

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Biden's Border Catastrophe

As President Biden's self-inflicted border crisis continues to spiral into chaos, the White House wants you to believe the situation has drastically improved. In fact, Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre recently touted that illegal migration is down a staggering 90%.



United States Congressman
Representative Andrew Clyde

You and I both know this is a bald-faced lie. While the White House quickly claimed these comments were made in regard to the Administration's deceptive parole program, no one wants to admit just how disastrous the southern border is due to President Biden's failed leadership and radical policies. Under his watch, there have been more than 1.5 million illegal alien encounters and over 1.3 million known gotaways at the southern border. In March alone, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) faced nearly 191,900 illegal alien crossings — marking almost a 24% increase from February. Alarming, this crisis expands far beyond the southwest region. Concerns continue to rise with illegal migration at the northern border, as CBP encountered more than 15,700 illegal crossings in March — more than a 100% increase compared to March of last year.

President Biden's open borders also continue to embolden bad actors. So far this Fiscal Year, CBP has seized over 14,000 pounds of fentanyl — enough to kill more than 3.1 billion people. Unfortunately, cartels still manage to smuggle this deadly drug, which is largely manufactured in China, into our communities. Additionally, Biden's weak border policies have encouraged dangerous individuals to illegally enter the country. In just the first six months of Fiscal Year 2023, 80 suspected terrorists were apprehended attempting to cross the border, including 11 in March alone.

The harsh reality is these startling statistics are only bound to get worse after the expiration of Title 42 last week. Successfully issued by President Trump in 2020, Title 42 allowed the immediate expulsion of illegal aliens in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at the southern border. Yet this beneficial measure ended on May 11th, removing a critical tool used to significantly curb the flow of illegal migration.

With Title 42 ended, the Biden Administration's border crisis will inevitably become a major catastrophe. In fact, Department of Homeland Security officials were warning as many as 700,000 migrants were waiting to cross the southern border when Title 42 ended on Thursday. 700,000! To put that number in perspective, that's more than 16 times the population of Gainesville, Georgia. President Biden is responsible for this imminent — and intentional — invasion.

Unsurprisingly, the Biden Administration has no plan to address this chaos. But House Republicans do.

On Thursday, House Republicans voted on a comprehensive package to secure the border and combat illegal migration. H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, forces the Biden Administration to resume construction of President Trump's border wall, deploys vital technology to both the southern and northern borders, increases the number of Border Patrol agents, and requires transparency regarding illegal alien crossings from the Department of Homeland Security. Additionally, H.R. 2 strengthens current law to protect unaccompanied minors from human trafficking, ends catch and release, and eliminates the abuse of executive immigration authority.

In our Commitment to America, we promised to deliver a nation that's safe by tackling the border crisis. And last week, we did just that.

Letters To The Editor

Clyde Misleads Us Again

Dear Editor,

I won't go into any partisan divide here. In response to Rep. Andrew Clyde's avid response of the Republican "Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023," I will simply point out some glaring facts that the GOP does NOT want us to notice in it.

FACT 1: The bill proposes all federal spending EXCEPT FOR DEFENSE be reduced to and frozen at 2022 levels.

FACT 2: That spending freeze results in a 22 PERCENT FUNDING CUT to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

FACT 3: That spending freeze results in a 22 PERCENT CUT to Social Security payments.

FACT 4: You must work or perform 80 hours of qualified, verified community service every month in order to continue receiving Medicaid.

FACT 5: It repeals 247 individual tax credits - not corporate tax credits - that farmers, food production, alternative fuel vehicle drivers, and alternative energy consumers currently receive.

This isn't deceptive, political doublespeak. It's not my "interpretation" of the bill. These are verbatim facts directly from the proposal. But PLEASE don't take my word for it. Read it for yourself in the actual text of H.R. 2811 - Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023: <https://rules.house.gov/bill/118/hr-2811>.

Don't let Rep. Clyde fool you or mislead you.

I wouldn't dare tell you what political decisions you should make. But, since your decisions affect me and mine, I will tell you to at least make INFORMED decisions.

Thank you,
Gary St. Lawrence

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 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.

A PRAYER FOR THE U.S. ECONOMY



Hay Testing

Hay testing is an important part of any livestock management program. If you feed hay, it's important to know the quality of the hay. Without performing a hay test, you don't know the quality of the hay.

Feeding hay that is poor quality can lead to an impaction in the animal's stomach. Essentially, what happens is that the hay fed to cattle has a lot of fiber in it. Lots of fiber in hay without nutrition means that the cattle can't properly digest the forage. Cattle will eat enough forage to be full, but all that indigestible forage creates an impaction in their rumen. The effects of cattle eating low quality hay and getting an impaction can range from calving issues, to diarrhea, to weight loss, and even death.

When cattle start to die because of poor quality hay, usually you will have at least a few cattle go down. Forage quality issues can be made worse if they are combined with supplements that stimulate forage intake, because then cattle are eating more of the low quality hay. The best treatment for low quality forage is to know ahead of time about the quality of your hay. The only way that you can do that is through hay testing.

Body Condition Scoring (BCS...not referring to college football) also shows how important hay quality is. BCS is an index that measures the health of the animal based on how fleshy or boney the animal is. The scale ranges from 1-9. A one is a severely emaciated cow. Bones in the shoulders, back, and ribs are clearly visible. A BCS of one is rarely seen in the field. A BCS of nine is a very obese animal and its mobility is impaired by excessive fat. This score is also rarely seen in the field. In cows, you ideally want a BCS of five to be maintained for calving. If BCS drops to a four then your calving interval will increase. Typically a BCS of five will give you conception rates of >85% and calving every 360-370 days. A BCS of four or lower means calving will be >380 days. Cows will require high quality forage for about 70 days to go from a BCS of 4 to 5.

We have three main tests for hay. The basic one costs \$15 and will tell the moisture, fiber, crude protein, lignin, total digestible nutrients, and give you a relative forage quality (RFQ). The RFQ is an index that will give you a number to give you a reference on the quality of your hay. Dry cows do not need as high of an RFQ compared to gestating cows, or cows with a calf that they are feeding. Above the basic test is a \$20 test that is the basic test + nitrates. Above that is a \$40 test that is basic + nitrates + minerals.

A single hay test can cover an entire hay lot. A hay lot would be all the hay from a particular field at the same cutting. I have a hay probe in my office and I would be happy to come out and collect the hay sample for you. Once we've processed a hay sample, I can help you come up with a balanced ration to get you through the hay feeding months. If you think you have some good quality hay let me know, and we can submit a sample to the Southeastern Hay Contest.

Quality forage when grass isn't growing is a big part of any livestock operation, no matter how big or small. If you have questions about hay testing contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

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	6 pm
YH City Council... YH City Hall	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: 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

All Creatures

We love animal stories. Whether we consider ourselves animal lovers or not, and even if we have never gazed into the soulful eyes of a loyal canine, cuddled with a cat or been honored by the love of a good horse, most of us have a soft spot when it comes to our furry friends.

Outside The Box

By: Don Perry
worldoutsidethebox.com

You can post a hundred intelligent and thoughtful articles on social media and the response is as quiet as the Bud Lite concession at a baseball game. Post a picture of a cat and the response is immediate and sustained. We love our pets in part because they have that "awwwwww" factor. There is something about their innocence and unconditional love that touches our hearts, especially if our lives are lacking in those qualities.

An innate tendency of human nature is to assign human characteristics to non-human creatures, but no matter what the experts say, those of us who know, know — that our pets truly love us. It doesn't matter that your cat daydreams about whether you might be good to eat if she were big enough to hunt you; she might still be one of those you read about that would walk 100 miles to find you if she were lost.

The anecdotal evidence is overwhelming, like the dog that lays down his life to protect his owners or lays down by his owner's grave when he is left behind; the horse that rescues his owner from a wildfire, or the cat that attacks a burglar or wakes up the family in a fire. The stories add up.

Recently my editor asked me if I was going to contrive once again to mention our chickens in my next article, and since it's been a while, I'm happy to oblige. I think I'm still fascinated that such often disagreeable creatures with a long list of unpleasant personal habits can still be so consistently amusing as to become endearing.

Bonnie Pointer is one of our favorite hens and she had been broody for weeks. When a hen is broody, she becomes almost comatose. She will often stop eating and drinking completely until the eggs hatch, and after a long period on the nest, I became concerned for Bonnie's health. When I finally took her off the nest, I discovered that she had been trying for almost 3 weeks to hatch a wooden egg.

I thought the spell was broken as she joined the other birds, drank water, and ate voraciously. But after a few short hours she was back on the nest sitting on the most recently laid eggs. There was no way she could survive another 21 days waiting for eggs to hatch, so I decided to intervene.

A friend in the hatchery business provided us with 4 baby chicks. In the middle of the night, I crept into the henhouse with my red headlamp and crooned to the sleeping flock while removing the eggs from under Bonnie and replacing them with the chicks.

It was touch and go. As they moved underneath her, Bonnie was annoyed and began to peck at the intruders. Just as I was about to abort the operation, one of the chicks made a soft trilling sound. Bonnie immediately settled down, charmed by the little piper under her wings. Some wonder of God's creation programmed into the little bird's instincts saved their lives. She gathered all the babies together under the warmth of her wings and they settled down for the night.

The next morning, they were all hers and she was theirs. The mother and her chicks were the first to emerge from the henhouse, followed closely by the proud rooster who announced his new wards to the world and guarded them from the trampling feet of the other hens. The baby chicks are all healthy now and growing fast.

While most of us would cuddle with a kitten or play with a puppy, the wings of our tenderheartedness don't often extend to enfold the other genera. Some few might cuddle with a snake or a spider, but quite honestly, I don't remember a single such person at our last barbecue, and the only frog kisses I've seen were in fairytales.

Yet all creatures great and small deserve respect if not affection. The wolf spider that strays indoors at our house gets safe passage back outside. Black snakes are encouraged and sheltered; they are our best partners in controlling rodents and copperheads. Tracey has a toad friend she regularly rescues from behind the planter where he hides from the enthusiastic feet of the dogs.

A hive of honeybees is difficult to cuddle, but worthy of both respect and affection. They recognize individuals. They can detect fear or anxiety via body language and pheromones. They put food on the table by pollinating the crops essential to our food supply. When I tap on a hive and speak to the bees, the tone of the hive changes because they know it's me.

We have a respect for black hornets at our house that doesn't quite border on affection, but it does head in that direction. I have no affection at all for flies, and hornets hunt them incessantly. Hornets, like the bikers I knew in my more adventurous days, have a highly refined sense of justice. Don't bother them and they won't bother you. It's not uncommon at the end of the year after the leaves fall to find a previously unobserved hornet's nest so close to your daily activities that you wonder why you weren't stung.

One year a hornet queen made the unfortunate choice to build her nest in a grape vine near one of Tracey's prize pumpkins. The nest encapsulated the vine, preventing the removal of the hornets without damaging the grape. I didn't want to kill the beneficial insects, so I devised a way to encourage them to move that I thought was exceptionally clever. I piped a stream of water from the creek which I arranged to spray directly on the nest and waited for the hornets to abandon ship.

They were cleverer than I. Instead of moving out, they endured the soaking to build a thick awning over the nest which sheltered their entrance. I relented. Nothing bothered those pumpkins that year.

Yesterday I collected another hornet story when Tracey found a startup nest on the soffit at the corner of our house. When a queen emerges from hibernation in the spring, she will build a small nest about the size of a golf ball, lay a few eggs and hatch the workers that will help her continue to build the hive. If you remove that golf ball before it grows into an apartment complex, the queen will relocate and produce another generation of fly killers.

A jet of water from Tracey's garden hose dislodged the small nest, but not before the queen had exited. Unfortunately, she flew right into a spider web and became entangled. In a panic to free herself, she flew frantically against the web as the spider approached, becoming even more entangled.

Determined to rescue her I found a long handle and raised it near the web, breaking some of the imprisoning strands and allowing the queen to attach herself to the end of the handle. Slowly lowering the handle and its passenger, I brought it to rest on the ground, and sat with her for a while.

Having observed for years that hornets, like honeybees, recognize individuals and behavior patterns, I wanted the queen to know her rescuer. At only an arm's length away she watched me as she calmly removed the sticky strands of web from her royal personage. When she had properly cleaned herself, she flew away peacefully.

"That's great," said Tracey, "that she learned to recognize her rescuer, as long as she doesn't remember that I was the one with the hose!"

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