

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Mainland America attacked

That was in 1942 just off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, as a few readers may remember? Gives much credence to why we, today need and depend upon ALL our branches of our military forces to be fully funded, prepared and guarding our precious USA 24/7/365. It could always happen again, this time with dire effects. And today our radar, sonar and satellite observation is far superior to that in 1942, which was partially to blame for what occurred. Here's some very interesting history:

After the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, most Americans were shaken resulting in many unsubstantiated reports of Japanese warships, submarines, approaching aircraft all of which were proven to be imagination and false reports. But NOT on February 23, 1942 when a Japanese Submarine surfaced off the coast of Santa Barbara and fired a dozen artillery shells at an oil refinery and storage tanks. However the damage was only minor and no loss of life. The next day, February 24, all our forces on the California coast were instructed to be on high alert in anticipation of a full fledged attack. Unusual things occur when nerves are frayed and paranoia level is high. Right after 2:00 AM on February 25, radar picked up what was thought to be an incoming enemy flight, 120 miles west of Los Angeles resulting in air raid sirens, and a total blackout of the city. With searchlights sweeping the sky, all anti-aircraft guns were fully manned and ready.

About 3 AM, the shooting started! There were reports of a UFO in the skies and our troops in Santa Monica lit up the sky with anti-aircraft fire and 50 caliber machine gun fire. All the other coastal defense gunners joined in.

It was pure chaos for a while, with the entire area covered in smoke, but No, Zero, Nada enemy aircraft. And thank goodness there weren't any of our own aircraft in the area either! That being said there were reports flooding in that Japanese aircraft were dropping bombs all across the city. There was even a report of a Jap plane crashing into the street in Hollywood! Imagination fueled by fear of America's mainland being attacked led to many shadows and clouds being seen as enemy aircraft. However there was battle damage from "friendly fire" to the city, as what goes up, must come down. Shrapnel came down like rain all across the city, ripping into buildings and shattering windows. A 3-inch artillery shell destroyed several homes at a Long Beach golf course. Reports indicate that five people died of heart attacks. Sadly 20 some odd Japanese-Americans were arrested for "signaling" the non-existent enemy aircraft. Sometimes mass hysteria reins!

In spite of many conflicting statements and reports, our Army's Western Defense Command officially reported that there were no bombs and clearly no planes of any kind were shot down. Plus no one was shot. This became famously or infamously known as "The Battle of Los Angeles". We must always be Semper Paratus, but not overdo it!

### WHICH IS THE OLDEST?

1. THE PYRAMIDS
2. STONEHENGE
3. ACROPOLIS
4. FLORIDA'S ATTEMPTS TO CLAIM GEORGIA'S WATER

## Plant it?

When to plant? That is a big question. We are still a ways off from warmer weather. However, that doesn't mean that we can't start thinking about the garden. Winter is a great time to go ahead and start planning your garden and picking up seeds. Let's talk a bit about planting calendars and when to get started on that garden.

**Watching and Working**  
Jacob Williams



Soil temperature should be our guide for when we plant. Ideally, for warm season vegetables we want the soil temperature to be at least 65 degrees. Some examples of warm season vegetables are tomatoes, peppers, squash, and okra. Cool season vegetables can be planted when soil temperatures have reached 50 degrees. Some examples of those are radishes, cabbage, collards, and kale.

Some crops like carrots, parsnips, beets, radish, turnips, and mustard do better from seed. However, for most other vegetables using transplants is a great way for your garden to get a head start. There are a few benefits to using transplants. One is spacing. Not every seed that you plant is going to come up. For most plants if we have good quality seed we hope to get at least 85% germination. If you space out the seeds in your garden and some of them don't germinate you'll have wasted space. Using transplants, you know that you'll have a live plant in every spot. Another reason is for weed control. A transplant that is already up and growing with a developed root system will be able to compete against weeds for sunlight, water, and nutrients better than a plant growing from seed. You'll also put yourself a little ahead of the game.

There are two ways to get transplants. The first is the easiest. Go to one of the garden centers or nurseries around here and buy them. The second option is to grow them yourself. This is not too difficult to do, and it gives you a fun project to do inside while it's still cold outside. The things that you'll need are seeds, growing media, and a grow container or tray. Fill the container with the grow media (a mixture of peat moss, sand, and loamy soil). Place one or two seeds in each cell of the tray, and then cover it very lightly with a little bit of soil. The timing of seeding is important. Tomatoes take 5 to 7 weeks before they're ready. Squash only takes 2 to 3. Peppers take 7 to 9 weeks. So pick your target planting date and back up from there to determine when you need to start transplants. I usually recommend planting outside in mid-May for warm season vegetables. Most seeds will need to be at least 70 degrees to germinate. You can purchase a heating pad to put your seed trays on to reach this temperature. Once the plant has germinated, you will need a way to provide light for it. A south facing window won't provide enough light, and will need to be supplemented. Supplement with a fluorescent or LEDs. Leave the bulbs on for 16 hours a day. You can plug the light into a timer to help keep track.

If you have questions about when to plant or starting your own plants you can contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## There You Go Again

We left you two weeks ago in an unsavory mash of potatoes and political correctness. Most of the time we chop wood and carry water, enjoy the smell of rain and the feeling of the sun on our faces. We wouldn't bother too much with the growing pains of the world but for the simple fact that they trouble many of the people we care about, some of whom feel the worrisome sound in the back of their heads is the death rattle of everything they value. So we jump into the fray to try and understand better ourselves so we can help our loved ones understand too, and we carry humor with us as a shield against the slings and arrows of outrage, catch phrases and acronyms in an environment where everything from The Andy Griffith Show to The Muppets comes with warning and disclaimers to protect the fragile. In spite of our best efforts, sometimes anger overwhelms humor, especially when a stray arrow finds our Achilles' Heel of low tolerance for ignorance-combined-with-arrogance. We try to write through the anger with humor, and sometimes it gets a bit convoluted, as a friend noted last week.

"I enjoyed your article the other day...I think. I got a little lost in all the potatoes. I think I get the gist of it. You don't like all the new rules about political correctness, but can't you just say what you mean straight out?"

Straight out then. The only thing I need to know about you or anyone else on God's green earth is your name and the quality of your character. That's all. You earned compassion when you walked into the room, simply because you're one of God's creatures, and for the same reason you have my respect. Now there's a chance that we may define "respect" very differently. That's OK. There are 7 billion other humans on the planet and I don't have to be all that into you. This may come as a shock, but the rest of the world is not all that into you either.

Of course you have every right to care about whatever it is in which you choose to invest your precious and finite time and energy. Express yourself however you like. Love who you will. Decorate yourself as you wish. It's your life, your body, and your personal understanding with the Almighty is not subject to anyone else's judgment. However, as important as your preferred pronouns, ancestry, pigmentation or cultural heritage may be to you, if you insist on wielding them like a sharp pointy stick or carry them like the gland on the back of a skunk, it's not required that you and I be friends. Go ahead and "cancel" me now.

"Cancel Culture" is a leaky umbrella over the various efforts by corporate, political and academic pixel peddlers to ostensibly work toward a more "inclusive" society. It's not the thing itself, but it is how the combined effect of hyper-political-correctness and abject celebrity aping makes many of us feel.

Here's the thing: America was already set up to be an inclusive, egalitarian society. There were many failures, such as we've all heard about so much recently. Racism, sexism, and a whole laundry list of prejudices, all of which fit unfortunately within the boundaries of human nature, meant that we had to keep our collective shoulders to the wheel to overcome them. There has never been a time when someone's shoulder was not on that wheel. Sometimes we failed, and sometimes we prevailed. We prevailed more often than we failed, and those efforts have been supported by the highest and best of our culture and by the force of law.

But now the "woke" have escaped not only the bounds of grammar, but of common sense. Critical Race Theory holds that those of Northern European ancestry are genetically predisposed to racism. The celebrity universe is obsessed with the 42% of humanity which is not comfortable in the bodies they were born into, and that universe is relentless in seeking out ways to focus the narrative on that very narrow spectrum of human interest. Therefore, since we have for too long allowed celebrity, which represents the intents and purposes of the corporate world, to set the narrative, that narrow interest has propagated to the mainstream. For example, a group of hospitals recently issued a directive to refer to breastfeeding mothers as "chest feeding people" to be more inclusive of people who might otherwise be offended.

The more one digs beneath the surface, the more one finds out that "wokeness," while it does to some extent represent the sincere interests of many people, is not at all an organic movement growing out of a consensus of opinion among people with similar viewpoints. It is more of a fire fueled by corporate and political interests for profit and for the consolodation of power. Diversity. Inclusiveness. Respect. All good. Unfortunately, we seem to define respect differently. To me, it is racist, prejudiced, disrespectful, controlling and arrogant to attempt to permanently affix a "victim" label on so many segments of humanity, and to characterize them as being in need of rescue. So many victims, so little time. Here's a story a friend sent which illustrates just what I'm talking about.

Robert Smalls was born into slavery in South Carolina. With a group of other slaves and some White officers, he stole a Confederate ship and sailed it out of Charleston. They replaced the Confederate flags with white banners and, as they had hoped, they were captured by a Union vessel. Smalls later served as a pilot in the Union navy. He risked his life clearing minefields which he had helped lay as a slave. He was promoted to captain because of his bravery in battle. Later on Smalls became an activist for education and literacy among former slaves. He entered politics and was elected to the US House of Representatives in 1874 and remained active in politics into the 20th century. Smalls eventually bought the plantation where he had grown up, and lived there for the rest of his life. Smalls said, "My race needs no special defense, for the past history of them in this country proves them to be the equal of any people anywhere. All they need is an equal chance in the battle of life." An equal chance. An equal playing field. Wokeness misses the point. Equality is an opportunity, not an outcome.

"Now that's more like it," my friend said. Can't you write like that all the time?" "I suppose I could, but I've always liked Dickens more than Hemingway."

"There you go again."

### Outside The Box

By: Don Perry  
[worldoutsidethebox.com](http://worldoutsidethebox.com)

## Flashing Flesh

"Is the left arm ok?" the hypo-wielding cutie pie asked about my bare shoulder convenient to him. "Just zap it there under my smallpox vaccination scar" I answered. And so started my first of a two part covid vaccine odyssey. While some people collect tats, or ink or whatever tattoos are now called (Hey, I'm hep, hip, cool or whatever term is semi-current), I collect disease deterrents. The smallpox scar is hardly visible now. I believe I was about 5 years old when my mama called me in from playing in the yard to haul me to the health department for "my own good". The subsequent pox of that vaccination was ugly and painful. Being covered with them could only have been horrible. The last large natural outbreak of smallpox in the United States of America was in 1949 and routine vaccination to the public ended in 1972. I don't know if that vaccination saved me from smallpox but I do know I did not suffer or die from it. I was also allowed to attend public school in GA because of a required certificate verifying my vaccination.

Young men, of a certain age, used the smallpox vaccine for something other than protection. Well, maybe a different kind of protection. My handsome nephew, a sommelier at a resort near Charleston, SC, was sometimes, let us say, hit on or approached by women of uncertain ages. At some point in history these women were called cougars. Lifting, tucking, and push-up under goodies can iron out a situation or two but vaccination scars tell the tale. Best to remember that not only is God in the details, so is the devil. Sleeved clothing can conceal much easier and less expensively than medical scar removal. Perhaps pointers on how and when to flash flesh should be standard issue in feline bags of tricks. My generation has been dosed with mumps, measles, polio, chicken pox, smallpox and I don't know what all, vaccines. We ourselves have had or know someone who has had organ transplants, replacements of worn out parts, and road marks smoothed from our countenances. Lest I come across as judgmental, I confess to starting a facelift savings account many years ago. When John and I wanted to plant trees in our yard, I learned the bigger the tree, the bigger the fee. Because my vanity account merged with the arbor fund, the trees are still majestic and beautiful in Charlotte, NC and I shall die with a catcher's mitt face. I'm thankful that science provided medicine and my mother dragged me, for my own good, to the health department all those decades ago.

My left arm will again be on public display soon for round two of the covid shots. I shall continue to don my mask for the protection of others and keep on trucking, still grateful and full of hope.

See you around Towns!

### Around Towns

Dale Harmon



## Letters to The Editor

### Energy Solution

Dear Editor,  
Well, we've just been given a peek at the climate change warriors' strategy for ramming their radical agenda down the throats of the American people. After destroying thousands of high-paying oil jobs resulting from the cancellation of the Keystone Pipeline as well as the elimination of new oil and gas leases on federal lands, the price increases on our gasoline and heating costs can't be far off. Of course, China will eventually be given access to the Canadian crude oil that was previously destined for Gulf Coast refineries in Texas and Louisiana. The so-called "free market" solution to the manmade climate change hoax is to drive the price of petroleum and natural gas to absurdly high levels, then use taxpayer dollars to subsidize windmills and solar panels, then say "See, I told you so. Alternative energy is competitive with fossil fuels!" And just wait till we really need the power to fuel our cars and heat our homes... the only logical, long-term solution to our energy needs: DRILL BABY DRILL!

Kevin P. Cannon

### 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  
P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546  
Our email address: [tcherald@windstream.net](mailto:tcherald@windstream.net)

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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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