

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

### Letter to the Editor:

I wish to correct a blatant oversight by the Towns County Herald. NO CREDIT was given to the talented blacksmith, John Ziegler of Murphy, NC, whose photo appeared on the front page of the August 29th edition. The photo showed John in action, tending the fire in his forge - NOT cooking or grilling food as the caption implied. John demonstrated the traditional craft of blacksmithing for those who attended the 2-day Arts in Park event in Young Harris this past weekend. Please give credit where credit is due.

Thank you,  
Kathy Day

### Letter to the Editor:

If one accepts the theory that "a picture is worth a thousand words" you need look no further than the pictures on pages 1 and 14 in the September 5th edition of this paper concerning the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) "negotiations." The folded arms and the disdainful looks on those participating show that there was to be no agreement no matter what was presented. No wonder most things in this county go to mediation and can not be settled by negotiation.

I recognize that there are serious issues regarding the distribution of this tax. However, we should expect more from our elected and appointed officials than facial scowls and folded arms in a hostile mode.

Dewaine A. Olson

### To the Editor:

Those of us who work with victims of sexual assault were stunned and dismayed to read Congressman Akins comments about rape. Not only does he not believe victims of "legitimate rape" can get pregnant, he equates the "morning after" pill to the abortion pill, RU-486.

I am the sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) in Fannin and Pickens County. Knowing if one congressman voices these myths, there are many others who believe this as well. As an educator on sexual violence, I believe this is a teachable moment.

The term "legitimate" rape is used to mean "forcible" or "stranger rape." The FBI has recently updated its definition of rape from the 1920's definition "The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will" to sexual contact with any victim without consent. This more accurately encompasses the wider scope of sexual violence on children of both sexes, males, transgendered, the elderly and disabled as well as women. Victims of any type of rape are very likely to disagree that theirs is not a "legitimate" rape. Rape Trauma Syndrome and PTSD are found in all types of victims of sexual assault: child molestation, incest, drug-facilitated, acquaintance, spousal, military, gang, etc. These victims suffer enormous emotional pain, even if force is not used and the rapist is known to the victim (80% of rapes). And in rural areas such as ours it is even more likely the assailant will be known to the victim.

Consider this. Just because you eat dinner with a person, or hire them to mow your lawn or have a couple drinks with them or even have a high school crush on them, does that mean you are giving consent to sex? Of course not. Can victims of rape get pregnant? Yes. Even violent, near-death rapes? Yes. The reproductive system of a rape victim does NOT "shut down". The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology estimates that women of child-bearing age have a 5% chance of pregnancy per episode of rape. The standard of care is to offer pregnancy prevention to victims of sexual assault. Even the Catholic church, one of the most conservative religions, has a "Compassionate Care" directive for victims of sexual assault and emergency contraception. Emergency contraception (Plan B, Ella), also known as the "morning after pill", consists of high dose birth control pill (s) and is available over the counter to women over 17. WHO reports that EC does not interrupt an existing pregnancy nor affect a developing fetus, thus it is NOT an abortion pill. RU-486 is the abortion pill and it is not administered to PREVENT pregnancy.

Victim of rape? Please contact the rape crisis network, law enforcement or go to your closest emergency department. The sexual assault response team is designed to prevent further trauma from your sexual assault - dispatching a specially trained advocate, follow-up care and referrals, and options of medications for STDs and pregnancy prevention (the sooner, the better).

Questions or need a speaker? Please contact your nearest rape crisis center or GNSA (the GA. Network to End Sexual Assault) for accurate information.

Pam Sullivan, RN, BSN, SANE-A  
Fannin County

### Dear Editor:

I wanted to let you know how much myself and the Tourism Association appreciates the work Libby Shook has done in covering the recent tourism events to our community. She has been very instrumental in obtaining all the details ahead of time so that the Herald can publish accurate information before the event that lets the community know what is going on. Not only that, she is always out during these events taking pictures, interviewing key people that coordinate the events, and talking more to the people attending the event.

Please let her know how much we thank her for her hard work! She is a great asset to the paper and to our community.

Thanks,  
Katie Polstra

### To the Editor:

We presently owe \$16,000,000,000,000 (trillion). The interest alone increases by \$36,000 per SECOND, \$2,200,000 per MINUTE, \$129,600,000 PER HOUR, \$3,100,000,000 PER DAY. Our debt exceeds the GNP of all European nations. 51% of Americans no longer pay Income Tax. In 2011, Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid negotiated a \$25,000,000,000 REFUND to the people who pay no Income Tax. Bill Clinton didn't leave office with a surplus. His "surplus" was based on PROJECTED revenues to the government -- not on actual revenues. Obamacare will increase the budget deficit by \$30,000,000,000,000 (trillion). There are \$100,000,000,000,000 (trillion) in unfunded mandates imposed on the 50 States by the government. Within the next decade, the national debt will be greater than our GNP. On that day, there will be no money to fund Social Security, Medicare, Defense, Education, the EPA....

"Facts are troublesome things." -- John Adams

George Mitchell

### From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

Over the past four and a half years I have been very clear about how I would deal with drug dealers in Towns County. Recently, it has come to my attention that brazen criminals are now attempting to intimidate witnesses and law enforcement through attorneys, social media, the press and other means. For these individuals, I want to be very clear: As long as I'm allowed to serve as Sheriff, I will aggressively investigate and arrest ALL drug dealers.

The connection between drugs and crime is well documented. The National Institute of Justice's Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring report makes it clear that in certain areas almost 90% of those arrested test positive for illegal drugs at the time of their arrest. The same report shows that the lowest results over three years, in the lowest area, were around 50%.

For about any given year one can factor the total number of arrests (provided by the FBI reports) and compare that with the total population (provided by the U.S. Census Bureau), then factor in the rate of recidivism (those arrested multiple times) and get a good idea of how many are actually committing crimes in America. I have noted that those numbers reflect that a little over 1% of the population commits 100% of the crime. With that in mind, as many as 90% of that 1% are testing positive for illegal drugs at the time of their arrest, which is why I've always said "drugs and crime go hand in hand."

Another well documented fact is that a large part of the allure for drug dealers is the idea of easy money. By seizing their unlawfully obtained assets, which they did not work for, the incentive to commit the crime is taken away. That is, in my opinion, the reason the State of Georgia has

### 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.

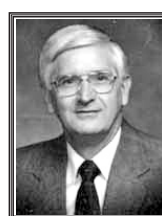
decided that law enforcement should seize those assets - assets purchased with the proceeds of poisoning our children and our communities.

I have said it many times before, but I feel that the time is ripe for me to say this again. Those who would attempt to poison our community and our children with illegal drugs take heed. I will continue to use everything in my power to stop drug dealers from gaining a foothold in Towns County. This includes not only seizing their illegal assets, but continuing to provide training for our deputies to aid them in knowing what to look for, as well as how to build excellent cases. I will do so for the sole purpose of making certain that drug dealers are caught and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Anyone who would like to report suspicious activities please do not hesitate to contact us. You can contact us at 706-896-4444, or make an anonymous report at 706-896-3697, or contact us online at www.townscountysheriffsoffice.com, where you can send an anonymous email, request extra patrol for your home or business, or follow the link to our Facebook page.

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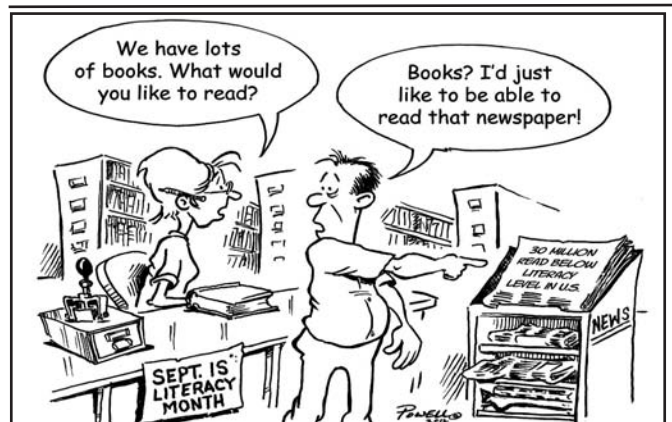
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"IT'S ON MY MIND.."  
Danny H. Parris

**A tug-o-war**  
I grew up with five siblings (3 brothers and 2 sisters). Not only was I blest with three brothers and 2 sisters but I was blest with dozens of cousins that lived within a one mile radius of each other. When we got together, occasionally we would get a good strong rope, draw a line, equally divide our group and see which side could pull the other side across the line. In fact, sometimes we would find a good ooey, gooey mud puddle, take opposite sides and dig in our heels. This was a strenuous contest for supremacy. My personal observation is that in America there is a tug-o-war unlike any other. This tug-o-war places Christians on one end of the rope and anti-Christians on the other. There is a very aggressive army in America that desires to pull out every symbol of Christianity that exists. Sometimes it is subtle, but it is becoming more bold and deliberate. The Bible, the Name of Christ and the cross are all under the greatest assault that I have ever known. In spite of these strong efforts to remove Christian influence from our nation the Bible still is our final authority on life and living. Jesus Christ is still the same yesterday, today and forever. What He was in the first century He is today and forever. What He commanded in the first century is still the Word and command of God today. The cross still represents our way to God. The atoning work of Jesus on the cross is

the only way of deliverance from our sin. The late, Dr. Frank Pollard, pastor for many years of First Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi, told the story that illustrates what is happening in our society: It was 1:00 in the morning in Chicago. The phone in the home of Dr. Leo Winters rang, and it startled him awake. The word came that a young boy had been badly mangled and was dying, and Dr. Winters, they thought, was the only one that could save him. His hands were the only hands they knew of that could save the boy. And so, would he come? The short-distance from his house to the hospital was through one of the worst neighborhoods of Chicago. He almost made it through that toughest section of town...almost. At a stop sign, someone jerked open his door and a man with wild eyes, a man with a gray hat and a dirty gray flannel shirt pulled him out of his car and said, "I need your car. I must have it." He took it and drove off leaving the doctor. The doctor wandered for about 45 minutes looking for a phone. When he finally found a phone and the taxi came, it was more than an hour later when he got to the hospital. He rushed in and was met by a nurse who shook her head and said, "It's too late." The boy had died 30 minutes before. She directed the doctor to the chapel where the father was grieving. He couldn't understand why the doctor did not come. When Dr. Winters opened the door to the chapel there huddled at the altar was the father crying. He was wearing a gray hat, a dirty flannel shirt... the man who had pulled him out of his car. We must never let our Christian convictions be pulled away from our lives and society. If we do we will contribute to our own death. Selah



## 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 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.  
**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 5:30 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, Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Call us by 706-896-0932 or mtncrafts-guild.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 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 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 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 are encouraged to attend. 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.  
**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. 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.  
**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 Day-ton Circle).

**Towns County Herald**  
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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