

Comments on 'blame shifting'

Dear Editor:

Last week, I read the article about the deadly stretch of road through Jackson County known as the Damon Gause Bypass (Hwy. 129). While reading it, I remembered a time when your paper was critical of the three police departments that patrol this highway. I believe you called them speed traps. Well, you can't have it both ways.

While it's true that some police departments may take enforcement to the extreme, it has caused many of us to slow down when entering their jurisdictions. I have received my share of speeding tickets and no, I wasn't happy when I got them, but I was 100 percent guilty. The speed limits were clearly posted and I was clearly breaking the law. The officers in these cases were doing their jobs and were very polite when they handed me the ticket.

Our society has a problem with blame shifting. When we get pulled over for speeding, we blame the "traffic Nazi" who caught us. If we're involved in a wreck, we blame the DOT for not installing a red light and when they do, some people will complain because it impedes the

flow of traffic.

Drivers need to learn defensive driving, put down your coffee, quit playing with the radio, that cell phone call can wait till later, get up 30 minutes or an hour earlier, put your makeup on at home, and when you get behind the wheel, remove your head from your backside and drive to your destination safely.

Sincerely,
Rich Rutherford
Commerce

(Editor's Note: The danger at the intersection of the Damon Gause Bypass and Old Pendergrass Road has nothing to do with people "blameshifting." As designed, it is a dangerous crossroad that needs both a traffic signal and turning lanes. The problem at that intersection also has nothing to do with our critical comments about local towns that use their police departments to raise money for the city budget, or how one of those departments targets Hispanic drivers. This intersection was poorly designed and because of that, numerous multi-car wrecks have happened. The numbers speak for themselves.)

'Appalled' by city efforts on road

Dear Editor:

I am appalled at the wishy-washy efforts of the city officials and officers of the City of Jefferson. I have written and called the Georgia DOT, as well as letters in this newspaper, about the dangerous intersection at the Damon Gause Bypass and Old Pendergrass Road; as of yet, nothing has been accomplished to make this intersection safer for all the citizens of the city, county, and passers-by.

Again this week, I witnessed another accident. I also witnessed a school bus dashing in front of cars, basically scrambling, to get across the Bypass to take school children home on Old Pendergrass Road. I am amazed there have only been three deaths at this intersection!

Again, I beg, everyone speak with your city and state officials so that a traffic signal can be installed at this intersection.

To make matters worse, at this recent accident there were three Jefferson Police cars that responded to the accident. Not a one of them directed traffic around the

scene. Traffic was still trying to beat each other out and get around the accident. I felt like the chicken trying to cross the road.

Why is it that Jefferson police officers were just standing and looking and not attempting to direct traffic?

Also, while I am addressing the matter of the police department, I would like to add that on many afternoons during the peak of traffic, the Jefferson police have two cars set up for speeders, one in each direction, often blocking the sight path on the Bypass. If they are going to congest the intersection with their cars, could they not also direct traffic? That would be a useful use of their time, instead of putting more stress on the intersection by trying to catch speeders.

What will it take? Will it take a member of the city council's family being injured, or worse, at this intersection before someone steps up and does something to correct the situation?

Sincerely,
 Stephanie Brazil
 Jefferson

