

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

American Legion Auxiliary Post #23

We have been gifted, once again here in Towns County via our American Legion family of VSOs, which not only provide services for our Veterans who have Honorably served America, as well as serving our local community. Which leads me to a recent interview I had with a great lady, Robin who heads our American Legion Post #23 Auxiliary and their annual College Scholarship Program for young ladies who have their eyes set on earning a college degree. It would be an oversight to fail to mention Robin's Legion educational committee volunteers, Jill Long and Sheryl Clemente ("Angel") and their contact at Towns County HS, Counselor, Ms. Dion Berrong who every year work tirelessly to try and assist willing young ladies in their pursuit of their American dreams. This year there are four recipients who will be able to go forward with advanced schooling of their choice with our ALA assistance program providing much needed help.

The first scholarship is an annual one at the top of the list as the Rita Smith Memorial funded college aid of \$1000.00, this year awarded to a very deserving young lady, Kayla Peacock, who will be attending the University of Alabama.

Next on Robin's list are scholarships based upon our ALA budget, which is strictly provided by donations and yearly funds earned by various drawings, games, donations, and raffles. These awards also go to very deserving students who wish to advance their chances at American Equal Opportunity to succeed and become productive Americans via advanced education. These funds typically are \$750.00 each and possibly may vary in numbers awarded by budget restraints. Please note that all community services and expenditures provided by our American Legion families of VSOs are voted either in or out by our memberships, thereof. Moving along this year the ALA presented three \$750.00 scholarships to Mia Lim who will enjoy attending Georgia State; Bazya Smith who will attend and learn more than she anticipated at Georgia Southern; and Rylie Livingston who will grace the University of Georgia with her presence. My God Bless these fine young ladies in their quests to better themselves.

Another wonderful program sponsored by our ALA is Girls' State an ongoing program for a different sort of continuing education on a very practical level. The cost per attendee is \$300.00 per young person, also absorbed by our Legion Auxiliary. Beginning June 12th this year this fairly short program this year goes to a young lady who shall remain anonymous until she returns and very hopefully give us a first person interview on her views of Girls' State, it's worth, and how it may've shaped her perspective on her plans for her future. She may even give us some personal pointers on any changes our American Legionaries might look into.

If you or someone you know may have an interest in becoming a member of our American Legion Auxiliary, all that is required is being a DIRECT descendant or married to a Veteran. Annual dues are only \$30.00, that being only a small stipend to pay for wonderful fellowship and helping America and our community. -Semper Paratus

Letters To The Editor

The Crippling of the American Economy

Dear Editor,

For the past 16 months, the American people have seen their purchasing power eroded from the cruellest tax of all: Inflation.

Practically all of the inflation occurring in our country today can be laid at the feet of the climate change zealots in Washington who are the unelected invisible bureaucrats pulling the strings attached to the current occupant of the White House. These policymakers who are over regulating our oil and gas industry, propping up inefficient so-called green energy, and deliberately constricting the supply of fossil fuels are directly responsible for high gas prices, jet fuel, propane, and heating oil costs.

Think about everything you purchase at the grocery store. Every product you buy was delivered by a truck, which of course runs on diesel. The increased shipping costs are passed directly along to you in everything you buy. But it gets worse. The cost of much of the food produced across America and elsewhere relies on the price of nitrogen fertilizers, which are in turn reliant on natural gas as a vital feedstock. In addition to food, many everyday products from paints and paper to cosmetics and cleaning compounds, to pharmaceuticals and clothing either contain or utilize carbon-based petrochemicals.

These climate change zealots are increasingly destroying your ability to feed your family, to travel, to heat and cool your home, and to enjoy many everyday activities you used to take for granted! This country is being degraded, and your individual liberties are being threatened by a bunch of young, incompetent, unelected policy wonks who couldn't make a buck in the real world, yet they are demanding you surrender your very way of life, all to solve a silly made-up crisis that was invented by the left as a means to change the very fabric of this country!

Kevin P. Cannon

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The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



"AFTER A SIX-WEEK MEDIA CIRCUS OF BITTER, BIZARRE TESTIMONY FROM TWO WEALTHY, SPOILED, ILL-BEHAVED MOVIE STARS, THE JURY IS SUIVING JOHNNY DEPP + AMBER HEARD FOR \$100 MILLION FOR ABUSE!"

Cover the Mirrors

Proverbs warns us that "Death and life are in the power of the tongue..." Seneca said, "As was his language, so was his life." The 19th century author, Edward Bulwer-Lytton, told us that "The pen is mightier than the sword." The physicist, Amit Goswami, reminds us that "Consciousness is the ground of all being."

The truth has been with us for ages, and yet we pretend to struggle to understand the tragedy of violence when horrible events are chosen to represent the national narrative. Yes, pretend. We do understand, but we prefer denial. We cover the mirrors that might reveal the real culprits, and blame guns and politics for our troubles.

Every waking hour we are inundated by a toxic stew of negativity pushed at us by the entities which sell us our infotainment. Yes, pushed, as in a "pusher" who supplies an addict, for we are indeed addicted. We sit at the dinner table oblivious to the number of times the phrase "shot and killed" seeps into our subconscious minds through the television in the background. It's on the radio as we drive to work. We scroll past the headlines every day, looking for the most salacious.

Like addicts, we need ever increasing doses to stimulate our senses, to rouse us from our complacency, to make us feel...something. Forty people are shot in Chicago in a single weekend but the pushers ignore it. They know it will barely move the needle of our attention. The victims are the wrong color. We expect big cities to be violent.

Then the unexpected happens, and we have our new drug. Everyone is an activist now, a commentator, a social critic, a finger pointer, and a partisan. We look everywhere but inward. Our political types rush to leverage the horror into some kind of advantage. The pushers begin with the headlines, then they trot out the experts. The story is repackaged, reframed, regurgitated in an effort to squeeze every possible bit of commerce out of the tragedy. Finally, the headlines devolve into celebrity statements, actor "responds to," influencer "reacts to" someone else's statements and headlines. When the news cycle circles around to that, we can rest assured that soon a new tragedy or controversy will be chosen for distribution. "Release the Monkey Pox!"

Nothing will change, because again, we failed to address the root of the problem: A culture which pretends to condemn violence while glorifying it in every possible way. A culture devoid of Spiritual principles. A nation guided, not by principle, but driven and divided by an arrogant, foul mouthed, irreverent, self-absorbed pop culture; a pop culture that seeks to create, as C.S. Lewis described, "men without chests."

For millennia, the natural aggressive instincts of the male were harnessed by honor and discipline in intact families that shared common beliefs. History, nevertheless, is full of tales of barbarism and the horrors of war. We are, after all, human. However, within the living memory of many reading this now is a time when a boy in grade school might carry a jackknife to class in his pocket, when you could walk across a parking lot at a rural high school and see a gun rack with a hunting rifle in the back window of a pickup truck, and no one would think it unusual.

"Mass shootings don't happen in other countries." They didn't happen here, either, until recent generations. Pop culture refuses to ask what has changed in such a short time, refuses to acknowledge the effect on boys of being adrift without the guidance of a father, or a church, or even a set of common beliefs and principles. Pop culture seeks to force boys into the role of "beta males," to overtly suppress anything masculine, but covertly provide an unlimited supply of violent video games and movies, and an unlimited supply of pornography.

Little wonder that natural instincts suppressed and perverted, without direction of discipline, can mutate into uncontrollable rage. Cover the mirror, and turn away from it, back to the television, where news is breaking again.

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.

Japanese Beetles

The Japanese beetles will soon be out in full force. They typically start to emerge in June. They are a huge pest as they munch their way through your yard. Controlling them can be challenging because they are such voracious eaters. Let's talk about some strategies for lessening their impact.

Japanese beetles arrived in the U.S. 1916. They have spread to much of the East coast and across the Mississippi River. They will feed on a wide range of ornamentals, fruit trees, vegetables, and shade trees. Feeding on such a wide range of plants means that your yard may look like an all you can eat buffet to them. They have a metallic green color on their abdomen. They look similar to June beetles. June beetles are typically about 1.5 to twice as large as Japanese beetles. Japanese beetles also have a row of five white dots along the side of the abdomen that can be used to differentiate them from other beetles. The damage that you see from them looks like skeletonizing of the leaves. They'll eat everything between the leaf vein, but leave the veins.

Thankfully, Japanese beetles only have a single generation each year. Usually the adults, which are the beetles that we see flying around eating leaves, will begin to appear in June. They live four to six weeks. The females will lay eggs for most of their adult life. The eggs are laid in the soil. They hatch in about two weeks. After hatching, the beetles live in the soil until they come back out as adults in June.

There are three times a year that are most ideal for controlling Japanese beetles. The most obvious is when they are adults and are out feeding on leaves. You can use carbaryl, which is the active ingredient in Sevin to control adults. Sevin comes as a liquid or in dust form. If you don't have a heavy infestation you can also use a cup with soapy water in it. Knock Japanese beetles off plants into the cup and they will drown. The second time to control Japanese beetles is in September. By that time of year all the Japanese beetles are grubs living in the soil. Even as grubs they can do damage to turf by feeding on the roots. Milky spore is an organic product that can be used to kill grubs in the ground. It's a bacteria that feeds on Japanese beetle grubs after they ingest it. September is the optimal time to make a milky spore application. The third time to control Japanese beetles would be in the spring with another milky spore application. Soil temperatures need to be over 65 for milky spore to be effective. The grubs must ingest the milky spore for it to be work. It only works on grubs, so applying it while the beetles are out eating leaves won't kill any Japanese beetles.

Using milky spore to kill the grubs doesn't mean that you won't have any Japanese beetles the following year, but you can significantly reduce the population that is present in your area. Some people will use traps to kill Japanese beetles. I try to discourage people from this practice because traps with pheromone lures will bring beetles in from five miles away, meaning that you have more beetles.

If you have questions about Japanese beetles contact your county Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

UGA
 extension
Watching and Working
 Jacob Williams



Outside The Box

By: Don Perry

worldoutsidethebox.com

Habitat for Humanity

Are you in need of a Helping Hand this summer? Contact us here at Habitat for Humanity we may be able to help! Our Helping Hands program works year-round to help local homeowners with home repairs, home safety concerns, efficiency, and other needs as well. We are always accepting applications for Helping Hands, and we are always finding ways to help. We utilize volunteer help and skilled laborers for whatever your particular need is.

Recently we have completed a Helping Hands project for one of our good friends, Melissa. She was in need of a sink, a pump, and a water heater. David Chastain one of our volunteers, who helps out wherever he can, whether it be in the ReStore moving furniture, building new displays, or going to community members homes on Helping Hands projects he is always able and willing, and we are so thankful for his generosity and skills.

In keeping with the standards of "A hand up not a hand-out" we work with you on repayments of services whether it's volunteering in the ReStore for a number of hours, or a repayment plan that works in favor of your financial means. We are proud to be a helping hand in allowing community members to be empowered in reaching their goals as successful homeowners.

If you are needing your home remodeled to accommodate your current needs, like a ramp, or fixing your roof, or installing equipment, etc. Habitat is here to help. The first step is filling out an application. We would need you to fill out a Helping Hands application which you can pick up at our ReStore (225 Wellborn St. Blairsville) then we will be in contact with you to set up a meeting to determine how we can best help you!

In addition, we offer other community resources like apartment information, possible rental opportunities for qualifying community members, and local churches with programs to help people in need. It is important to us to be a reliable source to our community when reaching their goals in life.

Galatians 6:2 states, "Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Here at Habitat for Humanity we work diligently to achieve biblical truths in the way we engage with our community, help our community, and in the way that we treat our members here at Habitat. We are all apart of the greater purpose of God and we are happy to be apart of the stories and lives of others.

Questions? Or interested in being apart of what we do here at Habitat, contact us at 706-745-7101 and we will get you involved! Thank you!

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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