

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



"I can't make up my mind if I should go trick-or-treating as Barnes, Deal or Monds. My dad says they're all scary to him!"

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Towns County Herald
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Letters to The Editor

To the people of Towns County:

I would like to begin by thanking the citizens & the taxpayers who own property in Towns County for paying 94% of our total Tax Digest in a timely manner; despite the fact our economy, at the present, lacks a lot to be desired.

I am well aware of the hardships created as a result of the economy. We as citizens and property owners of Towns County have an annual obligation to pay our property taxes.

When I took office eight years ago, I swore an oath to collect or pursue collections of any and all delinquent taxes to the best of my ability. I have not taken this lightly and never will. This being said, its time for the citizens and taxpayers who are delinquent in paying the final 6% of the Tax Digest to contact my office in reference to payment of their outstanding tax bills.

As you may or may not know, the process of collections is a lengthy and expensive one; requiring time and money for notification to all who are delinquent. We have now completed two steps in this process by sending out our bills on October 19, 2009 bearing a due date of January 10, 2010 and by notifying the delinquent taxpayers of their failure to pay on July 26, 2010.

Now we begin the third step with a 30 day Letter of Intent to Issue FIFAs on all remaining unpaid bills. This step will be damaging to the delinquent taxpayers credit as the FIFA will be recorded in the Clerk of Courts office after the 30 days from the date on this notice expires. After this step it becomes more expensive for the delinquent taxpayer as fees are added to the delinquent bill.

I am putting this public notice in the papers to better prepare you of notices yet to come and asking for your full cooperation so as not to damage your credit record or worse.

Contact me at the office from 8:30-4:30 Monday thru Friday, please call (706) 896-2267 with any questions you may have. I am sure if we work together we can get through this without further problems.

Sincerely,
Bruce Rogers, Towns County Tax Commissioner

Dear Editor:

The importance of every voter to vote can not be over-emphasized in this turbulent time in our nation's history. The 2010 General Election may be the most important one of our lifetime.

At the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention, a citizen asked Benjamin Franklin, "What have you wrought?" His answer: "A Republic, if you can keep it!"

And keep it we shall, if every qualified voter VOTES November 2! Or vote early. Polling places are open now, weekdays, at specified times and locations, through October 29. Remind family and friends to vote for those candidates who share their convictions. Now is the time for voices of all Americas to be heard. We Americans need to get our country back!

Another reason for voting November 2 is the potential redistricting among Georgia's eleven Congressional Districts. Based on population changes reflected in the 2010 census, the newly-elected Georgia governor, the Georgia General Assembly, and certain other elected officials will be charged with this responsibility.

Remember, too many U.S. servicemen, in time of war, have given their lives for us to have the right to vote. We honor their memory when we do. God bless America!

Chris Cates

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

One thing I would like to talk about this week is school traffic safety. Many of you are aware that each morning from around 7:30 until 8, and again around 2:55 until 3:15 in the afternoon, deputies and I help direct school traffic. We provide this service in an attempt to keep children and their parents safe entering and leaving the school. The times are approximate because we go by how much traffic we have on a given day.

Some mornings the visibility is extremely limited due to fog or heavy rain. We would ask that you pay particular attention when driving through the school zone at any time during school hours, especially during the morning and afternoon hours when children are arriving or leaving school. This is extremely important when visibility is low due to weather or low light conditions.

Occasionally, we have had drivers decide to pull forward without being directed to because in their estimation, it is safe for them to go ahead. Please remember that we often see things that a driver may not. Often it may be safe for one car to go, but the problem arises when the car behind that one thinks it is safe for them to go as well. We have had incidents where a second car, thinking the

car in front had been directed to pull out, has nearly driven into on-coming traffic.

It is a crime to fail to obey traffic signals by law enforcement. It is the same offense as disobeying a traffic light. If a person causes a wreck by doing so they are responsible for the accident. More importantly people can be seriously injured or killed in the accident. Please help us keep our children safe by being alert when driving.

Also this week, there will be trick-or-treating on the square in Hiawassee from 5:30 until 7:30 PM on Friday, October 29th. Hiawassee police and Towns County deputies will be on hand, as local business owners provide a safe and fun environment for children to celebrate Halloween.

The Sheriff's Office will be providing Towns County Elementary School students with Halloween safety tips for trick-or-treaters, parents, and homeowners. These will also be available at the Sheriff's Office in the Towns County Courthouse, as well as at the Towns County Detention Center. Please feel free to stop by and pick up a copy for your trick-or-treater. If you need additional copies for a youth group please let us know and we will provide them for you. These are done each year as a service to our local families and children to help keep them safe while trick-or-treating.

If you have suggestions or questions about the services we provide, please do not hesitate to contact the Sheriff's Office at 706-896-4444. The Sheriff's Office staff or I will be glad to answer questions or listen to your ideas.



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
By Don Jacobsen

Q: Dear Dr. Don, why is there so much talk about helping our children build their self-esteem? I don't want to raise my children to be proud, do I?
A: I'm as perplexed about that as you are. Webster's New World Thesaurus says that self-esteem means: vanity, haughtiness, and egotism. I mean, are those the traits we should nurture in our kids? Would you rather work for someone who was humble, modest, and self-effacing, or someone who was vain, haughty, and egotistical? Which of those two persons would you rather be married to?

In the 1960's the theory was set forth by some folks who should have known better, that developing children with high self-esteem was the

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.

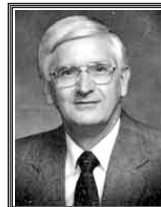
solution to all of their behavior problems, would raise grade levels, and generally usher in a new utopian generation of children. But we have watched their campaign long enough to know that they were flat out wrong.

As it turns out, high self-esteem is a major part of the problem rather than the solution. Folks with high esteem for themselves frequently end up having low esteem for others. Those with high self-esteem tend to "want what they want when they want it." After nearly a half century of research many of the self-esteem proponents have begun to move begrudgingly toward the conclusion that being congratulated for mediocrity is not helpful to youngsters or anyone else.

Dr. Roy Baumeister of Florida State University has been studying self-esteem for more than twenty years. One of the very interesting findings from his research is that the population group among which you are apt to find the highest self-esteem are convicts in America's prisons. (You can Google "Roy Baumeister, FSU" to find reports of his work.)

So, to answer your question, the part of wisdom is that we should heap affirmation on our kids for a job well done, but not shower them with praise for mediocrity. That is the kind of parenting that will build the character traits we want to see in our children.

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



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

A horse of a different color

Fall is one colorful time. Nature is all aglow with the brightest, deepest, eye-boggling sights known to man. The trees, shrubs and bushes of these mountains send out their annual invitation to flatlanders and smog-smothered cities to come and view God's greatest display of colors. Indeed, they come; by cars, motorcycles, RV's, vans and buses to view the sights and breathe the soothing fresh mountain air. We are glad they come. They just add more color to these mountains. They add "green color" to many businesses along their journey. The Lord knows that in these economically depressed times we need more color added. Of course, nature is not alone in exploding its colors here in the fall. There is a horse of a different color called politics that is adding a lot of color this season. Now I am not just talking about all of the colorful signs that are dotted along the streets and highways; the signs that show up in yards; the bumper stickers, billboards and TV ads; but I am talking about colorful (sometimes off-color) language that is spouted and spewed in passionate speeches by colorful politicians. Politics, or should I say politicians have fallen on hard times. Voters are down-right angry at politicians. They are not upset so much by their colorful campaigning but they are mad because they are like chameleons that change colors to blend in with their surroundings once they get elected to an office. Politicians

need to remember what Groucho Marx said, "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies." And it was Will Rogers who said "The more you observe politics, the more you have to admit that each party is worse than the other." Confidence in politicians may be at an all time low. Someone has said that the only color a politician is interested in is the color of your money and your vote. A farmer was in court being questioned by an attorney for election fraud. "Did you sell your vote?" the attorney asked. "Absolutely not, I voted for the guy because I like him." "Aw, come on, you know he gave you fifty dollars to vote for him" said the attorney. The old farmer said, "I don't know about you, but if somebody gives me fifty dollars, I like him." It seems the majority of voters have come to believe that all politicians are liars. It's been reported that Ann Landers, the newspaper columnist was at a reception once when a cocky, arrogant senator said to her, "So you're the famous Ann Landers. Say something funny." She said, "You're a politician. Tell me a lie." Well, the election will soon be over, all those campaign signs will fade and lose their colors but my prayer is for all of those who are elected to serve us will not change colors. Furthermore, my prayer is that all of us who vote will not do it looking through rose-colored glasses but will show our true colors by intelligent research and spending some time in deep soul searching for truth. In spite of all the pessimism pray for God's guidance and direction for this election.

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"Wow! There goes a real political activist!"

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Sen. Johnny Isakson, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-3643
Sen. Saxby Chambliss, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-3521
U.S. Congressman Paul Broun, 10th District, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-4101
Rep. Stephen Allison, Georgia House of Representatives, 404-656-0177 or 0185
Sen. Jim Butterworth, Georgia State Senate, 404-463-1367
Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall, 706-896-2276
Clerk of Superior Court Cecil Dye, 706-896-2130
Tax Commissioner Bruce Rogers, 706-896-2267
Magistrate/Probate Judge David Rogers, 706-896-3467
Sheriff Chris Clinton, 706-896-4444
Coroner Ricky Mathis, 706-896-6254
Enotah Circuit District Attorney Gunter, 706-896-6489
Board of Education: 706-896-2279, Michael Anderson, Donna Hedden, Bob Gibby, Larry Kimsey, Emily Phillips. Superintendent: Dr. Richard Behrens
Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis, 706-896-2202
Hiawassee City Council: Janet Allen, Jay Chastain, Joan Crothers, Howard Cunningham, Annie Johnson
Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, 706-379-3171
Young Harris City Council: Terry Ingram, John Kelley, Donald Keys, Matthew Miller, Jennifer Mulkey, David Sellers

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