

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

D-DAY

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



Now and forever we are indebted to our Greatest Generation. This issue of our Towns County Herald is June 1, 2022. We need to honor D-Day this June 6. We all NEED to remember, honor and never forget that our Greatest Generation through hard work, sacrifice, blood and their supreme sacrifices for something far and away greater than "self" created events that saved the world from tyranny. WWII from 1939-1945 culminated in Western Europe with its liberation from the Socialist/fascist NAZI terror on June 6, 1944. Code named Operation Overlord, D-Day began when over 156,000 Allied forces consisting of Americans, British, and Canadian Forces assaulted five beaches along the heavily NAZI fortified 50 mile stretch on the coast of Normandy, France. There were over 5000 ships involved and every branch of our military services. Often overlooked are the pilots and crew of the 11,000 aircraft involved. This invasion by scared, terrified, but brave men willing to die to save that which is RIGHT, were the spearhead of the largest amphibious military assault in mankind's history. Well over 4,000 Allies died in that quest for saving a free world. Can you imagine the planning and coordination required by those leaders in this critical and very risky attempt to save civilization from the madness of NAZI tyranny? This was called the beginning of the end of WWII and the Battle of Normandy as recorded lasted from June through August 1944. It wasn't until spring of 1945 that our Allied forces finally defeated the Germans. Please remember and research the history of our heroes at beaches, "Gold", "Juno", "Sword", "Utah", and "Omaha". We most certainly do live in the most honorable shadow of our Greatest Generation, without whom we would not exist!

Some readers and even young folks who do not know of these events which have maintained their freedoms, liberties and opportunities might ask, why do we even know or want to read about some battle that was going on almost 80 years ago? The best answer that I can give, with humility as my foundation, is so that we may continually honor our history, know even a tad of our history and today love and honor those who serve in our armed forces, who would do these Honorable deeds all over again if politicians "mess up" (again) and lead us into another catastrophic war. Our Honorable Veterans who are amongst us today have been there and know why we need to be mindfully awake (NOT WOKE!) and aware of military history, all the good, bad and even ugly so as to prevent nonoccurrence of the latter two. We need to know history so that hopefully and prayerfully we will not repeat the mistakes of the past. In spite of other claims, our Veterans and men and women serving Honorably in our armed forces are the last Americans who want war.

- Semper Paratus

Letters To The Editor

Society of Mass Death

Dear Editor,

Why are so many people surprised, or aghast by mass murderers in America? If citizens of the U.S. were conscious, they would know that the greatest purveyor of weapons of war and therefore of death and destruction worldwide, is the American Empire. That is, violence by U.S. imperialism and militarism since World War II. Talking heads in the media respond by keeping massacre victims in their "thoughts and prayers," as if prayer has any effect on preventing a culture of death.

The U.S. is one of the most brutal death-dealing national political economies on earth, whereby healthcare is denied millions because they can't afford it and whole generations are sent off to kill and maim in wars of aggression based on lies against sovereign nations across the globe.

Historically, the nation is founded on murdering Native Americans and enslaving millions of Afro-Americans, 20% of whom died in the Atlantic crossing before landing on stolen lands at gunpoint in a great genocidal removal from lands stolen by racist, violent force. Today, many of the minority descendants are subjected to prison and convict labor. Meanwhile, the violence of homelessness and poverty goes unabated in the world's richest country. Today, police-state actors murder many citizens over traffic violations and other alleged misdemeanors.

Pro-life Senator Ted Cruz blames the deaths in the Uvalde, Texas, massacre on an "unlocked door." The doors to America's insanity are obviously wide open, and the deranged leaders' solutions are open carry for assault weapons of war and cuts to mental health. America is a sick and twisted society whereby children suffer mass death.

Lance Jobson

Horse Sense...

Dear Editor,

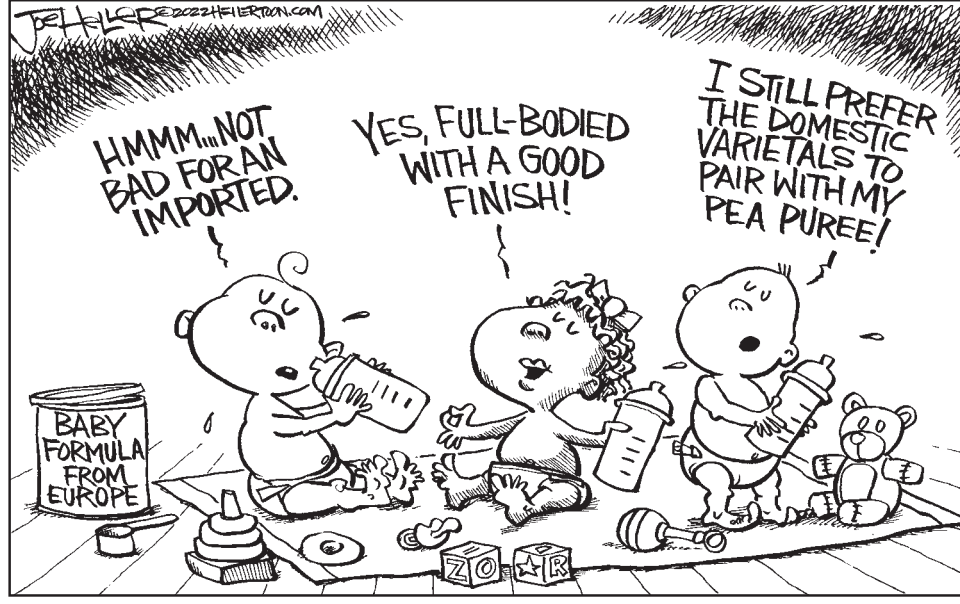
Is what we called "Common Sense" when I was growing up. Loyal horses will protect their riders and know what is best for the "Common Good."

Sixty years ago this coming fall, I received my gun safety course sponsored by the National Rifle Association. The course taught us how to hunt safely. It also demonstrated how to take care of our gun in cleaning and handling. I was not allowed to hunt unless I took the Gun Safety Course. The course also taught us hunting laws and the consequences if we broke them. One law, in particular, stated that to protect waterfowl population, one could only have three shells in the gun regardless of how many shells the gun held. Since my gun held six shells, I had to put a plug in the gun magazine so I wouldn't accidentally break the law. For 60 years following that Gun Safety Course, I have safely hunted every year with my gun to shoot wild game to fill the freezer while enjoying the land where I grew up. During that time I have never felt my right to carry a gun for hunting or protecting my family threatened.

It seems to me that "Horse Sense" would say that in order to protect our children, grandchildren and one another, we would at least be required to: 1) pass a background check, 2) attend a gun safety course, and 3) be limited in how many shells a gun can carry. If a law like that was passed to protect waterfowl, it's the least we can do to protect our children. The State of Connecticut, after passing such laws in 1995, saw a reduction of gun homicides by 40% while the State of Missouri, in repealing gun laws, saw the rate of gun homicides increase by 25%. Horse sense says to take notice and make a change.

I am writing my State and National representatives to craft legislation to accomplish the above and encourage you to do the same. If any representative does not advocate for "Common Sense" Gun Control, I am making clear that I will vote for a different Horse (figuratively or literally, whichever Horse responds first with "Common Sense"). It's beyond Time for Change.

Darrell Goltz



We're On Our Own

We're writing today during the Memorial Day weekend that will be a quickly fading memory by the time you read this. Official holidays don't mean much in our household anymore. It's not that the events they honor have lost their meaning; far from it. Rather, the events of the last few years have led us to a place where every single day is an opportunity to reflect, to honor those who have gone on before us, and to thank God for abundant blessings.

I submit to you that a daily dose of gratitude is a more fitting tribute to those who have died in the service of this country than an excess of barbecue and beer bracketed by traffic jams. Nevertheless, we are grateful for a few days off from work for the 6 out of 10 Americans who do still work. Anyone who does is likely to be overworked in this economy, trying to make ends meet and carrying an extra load for the 40% who, for one reason or another, consume without producing.

There is irony in a "memorial" day for a culture with memory hobbled by addiction to ping-pong. We struggle to remember the unprecedented world changing breaking news from three days ago, so it's unlikely that many will remember that we began discussing inflation here several years ago. There wasn't much interest in that discussion then, and we wondered, like Johnny Carson used to say, "Is this microphone on?"

We didn't notice inflation at the time. Like the old myth about boiling frogs, the water was only lukewarm. The cereal boxes were thinner, but they looked the same up front, and the price had only gone up a few pennies. We disregarded the extra air in the potato chip bags as "settling." Gas was less than half what it is now, and the stock market was booming.

Today the water is scalding hot, and the issue of inflation is currently at the top of the list in another election year. That, my friends, is what brings us to the table to write today, admittedly a bit frustrated, because there are no solutions to be found in the Coke versus Pepsi political choices we continue to make. As we prepare to do the same thing we've done over and over expecting different results, we wonder if the old definition of insanity applies.

To borrow from Jeff Foxworthy, if you're looking forward to the upcoming General Election as a means of solving some of the problems of this difficult economy, you might be insane. Just consider some of the recent suggestions by the haute monde for dealing with our problems. When people finally stopped believing that inflation was "transitory," MSNBC told us that inflation is a good thing. When inflation hit 20 year highs last Thanksgiving, the St. Louis Fed suggested we eat soy based Thanksgiving dinner instead of turkey, and it has twice the protein.

Bloomberg stepped in to help all the folks finding it hard to afford their pandemic pets with, "If you're one of the many Americans who became a new pet owner during the pandemic, you might want to rethink those costly pet medical needs."

As a solution to record high gas prices, Pete Buttigieg suggested we all just buy an electric car and "never have to worry about gas prices again." (The average price of an EV is \$55,000.)

As the cost of housing has gone through the roof, myriad stories have appeared promoting living in pods or moving back in with your parents as an "eco-friendly" solution.

The Guardian tells us that "if we want to save the planet, the future of food is insects." But the Economist warns, "We're not going to convince Europeans and Americans to go out in big numbers and start eating insects... The trick might be to slip them into the food chain on the quiet."

Bread...well, bugs and circuses. Bread might be too expensive but the circuses are abundant. Meanwhile, the amount of money conjured to be sent to Ukraine already exceeds the military budget of Russia for a year, and approaches the GDP of Ukraine. Unfortunately for anyone who likes to eat, the inflation conjured by the Fed is being magnified in the real world by the destruction of agriculture in Ukraine, which also happens to supply 12% of the calories consumed by the planet.

Yet somehow, and almost right on cue, so, so many of us will go to the polls in November to vote for or against gun control and abortion and the same divisive emotional issues we voted for and against in the last election. Politics will have pushed inflation, which affects everyone, into the background again to be replaced by the issues that affect partisans. Surely at some point between the recliner and the ballot box it is necessary to suspend all reason and disregard all memory in the persistent hope that somehow, just the right government will solve all our problems. Just as surely, we're in God's hands, but sadly, when it comes to government solutions, we're on our own.

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Watering Plants

As you may have noticed, we have had a mixture of dry and wet weather this year. All plants, but especially annuals (such as veggies) and freshly planted perennials, are affected by dry weather, because their root systems are not yet large enough to support the plant and do not yet efficiently collect water from surrounding soils. There is a fine balance to be observed when irrigating plants, though: Too much water will wash nutrients away from young roots and may cause rot, while too little or shallow watering will either allow the plant to dehydrate or bring the roots too close to the hot surface of the soil.

UGA extension
 UNKON COUNTY
Watching and Working
 Jacob Williams



In general, vegetable plants would rather have more thorough and less frequent watering. When the entire topsoil layer is saturated at least twice a week, the roots of a vegetable plant will tend to grow downward, towards the damper and cooler soil beneath them. Not only will the root system collect water more efficiently, it will also draw the roots away from the drier and hotter surface of the soil. This promotes a healthier plant growth pattern, reducing the need for external watering when there is a rain and lowering the chances of the root system being attacked by unwanted fungi.

In the case of other young transplants, such as fruit trees, bushes and shrubs, flowering perennials and other ornamental plants, the amount of water will usually vary due to the soil it was planted in, the size of the original root ball and plant and the type of plant being watered. For example, a young apple tree from a 3-gallon pot transplanted in clay-based soil will require less frequent watering than a group of raspberry starts in the same soil, due to the higher amount of water loss through the leaves (transpiration) in the raspberry starts. It is always best to check the sticker or plant tag that came with the plant for advice first, but as a general rule of thumb, water trees and ornamental shrubs enough to keep the soil 4 to 6" around the root ball (including below it) moist, but not soggy, every other day that it does not rain. Continue this until they are established. For starts such as blueberries, raspberry and blackberries, hydrangeas, and vining flowers and fruits (like clematis), water 4-6" around the root ball every day it does not rain until they are established in the soil.

Common sense applies in this process as well: if the soil around the plant is still about as moist as it should be at day 2, then hold off on watering until it begins to dry again. A good "quick-n-dirty" test for soil moisture is to grab a handful, squeeze it in your hand, and let go. Optimal moisture content is when most of the soil is still in a ball in your hand, but when you touch it, it begins to break apart again.

In vegetables, it usually takes until the first fruit is set and ripening on the plant for the roots to be fully developed. This typically (of course, depending on the kind of plant) takes anywhere between 3 and 6 weeks from the date of transplant. For trees and shrubs (and blue, black and raspberries, etc.) usually takes most of a growing season to accomplish. For example, if a blueberry bush were set out in early May, it would need this kind of watering until the end of August, and maybe longer depending on the timing of rain or heat.

If you have any questions about watering, how long or when to water, or any other concerns, please feel free to contact your County Extension Office.

Habitat for Humanity

As many of you may know, we recently had a groundbreaking ceremony for Brandy Snow's Habitat home build. Her new home is now underway, and we are so excited to see it all come together with the support of our community members involvement and with the expertise of Modern Mountain LLC builders.

"Brandy Snow was all smiles as the Habitat home build officially began," said Stephanie Low the ReStore Manager here at Habitat for Humanity. Charlotte Randall the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity and Philippe Freitag of Modern Mountain LLC, as a symbol of the work to be done at the home location, put their shovels into the dirt and literally broke ground on this project. The excitement was in the air as Habitat board members, and Habitat employees gathered for such a momentous occasion.

"The location of Brandy's new home is absolutely breathtaking, such a peaceful, serene location to call home," Stephanie Low described. The views were spectacular, and the need for this home is inspiring as we begin the process of a Habitat home for Brandy Snow and her family on this beautiful piece of land.

For many of us here at Habitat this is our first Habitat home build to witness and be apart of and we could not be more excited! We plan to keep our community updated as often as we can through the process of building a safe and affordable home for Brandy and her family.

If you are interested in helping Habitat for Humanity and Brandy Snow in the process of building this home, you can shop in our ReStore at 225 Wellborn Street Blairsville, which affects the success of Habitat in securing funds for home builds like Brandy's. In addition, if you are willing and able you can volunteer to help on the home build, call us at 706-745-7101 for more information. Lastly, we are always accepting donations, simply specify that your donation is for the Snow home build, and we will put your contributions directly to the costs.

Our community is a huge part of our success, so we thank you for being apart of what we do, here at Habitat for Humanity, by bringing about affordable, efficient, and safe housing for community members in need that are reliable and capable homeowners.

Editor's Note: Last week's Habitat Happenings was a re-run of an older column inadvertently misattributed to Madelyn Bailey.

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.

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