

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

IRS Whistleblower

B o m b s h e l l
 IRS Whistleblower
 Testimony - As you
 may know, two IRS
 whistleblowers pulled
 back the curtain on
 the federal investiga-
 tion into Hunter Biden



United States
 Congressman
 Representative
Andrew Clyde

— and the allegations are damning.
 Just two days after the Department of Justice announced Hunter's sweetheart plea deal, Republicans on the House Ways and Means Committee voted to publicly release transcripts of the IRS agents' testimonies. These bombshell transcripts reveal the corrupt contours of the years-long investigation into Hunter Biden.

According to IRS supervisory criminal investigator Gary Shapley and a second unnamed IRS investigator, the DOJ repeatedly stonewalled efforts to probe Hunter's criminal behavior, including activity related to tax evasion and foreign business dealings. For example, IRS and FBI agents were blocked from searching Hunter's residence as well as a guest house at Joe Biden's Delaware mansion, where Hunter frequently stayed. Additionally, Shapley claims that U.S. Attorney Lesley Wolf tipped off Hunter's legal team before investigators searched his storage locker in Northern Virginia, allowing ample time to remove evidence from the facility.

In addition to more examples that solidify the preferential treatment Hunter Biden received from the DOJ, the IRS whistleblower testimonies raise serious questions and concerns about Joe Biden's involvement in his son's shady foreign business dealings.

You see, Joe wasn't just aware of these business practices — he was physically there for them.

In a threatening text message, Hunter wrote to his Chinese business partner: "I am sitting here with my father and we would like to understand why the commitment made has not been fulfilled. Tell the director that I would like to resolve this now before it gets out of hand, and now means tonight. And, Z, if I get a call or text from anyone involved in this other than you, Zhang, or the chairman, I will make certain that between the man sitting next to me and every person he knows and my ability to forever hold a grudge that you will regret not following my direction. I am sitting here waiting for the call with my father."

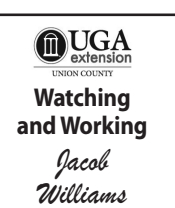
Talk about a smoking gun!

Over the last few years, President Biden has repeatedly denied having any knowledge of his son's overseas business dealings. Americans should not only be concerned that Joe Biden lied about his involvement, but also the length to which the President is now compromised due to his role in Hunter's business practices.

Please know that House Republicans will investigate every solitary allegation levied against the DOJ, IRS, and FBI, as well as Hunter and Joe Biden. But Americans deserve more than just the truth; they deserve justice. I'm confident that an impeachment inquiry into Attorney General Merrick Garland regarding his weaponization of the DOJ is on the horizon — and these whistleblower testimonies will surely be at the forefront of that vital investigation.

Fire Ants

Watermelon is almost a necessity for the 4th of July in my opinion. Everybody has a favorite way to eat watermelon. Mine is to put it in the fridge to get it nice and cold, cut it up in slices, and put a little salt on each bite as you eat it. If you don't have a fridge around a cold creek is a good alternative. But, if you accidentally pick a watermelon that's not all the way ripe, it might be a bummer once you cut it open.



Watching and Working
 Jacob Williams

With the 4th of July coming I thought I would talk about how to select a ripe watermelon. Watermelon requires a lot of heat to be able to grow. That means that watermelon grown in the mountains won't be ripe in time for the 4th of July. There are smaller varieties that don't take as long to grow. Typically, watermelon take 70-90 days to be ready to harvest. If you are planting your own watermelon it's typically easier to start them from transplants, but you can start your own seeds. Watermelon plants will need 8 feet of space on each side.

If you are picking watermelon off the vine you want to look at the curly tendril that is on the stem closest to where it meets the fruit. When you see that curly tendril dry up and turn brown the watermelon is ripe and ready to harvest.

If you are looking at watermelon that has already been picked there are a couple of tricks that you can use so that you look will a pro and WOW onlookers at the grocery store or market. You can thump a watermelon to gauge its ripeness. A ripe watermelon will have more of hollow thud sound to it. An unripe watermelon will have a higher pitched, less hollow sound to it. It's usually best to thump multiple melons with this approach to really be able to gauge the ripeness. Another approach is the check the ground spot. This is just the spot where the watermelon sat on the ground. If it has a creamy yellow or buttery white color then it is ripe. If the ground spot is plain white then it's not ripe yet.

As watermelon ripen the green color will start to dull. So, if the watermelon still has a sharp green hue, it's probably not ripe. If you are picking a striped watermelon this method is particularly useful. Another tip is to pick up two watermelons of similar size. The heavier one is riper. Be careful using this tip because if it is too heavy, then it's overripe.

A whole watermelon will stay ripe for about 2 weeks if its stored below 60 degrees. At run temperature it will last for about 10 days.

Seedless watermelon is very popular and make up 92% of watermelon sales in the US. Seedless watermelon is not genetically modified, rather it is. Seedless they are bred that makes them seedless. Some watermelon is diploid, which means they have 2 sets of chromosomes. Other watermelons are tetraploid, which means they have 4 sets of their chromosomes. When plant breeders cross pollinate a diploid with a tetraploid it creates a watermelon that produces a seed that are triploid. Those triploid seeds are planted to make seedless watermelon. Triploid watermelons are sterile. It's a similar concept breeding a mule, which is a cross between a horse and a donkey. These seedless watermelons might still produce a few seeds, but they won't mature and turn black.

If you have questions about watermelon contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.



Buying American

We prefer to buy American made products. They are not always, or often, it seems, easy to find. When we do find them, they are usually more expensive, though not always of a superior quality.

When we shop, our first priority is locally owned businesses, and other than a few restaurants they are as rare as hen's teeth. There is some consolation in shopping locally regardless of the ownership because that at least supports the local economy with jobs and sales tax.

Sometimes, however, you just need a hunk of plastic. Time and distance factors into your decision to roll into the parking lot of whatever store happens to be nearest without pausing to consider the economic or philosophical implications.

This was the case recently when I found myself in one of those big box stores looking for a downspout extension. I can't tell you the name of the store, but the employees carry electronic devices designed to help them avoid eye contact with customers.

Having failed to attract any attention in aid of my search, I approached a captive (stationary) employee and waited for her to glance up from her computer screen. She answered my query by pointing to a corner of the store a short hike from the customer service counter.

A brief search of the area convinced me that my item was not there, so I approached what appeared to be an informal gathering of several employees and politely waited for one to finish telling her story. I was then directed to the opposite corner of the store in the back of the garden section.

I don't mind walking. It's one of the healthiest things we can do, but I had made other commitments for my time, so I approached the area at a trot. After a quick ten-minute search of the area I found the label for my extension. It was out of stock.

It was just as well that the store was out of my item because the price over that empty space on the shelf was shocking, doubly so considering that I knew my item contained about 30 cents worth of plastic. I left the store mentally reorganizing my repair plans for the afternoon.

Sometimes thinking outside the box happens naturally when we are required to improvise and adapt. Clear of that (big) box I remembered that my brother-in-law had recommended an Asian company which provides free shipping for items direct from the factory.

I went online to discover what was available. I saw the item I needed in my first search. It was identical to the out-of-stock item in the big box store, but I could get two of them for the same price, plus an adapter, and mounting hardware as well.

I paused for a moment to consider what "Buy American" means in the global tapeworm economy. The big box item and the online item were both made in the same factory in Asia. Big American Box probably paid half or less wholesale of the online cost for my 30 cents worth of plastic, before doubling or tripling the price for retail. I could wait for Big Box to restock and help improve their stock price on Wall Street and contribute a few pennies to the economy of a nearby town, or I could retain an extra \$10 to put into my own gas tank. Score one for online.

The same logic applies to our grocery shopping. I can help support an American job buying groceries at a North Carolina based grocery chain which charges customers in our area more than their stores in other places. Or I can pay 1/3 to 1/2 less at a locally run German owned grocery, support an American job, contribute to a local tax base and save enough money to pay for my gas and eat out for lunch.

What do you think my choice would be? Das ist ein klarer Fall. That's German for "The answer is obvious," which is their equivalent of "It's a no-brainer."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:

Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO 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 ridiculed 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.

The Towns County Herald is an independent and non-partisan 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.

Outside The Box

By: Don Perry
worldoutsidethebox.com

Letters To The Editor

Chick-fil-A

Dear Editor,

On May 23, 1946, S. Truett Cathy opened a restaurant in Hapeville, Georgia, called the Dwarf Grill. This restaurant was the precursor of a fast-food chain known today as Chick-fil-A.

Over the years, Chick-fil-A has become wildly popular. Their statement of corporate purpose, "To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us;" was especially appealing to Christians who made this chain their favorite fast-food destination.

However, Chick-fil-A has made a U-turn and is distancing itself from Christians by making decisions that do not glorify God. First, they announced they were ending donations to such groups as the Salvation Army and Fellowship of Christian Athletes because their positions on marriage and sexuality were too "controversial."

Next we were informed the company was funding radical and LGBT activists. They also gifted money to the extremist Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and partnered with the Covenant House, an organization that hosts such things as Drag Queen Story Hours. The latest news is they are catering to the diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) crowd.

Despite this departure from biblical truth and drifting from its biblical roots, the corporation continues to exploit and profit from its Christian reputation. I'm sure many Christians are unaware of the new trail Chick-fil-A is blazing away from glorifying God. Since we have such a restaurant right here in our midst, I am writing this letter to make sure the citizens of our surrounding counties know the truth about Chick-fil-A. By knowing the facts, they may decide to take their business elsewhere.

Gary W. Meier

Thank You

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County, I would like to thank everyone who supported and shopped at the FOLTC May book sale at Mountain Regional Library and Towns County Library. All proceeds are given to the two libraries to purchase new books, e-books and other materials. FOLTC provides funding for the Children's Summer Reading Program and the libraries' adult programs.

FOLTC appreciates your book, puzzle, DVD and audio-book donations. However, I urge you to go to our website at www.foltc.com (Events/Book Donations) to see what items are accepted as donations and which are not.

If you have books that don't meet the criteria for acceptance, you can take them to the paper recycle truck at the Towns County Transfer Station. There is no charge to recycle paper.

Thank you for supporting FOLTC, our public libraries and our communities!

Yours truly,
 Marcia Aunspaugh
 Bookstore/Book Sale Chair

Fight for Supreme Court Reform

Dear Editor,

Our fundamental freedoms are being attacked by the Supreme Court.

The partisan right-wing majority on the bench gutted voting rights, opened the floodgates to unlimited corporate money in our elections, struck down gun safety laws, and limited the government's ability to protect our air and water.

In the year since they overturned Roe v. Wade, abortion has been effectively banned (with extremely limited exceptions) in 14 states. Nearly 1 in 3 Americans have lost access to abortion care.

This can't go on. We need to move away from these types of extremely partisan rulings and restore the legitimacy of the Court.

Congress has a constitutional duty to act as a check on the Supreme Court and restore faith in our judicial system. It's time they act before it's too late.

Sincerely,
 Doreen Sasso

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

Classifieds SELL!
706-896-4454

Publication No: 635540
 Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.
 Towns County (1 Year) \$30. Out of County (1 Year) \$40. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points. The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. **Postmaster:** Send change of address to: Towns County Herald, P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546.
 Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 3 "The Mall", Hiawassee
 Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: tcherald@windstream.net
 Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546

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