

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Foiled attempt to leave contraband at Towns County Jail

During last week's visitation someone attempted to drop off contraband at the Towns County Detention Center. The attempt was foiled due to tightened security and the good work of detention officers.

During the visitation, the individual dropped off two packs of Bugler cigarette tobacco. A common way of getting contraband into detention facilities is for the visiting party to hide these in the bathroom area of visitation, and then inmate workers retrieve the item(s) and bring them into the detention center. This is exactly what was attempted this time. The difference is that at the Towns County Sheriff's Office, under the new administration, detention center security is taken very seriously. All areas are cleared and logged prior to and after visitation, as well as before inmate workers are allowed to clean the area. Inmate workers are closely guarded and searched when returning to the inside of the jail.

Names of the two individuals logged into the visitation area and suspected to have left the contraband have been given to the Sheriff and Detention Captain. Once the investigation is complete additional information may be released.

Sheriff Clinton stressed that giving any item to an inmate, without the approval of the Sheriff or Detention Commander is punishable by Georgia law and any person doing so will be banned from visitation and charged with a crime under O.C.G.A 42-5-18.

Sheriff Clinton commented that, "security sweeps and proper documentation insures our detention center is safe. Our officers are doing a great job in the jail. I've had three compliments in the past week from Grand Jury members, Clay County Sheriff, Joe Shook, and a retired peace officer at the detention center on business. They commented on how clean the detention center is and said that it "smells clean." The officers are fully cooperating with the new procedures and for the most part are expressing that they like the tightened security, as it makes their jobs safer and less stressful."