

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Irena Sendler, Plumber

I received the inspiring story via email recently, from a U.S. Army Vietnam combat Veteran, Frank Gibbs. Then lo and behold, in researching this extremely brave, wonderful example of a true heroine, I discovered that several other genuine freedom loving email pals had sent me this story of an amazing human being who refused to sit back, cow down, and NOT comply! We owe kudos to Uniontown HS students in Kansas for their play ("LIFE IN A JAR") recognizing and making public Irena Sendler as the true heroine she should have been celebrated for many years ago. These kids created their play for the 2000 Kansas State Natural History Day competition.



The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran

I would be remiss if I didn't mention their names: Elizabeth Cambers, Megan Stewart, Sabrina Coons and Janice Underwood and their obviously great teacher, Norman Conrad. As excerpted from several historical articles:

Irena Sendler died: May 12, 2008 (aged 98). In Warsaw, Poland during World War II, Irena got permission to work in the Warsaw ghetto as a Plumbing/Sewer specialist. Having an ulterior motive, Irena smuggled Jewish infants out in the bottom of the tool box she carried. She also carried a burlap sack in the back of her truck for larger kids. Irena kept a dog in the back that she trained to bark when the Nazi soldiers let her in and out of the ghetto. The soldiers, of course, wanted nothing to do with the dog, and the barking covered the kid's/infant's noises.

She managed to smuggle out and save 2500 kids and infants. Please read that again! 2,500 Jewish children's lives she alone saved!

The Nazis caught her and broke both of her legs and arms, beating her severely. However, Irena kept a record of the names of all the kids she had smuggled out in a glass jar that she buried under a tree in her back yard.

After the war, she tried to locate any parents who may have survived and tried to reunite the family. Most had been gassed. Those kids she helped got placed into foster family homes or adopted.

In 2007 Irena was up for the Nobel Peace Prize. She was not selected. Tragically Al Gore won, for a slide show on Global Warming.

Later another politician, Barack Obama, won for this work as a community organizer for ACORN. How doggone superficial and political the Peace Prize has become! How sad it is that such a heroic woman, who risked her life to save 2500 innocent children, was overlooked. That being said Irena, as a selfless Heroine, in lieu of being a self-serving politician, would be thrilled just to know how many people have heard her story and perhaps have been inspired by a calling greater than self.

Just as those Veterans amongst us understand that maybe! Just maybe those few who misunderstand the very core reason of our Armed Forces existence is to preserve Freedom and Liberty, so that others won't be forced to sacrifice in order to save mere children from evil forces. Note WWII, besides the blood, sacrifices, and giving of their lives of those who served in uniform; there were six million Jews, twenty million Russians, ten million Christians, and one thousand and nine hundred Catholics murdered and massacred by those who are inspired by evil to rule over all of us. Never forget!

Semper Paratus

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:

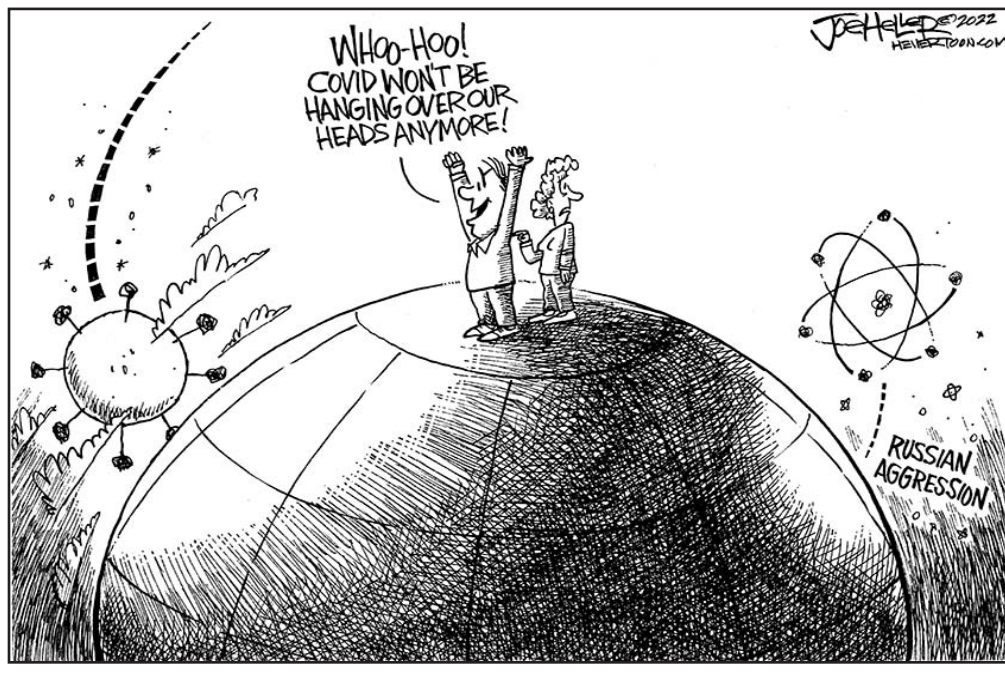
Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor
P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546
Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net

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 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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Letters to The Editor

Biden gaslighting on gas prices

Dear Editor,

Gas prices in the United States hit a new all-time high under President Biden's watch last week. Biden would have us believe that it's all Russia's fault. It's obvious that Biden's policies, not just the Russians, are to blame for rising prices at the pump. The week before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the average price of regular gas was \$3.53 per gallon, compared with \$2.38 the week Biden took office.

We all know that the pain at the pump has been planned by the Biden administration for some time. Biden wants higher gas prices to force us from being able to drive where we want and when we want. It's all a part of the new green deal agenda, which panders to the radical environmentalists on the far left. His actions have backed that agenda up. Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline and suspended new drillings on federal lands in an effort to move us away from the energy independence established under President Trump. Biden has made clear his plan for Americans to get rid of gas-driven cars and buy electric vehicles.

And those who speak on behalf of the administration have echoed Biden's plans. Just recently, Jen Psaki, Biden's Press Secretary, reminded us that it's a good time for "reducing our dependence on fossil fuels." Pete Buttigieg, Transportation Secretary, says "you don't have to worry about gas prices if you buy an electric vehicle." By the way, the average cost of an electric vehicle is \$56,437. The median household income in Georgia in 2021 was \$58,700. Now how out of touch does that sound!

Tim Groza

Facts about the real reason for our gasoline prices

Dear Editor,

In the race to politically exploit the high cost of gas, Republicans are banking on voters not caring that they're lying through their teeth about how much of this is Biden's fault. The president does not, as they would have you believe, have a dial in the Oval Office that he uses to set gas prices. Meanwhile, suggested fixes the GOP has offered up would do nothing to shrink Americans' costs, which suits them just fine for now. Vox's Rebecca Leber put together a great roundup.

As Leber noted, oil companies are the ones who won't be ramping up production anytime soon. The industry is still trying to recover its losses from during the pandemic, when demand for oil cratered and prices briefly plunged to negative levels. Likewise, while the number of active in the U.S. continues to rise after that 2020 crash, oil companies, like most other industries, are struggling to hire workers and procure equipment amid the ongoing supply chain backlog.

Crude oil was trading around \$126 per barrel. As for some of the steps that Republicans are suggesting Biden take to lower prices, none would have much short-term impact. But all of them just happen to fit within the same set of energy policies the GOP is constantly pushing. Even if the Biden administration were to announce today that it would subsidize every new oil well in America, it's not like sticking a straw into a milkshake. The time that elapses between initial drilling to a completed well that can deliver hydrocarbons can span from a few months to a few years. Tuesday, 58 percent higher than the roughly \$80 per barrel it was at before Russia's aggression against Ukraine roiled the market. That price, which makes up over half the total cost per gallon of gas, is based on global demand — something Biden has even less control over than how much your local Exxon station charges.

But is there anything to the idea that Biden's policies so far have blocked the U.S. from producing and importing even more oil? Well, not really. The death of the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada is a favorite talking point for Republicans, but that pipeline wasn't even scheduled to be operational until next year, which would have no impact on today's gas prices. Likewise, Biden's pause on licensing new federal lands for drilling, which was overturned in court, didn't stop those licenses already issued from being used; there are also 9,000 approved permits that haven't been used yet.

That's perfectly fine for the GOP, whose members now get to have their cake and eat it too.. Biden has done just what Republicans who wanted to look tough on Russia wanted. As a token of their appreciation, they'll spend the coming weeks and months working to convince Americans that it's Biden — and not Russian President Vladimir Putin — who's draining their wallets at the gas pump. Again, I am not backing Biden about ANYTHING. He is poor president, while Trump was the worst we ever had. I am neither a democrat, nor a republican. I write here occasionally to post facts about issues since so many here post lies and conspiracy theories from FOX "NEWS".

Jim Grazis

Raised Beds

This week I would like to talk about raised beds. There are many different ways to make raised beds. So I'll go through different types of materials that you can use and some basic principles to use when building your raised beds.

I'll also talk about situations where I like raised beds over growing in the soil and vice versa.

Raised beds are a great tool to use if you have don't have a lot of sunlight in your yard. Plants grown in raised beds will still need full sun, but if you only have a small area of your yard that has full sun, a raised bed is a good way to maximize that spot.

If you have slopes that are too steep to plant, leveling out a small area and putting in a raised bed in that spot is another good idea.

Oftentimes, the best soil in Towns and Union is found in river bottoms. If you don't have the good fortune of putting your garden in one of those places, growing in raised beds will also be much easier than fighting with heavy clay soils.

Raised beds are also going to have fewer weed issues, and less soil compaction.

You can build elevated raised beds to that you don't need to do as much bending down.

Dimensions of a raised bed depend on the materials that you are using. Generally, I like raised beds that aren't more than 4 feet across.

If you have really long arms you can make them wider. I also like beds that are about 8 feet long. If you make long beds, it's just more difficult to walk around them, especially if you've put a bunch of raised beds next to each other. 10 inches height will be enough depth for most vegetables. Potatoes will need more depth.

The deeper you make the raised bed the more material you will need to fill it. Soil to fill raised beds costs money, so don't make them needlessly deep. If you have tall crops planted in your raised beds they can shade out other crops, so orient them in a north-south direction. You want the raised bed to be completely level. To do this you may need to dig out the place where you're putting it.

Let's move on to materials that you can use. There are several different types of lumber.

Cedar is very good, because it does not rot quickly. However, it is very expensive. Cypress is often easier to get than cedar. Oak and other hardwoods can be difficult to find in sufficient quantities, and are only a little more rot resistant than pine.

Pine is the most readily available and cheapest lumber. It will rot, but I've seen where you can get several years of use out of pine. An alternative to lumber is cement blocks, brick, concrete, or stone. If you are going to build the wall high, you would need some mortar to keep the walls from falling.

The research that is available says that pressure treated wood is safe to use for food production. Arsenic is no longer used to pressure treat wood, and has not been used since 2005. Wood treated with creosote should not be used. Railroad ties and utility poles are treated with creosote.

If you have questions about building your own raised beds contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Difficult Times

On my morning commute in to work, I notice varying gas prices increasing by a couple cents here and a couple cents there.

Some higher than others but all categorized as outrageously priced. It's disheartening to say the least. Our way of life forced to be reimagined as we anxiously look for alternatives and work at our employment, now to pay for the gas that gets us to our employment. A tireless cycle with nothing to gain.

It's hard to ignore the growing rate of gas prices over the past few weeks in our nation. It has managed to cause panic across the country, affecting our travel, our choices in purchasing items, our overall finances etc. It has sent us into a panic and it's not hard to tell why.

During these difficult times, my family and I find ourselves looking to alternative solutions to our daily routine to save money.

Growing our own garden for example, not only helps the environment but provides us with vegetables and fruits to utilize as prices increase.

Habitat for Humanity of Towns Union Counties ReStore encourages recycling, and repurposing items not only to help our environment but to save on costs during this difficult time.

Habitat receives gently used items every day to resell and help our cause of making sure everyone in our community is living in a safe and affordable environment.

The term "shop local" has never been more imperative than it is right now. It is your local shops that need your support the most. Shop at the businesses that give back to the community in valuable ways.

The ReStore is for anyone in our community looking to shop gently used furniture, décor, electronics, tools etc. We have different sales everyday and always work to accommodate our customers needs as best we can.

During this nation-wide financial pinch, shop at the Habitat ReStore.

Shopping at Habitat is an easy way to save money instead of buying brand new items that are overpriced in this current climate of economic uncertainty.

We are a dependable store dedicated to filling the needs of our customers any way we can.

We are still first and foremost a community, and we must remember to look to our neighbors in need, as we brace ourselves for the continued economic crisis and encounters with other countries.

Thank you to our loyal customers that shop the Habitat ReStore, our volunteers that give of themselves and their time freely to help our store, and projects reach success, and to our employees who work hard to keep Habitat for Humanity running efficiently.



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