

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

### Letter to the Editor:

Recently my husband and I went to the entertainment on the square, and were appalled at the rudeness of some of the audience. We want to support the community by attending these concerts, but some people are making this difficult. I realize these concerts are free, but does that give you the right to talk constantly in your normal voice during the performances? It is not only rude to your neighbors who are trying to hear the music, but very disrespectful to the entertainers. Please, if you must meet to talk, take it out of earshot in consideration of the majority of people in attendance.

Having recently moved to the area, we are thrilled to know that this is available for the community. Thanks to all the people responsible for organizing these events, and for all the hard work it takes. Please remember to give contributions to the committee so we can keep having these wonderful community gatherings with music from the area.

I am looking forward to this "happening" for years to come. Just please bring your manners and respect for others.

Sue Johnson

### Letter to the Editor:

Let PUP help you

The members of Operation PUP have a goal of reducing the stray, unwanted/homeless cat and dog population in Towns County by helping with the cost of spaying and neutering these animals—or also a pet cat or dog. We ask for a donation from the individual or business (if you can afford one) and that after we schedule the vet appointment, you place the animal in a carrier and take it in for surgery.

If you haven't seen the cat pyramid, it shows that two breeding cats plus all their kittens and all their kittens' kittens, if none are ever neutered or spayed, add up to 80,399,290 in 10 years! These animals will just suffer while reproducing over and over without humans putting a stop to over-population by getting them spayed or neutered--the kindest way to end homeless cats and dogs.

Please call PUP at 1-888-496-2387, we are a non-profit 501(c)3 which means you may take this expense off your income tax if you itemize.

We'd also ask, that when you hear about all those wonderful citizens and rescue groups that are selflessly and diligently helping these unfortunate strays everyday, recognize and thank them.

Sincerely, Operation PUP, Marsha Grogan, President

### Letter to the Editor:

Recently, I read in disbelief a report about Norwegian police taking an hour or more to respond to a shooting incident because of "transport difficulties." While police delayed, the gunman deliberately and systematically shot and killed at least 82 persons who were unable to escape from the island where they had been camping. I am totally confident that if Chris Clinton had received the same report, he and his deputies would have figured out a way to get to that island in a lot less than an hour, even if they had to swim or paddle on a tube. Also, I'll bet they would have known what to do when they got there. I'm glad to live in Towns County.

Wm. Ronald Gibson



**RARE KIDS; WELL DONE**  
By Don Jacobsen

One of the things we have been taught as parents since the 60s is that when our child disobeys we should go hunting for some psychological reason. If we find "it" then all we have to do is change the cause and the disobedience will likely go away. It can even sound quite plausible.

That twisted view of parenting has done several things to America's families, none of them good. For one thing, it has made parenting seem really, really hard. Not only are we expected to keep little Archie clean, fed, housed, and educated, but we are also expected to become his resident psychologists. But what if we guess wrong on the cause and the unwanted behavior doesn't go away? Then what? Do we just guess again till we get it right? Maybe it would help if every parent was required to have a degree in psychology?

Second, it builds into Archie the belief that his behavior is someone else's fault. Now that's not healthy. It means Archie has a hard time discovering that he is responsible for what he does; he can always

blame it on others. Finding a likely psychological excuse is all Archie needs to believe that his irascible behavior is not his fault.

Third, it blurs the line about who's guilty. If Archie's behavior is really "caused by something his mom or dad did" or circumstances beyond his control, how can we punish him for that. He isn't responsible — maybe his parents did something that caused him to act like that. So dad and mom wrestle with trying to decide who's at fault here, Archie, or themselves. That's not a position of strong leadership for parents.

So here's the deal: Bad habits - that's the problem, not "psychological issues." The right question is not, "What caused Archie to disobey?" The right question is, "What shall we do about Archie's disobedience?" That's a whole lot simpler question for mom and dad to answer and a whole lot more helpful to Archie in the long run.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

From the desk of

Commissioner Bill Kendall



### Constitutional rights restored by Taxpayer Empowerment Act

Commissioner Bill Kendall adopted and signed into law the Taxpayer Empowerment Act at the regular County Meeting July 21, 2011 which restores to Towns County Taxpayers and voters their State Constitutional rights and power to approve or reject, through a voter referendum, building projects to put them and their property responsible to pay off millions of dollars of long term debt that could be and have been incurred in many counties including Towns County by circumventing the State Constitution through a gimmick known as least purchase. This not only denies voter approval intended by the Constitution but also cost taxpayers higher interest rates than voter approved general obligation bonds in a referendum as intended by the Constitution. It is my firm belief that taxpayers should not be abridged or denied this basic fundamental constitutional principle of voting on long-term debt projects to be collateralized with their property and paid off with their property taxes.

**Q:** At this meeting a citizen asked, can we keep it or can future commissioners succeeding you in office take it away?

**A:** Yes, future commissioners have the power to adopt an ordinance taking away these voter Constitutional powers restored by Taxpayer Empowerment Act.

However, in order to take away citizens and voters Constitutional Power given back to them by the T.E.A. Ordinance, future commissioners would have to advertise two months in the legal organ (newspaper) of the County and read and explain to citizens in two public meetings their proposed ordinance to take away from taxpayers and voters these restored constitutional rights.

I am appointing a standing citizens commission to protect the Taxpayer

### 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 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.*

Empowerment Act by staying abreast, alert the public and attend any meeting attempting to take away the rights it restores to the taxpayers and voters. The non-partisan commission will consist of community leaders of all political parties, independents, homeowner association presidents, etc. Anyone interested in having a part can call 706 896-2277 or 706 994-4644.

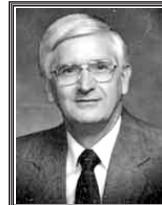
On a hot and smoldering day in July in Philadelphia when Benjamin Franklin came outside the Constitutional Convention to address the crowd, one person asked "Dr. Franklin, What have you given us?" He said, "AREPUBLIC. IF YOU CAN KEEP IT."

Towns County has a proud heritage of immigrants, many of Irish, Scottish, Anglo Saxon descent who came to these isolated Appalachian Mountains to hammer out a living from the land through much hardship, developing fierce independent and conservative values. Their word was their bond and if a neighbor was in trouble, they would be there to lend a helping hand "at the drop of a hat". I have found that our new residents that have come to make Towns County their home have these same strong fiscal conservative, independent traits.

Americans have kept and defended, through wars and political battles, THE REPUBLIC given to them on that hot summer day in Philadelphia over 220 years ago.

I have confidence that Towns County's new and long time residents alike will band together to protect, defend and keep these taxpayer and voter rights restored to them by the Taxpayer Empowerment Act.

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

### A shortage of thinking caps

Do you know that if you gave some people a penny for their thoughts you would be greatly overpaying them? The fact is some people never think, they just talk. Have you ever done something really stupid and have someone (like your spouse) say, "wwwhhaatt were you thinking?" Your only response, "I wasn't." Sometimes we just fail to think and the outcome is disastrous. Immediately, we start thinking — thinking up reasons or excuses why things are in the mess they are in. Come to think of it do you think that a great majority of our elected officials have lost their thinking caps? I am just thinking aloud but with our nation's deficit, debt ceiling problem and the decrease of jobs nationwide is anyone in Washington thinking about anything except re-election? These men and women have been elected to be our think tank (brain) in our nation's capital representing the voter's thinking. They should be dedicated to solving our problems not creating or complicating them by wishful thinking. Did you hear about the fellow who lived where the state lines of Wisconsin and Minnesota meet? He always thought he lived in Minnesota until they did a new land survey and it revealed that he actually lived in Wisconsin. He said, "Praise the Lord, I don't have to endure those long, cold Minnesota winters anymore." Does his kind of thinking remind you of some of our modern

thinkers? Wishful thinking is not going to solve the mega problems confronting our nation. It blows my mind that representatives and senators vote on legislation that they haven't even read let alone thought through. Evidently, some of them think nothing of giving a yes vote without considering future consequences for millions of lives.

When I was a young fellow and facing a major decision my dad would say, "Son, you had better think twice about that." Some of our leaders make decisions for us who have never thought once about an issue let alone twice. Over the years I have heard individuals described as being able to think on their feet, which meant that they were mentally agile, alert and wide awake. Perhaps if we took the seats away from our legislators and made them stand instead of sitting, maybe they would make better decisions. Just a thought. Mind you, I know that not all of those who have been sent to Washington are lazy thinkers, but far too many are guilty. There are probably three groupings of representatives and senators: those who think, those who think they think and those who would rather die than think. Most of us have been taught to think big and to think positive. There is nothing wrong with thinking big and thinking positive, as long as you think right. Right thinking will lead to right actions. Right thinking is based on reality and truth. Paul said, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, THINK on these things" (Phil. 4:8). Anyway, I have been thinking, the great need of the hour is a bevy of right thinkers.

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