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

United States Congressman Representative Andrew Clyde

and dodged his way out of answering critical questions related to numerous scandals surrounding the weaponized agency.

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. Even when pressed by a Republican on information related to the two pipe bombs left at both the RNC and DNC, Wray stonewalled — hiding behind the active status of the investigation.

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 Bidens.

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 highprofile 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



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. Ever since I became a forester, I wanted to go west and see the Douglas Firs, Western Red Cedars, Ponderosa, Lodgepole, and Western White Pines, and the mountains that go straight up and down into the Pacific ocean. I've been out there at conferences but never spent time exploring the sights there.

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. Unless you get way off the beaten path it ain't what I had imagined, it's crowded, cars everywhere, and expensive but still beautiful and worth the trip. Gas is \$1.909 per liter (\$7.23 per gallon).

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. We hopped on a ferry over to Victoria, BC on Vancouver Island.

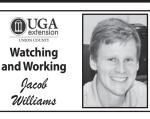
Victoria is the provincial capital of British Columbia. The least expensive hotel we could find there was \$400 per night, but we were celebrating 25 years so what the heck, we got our tax refund, so we went for it. Breakfast can cost \$50 and lunch \$75 or more and don't even ask about dinner. We did find a Burger King downtown, so it was like a safe haven from the storm. We made sandwiches to try to ease the cost some and since we are from the south a ham sandwich is just as good as one of those fancy dishes that costs a day's wages and is not as good as it looks. Those folks have not experienced a southern "dinner on the ground" where real food is!

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. After 4 days there we hopped back on a ferry to Vancouver and then another ferry to Langdale, BC and drove to Sechelt about an hour north of Vancouver.

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 visited Skookumchuck Narrows which is where twice daily the tide changes and the flow of saltwater switches, reversing the direction and power of the rapids and creates waves as high as 9 feet. It was an 8-kilometer hike (4.9 miles) and not as easy as was advertised but well worth the effort. We canoed in the Sechelt Sound around some small islands where sea lions were basking in the sun with starfish and sea urchins all around. 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. These trees are breathtaking, and I thought about the early days when men harvested these mammoths with an ax, a crosscut saw, and a steam winch line. 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. From there we visited a high suspension bridge over twin water falls in a provincial park. We visited Horseshoe Bay where we relaxed, enjoyed ice cream, watched the ferries come and go and took a deep breath from all of our hiking and travels. 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. It is dedicated to the display and preservation of rare military aircraft, tanks, and other military equipment. They fly all of the planes except one and the equipment is all operational. There are many of the World War II fighters there in perfect flying condition. In the museum there are also tanks, rockets, howitzers, and flak guns, from all 3 sides of WWII. There are V1 and V2 buzz bombs that the Germans used to bomb London during the war. 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. I appreciate what I take for granted around here now more than ever. Been there and done that and now back to reality.

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. Let's talk about what causes plants to ripen and how to tell if some common fruits and vegetables are ripe or not.

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. Climacteric fruits and veggies will continue to ripen after

they have been picked. Non-climacteric fruits and veggies won't continue to ripen. Instead, they will soften and rot as they age. Some crops are sensitive to ethylene and so shouldn't be stored with climacteric crops that produce ethylene.

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. Some examples of plants that are sensitive to ethylene and so shouldn't be stored with climacteric crops are asparagus, broccoli, cucumbers, green beans, kale, onions, peas, peppers, squash, and watermelon.

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 commonly grown crops around here are.

Tomatoes are an easy one to tell when they are ripe because they start to turn red. You can pick tomatoes before they are fully ripe on the vine. Because they are climacteric, they will continue to ripen. I've put tomatoes up in the kitchen windowsill so that they'll ripen. Sometimes it is advantageous to pick something before it's fully ripe so that you make sure critters don't get it before you.

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. Turn the fruit sideways to see if it pops off. Depending on the variety, you can use color to tell if the fruit is ripe. If you cut an apple open and the seeds are dark brown, it's ripe.

Blueberries will be plump with a deep blue color. They also have a white powder on the skin that keeps them fresh longer.

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. You should be able to push your fingernail into the skin.

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. Beans are ready when you can see the seeds bulging through the sides of the pod.

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 that's what you're looking for, let them sit.

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

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

First Monday of each month: School Board HS/MS Media Center	6:45 pm
Every Tuesday: Storytime for Children TC Library	10:30 am
First Tuesday of each month: Hiaw. City Council City Hall YH City Council YH City Hall	6 pm 6:30 pm
Second Tuesday of each month: Conventions & Visitors Board Civic Center	8 am
Second Wednesday of each month: Board of Elections Elections Office	4 pm
Third Monday of each month: Planning Commission Temporary Courthouse	6 pm
Third Tuesday of each month:	5.00
Commissioner's Mtg Courthouse City of Young Harris Planning Commission	5:30 pm
Meeting Room in City Hall	5 pm



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. He is to represent the views and feelings of the constituents of District 9 on the federal government legislation that appears before the House of Representatives.

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. He has strongly supported the Constitution of the United States, defending First Amendment rights, Second Amendment rights, among others.

I do not understand what the letter writer is asking Representative Clyde to do in order to actually help his constituents. Defending the Constitution is helping the constituents of District 9 and all the citizens of the United States. What better help can we expect from Representative Clyde than defending the culture and freedom of our country from those who would remove our freedoms, our independence, and destroy the great country which we have inherited.

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. If he has a problem with a state agency or a state issue, he can contact his elected Georgia State Representative Stan Gunter or Georgia State Senator Steve Gooch. If he has a problem with a county agency or county issue, he can contact his elected County Commissioner Lamar Paris.

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

Publication No: 635540

Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.

Towns County (1 Year) \$30. Out of County (1 Year) \$40. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points. The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. **Postmaster:** Send change of address to: Towns County Herald, P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546.

Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 3 "The Mall", Hiawassee Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: tcherald@windstream.net Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546

Towns County Herald

6 pm

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