

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Our Supreme Commander is Calling

Our Creator is calling those of our Greatest Generation to come home at a fast pace. Those of us who have been Blessed to know many of them and be mentored by them are truly Blessed as Americans. Amongst those wonderful very special Americans is Shirley Sonnenfeld who also served as a Petty Officer, USN in WWII. As I type this short tribute to her long life of over 100 years, she is very weak, ill and expected to go with God any moment now so pray for her and her family and some wonderful family friends like Joyce Johnson, as you read this reminder of one fun wonderful lady who truly represents our Greatest Generation. She achieved the "dollar mark" this past September.

The Veterans' Corner
 Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



America couldn't have existed without so many who wanted to serve, especially our ladies. Another wonderful WWII vet, a patriotic lady who enlisted in the US Navy because she simply "wanted to serve America". Shirley Sonnenfeld has shared her story with all of us. Well worth repeating! Born September 12, 1922 in Bethlehem, PA.

After High School at Liberty High, Shirley completed a two year secretarial course at Temple University, spent time working at Bethlehem Steel Company. In Shirley's own words she "didn't want for anything" as a child, her family furniture business was adequate for family needs.

However she was committed to serve our WWII effort and enlisted in the Navy. She went to basic training at Hunter college campus and then on to Advanced training in Ames, IA. Serving as a Yeoman with Bureau of Naval Personnel near Arlington, VA, and via hard work and study Shirley advanced from E-3, E-4, E-5, to E-6 PO1 Yeoman. She happily and proudly served America from 1943-1946. Simultaneously, Shirley's husband to be was serving in the US Army in Europe, as an engineer.

As Shirley fondly put it, "he was building bridges and blowing up bridges". Martin "Marty" Sonnenfeld worked his way up through the ranks from private to lieutenant, enjoying his time with escapades as snow skiing, lieutenancy from the US Army. He was extremely athletic. Marty was to see the horrors of WAR when he, as a part of Allied forces went in and freed the remaining victims of the Polish death camps. After military life Shirley met Marty at the bus stop, back home in Pennsylvania, and in August of 1946 they married. Soon they were "raising kids" and pursuing Marty's yearning for education, he teaching and Shirley as the school secretary. Marty also designed and built a school and "special education" program for kids who otherwise may have been considered non-productive, focusing on their natural abilities and aptitudes, refining these skills into such activities as building fine and sturdy furniture.

After retiring in the 1980s they moved to Sarasota, FL and for 25 years Shirley once again volunteered, full time, serving the Veterans' Administration, the city hospital for seniors, and the Jewish Synagogue. Due to Marty's health problems and with assistance of one of their wonderful daughters, who was a Registered Nurse already living here, they moved here to Towns County in 2008. Marty passed in February 2014.

Their family is quite a large, happy, and beautiful example of Americana with Shirley and her three daughters, Nancy, Sandra, and Anita, their grandchildren, and great grandchildren. The plethora of framed family photographs and family artwork Shirley maintains is beautiful, and tells the story of America's veterans and their love of country and family, without which our nation would flounder and fail. Shirley says she'd gladly enlist again.

May I add that for her 100th birthday celebration there was a line of Veterans who one at a time danced with Shirley, I was Blessed to be among them. We will never forget you, Shirley. Rest with God when you leave us., we will miss you!

Thank you, Shirley! Semper Paratus

Letters To The Editor

Overdosing

Dear Editor,

A lot of folks think it's okay to overdose on medications, alcohol, food, but it is not wise according to God's word. Be careful what you indulge in, for it can be harmful to your health.

Even sports, television, the computer, iPad and cell-phones can clamor for our attention in a tech-savvy environment and draw our thinking away from what really is important in this life.

The voice of God is calling sinners to Himself to come and believe upon His Name and be saved. No, there isn't anything wrong with all the technology as long as it doesn't consume you day and night. They can become a god to us.

I do confess that I overdose on God's word, which is healthy to the soul, because it's the only truth of how we are to live in this crazy mixed-up world of sin, and I pray many times for a revival to break out among our young men and women across this nation. I see a glimpse of it happening in our country in different states, and my prayer continues that God's Spirit of truth will pour out His Spirit throughout America like wildfire and many will receive the free gift of salvation that God offers.

The good news of the bible is you can never overdose on it, for it has a way of drawing you like a magnet to steel and will hold you spell-bound in the joy of the Lord forever. When you read God's Holy Word, it is the antidote that can cure a sinful heart and make it new if only you believe in the power of God's healing word.

The bible gives us the wisdom, discernment and knowledge of how to live a good and healthy life in Christ. Once you sink your teeth into the bread of life, you are tasting the recipe that can save a sinner by God's grace.

I want to stop and thank the many people who have spoken up on God's behalf by sharing your opinions of how we are to conduct ourselves in a godly manner that pleases God. Sharing the love of Christ never gets old, for His mercies, grace and love are new each morning we awake to a new day that the Lord has made and rejoice in His goodness.

Frank F. Combs

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Price Check on Register 9

We'll be brief this week as travel is imminent, and we take extra time when it's raining. The pups always know when they're about to be left behind. They read the signs, know the clothes for business and the outfits we wear for puppy-related business, and so my too-big-to-be-a-lap dog is competing for space with my laptop this morning.

It's remarkable how many systems, how many individual parts and pieces have to work reliably for travel to be successful, not to mention the condition of the road, the proper functioning of traffic signalling systems, and last but not least, the minimum level of competence, awareness, and cooperation from other drivers. If any one part ceases to function properly you can find yourself stranded, or worse.

You might say that a minimum level of quality is also required for all of this to work, and quality, or indeed the lack thereof, is the inspiration for this morning's discussion.

The other day I was ready to start on a project at home. Tools were gathered, workspace arranged, materials assembled. Time was a factor, and an essential safety element to the successful completion of the work was the pair of chemical gloves I had just purchased. I removed them from the shopping bag and noticed straightaway the eye-catching label with a lot of information no one would ever read - stapled to the gloves designed to prevent chemicals from contacting the skin.

I carefully removed the staples and the label. When I pulled the first glove on, it tore precisely where the staples had been, creating a glove that protected my hand but not my arm.

I immediately thought of the expensive rain gear which I recently returned to the store because the collar had been punctured to attach the label, precisely where water would leak onto the back of my neck. The replacement was returned for a refund because it also had been pierced in exactly the same manner.

Irritation can be like ripples on a pond, and my thoughts meandered to the grocery store apples stuck with labels that tear the peel as you remove them. Of course we don't eat the peel unless we grow it. Industrial agriculture has given new meaning to the phrase, "chemical peel." But we don't feed plastic labels to our chickens or put them into compost, and an apple with a hole in the side doesn't keep long.

Annoyance had the bit in its teeth as my mind raced ahead to the logical conclusion of this obsessive need to label everything so that every nanometer and every milligram can be monetized. "Price check on Register 9! I'm sorry sir, but one of the grapes in this bunch is missing a barcode."

Human nature remains constant, but different civilizations, even different eras within the life of a civilization are marked by shifting values. Quality has always been available to those who could afford it, but the vintage tools hanging on my shop wall tell me that quality was generally more widespread, and therefore more highly valued by the producers of the things we buy.

Perhaps as consumers we also value it less than previous generations, preferring the instant gratification of our wants to the more onerous path of sacrificing short-term desires for long-term goals. It's also probably true that fewer of us can afford quality, and after generations of cheap consumer goods, fewer even recognize it.

Yet we are still quite capable of achieving quality. One would never expect the engine in a 1967 Chevy to last 100,000 miles, but virtually every car produced today will surpass that. And as some economist-apologists are keen to remind us, flat screen televisions have never been more affordable. But when we do achieve quality, a flexible pair of chemical gloves, a reliable rain jacket, or even a picture-perfect apple, and then punch a hole in it to advance the primary goal of profit, it's difficult to claim that our civilization is progressing.

Outside The Box

By: Don Perry
worldoutsidethebox.com

Raised Beds

Last week I talked about the different materials that can be used to construct a raised bed. This week I want to talk about what we put in the raised beds. There are many different options out there, some are better than others are, and some are cheaper than others are. So let's talk through some options for soil in your raised garden bed.

UGA extension
 Watching and Working
 Jacob Williams



Before filling up your raised garden bed figure out how many cubic feet of soil you will need. This is a simple calculation of multiplying length by width by height. Let's use the dimensions 8 feet X 4 feet X 10 inches. In this case, we would multiply 8x4x0.833 because 10 inches is 0.833 feet. The answer is 26.66 cubic feet. If we

wanted to convert cubic feet to a cubic yard, we would divide our cubic feet by 27. This means that we have close to one cubic yard of volume.

Now that we have the math out of the way and know how much material we need let's talk about what materials can be used. Obviously, you can use top soil to fill the raised bed. If you have extra top soil nearby this might make sense for you. Otherwise, I don't think that it's a great option. Top soil is not regulated in terms of what is in it. So you might have many chunks of bark that haven't started decomposing. If you don't know the source of top soil, it could also contain weed seeds that will grow and compete with your plants.

Another option would be to go to the store and buy bags of soil that are made for raised beds. This would give you quality soil in the beds. The flip side is that you're going to spend a lot of money doing it. You could easily spend \$\$\$ for soil using the dimensions I talked about earlier. If the money is not a problem, this is a quick and easy solution.

Compost is a great way to fill your raised beds. However, beds shouldn't be 100% compost, they need some soil in their too. Compost that has completely composted will provide many nutrients to the soil. If you have your own compost you can use that, or you can buy compost in bulk. Some companies will deliver or if you have a pickup truck, you can use that. You can also buy compost in bags. A product like Black Kow is an example. Buying bags will be more expensive. One drawback to using compost is that the pH will most likely be high. This can lead to some nutrient shortages. Another thing to keep in mind with compost is that it will continue to decompose. This means that the amount you have will decrease and more will need to be added periodically.

The lasagna method is a popular way to fill raised beds. You alternate layers of brown and green material. Brown material is dry leaves, shredded newspaper, peat, and pine needles. Green materials are vegetable scraps, garden trimmings, and grass clippings. The green materials contain nitrogen and the brown materials contain carbon. Make the brown layers twice as thick as the green layers and it will compost down into a good material into which you can plant.

If you have beds that are very deep another option is the put branches in the bottom to fill up space. The branches will break down over time, giving you good material in which to grow.

If you have questions about filling your raised bed contact your County Extension Office or email me at jacob.williams@uga.edu.

National Debt

Despite the fact that the government is raking in the most tax revenue in U.S. history, federal spending is rising even faster and debt is quickly climbing out of control. In other words, the federal government is living well beyond its means. The unfortunate reality of this untenable cycle is that future generations will face higher taxes, towering debt, and less opportunity.

A recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report solidifies just how dire the national debt situation really is - sounding the alarm for Washington to swiftly act before it's too late. According to the non-partisan CBO, deficits are expected to average \$2 trillion per year for the next decade. In fact, projections reveal the federal deficit will exceed 5% of U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) every year for the next 30 years. Alarmingly, there have never been more than five successive years of deficits this high.

To make matters worse, our nation is expected to face the slowest population growth in American history through 2053, less than 4% per decade - which marks just half the growth of the previous low during the 1930s. Combined with diminished funding, this population growth projection raises serious concerns about support for insolvent programs.

As you likely know, our national debt is only expected to exacerbate. The CBO anticipates that our debt will reach a whopping \$154 trillion by 2053. Of course, this is if the country doesn't experience a financial collapse first. To put this number in perspective, this projection is equivalent to more than \$1 million per American household. Based on the CBO's analysis, this massive debt increase would require an average yearly debt ceiling increase of \$4 trillion.

Folks, this is simply unsustainable. Year after year, Washington's irresponsible budgeting has only worsened our egregious and growing debt. Yet the failed economic policies and runaway spending over the last two years under one-party Democrat rule have significantly intensified the grim economic outlook. In fact, legislation enacted since President Biden took office has increased spending projections by \$6 trillion over the next decade, while executive actions have boosted spending by more than \$1 trillion throughout the same timeframe.

Now more than ever, Congress must fight for fiscal sanity in Washington. We need to be sensible, reasonable, and responsible about our nation's finances in order to get our economy back on track for generations to come. Please know that as a new member of the House Appropriations Committee, I remain committed to reducing senseless spending and practicing fiscal restraint to reduce our ballooning debt and deficits.

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United States Congressman
 Representative Andrew Clyde



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	6 pm
	YH City Council... YH City Hall	7 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:	Commissioner's Mtg... Courthouse	5:30 pm
	City of Young Harris Planning Commission... Meeting Room in City Hall	5 pm
	Water Board... Water Office	6 pm

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