" to make products here. In conclusion, Congress get off YOUR BUTT and do what is good for this country, not your pocket.

Zoran Kosovic

Letter to the Editor:

First of all, let me say I am truly embarrassed by our politicians today. It's us against them with no concern for the people of this great nation. They are interested only in their personal agenda. There is absolutely no cohesiveness in our country today. Do you realize that only one percent of our population is in the military taking 100% of the bullets from our enemies?

About 150 years ago, a man said, "You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves." - This great man's name? Abraham Lincoln

Does history repeat itself?

Benjamin W. Sutton
 USN Veteran



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
 By Don Jacobsen

I know it's rude to say, "I told you so," but I told you so. You have likely read my rants before in this column when I have taken issue with the monster that TV has become in many American homes. I get enough response from readers to know that some have changed their TV viewing habits downwind of what they have learned here. Other parents have only been made to feel guilty. Others have written off my counsel as alarmist.

Let me make sure you have seen the latest study about - of all people - StrangeBob SquarePants. Actually you wouldn't think a sponge could cause this much trouble. As it turns out, the 4 year-olds who were studied after watching a 9-minute clip of StrangeBob were (1) less able to pay attention, (2) less able to problem-solve, and (3) less able to behave with self-control. Nine minutes! (Can you spell ADHD behavior?)

This may surprise you as much as it did me, but did you know that 2/3 of all American children age two and under will watch TV or a video on a typical day in this country, and they will watch on average more than two hours. A quarter - 25% - of all 2-and-

unders have a TV in their bedroom which they can watch from their crib (giving birth, I suggest, to a new term: crib potato).

A 2005 University of Pennsylvania study found that watching Sesame Street before the age of 3 actually delayed a child's ability to develop language skills. In March 2009, Dr. Marie Evans Schmidt, a developmental psychologist at Harvard Medical School said, "There's still more evidence of harm than benefit as far as TV viewing in infancy is concerned."

The issue seems to be that the youngster's developing brain is being assaulted by long periods of unnaturally short bursts of visual stimulation. As frequently as every 3 1/2 seconds in some children's programs the camera cuts to a new scene, a new angle, a new character. The wiring that is developing in your baby's brain is being taught to function with a micro attention span. Is it any wonder when he gets to school the child is apt to act as though he's high on caffeine? Hey, can you spell ADHD behavior?

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

This week I would ask that you all join with us in praying for the family of Union County Deputy Derrick Whittle. On Sunday, September 18, 2011, Deputy Sheriff Derrick Whittle succumbed to injuries sustained three days earlier in an automobile accident at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Deputy Whittle was responding to a domestic disturbance in which shots had been fired when his patrol car left the roadway and struck a tree. Derrick was transported to a local hospital before being flown to Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he passed away on Sunday. Deputy Whittle had served with the Union County Sheriff's Office for less than one year. He is survived by his wife and two children.

I have spoken at length with Union County Chief Deputy Scott Deyton and expressed our support. Chief Deputy Deyton requested that our off duty deputies be allowed to assist Union County deputies during this trying time. Our deputies were more than willing to help out.

At the request of Chief Deputy Deyton, I placed a call to Georgia Sheriff's Association President, Sheriff Scott Berry (Oconee County) and requested support for Deputy Whittle and his family. Sheriff Berry pledged the full support of the Executive Board and Staff of GSA. Sheriff Berry also provided a direct number to a Concerns of Police Survivors (COPs) representative. Sheriff Berry also made direct contact with COPs. For those who may not be familiar with COPs, their mission statement is as follows: "Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families and affected co-workers of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty as determined by Federal criteria. Furthermore, C.O.P.S. provides training to law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization issues and educates the public of the need to support the law enforcement profession and its survivors."

As I wrote this article I received a call from a family member of one of our own fallen Officers. This seems

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.

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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 Pongishers 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, mtntregartsandcraftsguild.org, mtntregartsandcraftsguild@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 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.

Towns County Herald
 Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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