

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Mea Culpa!

For those who read my Veterans' Corner column of 02/19/2020, I hereby declare myself guilty of abandoning the required research to insure validity of said column. I was so enthralled by the subject matter as we were issued an enhanced deadline date, that I failed to research what turned out to be one of millions of "internet rumors".

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



I'm sincerely sorry for misleading anyone, not upholding the honor deserved by all of our honorably discharged Veterans.

First and foremost Bob "Captain Kangaroo" Keeshan and Lee Marvin were never at Iwo Jima. Lee Marvin, PFC, USMC WWII, received the Purple Heart for wounds received in his buttocks in the battle of Saipan in June 1944. His sciatic nerve was severed, rendering his discharge from the USMC. He is interred at Arlington National Cemetery but was never issued the Navy Cross. He was as he appeared a great Marine and wonderful actor.

Bob Keeshan, alias Captain Kangaroo, also enlisted in the USMC, but never saw any combat. He signed up just prior to his 18th birthday and served just before the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki terminated that awful conflict.

Mr. Rogers, born in 1928 thus was too old for enlisting during Vietnam in the US Navy. Going straight into college after HS and then directly into TV, never serving in any branch of our military, he had no tattoos and killing anyone or anything was polar opposite of his extremely mild nature.

The real reason behind his long sleeve sweaters was his mother, Nancy, knitting them all by hand, thus wearing them in her honor. Plus he wanted to establish himself dressing as an authority figure with the children he entertained, like a teacher.

He also wrote and performed more than 200 songs for children. Cursing or drinking never crossed his lips, and he was a vegetarian of sorts. Also he was an ordained Presbyterian Minister, who was the very icon of the very gentle little man we saw on TV, providing some much needed education for our nation's children, teaching them that "God love you just the way you are." He died on February 27, 2003.

A few months before his death, he recorded a message for his adult fans of his TV show: "I would like to tell you what I often told you when you were much younger. I like you just the way you are. And what's more, I'm so grateful to you for helping the children in your life to know that you'll do everything you can to keep them safe. And to help them express their feelings in ways that will bring healing in many different neighborhoods. It's such a good feeling to know that we're lifelong friends."

Insofar as our many fine Veterans who actually DID SERVE our great Sovereign Republic, I personally know many who served in combat and otherwise, especially our Marines. For a fact, their wonderful, gentle personas and service to our communities continues today, in much the same fashion and love for our children and others, not unlike "Mr. Rogers", serving a calling much greater than themselves.

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

Conservative Solution

Dear Editor,
Our local climate change alarmist has asked for a conservative solution to the "climate crisis" in our country. This conservative does not accept the premise of the climate alarmists who are constantly telling us the sky is falling. Those of us "seniors" have lived through the "coming ice age" crisis of the 70s, the "death of the oceans" crisis of the 80s as well as the dire predictions of the 70s and 80s that told us the world would run out of oil & gas in the early years of the current century. We've been told that the use of hydrocarbon based energy was causing global warming; then blizzards and the polar vortex started wrecking havoc on the country and the narrative was changed to "climate change" so as to cover all possible scenarios.

Of course the climate is changing; it's cyclical, having warmed and cooled over the eons of time. Common sense dictates that these natural cycles will occur in the future as well. The very thought that we can "reverse" climate change by simply reverting our lifestyle to that of the Middle Ages (excluding the "ruling class" of course) is sheer arrogance to say the least!

Spoiler Alert: climate alarmists "solutions" will not change the weather. They will however, vastly expand the power of the Federal Government and significantly reduce your personal freedoms. Count on that! So what's the conservative solution to the "climate crisis"

I can sum it up in 6 simple words:
Drill baby drill! Frack baby frack!

Kevin 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, 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.

The Good Samaritans

Americans are generous people. We give to our causes, our churches and our charities. We're kind to strangers and helpful to our friends. When disaster strikes, we are first in line to help. Helping our neighbor is deeply ingrained in our culture.

In the age of information it's usually easy to find a survey or a study that supports something we already know, or think we know. About 10 years ago the World Giving Index started tracking charitable contributions by country. For the last 10 years the US has ranked as the most generous nation in the world, according to the Index.

Now the Index doesn't take into account foreign aid. It only tracks the likelihood that a nation's citizens will perform acts of generosity. As we all know, foreign aid, which does have its benefits and is funded by our tax dollars, is sometimes wielded to accomplish goals that have little or nothing to do with helping the citizens of the recipient nation. Still, the US ranks number one in foreign aid by amount, and number two per capita.

Though corporate media through what they present as pop culture would have us divest ourselves as quickly as possible from our Judeo-Christian heritage, this does not change the facts of our history one iota, and one of the stories that has informed our generosity for generations is the parable of the Good Samaritan.

We all know the story, and if we have forgotten it, even the most secular minded among us is familiar with the phrase. The "Good Samaritan" was originally a story to remind us not only to help our neighbor, but to remember who our neighbor is. It encourages us to show compassion to the people we encounter in life, regardless of their race or religion.

We could write many pages just on the preceding paragraph, but this week we'll limit the discussion to the more generic use of "Samaritan" and the concept of generosity in general.

It's been my observation that the good Samaritan is not always the smart Samaritan. While we would never discourage a generous impulse or the desire to help a neighbor, in a complex world it behooves us to focus our generosity with a consideration of its consequences.

Here's a small example. You're sitting in traffic with-in sight of the traffic light. A few cars ahead of you, a driver decides to let someone from a side street go ahead of them, and then someone else. They get a brief ego stroke from their public display of neighborliness. You miss the light and are late for work. We've all been that "generous" person, but we don't always consider traffic flow and the possibility that our "generous" act can further impede it. It isn't really generosity. We haven't given anything. We've simply stolen time from the people behind us and reallocated it to someone else.

A more serious example happens when the good Samaritan waves someone in from a side road for a left turn. The driver can't see the oncoming traffic and causes an accident, or they become stuck perpendicular to the flow of traffic, blocking both lanes and further impeding the flow. During the recent snow storm I saw another example of a Samaritan gone wrong. For as long as I can remember, during every snow storm we've had a small group of good fellows who enjoy cranking up their 4 wheel drives and riding the roads. Sometimes they will throw a chain and a shovel in the back of the truck and help out stranded motorists they might come across.

I've been one of those people, and it was probably never a good idea, even "back in the day" when there weren't nearly as many people on the roads, when there were, on average, younger drivers on the road, and when there weren't as many people in 2wd vehicles thinking they can get up an icy hill in a passenger car. The roads are more hazardous now they they were back then.

In any event, on a steep hill in a blind curve, a woman in a passenger car slid into a ditch. An unfortunate occurrence, but she was unhurt and relatively safe out of the road. A good Samaritan came along and pulled her out of the ditch and straight across the road, perpendicular to the flow of traffic and blocking one and a half lanes. Unable to move the car any further on the ice, he left her sitting there, on a steep hill, in a blind curve, while they waited for the professionals to arrive. A generous and helpful act, and a stupid one.

Many of us prefer to focus our generosity by giving to charities. This is an outstanding way to help our neighbors, but it can be further refined by a bit of research. All charities are not created equal. Some are not actually nonprofit companies. Some pay their CEO's nearly as much as the benefits that finally reach the intended recipients.

Some people believe that charity begins at home, and we focus our generosity on family and friends. This is laudable, but it also carries a burden of responsibility. Every parent knows the narrow pathway between giving their kids a leg up and creating dependency. Everyone who has a family member addicted to alcohol or drugs knows the fine line between helping and enabling. Again, we give, but we consider the consequences. We are quick to criticize the government for "throwing money" at a problem, but when our generosity is not focused by wisdom, we can do exactly the same. When our generous acts are not focused, we can create more problems than we attempt to solve.

Still, we encourage generosity because that's who we are, and because it's more blessed to give than to receive. There is, however, a quick self test we can conduct to make sure that our generous impulse is properly focused: If we expect to be thanked for our act, or complimented or gratified in any way, that is a sure sign that we need to slow down and consider the consequences of what we are about to do.

Finally, we can think of generosity as a seed. If we plant it in barren ground, it will not grow. If we water it too much, it will develop shallow roots and fall over in a storm.

The Middle Path
By: Don Perry
onthemiddlepath.com

Wells and Flooding

A lot of people around here use well water. Drinking water from a fresh mountain well can be very refreshing. While it may seem like well water is a pure source it's important to know that there are some ways that it can be contaminated. One of those is by flooding. We have had a lot of rainfall already this year. Let's talk about how a flood could impact your well.

Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



After a flood event the first thing to do is inspect your well. Check the well head to see if large debris has struck it that could loosen or displace well materials. It's also possible that sediment has been deposited in the well if the well is not properly sealed. Shallow wells (less than 50 feet) and wells more than 10 years old are more susceptible to contamination from surface water that contains bacteria and other contaminants.

The second item to inspect on your well is the electrical system. Make sure that the electrical system is OFF, either at the breaker or that it is unplugged. Check for moisture in the pump's electrical box and have the wiring checked by a qualified electrician if the electrical system was flooded.

The third and final thing to check is the well pump. Sediment and flood water can damage the valves and gears of the pump. Contact a licensed water well contractor or certified pump installer for assistance in cleaning and repairing the pump. If the pump is not properly cleaned and lubricated it can burn out.

Surface water from floods can carry bacteria that contaminate your well. Before using the water after a flood event remove the flood water from the well. To do this, determine the depth of the water in your well. Measure the distance from ground level to water level. Subtract this number from the well depth to have the depth of water. Multiply the depth of water by the storage capacity per foot of your well. If you don't know this value contact the company that installed your well or your local Extension Office. Now you have the volume of water in your well. Run an outdoor faucet to discard 2 to 3 times the volume of water in your well. If your pump can't maintain the flow long enough to discharge all the water, let the well recharge and begin pumping again until you have discharged the recommended amount of water.

After you have discharged the well, follow the protocol outlined in the UGA Extension Circular 858-4 for shock chlorination. Shock chlorination will only be effective if the source of contamination has been removed. Flush the well again in the same manner described earlier using an outdoor faucet. If you use an indoor faucet you run the risk of highly chlorinated water in the septic system killing the beneficial bacteria.

Finally test your water for Coliform bacteria and E. coli. The Extension Office has kits available for testing your water. Contact your local Extension Office for more information on Coliform testing or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.



Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
	Every Tuesday:	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Sharp UMC (Men)	7 pm
	Every Wednesday	
Alcoholics Anon.	Hiawassee UMC	Noon
	Every Thursday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Friday:	
Movers & Shakers	Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Sunday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	First Tuesday of each month:	
Alzheimer's Supp.	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
MRACG	Calvary Alliance	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	6 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
	First Wednesday of each month:	
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
	First Thursday of each month:	
Stephens Lodge	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
	Third Thursday of each month:	
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party	Civic Center	5:30 pm
	Third Saturday of each month:	
Goldwing Riders	Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
	Fourth Monday of each month:	
Red Cross DAT	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
	Fourth Tuesday of each month:	
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
	Fourth Thursday	
Hiaw. Writers	Hiaw. Pk. Comm. Rm.	10:30
Hiaw. Garden Club	Clubhouse	12:45 pm
	Last Thursday of each month:	
Humane Shelter Bd.	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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