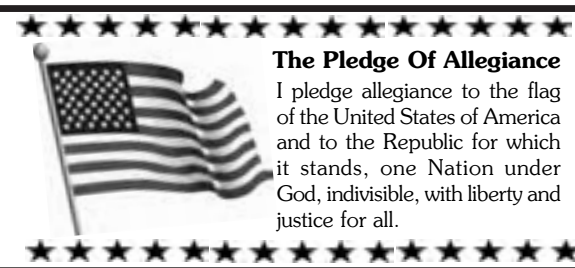


# OPINIONS



## Why It Matters

This week *The True Citizen* begins a series on teen pregnancy and its effect on our community. A lot of readers will just shrug it off as a symptom or a consequence of today's culture and lifestyles. They won't realize how the proliferation of teen pregnancy affects everyone in our society and our economy. We hope those readers are a small minority and that most of you will take the time to become informed about an issue that is especially important in Burke County.

In 2004 teen childbearing cost taxpayers over \$9.1 billion, an average of \$1,430 per birth. Those costs include, but are not limited to: \$1.9 billion in public sector health care costs and \$2.3 billion for increased child welfare costs.

Research shows that a child born to an unwed teenage mother who never receives a high school diploma or GED has a 64 percent chance of growing up in poverty. Taxpayers, again, end up footing the bill to support those children.

Statistics also show that teen pregnancy is linked to increased incidences of domestic violence, putting additional strains on law enforcement agencies. Additionally, over 50 percent of adolescents who become pregnant have a history of childhood sexual or physical abuse.

All in all, the consequences and costs of teen pregnancy should be a concern to everyone – not just those directly affected. We hope the series not only sheds some light on this important social and economic issue, but will, more importantly, motivate readers to get involved in finding solutions.

## Looking Back

**10 years ago: Sept. 24, 1997**

Plans for the renovation of the Anthony Wayne Hotel were announced by owners Beth Ann and Barbara Ann Smith. The total cost of the project could have been up to \$500,000 to include new wiring, plumbing and heating and air-conditioning.

The Waynesboro Rotary Club announced a donation of \$25,000 to the new Augusta Tech campus in Waynesboro.

Debbie Salter joined Mary Yelton Real Estate as a full partner.

**25 years ago: Sept. 22, 1982**

Wayne County farmer Lindsay Thomas won the Democratic nomination for the congressional seat vacated by Bo Ginn.

The Waynesboro City Council agreed to provide gas for an eternal flame on the Vietnam memorial on the courthouse square.

Burke County Administrator Billy Hopper said that utilities now accounted for 68.3 percent of the total tax digest in the county.

**50 years ago: Sept. 26, 1957**

"Loving You" starring Elvis Presley was playing at the Grand Theatre.

Dr. R. C. Bailie spoke to the Waynesboro Rotary Club on the subject of "How to keep from growing old."

A public meeting was planned to consider a proposal to allow deer hunting with dogs in the county.

**75 years ago: Sept. 23, 1932**

Mahatma Gandhi began a hunger strike in India to protest the electoral system imposed on India by the British.

A new grocery store, The Economy Stores, opened in Waynesboro. It was owned by the Buxton-Haeseler Company and managed by Hilton Chandler. Special prices included T-Bone steaks for 20 cents per pound and Baby Ruth bars, three for 10 cents.

## We welcome your letters

Letters must include the signature, address and phone number of the writer to allow our staff to authenticate its origin and limited to 400 words. Deadline for letters to the editor is Tuesday at 9 a.m. Email Letters to the Editor to: [lisaj@thetruecitizen.com](mailto:lisaj@thetruecitizen.com).

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## RFD

By Bonnie K. Taylor

General Manager The True Citizen

All of those who went on the trip to Vermont have arrived home safely.

They had a wonderful time sight-seeing and socializing, but I believe the consensus is there's no place like Georgia and home!

Welcome, back Burke Countians ... we missed all of you!



Jenny Reeves Jester is home recovering from burns which damaged her mobile home in Sardis recently.

Her family and friends have pulled together to provide for her and her daughter.

Take care, Jenny. I wish you a speedy and complete recovery!

A rehab center to provide substance abuse treatment for boys ages 13 to 17 is underway in Burke County.

WestCare, funded through the Department of Human Resources will be located in historic Boggs Academy in Keysville.

The 16-bed facility will treat boys for drug and/or alcohol abuse, teach them life skills and offer counseling at no cost to the patient or his family.

The facility is scheduled to open at the beginning of next month.

The group has a web site: [www.westcare.com](http://www.westcare.com).

The price of a single copy of *The True Citizen* will be \$1 beginning with Oct. 3rd edition. Our sister publication in Millen, *The Millen News* will be 75 cents.

I am sure many will have a lot to say about the price increase, but we believe that the price of our publications are comparable to the price of a regular cup of coffee.

At The Lake Restaurant, a regular cup of coffee is \$1.05 (includes tax) with free refills. The price at McTeer (the old A&W One Stop #2, across from Burke Medical Center) is 94 cents for regular size and \$1.05 for large (includes tax). At McDonalds, a regular size is 95 cents and \$1.26 for large (includes tax).

The new *True Citizen* pricing is more convenient. Just hand the sales person a dollar – you don't have to wait for the attendant to count your change – you're out the door ... newspaper in hand, ready to read the latest news about Burke County.

We appreciate your readership and loyalty, and welcome your comments.

If you would like to share comments about our price increase, give me a call at 706-554-2111 or send me an email: [bonnie@thetruecitizen.com](mailto:bonnie@thetruecitizen.com).

Also, remember *The True Citizen* and *The Millen News* are available on-line in its entirety before the newspaper hits the stand for \$20, Citizen, and \$15 for Millen.

## Steven Rice

### WADE IN THE WATER

William Anderson Hatfield was called Devil Anse by those who knew him.

Someone described him as "6 foot of devil and 180 pounds of hell." I think you get the picture.

His family lived on the West Virginia side of the Tug River. Across the river in Kentucky was "Ole Randall" McCoy. These two patriarchs and their families shared a river, were friends, and even married each other (their families married, not Devil Anse and Randall). That is, until Harmon McCoy, "Ole Randall's" younger brother, joined the Union Army.

Both families were generally Confederate sympathizers, except for Harmon. His service in the Army didn't last long and he was discharged on Christmas Eve, 1864 with a broken leg.

As soon as he returned home, word came from across the river that Devil Anse's uncle and a group of raiders would pay him a visit. They did.

Harmon was found dead in a nearby cave. Strangely enough, that was not nearly as traumatic for the McCoy family as a stolen pig.

In the fall of 1878, Ole Randall thought he saw Floyd Hatfield

(one of his wife's kin) with one of his pigs. Understandably outraged, he demanded a trial. Imagine this: the jury of Floyd's peers consisted of six Hatfields and six McCoys. It all came down to the testimony of Bill Stanton, believe it or not, a relative of both clans.

Bill swore that pig belonged to Floyd. Bad move for Bill. Within months Bill was shot by two McCoys. As Charlotte would write in her web, that was "some pig!"

The story gets better, or rather, it gets worse. Ole Randall had a daughter, Rosanna, and Devil Anse had a son, Johnse. You guessed it; they fell in love and Rosanna swam the river and lived with Johnse in the home of Devil Anse. She couldn't stand living with the Hatfields so Rosanna came back home to mama. Rosanna and Johnse rekindled their fling and Rosanna found herself, as we say in the church, great with child.

The McCoys wouldn't have this and kidnapped Johnse, who later decided he didn't want to marry into that family. He married his cousin instead (she was a McCoy, too). Two years later, three of Rosanna's brothers murdered Devil Anse's younger brother. They shot him in the back and stabbed him 26 times. Shockingly, he lived 3 days after the attack. Hours after his death, the three brothers joined the deceased Hatfield somewhere in eter-

— See Rice, Page 6

## Bill Shipp

### NEW DEFENSE: BREAK THE BANK

I am not a lawyer. I don't even look like one on TV. But I smell a courthouse rat.

The Brian Nichols defense team is trying to intimidate Judge Hilton Fuller's court and walk away with a sack of gold for defending an open-and-shut murder case.

One could make a case that the wily defense lawyers hope to use their expense vouchers and time sheets to force a gone-broke state to cry uncle, forgo a trial and let Nichols off with a life sentence for a series of mind-boggling slayings.

The public defenders say they have already spent \$1.8 million and are running out of funds.

They say they will need at least \$2.4 million to provide Nichols an adequate defense. According to the Associated Press, the Nichols defense wants six times what the average death penalty defense costs in Georgia through the first appeal

following conviction.

As you may remember, the Fulton County prosecution alleges that on March 11, 2005, Brian Gene Nichols, who was being taken to court on a rape charge, broke loose in the courthouse and shot and killed Judge Rowland W. Barnes, court reporter Julie Brandau and deputy sheriff Sgt. Hoyt Teasley. He also is suspected of killing U.S. Customs Agent David Wilhelm on March 12.

The murders made international headlines. Shortly after the killing spree, Nichols, who is black, was said by the media to have thought of himself as a warrior for racial justice. A Fulton grand jury indicted him on May 5, 2005, on 54 counts, including murder, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated assault on a police officer, battery, theft, carjacking and escape from authorities.

The Nichols matter is hardly a Sherlock Holmes whodunit.

— See Shipp, Page 5