

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

### Everyday is Flag Day!

**The Veterans' Corner**  
**Scott Drummond**  
 USCG Veteran



"Old Glory", "The Stars and Stripes", "The Red, White and Blue" all monikers for the flag of our United States of America. June 14th is officially Flag Day, not a federal holiday, however is observed across our nation, as "Proudly She Hails". Pennsylvania is the only state that observes Flag Day as a state holiday.

We recognize the original designer of the flag as Francis Hopkinson, one of the signers of our Declaration of Independence, a delegate from New Jersey.

Accredited with sewing our very first American Flag is of course, Betsy Ross, an upholsterer in Philadelphia who produced uniforms, tents, and flags for our Continental Forces. She was approached by George Washington to make the national flag for our new nation, Betsy wholeheartedly agreed, but with one change ... a five pointed star in lieu of six points. After Congress adopted her flag, it was flown the first time on August 3, 1777 in Rome, New York.

Our Flag has been changed 27 times, the final star for Hawaii being added in 1960.

Unbeknownst to many of us, myself included, the current Flag was designed by a 17 year old student, Robert G. Heft. "Bob" as he preferred, was born in Saginaw, Michigan. Attending HS in Lancaster, Ohio, he opted to design a flag as part of a school project. He was certainly disappointed when he was given a grade of B- or C for his efforts.

After discussion with his teacher, Stanley Pratt, the decision was made that he could go forward and submit his design to Congress. As President Dwight Eisenhower was proposing a new Flag including Alaska and Hawaii. Bob sent his flag to Walter Moeller, his Ohio Congressman, for consideration along with hundreds of other flags from all across America. Young Bob's Flag was adopted as our nation's Flag on July 4, 1960. Just sayin' ... what about Bob.

There are six USA flags on the moon, five are standing and Neil Armstrong's flag fell over. Wonder who went up there and knocked it down?

Red, White, and Blue are not colors by accident. Our brilliant Founding Fathers wanted each color to have meaning. Red symbolizes hardiness and valor. White symbolizes purity and innocence. Blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Our Flag has marched into battle, draped the coffins of beloved sons and daughters, brothers sisters and hero warriors. Veterans will always stand for our Flag and salute.

Civilians, let us not forget to stand and place our right hands over our hearts and thank God for those who lay down their lives for our Sovereign Republic.

We, as Americans should thank all our military services, those who wear Blue, and our First Responders who serve with honor under that great Flag that we love and Honor. As a last note if you like to study flags, you are a vexillologist. -Semper Paratus

### Letters To The Editor

#### Great Visit at Hamilton Gardens

Dear Editor,

During an outdoor gathering in Hiawassee at the Georgia Mountain Fair Hamilton Gardens pavilion, we had the utmost excellent accommodations.

The staff and volunteers were very helpful and friendly. The gardens were beautiful. And the restrooms were the cleanest they have ever been.

Great job, Catherine. Thank you, and we will be back.

**Marianna Holland**

#### Never Lose Hope

Dear Editor,

If you are looking for hope in this sinful world, you will never find it, because the Bible is very clear when it says in the book of Romans Chapter 3 Verse 23: For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Hope is not something you can wish for or buy. Hope cannot be bottled up and saved for a rainy day. Hope only is found in the precious blood of Christ who died for those who believe in Him. You cannot throw hope to the wind and think it will be enough for you to cling to in times of trouble.

This world cannot give you any hope, for soon, when Jesus Christ returns, this old sinful world will be purged of all sin and corruption and it will be made brand new without any trace of sin, guilt, shame, adultery, slander, malice, hatred, violence, murder or any other sinful act that displeases God.

Jesus Christ is the only hope we have for eternal life with Him. Don't die without the hope of Christ in your heart.

**Frank F. Combs**

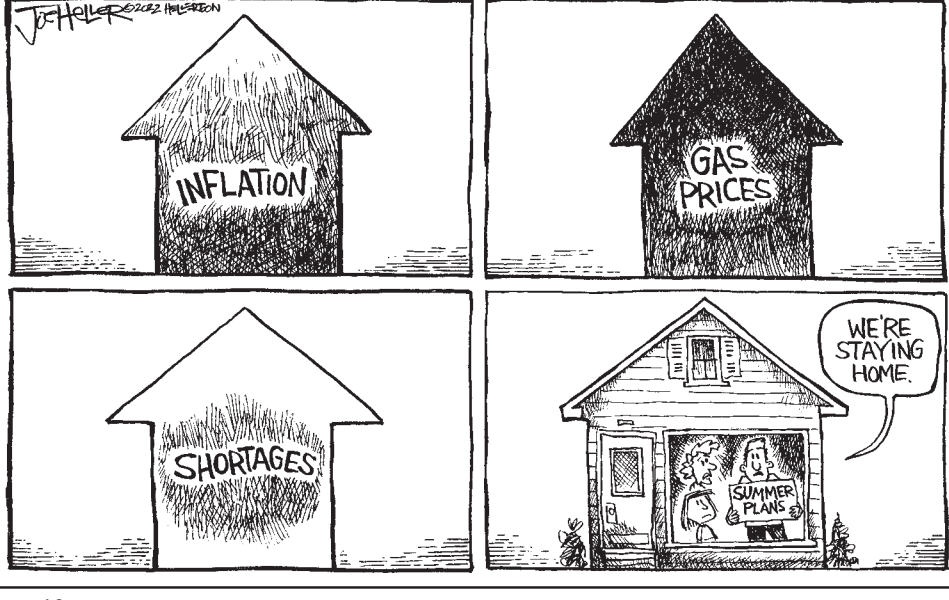
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Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor  
 P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546  
 Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net

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.**



### I Meant To Do That

We're going to bid farewell to politics for a while. It's like that awful television series with bad actors, annoying characters and puerile plots, but we keep watching it because nothing else is on, and to find out what happens next. However, when I read recently that, in addition to all our other troubles there is now going to be a shortage of Sriracha sauce, that was the last straw.

Before we leave the subject I want share with you with an image that I hope will stay with you all the way to the next election and the one after that. It applies to most, if not all politicians, and not just the current show runners for our national soap opera. We'll put the satire warning here for any new readers, and for the folks whose sense of humor departed when I told you about the Sriracha shortage.

Once upon a time I had a cat who would wait for me every night when I came home from work. He would sit under a bush at the edge of the driveway, and as my window was always down on those balmy summer nights, he would wait until I shut off the engine and jump up onto the top of the door to greet me. This happened night after night until it became routine.

One night it had been raining and I had the window rolled up. When I shut the engine off I heard a bang on the window as my unfortunate cat jumped up and discovered his path blocked. I quickly opened the door to check on him, and there he was, sitting at the edge of the driveway licking himself nonchalantly, as if to say, "Did you see that? Were you impressed by my feline gymnastics? I meant to do that."

I think every cat (and every politician) who has ever had an accident or made a bad decision has responded in the same fashion. "No, I did not misjudge the distance between the floor and the table top. I meant to do that. Yes, pulling down the curtains and knocking over the lamp was done for your benefit. You're using too much electricity. I meant to do that. Pardon me while I reward myself with some self-grooming."

You may find it disrespectful, but I can't help but think of this image when I hear the current Administration congratulating itself on inflation, record fuel prices and supply chain disruptions. "I meant to do that," says the President. It's part of the Great Transition, and we'll be stronger on the other side of this...these...crises.

I guess I should have bought that electric car, even though there are perhaps two charging stations within 50 miles of where I live. Unfortunately, the electricity to charge those batteries in this area is made in large part by the burning of natural gas, which is also at a record high price, and being shipped overseas as fast as possible.

But I get it. It's necessary that we all, at least the regular folks, suffer and sacrifice to attain the Great Vision. Besides, we live longer now and the decimation of our retirement accounts is a good thing. It will inspire us to keep working at 75 instead of being home and sedentary, and riding our bikes to work will make us healthier and lower our medical costs. The roads will be safer for bikes too, because there won't be many cars on the street. No, you folks in Washington didn't blunder. It's not your monetary policy, or your randomly precise dismantling of domestic energy, provoking a war in Ukraine or conjuring billions of taxpayer dollars to blow up people there. It's not even the pandemic or the Russians. You meant to do that.

Those of us who are dissatisfied with the current leadership will have another chance to replace it this November, and again in two years. It would be great, wouldn't it, if we could find leaders capable of saying, "We're going to try this to fix the problem, and if that doesn't work, we're going to try something else," or, "that was dumb; I'm sorry we did that; I don't know what we must have been thinking"? Unfortunately, at a time when we need the kind of leadership that only comes along ever hundred years or so (or the kind we've never had in Washington), we'll be given, again, the same old choice between Siamese or Tabby. Was that disrespectful? Perhaps, but that can happen when you feel disrespected. Did I offend someone? That's OK too. I meant to do that.

### 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.

The Towns County Herald is an independent and nonpartisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

### Common Vegetable Diseases

**UGA Extension**  
**Watching and Working**  
 Jacob Williams



It is prime time for the early vegetable harvest for gardeners and farmers alike in North Georgia. However, if you venture out to the garden one cool dewy morning and notice that your plants have not fared as well as you expected, here are a few common ailments that may be causing trouble.

In tomatoes, two of the most common reported ailments are blossom end rot and late blight. Blossom end rot is not actually a disease, rather it is a nutrient deficiency common in tomatoes. It occurs when the tomato fruit does not get enough calcium to aid its growth. The fruit becomes soft at the blossom end, and is then susceptible to a secondary infection, causing loss of the fruit. The best way to fix this problem is to add calcium to the soil, using products like lime or gypsum prior to planting, or by calcium nitrate fertilizer after the problem is noticed. If you have blossom end rot, a soil test before applying fertilizer is a good idea to see how much calcium should be added to the soil.

Late blight will also begin to affect tomatoes this time of year as the growing season is at its warmest. It is caused by the Phytophthora fungus. Signs of late blight are yellowing to brown dead spots on the leaves, stems and fruit of tomatoes. Plants that are treated earlier in the progression of this disease are likely to survive it, although they may not produce as well. The best treatment for late blight is to remove plants that have excessive damage (and be sure to burn them or tie them in a trash bag and throw them away) and spray the rest of them with a fungicide listed for late blight on tomatoes, such as Daconil or Bravo (chlorothalonil is the active ingredient).

On vegetables like squash, cucumbers, gourds, zucchini, beans and peas, mildew is a common disease that slows production and makes the plant less healthy. There are two common types in North Georgia: Powdery and Downy mildew. Powdery mildew is identified by large gray-white patches on the upper side of the leaves, whereas downy mildew causes many smaller light green to yellow patches on the leaves. The treatment for both diseases is the same: Remove heavily damaged plants to the burn pile or garbage, and spray with Daconil or Bravo (chlorothalonil is the active ingredient).

Before using, any pesticide always read the label and follow its instructions fully. The label is the law.

Another problem during extended wet periods of the growing season is root rot. This disease can affect most plants, but there are different groups of fungi that cause it depending on the plant. Common symptoms include an unhealthy-looking plant, combined with gummy, black roots, and a stem that is easily broken from the ground at the base. The reason the infection begins is usually due to excess moisture in the soil, or inadequate drainage of the soil. For the vegetable garden, the most effective way to control it is to prevent it. If you planted something there last year that got it, plant that thing in a drier area of the garden next year. If you use mulch, while it has many benefits, it may be holding too much moisture in the soil. When you water plants, remember to water deeply and less frequently, and let the soil surface become dry for a day or two before watering again.

If you suspect any of these ailments to be troubling your garden, or have any other questions or concerns related to agriculture, landscape or natural resources, please feel free to contact your County Extension office or email Jacob Williams@uga.edu.

### Habitat for Humanity

**Habitat Happenings**  
 Madelyn Bailey



We're in the heat of summer and are eagerly watching the Habitat Home build for Brandy Snow begin to come together. We are also taking new applications for any homeowners in need of home repairs through our Helping Hands projects. We are always raising funds in the ReStore to fund all of these projects. We appreciate any donations that you'd like to give that are gently used. As these donations get brought in, we price them based on usefulness and condition. We are thankful for donations and receive them Monday through Saturday anytime between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Summer is a busy time for us, as we have plans to be involved in local events and events of our own. Habitat for Humanity is always looking to partner with community events and outreach, and in the process we gain more exposure, more volunteers, and are given more opportunities to help homeowners in need and people in need of housing.

Thanks to all of your generous donations to the ReStore throughout the year, we have accumulated an incredible supply of Christmas items. We have decided to host our first Christmas in July Sale! The news gets better, as we have decided to run the sale for a week! From July 11th - July 15th Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., we will be outdoors enjoying the summer sun while shopping Christmas items.

We are so excited for this event and hope to see a huge turnout from our community as we put our entire Christmas inventory on sale. Grab all your Christmas décor wants and needs before the crazy Christmas season. We will have tents outside of the ReStore filled with all things Christmas. If you are a regular shopper at the ReStore, you may remember seeing stacks of totes across the back wall of our store; those are all Christmas items! We are going to pull those down, and we hope to sell all of it! You are in for that shopping yard décor, ornaments, gifts, mementos, lights and decorations of all kinds.

Save the date, because it is going to be an event you won't want to miss. As always, all proceeds go toward Helping Hands projects, Habitat operations, and the Habitat home builds that we have.

Be sure to follow us on "Facebook at Habitat for Humanity of Towns & Union Counties" for updates on the daily ReStore sales, new arrivals and events! Check every morning for the daily sales on our page and stay up to date on events like this one, the "Christmas in July Sale," when you add us on Facebook. You never know what you'll find at the Habitat ReStore.

## Towns County Herald

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