

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:
This letter will spark significant debate and probably many rebuttal letters but the matter needed to be addressed.

Citizens of the United States of America are being taxed to death! Between income taxes, property taxes, sales taxes, etc., we work for the government more than ourselves. In 2012, the "Tax Freedom Day" in the US was April 17th. The average citizen worked more than 29% of their time for the various governments. As of 2010, the US was third after India (74 days) and Albania (84 days). Belgium was the longest with 217 days, or 59.2% of the year.

As government grows, we will see "Tax Freedom Day" increase. Governments continue to find ways to tax its citizens. However, there is a simple way to avoid the confusion of filing tax returns and possibly save money for citizens while providing sufficient funds for government to be effective. Rather than income taxes, property taxes, etc. we need a national sales tax.

The Gross Domestic Product or the total amount of goods and services produced by a nation, for the US for 2012 was \$15.7 trillion! This does not include taxes of any type. If we had a national sales tax of 10%, almost \$1.5 trillion would be generated for government. It would be collected by each state's taxing body, with the state retaining a percentage for the needs of its citizens.

Yes, \$1.5 trillion is still far below the federal budget of \$2.6 trillion requested by President Obama, but this action would be a start. We could increase the rate to 15% and raise \$2.355 trillion. If no other taxes were placed on citizens, it would be both fair and adequate for government.

People have attempted a "flat tax" for many years. This would be an income tax of a specific rate for all citizens with no deductions or exemptions. The main complaint is that it would be unfair to the poor. However, a national sales tax would be fair to all as it would be based on what they purchase. No matter if the entity is a person or business, everything they buy, even for resale by retailers, would be taxed.

I realize a national sales tax like a flat tax will never be implemented; it is too simple. Conservatives will complain it will tax business and cause business to close or move. Liberals will once again say a national sales tax will discriminate against poor people. Politicians will be against it because they will no longer be able to use funds for excessive programs, grants, etc. You can always tell how well something would work by the number of people and types of groups that are against it. Because almost everyone, even those with conflicting backgrounds, would be against a national sales tax, it is obvious that it is the right idea at the right time.

I admit there are problems with a national sales tax. It may not provide sufficient funds for all government agencies but we already have that problem as the annual deficit proves. However, I believe in the long run we would see the deficit decrease with this type of taxation. Additionally, prices could increase. This would be offset because stopping income taxes, property taxes, and the rest would in fact lower prices. The national sales tax at worse would leave prices as they are.

The implementation of a simple national sales tax will not occur in my lifetime. My granddaughters may never see it. However, I believe it to be the only practical way to fairly tax citizens and provide adequate funds for government.

Sincerely,
Christopher D. Mazur

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

Summertime in Georgia can whirl by, and before you know it, school is back in session. Summer is a time for outdoor play, renewing friendships and reliving memories, and trying new activities. So you and your family will also have a safe season, your Georgia Sheriffs' Association offers the following summer safety guidelines:

Never allow a child to swim unsupervised. If your child is going with a friend to swim, be sure to speak with the adult in charge. Don't be afraid to ask if they know CPR. Children can drown quickly and in very small amounts of water. Even a brief span of inattention can be fatal. Take the opportunity to evaluate your child's ability and general comfort in the water. Make sure your child knows the safety rules.

Hydration is important for all ages, particularly in the summer. A dehydrated person can become weak, faint and vulnerable. Make sure you allow at least eight glasses of water per day for each person, more if you're involved in athletics or strenuous activities. If you're traveling, freeze water in reusable containers to pack in a cooler. The ice will thaw gradually, but the water will stay cooler and more refreshing during the long, hot summer days.

When schools are not in session, children often spend more time on the computer or in front of the television. Make sure your computer has an internet filter (available from many family-oriented websites), and that you have activated the parental controls on your television. Teach your child never to give out their name, address, or other identifying information to anyone on the internet. Make an effort to become acquainted with the parents of your children's friends. Don't be afraid to ask them what their guidelines are for their child's internet and television use.

Set outdoor boundaries for your child. A good way to establish these limits is to take a tour of the neighborhood with your child and determine what areas are off limits. Perhaps you live near a highway or busy intersection; that

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.

might be designated "out of bounds" because of the risks they present to your child. Often, places with water, such as creeks, streams and ponds are also out of bounds. Entering unfamiliar homes without a parent should always be out of bounds. Discuss these boundaries with your child and make sure they understand.

Get to know your child's camp counselors, coaches, troop leaders, ministers and teachers.

When you speak to the adults in your child's life, establish yourself as "Mary's dad" or "Jimmy's mom." If time allows, offer to volunteer or help out in some capacity. Not only will you enjoy the time you spend engaged with your child in summer activities, but you can watch their interaction with others and monitor their activities.

As a reminder, we will hold our 5th Annual Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes Fundraiser on Friday, June 28, 2013 at the Chatuge Gun Club gun range on Owl Creek Road. All proceeds go directly to benefit the children of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes. To sign up to shoot as an individual or a team, contact Ed Jones at 706-896-1783, or via email at edjones@brmemc.net.



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

Car dealers, cows and computers

There was a farmer who had been taken to the cleaners many times by a car dealer in the big city. Then one day the car dealer came to the farmer to buy a cow. The farmer attached the following sticker to the cow: Basic cow \$500, Two tone exterior \$45, Extra stomach \$75, Product storing compartment \$120, Four spigots @ \$10 each \$40, Cowhide upholstery \$125, Dual horns \$45, Auto fly swatter \$38, Fertilizer attachment \$185. TOTAL \$1,233.

For computer users over 30
A computer was something on TV from a science fiction show of note.

A window was something you hated to clean and ram was the cousin of a goat.

Meg was the name of my girlfriend and gig was a job for the night.

Now they all mean different things, and that really mega bytes.

An application was for employment, a program was a TV show.

A cursor used profanity, a keyboard was a piano.

Compress was something you did to the garbage, not something you did to a file.

And if you unzipped anything in public, you'd be in jail for a while.

Log on meant adding wood to the fire, hard drive was a long trip on the road.

A mouse pad was where a mouse lived, and a back-up happened to your commode.

Cut you did with a pocket knife, paste you did with glue.

A web was a spider's home, And a virus was the flu.

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper, and the memory in my head. I hear no one's been killed in a computer crash, but when it happens, they wish they were dead.

Sources unknown

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Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM



20# COPY PAPER now available at The Herald
500 Sheets \$3.80
5000 Sheets \$36



"These cicadas are driving me crazy! They're like the government - all racket and no use."

Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 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 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 at 5 PM at the Senior Center.
Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 4th Thursday of each month at the new Senior Center. For more info call 706-994-3919.
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 in Murphy. Call Kit: 706-492-5253 or Peggy: 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.
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 5:30 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA. We do oral family histories of residents. 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org

Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Rec Center.
Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Call us by 706-896-0932 or mtntregarts-craftsguild.org.
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 at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.
Mothers of Preschoolers meets the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church at 706-745-2469.
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 3 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Jerry (828) 837-7658.
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.
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. For more info 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.
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. For more info www.shootingcreek-basketweavers.com.
Friendship Community Club meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76, 706-896-3637.
Goldwing Road Riders meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meets every Wednesday evenings at 7 PM at the Red Cross building (up the hill from the chamber office on Jack Dayton Circle).
Caregiver support group meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.
Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Hiawassee Senior Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch. Call 706-379-2191.
Brasstown Woodturners Guild meets 1st Saturday of month at 9:30 AM in HHS shop. For more info call J. C. at 706-896-5711.
FWF Post #7807 will be hosting a fish fry their 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month April - October. \$9. all you can eat from 4:30 - 7 PM.
Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC) meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiawassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

A lady recently approached me during a break in a parenting class I was teaching, and I noticed she had tears in her eyes. I immediately searched my memory to see if I could recall saying something that could have offended her. She swallowed hard a couple of times and then answered without my asking: "I just feel so guilty," she said. "There are so many things I wish I had done differently. I made so many mistakes. What do I do now?"

I probed, "How old are your children?" "Six and four," she replied.

I didn't want her to notice, but I stifled a smile. Six and four? This clay is still pliable, mom. Being a good parent is not about being a perfect parent. Doing the right thing doesn't mean never doing the wrong thing. I have never met a mom or dad, no matter how well their kids turned out, who didn't wish they had done some things differently.

Remember, kids are resilient. Who of us would ever have grown up if we had self-destructed every time mom or dad did something dumb? Kids can survive a lot of mistakes. In fact, in the long run it often helps make them strong. Six and four may be

a bit young for kids to handle a complicated apology from mom; just change the direction and let the kids discover it for themselves.

But nine or ten is a great time. For instance, "Kevin, daddy and I are learning how important it is for kids to have chores to do at home. Now that we understand it, here are some changes we're going to make beginning tomorrow morning..."

Or the chat might start out, "Sue, you're fourteen now and your mom and I have an apology to make. We haven't checked much on where you go with your friends, for instance, on Saturday nights, and we feel that's not fair to you. So that's going to change now. We'll want to know who you're with, where you're going, and to be sure that you are in by your curfew time. It's ok if you don't feel comfortable with that for a while, but it's our responsibility so those are the new rules." Sue may fuss a little, but she knows it's right so she'll come around.

Can kids handle those kinds of mid-course corrections? Oh, yeah, the clay is still pliable.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net

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