

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

Several months ago my church, Woods Grove Baptist Church (which is over 100 years old), learned it could cease to exist at its current location because Atlanta bureaucrats decided there needed to be a 5-lane road for 1.1 miles of Highway 17 -- A road to literally nowhere since it would merge into a 2-lane road at the North Carolina line. This was all part of the TSPLOST movement.

Fortunately, Commissioner Bill Kendall had the integrity to stand alone in his NO vote against this tax increase while all the other commissioners from the other 11 counties in the Mountain Region voted to support it. Commissioner Kendall fought tirelessly, consistently and with a firm conviction that this tax increase was wrong for Towns County citizens. He broke down all political barriers and brought together a large bi-partisan group to work with him in fighting this tax increase.

On July 31, his efforts were greatly rewarded. One of the sweetest victories for "we the people" occurred when the tax increase was soundly defeated by Towns County and the region.

A very special Thank You to Commissioner Kendall and to all those who put aside partisan politics and helped defeat this very unfair tax. It is with peace now that Woods Grove Baptist Church can continue its service to Jesus Christ and His kingdom. God bless you, Commissioner Kendall.

Marilyn Ayers- Berrong

Letter to the Editor:

To all the ladies that need to get their driver's license renewed: Are you divorced, widowed, married? Is your birth certificate last name different from your current name? You must take your marriage certificate (original or certified copy) to the license bureau in order to get your new driver's license. You will also need your social security card or Medicare card. A current phone bill, light bill, or a letter addressed in your name, birth certificate, marriage certificate and driver's license. It took me two trips to get my license. I spent an hour looking for my marriage certificate that was 49 years old, and it had been that long since I had seen it. Then be prepared to stand in line. Probably best to take your lunch, and a cold drink.

This is your government at work. But if this will keep illegals and terrorists out of our country, then it's worth it.

God bless America.

Ann Spiva Wilson

A Proud Moment

Straight Shooting
Charles Duncan



Times are hard and no one understands that now more than the Georgia Department of Transportation, Gov. Nathan Deal and every state lawmaker in Georgia.

Last week's Primary results related to the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax tells the story.

"No."

That's straight from the voters' mouths as they turned back the \$7.2 billion tax increase, the largest in Georgia's history. That's a pretty big chunk of history if you've ever taken a look at that eighth grade Georgia History book (mandatory reading for Georgia eighth graders).

Gov. Deal tossed a carrot to Northeast Georgians prior to the T-SPLOST vote, declaring an end to the Georgia 400 Toll Road. Well, that road paid for itself over and over again. I wonder now that TSPLOST is defeated, if that toll road will continue to live in infamy.

The Atlanta newspaper gives the credit of T-SPLOST's defeat to the Tea Party for fighting back the tax increase. I give the credit to the hardworking people that make up the Mountains District - Tea Party members, Republicans, Democrats and Independents included.

You see, times are hard and folks know that they can't afford an increase on groceries, their utility bills, their heating oil or medical supplies. Bottom line, they can't afford an increase period. Any increase meant family decisions on whether to heat or eat.

Roger Beal sent a Letter to the Editor that didn't make it in time for the Editorial Page deadline for Letters to the Editor. However, his point was well taken.

"The TSPLOST 'no' vote makes a clear statement to government leaders, from mayors, through county commissioners, to the state house - do more with the resources you already have. Every household in Union County has learned this lesson over the past three and a half years. Citizens look hard at their needs and at what they can afford, and prioritize their pur-

chases to avoid taking on debt. Governments must learn to do the same. Yes, the Fed can print more money, but cities, counties and states cannot. If regional leaders feel we 'must' have a new, or a widened, highway, then those leaders must decide what they will forego in order to pay for it. Voters clearly understand this principle of careful spending, and have sent the message."

Well said Roger. We hear you loud and clear.

State lawmakers and GDOT were licking their chops at the thought of another penny tax to pay for the state's transportation needs. They spent millions on an advertising campaign to promote the tax.

The only thing you and I and the Roger Beals of this state could do was go to the polls and say "no."

We did in overwhelming numbers. In the Mountains Region, T-SPLOST was defeated 76 percent to 24 percent. T-SPLOST supporters (our state folks) should have saved those valuable ad dollars that they spent to promote T-SPLOST to spend on roads.

They didn't spend any T-SPLOST ad dollars with the *North Georgia News* or *Towns County Herald*.

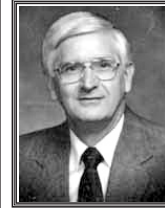
I wonder why? Could it be because that we stood up for the people of our two communities and asked residents of both to vote 'no' regarding T-SPLOST?

My reasoning for voting "no" in regards to T-SPLOST was simple.

Paying 8 cents on each dollar can get old in a hurry. The only way to reduce that tax would be to cut our county SPLOST or school SPLOST. Those pennies are important to our communities. We can't afford 8 cents on the dollar, but we're already getting by paying 7 cents on the dollar.

The difference between those local pennies and a regional penny is those local pennies pay for projects within each of our counties. No other government can touch that money, only us.

All-in-all, the defeat of the regional T-SPLOST penny at the hands of the people sends a message to state lawmakers that they can't slip a tax increase past us. We'll line up at the polls again and we'll let them hear it one more time loud and clear - "NO!"



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

The burden of burdens

David Thomas said, "A guilty conscience is the burden of burdens. It makes the soul gloomy and tempestuous. It makes death terrible, the grave a land of darkness, eternity an intolerable idea. Christianity removes this." That's why David H. C. Read said, "there is no burden a cleansed conscience cannot bear. And there is no burden a cleansed conscience cannot understand and share." When the great Apostle Paul stood before Felix, he did it with bold confidence because he said, "So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man" (Acts 24:16 ESV). Are you tormented with a guilty conscience? Are you always looking over your shoulder? When you lie down at night do the skeletons in your closet make such tumultuous noise that you can't sleep? The remedy for a clear conscience is found in Proverbs 28:13: "He that covereth his sin shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and FORSAKETH them shall have mercy" (KJV). All of us have been plagued with a guilty conscience sometime in life. Adam and Eve are prime examples that you can't cover your sin. All the latest fashions of designer fig leaves in the world cannot cover fear and guilt. Fig leaves may cover our nakedness and make us socially presentable to each

other but fig leaves won't cover sins and make us presentable before God. As some wag has said, "He that hath a clear conscience has a poor memory." Every time a police officer or highway patrolman pulls up behind you on the interstate, even though you are obeying the law, his presence causes you to shudder and have cold chills because in times past you have broken the law. I am sure that most everyone has heard the prank Noel Coward, the playwright perpetrated on twenty of the most famous men in London. He sent to each of them a note which read: "Everybody has found out what you are doing. If I were you I would get out of town as fast as I could." According to the story all twenty of them left town. What if you got such a note today? Would you run or relax? It seems to me that a great majority of our generation responds to their conscience like the man who consulted with his doctor. He said, "Doc, I've got this terrible problem. Lately, I've been misbehaving and it is getting worse. My conscience is troubling me very deeply, and I was wondering if you could prescribe something to help me?" The doctor said, "Oh, I see, you want something to strengthen your will power." "No," said the patient, "You don't understand. I want something that will weaken my conscience." While conscience reminds us when we have done wrong, it is not adequate to make us do right. To do right conscience must be submitted to God's Word and the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16-17).

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Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM



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 EMAILED 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.

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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 Brown, 10th District, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-4101
 Rep. Stephen Allison, Georgia House of Representatives, 404-656-0177 or 0185
 Sen. John Wilkinson, Georgia State Senate, 404-463-5257
 Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall, 706-896-2276
 Clerk of Superior Court Cece Dye, 706-896-2130
 Tax Commissioner Roger 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 Jeff Langley, 706-896-6489
 Board of Education: 706-896-2279, Michael Anderson, Donna Hedden, Jerry Taylor, Larry Kimsey, Emily Phillips. Superintendent: Melissa Williams
 Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis, 706-896-2202
 Hiawassee City Council: Janet Allen, Jay Chastain, Joan Crothers, Steven Smith, Pat Smith
 Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, 706-379-3171
 Young Harris City Council: Terry Ingram, John Kelley, Donald Keys, Matthew Miller, Stuart Miller, David Sellers

Towns County Herald

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