

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY
OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Letters to The Editor

Sourwood or Sourgrapes?

I'm not suggesting that Clarence L. Newton, because of his September 23 Sourgrapes Cove article, is living in a dream world. I do suggest, however, he see his doctor immediately for a prescription of reality pills.

No, the Republican Party didn't leave us "when the Supreme Court put a two-gun slinging, pseudo cowboy... in charge of the country." In fact, the Supreme Court had nothing to do with it. Did Newton happen to notice that recount after recount showed that Bush won the election fair and square?

Newton is fixated on the war in Iraq, forgetting that terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center, damaged the Pentagon and in the process massacred 3000 American citizens. He said "It wasn't necessary to jump to war immediately after 911". Who is he kidding? This act forced us into a war, not on the Taliban nor against Osama Bin Laden, but a war on terrorism. Iraq, being one of the worst terrorist states, was a natural target, considering its proximity to Afghanistan. Thanks to the wisdom of our president, Iraq is no longer a terrorist threat to the world.

Newton says that "Democrats are employing diplomacy as opposed to war...in an effort to solve numerous problems that confront us in the world". Some foreign policy. Obama's numerous foreign policy gaffes have made him the laughing stock of the world, the Nobel Peace Prize notwithstanding. Nicolas Sarkozy, president of France, two weeks ago called Obama naïve and extremely egotistical because of his soft stance on Iran.

This quote is even more preposterous: "Some promoters of strife tell us that we are in danger from North Korea and Iran. Millions of gullible people believe those hyped up words." Call Obama gullible because he and several other nations believe the danger from Iran is so acute they met to try to solve the problem. Iran is so very close to a nuclear bomb and missile tests show it can be delivered to many places, including Europe. Hyped up words??

Newton seems to think that Socialism is just right for our country. He mentions all the public services that citizens receive. Adrian Rogers says it all: "The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else."

He then continues, saying "There is no reason in this world to spread hatred the way it is being done today". Newton needs to be reminded that the rancor and hate by the left against President Bush reached epic proportions. We aren't seeing anything remotely similar today.

Next, he says that "Nearly all of the problems, especially financial, inherited by Obama, were passed to him by the previous administration". On the contrary, records show that our current economic malady was caused by the housing bubble and the "no income, no job, no asset" mortgage loans encouraged by Democrats, leading to the corresponding supercharged sub-prime mortgage meltdown. Fanny and Freddy were the main culprits and upon their implosion the dominoes came tumbling down where today we have faced one of the worst financial crises in our history.

For many years, Republicans and the Bush Administration were concerned about the lack of regulation of Fanny and Freddy. For all those years they sought to establish an agency to regulate and supervise these two. Guess what? All their efforts were stonewalled by Senator Obama and the rest of the Democrat Congress. Thanks, Democrats, for costing American taxpayers trillions of dollars.

After a few days of "reality pills" as suggested in the first paragraph, perhaps Mr. Newton will become aware that Obama and Democrats are giving us a \$1.4 TRILLION deficit, more than four times the Bush deficit that Democrats so vehemently denounced. Add to this the huge expenses associated with Cap And Trade and government controlled health care and soon the deficit will balloon even more. With those two programs we'll experience nefarious tax increases. Unemployment is heading for 10%. The stimulus has stimulated nothing. America is a runaway train headed for calamity.

Mr. Newton, you need to get real and place the blame where it really belongs.

**Gary W. Meier
 Young Harris**

**Letters to the Editor cont.
 You know Joe, don't you?**

He drives the concrete truck through town headed for the construction site.

He suits up and goes on patrol at midnight as a police officer with the authority to take a human life.

He is the one that cares for our babies from birth until you go home with that new baby.

He is that Marine Sergeant in Iraq that uses all his skills to keep himself and his squad alive so they can soon return home alive.

He is the man riding on the rear of the garbage truck, collecting our trash.

He is the minister that works feverishly helping people get on the right path in life.

He is the maintenance man at the S&S store.

He is the stay at home Mom that steers and guides her children to maturity.

Joe is patriotic, pays his taxes, loves, truthful, reliable, responsible, honest, frugal and subordinate.

Joe lives in a double wide on a half acre lot that he keeps neat and repaired. Joe drives a clunker because he couldn't make the payment on a new truck.

Our politicians work for Joe.

Politicians live in mansions, drive luxurious vehicles, fly all over the world in the finest aircraft, are arrogant, look down their nose at Joe, eat fifty dollar an ounce ham, caviar, and are treated like royalty, and Joe pays for all of this. They possess few of the attributes listed above. When Joe questions the politicians he is called a Nazi, Astroturf, brown shirt, racist, troublemaker, mob, disrespectful, and those that cling to their guns and religion.

Things must change, AND THEY ARE.

**God Bless America.
 Bill Glover
 Lake City, FL**

Grant awarded to reduce injuries, fatalities on rural roads

Pioneer RESA announces a grant of \$92,000 has been received from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for building community mobilizations in Northeast Georgia for the purpose of reducing injuries and fatalities on rural roads.

Traffic crashes are a leading cause of injury and death in Georgia and as such a major public health problem. The tragic loss of Georgians to traffic crashes devastates families both emotionally and financially and imposes far-reaching societal cost to employers and government agencies as well as public and private insurers.

Georgians traveling on rural roads in rural communities are at increased risk for motor vehicle-crash related death.

This grant is focused on a public health approach to create safety-related changes in environmental and individual factors made possible by working with

community partners to address the problem. The project provides additional support to local health departments which have suffered reduction in staff from recent budget cuts.

The grant contains funding for the registration of training and recertification for local and state law enforcement officers.

The funding from this grant in the 08-09 budget year resulted in a 5% reduction in motor vehicle crash injuries and a 20% increase in child passenger safety enforcement over the first four months after the initial training was begun.

This project is to cover counties in Northeast Georgia: Banks, Dawson, Fannin, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Madison, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White. This project is also providing support in the coordination of 26 Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Chapters in High Schools in Northeast Georgia.

For more information contact Dr. Sandy Addis, saddis@pioneerresa.org, or Randall Townley rtownley@pioneerresa.org.

The Towns County Herald wants your letters to the editor

Submit your letters to tcherald@brmemc.net

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@brmemc.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.

Make a habit of voting

Voting is a good habit to develop. Exercising the right to vote is like exercising our physical bodies. Regular exercise keeps us strong -- not doing so can result in atrophy: growing weak. Our democratic society was built on the premise of "one person, one vote." Your vote counts! The Towns County League of Women Voters encourages you to exercise your right to vote this November 3 (or in early voting beginning October 12).

On the county ballot there is only one item: a referendum to raise (or not) the homestead exemption from \$2,000 to \$8,000.

Hiawassee residents will

have the opportunity to vote for the office of Mayor and two City Council positions. Incumbent Barbara Mathis is being challenged by Chris Swett. Stephen Smith is challenging Anne Johnson for one seat on the council. Jay Chastain is running unopposed for the other. Your vote is important. Exercise it!

Early voting times, beginning October 12, are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Voter Registration office. On November 3, the polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. in the regular voting districts.

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By David Seckinger

After two and a half years, the time has finally come for me to leave the Towns County Herald. As the old saying goes, when one door closes, another one opens.

First, I would like to acknowledge my co-workers during this time: Carl Vanzura, Lisa and Jim Bryant, Tracy Wikstrom, Jeff Edge, Jerry Kendall, April Swindell, Charles Duncan, Tonisha Shook, Shawn Henrikson, the staff of the North Georgia News, and last but not least, the intrepid Lowell Nicholson.

I would also like to thank the publishers Kenneth and Liz West for giving me a job and paying a livable wage.

Second, I would like to praise the fine restaurants in Towns County. Being a bachelor, I was fortunate to land someplace where there are so many good eating establishments. I would like to offer a special thanks to the deli counter at Dills Food City, where Terry "Possum" Walker and his coworkers provided me with many delicious, healthy, and affordable meals.

Third, I would like to commend the volunteers in Towns County, in particular, the Lions Club and the VFW Post 7807. These two civic organizations are equal to any

church in the county for their good works—whether it be helping those in need or rewarding the citizens who have excelled. Also, Fire Chief Mitch Floyd is a true blessing to the county. I have seen him in action, and his men respect him. Not to mention he is basically doing a full-time job for part-time pay.

Fourth, thank you to the people who have let me write their human-interest stories for the Herald. It took courage for you to allow yourself to be exposed to the public eye and your neighbor's scrutiny.

Finally, I would like to thank those of you who have read my articles. A writer without readers is like a tire without air; it isn't going anywhere.

In closing, I would like to pass on some advice given to me years ago by the editor of another newspaper. At the time, I was quitting the job because I could not tolerate the people in that county—from the politicians on down.

I hated them, but the editor told me I was going to have to learn to love them. Well, I never did learn to love those people. However, I never forgot the editor's sage advice. It is a good thing because after two and half years of working for the Towns County Herald, I have learned a little bit about loving the people of this county.

Thank you, Towns County, for teaching me a little about patience, tolerance, and love.



Elected Officials Elected Officials Elected Officials

Governor Sonny Perdue, Georgia State Capitol Atlanta, GA 30334, 404-656-1776
 Sen. Johnny Isakson, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-3643
 Sen. Saxby Chambliss, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-3521
 U.S. Congressman Paul Broun, 10th District, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-4101
 Rep. Stephen Allison, Georgia House of Representatives, 404-656-0177 or 0185
 Sen. Jim Butterworth, Georgia State Senate, 404-463-1367
 Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall, 706-896-2276
 Clerk of Superior Court Cecil Dye, 706-896-2130
 Tax Commissioner Bruce Rogers, 706-896-2267
 Magistrate/Probate Judge David Rogers, 706-896-3467
 Sheriff Chris Clinton, 706-896-4444
 Coroner Ricky Mathis, 706-896-6254
 Enotah Circuit District Attorney Stan Gunter, 706-896-6489
 Board of Education: 706-896-2279, Michael Anderson, Donna Hedden, Bob Gibby,
 Larry Kimsey, Emily Phillips. Superintendent: Dr. Richard Behrens
 Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis, 706-896-2202
 Hiawassee City Council: Janet Allen, Jay Chastain, Joan Crothers, Howard Cunningham, Annie Johnson
 Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, 706-379-3171
 Young Harris City Council: Terry Ingram, John Kelley, Donald Keys, Matthew Miller,
 Jennifer Mulkey, David Sellers

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