

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Wray Dodges Key Questions

Earlier this month, FBI Director Wray testified before the House Judiciary Committee. Yet despite the hours-long hearing, Wray ducked and dodged his way out of answering critical questions related to numerous scandals surrounding the weaponized agency.



United States Congressman Representative Andrew Clyde

More than two years have passed since January 6th, 2021, yet Wray provided little to no insight on the matter. For example, Wray failed to provide transparency amidst ongoing concerns regarding the FBI's involvement in the Capitol riot on January 6th. After telling a Committee Democrat that it was "ludicrous" to suggest that FBI agents orchestrated an operation on J6, Wray later refused to answer straightforward questions about whether the FBI had confidential human sources present that day.

But Wray's efforts to evade basic questions extended beyond the topic of January 6th.

Numerous Committee Republicans grilled Wray on the agency's brazen double standard in the treatment of President Trump and President Biden, with additional questions zeroing in on Joe Biden's corrupt behavior. Due to his lack of interest and answers, Wray was directly asked if he protects the Bids.

Wray, of course, replied: "Absolutely not. The FBI has no interest in protecting anyone politically."

Give me a break. While Wray will never publicly admit to the FBI's increasingly politicized and weaponized actions, the American people know good and well that this ongoing behavior is rotting the agency from the inside out.

And these nefarious efforts aren't just aimed at high-profile Republicans. Everyday Americans continue to bear the brunt of the FBI's dishonorable and unlawful behavior. From targeting concerned parents at school board meetings to punishing pro-life activists and surveilling religious Americans, the FBI has undoubtedly overstepped its bounds. Despite legitimate concerns about these widely reported activities, Wray largely sidestepped related questions during the House Judiciary Committee hearing.

Ultimately, the vast majority of questions directed at FBI Director Wray went unanswered — prompting swift criticism and fueling frustrations.

Yet no matter Wray's attempts to obfuscate the truth, House Republicans are committed to delivering transparency and justice to the American people. Please know that as a conservative appropriator, I look forward to assisting my Republican colleagues in this effort through the appropriations process and utilizing every congressional tool to hold the corrupt FBI accountable.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED 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.

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.

Towns County Community Calendar

Table with 3 columns: Day, Event, Time. Includes entries for School Board, Storytime, City Council, Conventions, Board of Elections, Planning Commission, and Commissioner's Mtg.

SCARY CAMPFIRE STORIES



Lost in British Columbia

I have spent the past 52 years doing the second thing I wanted to do with my life and that is to be a forester. The first choice was to be a farmer but there wasn't room on our farm in Taylor County for me to make a living, so I decided to take my second choice and become a forester and have never regretted it.



RC&D Frank Riley Executive Director

Linda and I recently celebrated our 25th anniversary and we decided to take 2 weeks and explore the western part of North America and chose British Columbia where the big trees grow, and the mountains are high, and the Pacific Ocean is breathtaking.

We first stopped in Vancouver BC and the sights and sounds there were tall buildings, lots of cars, buses, boats, and lots of people. English is a second language there, and the first isn't French Canadian either, but everything else, and here we were two southerners in the middle of the hustle and bustle of that crowded city.

Victoria is the provincial capital of British Columbia. The least expensive hotel we could find there was \$400 per night, but we were celebrating 25 years so what the heck, we got our tax refund, so we went for it. Breakfast can cost \$50 and lunch \$75 or more and don't even ask about dinner.

In Victoria we visited Parliament, saw a "parade," and just walked around. British Columbia has many provincial parks and we visited several of those on Vancouver Island taking long hikes to see the sights and hear the sounds of the west, dipping our toes in the Pacific Ocean and just soaking in the breathtaking sights of the Pacific coast.

Sechelt is a seaside town with seaplanes and boats coming and going and with breath taking mountains and seashores all around it. We found a small hotel on Porpoise bay and stayed there for 4 days while we explored the Sunshine Coast.

We drove to Whistler, BC for a seaplane ride to a glacier high up in the rugged mountains with turquoise lakes, high peaks with snow, and cascading waterfalls. We finally found the big trees I always wanted to see in a provincial park near Sechelt. The biggest Douglas fir in BC was there and was 12 feet across the butt with many "smaller" trees that were 6 to 10 feet across.

The good part of this visit was there no people for a change, only the sounds of birds and squirrels and Linda telling me to come on. We hopped on a ferry at Langdale BC and rode to Horseshoe Bay where we stayed in a very nice BNB in north Vancouver.

I read anything that I can about world war II airplanes, and we were withing 2.5 hours of one of the best WWII collections anywhere, so we drove down to Everett WA to visit the Flying Heritage & Combat Armor Museum.

The time to go back to Towns County arrived and not a minute too soon for me. All of these sights are a wonderful lifetime memory, but none can compare to what we have in the mountains of North Georgia, and here it doesn't cost \$75 to eat lunch or \$175 to fill up my truck.

RC&D Frank Riley Executive Director

Is It Ripe?

One question that people will call me with is how to tell if a fruit or vegetable is ripe or not. Different plants ripen differently. Some will continue to ripen after they've been picked, others need to ripen attached to the plant.



UGA extension Watching and Working Jacob Williams

Fruits and vegetables are divided into climacteric and non-climacteric. The difference between these groups is their response to the hormone ethylene. Ethylene is a hormone that plants produce to induce ripening.

Apples, pears, peaches, plums, potatoes, and tomatoes are some examples of climacteric plants. Blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, cherries, cucumbers, eggplant, grapes, strawberries, peppers, squash, and watermelon are all examples of non-climacteric crops.

Now that we know a little more about the ripening process let's talk about how to tell when the best time to pick some of the most common grown crops around here are.

Apples and pears can be a little more challenging to tell when they are ripe. Different varieties will ripen at different times. In addition, the entire tree may not ripen at the same time. If the apple or pear stem breaks away easily from the tree then it's ripe.

Squash and zucchini should be harvested when they're 4-8 inches long. They'll both grow longer if left on the vine, and you can still eat them if they're big, but they get tougher as they age.

Sweet corn is ripe when you can puncture a kernel with your fingernail and milky fluid comes out. As soon as corn is picked, it starts to lose flavor. Refrigerate it to retain flavor.

Pick peas when the pods have plumped out. If they start to wrinkle, they're getting overripe. You can always open a pod to see if the seeds are swollen, but still tender.

Pick peppers when they are shiny green. If you let them sit on the bush longer and they start to change to orange or red and they're getting hotter.

If you have questions about when plants are ripe contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Letters To The Editor

On Rep. Andrew Clyde

Dear Editor,

In response to a recent missive to Representative Andrew Clyde stating he should be "actually helping his constituents" and "advancing the betterment of Georgia District 9," I offer the following:

Representative Clyde is an elected United States Representative. He is responsible for representing the citizens of Georgia Legislative District 9 in the Federal Legislature in Washington, D.C. He does this by advancing legislation and supporting or rejecting legislation that affects all citizens of the United States.

It is my feeling that Representative Clyde, in his campaign for his seat, stated very well his positions on the major federal issues facing our country. After stating his positions, the voters decided that he should represent them in Washington. Further, Representative Clyde has held true to those positions and voted on legislation and presented legislation that followed those positions.

If the writer has a specific problem with a federal agency or a federal issue, he can, as a citizen of District 9, contact his elected Representative Clyde and he will do what he can to "actually help" his constituent.

Representative Clyde is doing what he was elected to do, he is representing the people of Georgia Legislative District 9, who elected him, in the Federal Legislature in Washington D.C.

Vince Peterson

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