

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor
Judge Not

Dear Fellow Humans,
I am a professional woman here in Towns County. I have invested my savings and more into a hospitality business. I would like to bring it to everyone's attention that I try to be mannerly and welcoming to ALL. It is my hope that all my patrons enjoy their time under my care. I want the experience to be pleasant.

When an elderly lady came into my establishment and asked everyone to pray for our country to save it from Communism, I listened politely.
The way I was taught in school and by my parents was to respect my elders. If she had said she was the Queen of England, I would have said, "Yes ma'am, thank you for visiting."

Two customers jumped up from the table and said they didn't wish to remain as they held different beliefs and they left. The older lady asked them to stay as she didn't mean to offend. They left anyway. That was their right and prerogative, as is her opinion as guaranteed to her by the First Amendment.

My question is why are grown people acting like the mean kid's little cliché group in middle school? That level of maturity was something that I thought we left behind as we entered high school and gained higher education. Who died and left YOU, (as general term), in charge of the world?
Jesus said, "Judge not." He was a perfect person in human form. Do YOU feel you are perfect and beyond reproach?
We, as a society, must remember our manners and the Golden Rule. That is the only way to have a peaceful world. That is what makes a civilization.

Otherwise, it is survival of the fittest, the strongest and the crudest among us. We become tribal, ruled by warlords whose power is absolute.
I am ashamed to see adults conduct themselves in such a manner. We used to agree to disagree, live and let live and go on with our lives.
Do I need to bring my teacher from middle school in here? You look to say, "Sweep around your own doorstep before you look to your neighbor's." She wasn't wrong.

Candace Littlejohn
Nuts
Dear Editor,
Sir, upon reading your letter to the editor regarding our wholehearted approval/support for the NFL's mindless promotion of the anti-America black national anthem, the most appropriate reply to you is to quote Brigadier General Anthony McAuliffe: "NUTS!"
James Harber - An American

Mad as a Settin' Hen!
Dear Editor,
Fred Hamilton who founded Hamilton Gardens and gave them to Towns County must be shedding tears of disappointment or he may be mad as a settin' hen! I cannot blame him.
Many citizens inside and outside of Towns County have donated money, helped raise money, and given sweat equity helping to repair the neglected Gardens so they could once again be an asset to Towns County. After all the effort put forth by these good citizens will the Gardens fall into disarray once again? During this time of extreme discord in our country, why cannot the leadership of Georgia Mountain Fair Authority Board, the Georgia Mountain Fair Board, our elected official, and Hamilton Gardens Board rise to the occasion and come to an agreement so the Garden Board can continue to manage the Gardens?

Let's have some transparency here, folks. Our tax dollars are involved and we want to know why this cannot be resolved. Leadership, rise to the occasion and figure out a compromise for the good of Towns County...not your egos!
Lynda Davis
Thanks, Hamilton Gardens
Dear Editor,
My name is Emma Harris and I am a student at Brevard College. I chose to do my senior internship at Hamilton Gardens because not only are the people absolutely wonderful but the gardens is beautiful. I wanted to help them certify their monarch butterfly pollination garden. I worked with Maggie to get this accomplished and we were able to successfully certify the monarch butterfly pollination garden! My experience at Hamilton Gardens has been absolutely amazing in every way possible! Maggie, Jesse, Grace, Linda, and Gordy are the ones that have made my senior internship truly amazing! I am very saddened to know that Hamilton Garden will no longer be supported and taken care of by these wonderful people because of a poor decision that GMF made. I will always remember the things I have learned and accomplished at Hamilton Gardens and I want to thank them one last time for everything they have done and given to me!

Emma Harris
Reared in the South
Dear Editor,
A letter in the Aug. 18 newspaper titled "Re: The Black National Anthem" spread The Black Lie: blacks "have NEVER been treated as equals."
I am almost 64 years old and was reared in the South. In my lifetime, blacks were given the same educational opportunity as whites. Blacks attended the same schools and were taught by the same black and white teachers. There was no racial unrest in our schools. I began teaching in the public schools in 1980. Some of my co-workers were excellent black teachers respected by faculty and students and parents. They were our friends. They were beloved because they were a blessing to our community. And what about blacks of yesteryear: Booker T. Washington, Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver and others? Were they excluded from encyclopedias and textbooks? No. We learned about them in school. A 1957 encyclopedia on my shelf has articles on negro poets, scientists, educators and other blacks who blessed our nation with their achievements.

And what about Ben Carson, Candace Owens, Star Parker, Clarence Thomas, Thomas Sowell and other respected blacks of today? They are treated as equals.
The Aug. 18 letter refuses to acknowledge the truth. Blacks of yesterday and today are respected for their good moral character and contributions to the building up of the community and nation. It's time to stop spreading The Black Lie.
Karen Pansler Lam
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Sweet Sorghum
Sweet sorghum is any of the many varieties of the sorghum grass whose stalks have a high sugar content. Sweet sorghum thrives better under drier and warmer conditions than many other crops and is grown primarily for forage, silage, and syrup production. Sweet sorghum syrup is known as "sorghum molasses" in some regions of the United States, though in most of the U.S. the term molasses refers to a sweet syrupy byproduct of sugarcane or sugar beet sugar extraction.
Sweet sorghum has been widely cultivated in the U.S. since the 1850s for use in sweeteners, primarily in the form of sorghum syrup. In the early 1860s, the American Civil War not only disrupted both interstate and maritime commerce but also diverted commodities from civilian to military purchases; these factors rendered some food and fiber supplies, including sugar cane and the sugar and molasses made from it, unreliable and expensive.

In particular, the South was under naval blockade by the Union navy, making importation of Caribbean cane sugar and molasses expensive and scarce via blockade running. Under these conditions, some farms grew sweet sorghum for syrup to substitute for cane sugar and molasses, which helped ensconce sweet sorghum in Southern food culture. By the early 1900s, the U.S. produced 20 million US gallons of sweet sorghum syrup annually. Making syrup from sorghum (as from sugar cane) is heavily labor-intensive. Following World War II, with the declining availability of farm labor, sorghum syrup production fell drastically. Currently, less than 1 million US gallons are produced annually in the U.S.

In Central India it was introduced in the early 1970s by Nimbar Agricultural Research Institute for ethanol and syrup production. Sweet sorghum syrup has shown good antioxidant properties and is found to be useful in food, beverage, and pharmaceutical industries. Presently it is grown on large area as a fodder crop. Most sorghum grown for syrup production is grown in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Missouri, and Tennessee.
Sorghum syrup and hot biscuits are a traditional breakfast in the Southern United States. Sorghum syrup is also used on pancakes, cornmeal mush, grits and other hot cereals. It can be used as a cooking ingredient with a similar sweetening effect as molasses, though blackstrap molasses still has a higher nutritional value than sorghum syrup in most regards. In India sweet sorghum syrup is presently being promoted as a health food.

In the U.S. since the 1950s, sorghum has been raised primarily for forage and silage, with sorghum cultivation for cattle feed concentrated in the Great Plains (Texas, Kansas, and Nebraska are the leading producers) where insufficient rainfall and high temperature make corn production unprofitable. Grain sorghum has also been used by the ethanol industry for quite some time because it yields about the same amount of ethanol per bushel as corn. As new-generation ethanol processes are studied and improved, sorghum's role may continue to expand. Texas A&M University ran trials to ascertain the best varieties for ethanol production from sorghum leaves and stalks in the USA.
In India and other places, sweet sorghum stalks are used for producing biofuel by squeezing the juice and then fermenting into ethanol. The crop is particularly suitable for growing in dryland conditions, as it only extracts one-seventh of the water used by sugarcane.
A study by researchers at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) found that growing sweet sorghum instead of grain sorghum could increase farmers' incomes by US \$40 per hectare per crop because it can provide food, feed, and fuel.
With grain sorghum currently grown on over 11 million ha in Asia and on 23.4 million ha in Africa, a switch to sweet sorghum could have a considerable economic impact. Since sorghum cane juice is purged of impurities and then concentrated by an open pan evaporation process, its syrup retains almost all of its nutrients and sugars.
This is excellent news for health enthusiasts because the roots of the sorghum cane grow deep into the soil, tapping into trace minerals that are seldom found to such levels elsewhere, thereby making sorghum's nutrients especially valuable for our bodies. In fact, one tablespoon of unsulfured sorghum syrup will provide you with: 61 calories and 16g of sugar (which is quite high, but should be expected of a sugary product), 3% RDA of calcium, 4% RDA of iron, 5% RDA of magnesium, 6% RDA of potassium, 7% RDA of vitamin B6 and 16% RDA of manganese. Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D has donated a Golden sorghum mill, cooking pan, and shed to house it into the Union County Farmers Market so visitors can see how sweet sorghum syrup was made by our ancestors and even today in operations in our area.

For more information on Sweet Sorghum contact your local UGA Cooperative Extension Agent.
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Sweet Sorghum
RC&D
Frank Riley
Executive Director
[Photo of Frank Riley]

Fall Gardening
Do you usually have a fall garden? Now is the time to start thinking about one. There are some benefits to having a fall garden that we'll get in to. Let's talk about what vegetable crops and cover crops are an option for a fall garden and how to start your fall garden.
Cover crops are planted in the fall and grow throughout the winter into early spring. Cover crops are beneficial to soil health and are often used in organic production. I like to think of the soil as a muscle in the body. If you work a muscle too hard or with only one exercise then you may injure the muscle by straining it or even tearing it. However, by diversifying your exercises and making sure that you're eating properly for muscle growth you can grow stronger. Soil also requires development over time, and cover crops can help with that. Common crops are clovers and cereal crops like cereal rye, black oats, and wheat. Come springtime they can be tilled into the soil or laid down so that you can plant into them. Planting cover crops can help to develop organic matter in the soil, reduce erosion, suppress weeds, and conserve soil moisture. Around Labor Day is the ideal time to plant cover crops in our area.
Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, turnips, radishes, spinach, lettuce, beets, and onions are some good options for a fall garden. For fall gardens it is important to use mulch to protect the plants from the frost. You may need to get another soil test done on your garden to see if you need to add any fertilizer for the coming crop. Ideally, you want the plants to have 50 – 60 days to mature before the first frost. Our average first frost date is mid-October. That makes mid-August a good time to plant.

Jacob Williams
Watching and Working
[Photo of Jacob Williams]

There are a couple of benefits to planting in the fall that you don't see in the summer. One of these is there are fewer insect pests around. That means you won't need to spray as many insecticides. If you are trying to grow your garden organically that is a very good thing! There will also be fewer diseases that you have to contend with in the fall. Diseases like hot, humid conditions. As the temperature drops in the coming months diseases will become less and less of a problem. Winter weeds can still be a problem but they are not as much of a pest as summertime weeds. Use mulch to suppress weeds.

Pansies and violas are an option for flowering plants that will last through the winter and keep their flowers. Plant pansies mid-September once the temperatures have cooled down. Gardening in the spring means working through diseases and insects. In the fall the biggest challenge will be from the temperature. As the temperature drops rapidly selecting varieties of crops that can stand the cold will be important. It can be extremely rewarding to see green growing around your house after everything else has turned brown.

If you have any questions about growing your fall garden contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Where Credit is Due
Allot me to wander off the beaten trail of honoring our superb Veterans for a moment. Our Veterans have proven themselves repeatedly that they serve our nation, our people in many and various ways, often putting themselves in the face of danger and self sacrifice. We are fortunate to have others in our civilian world, many who may have never served in uniform, men and women who in similar fashion serve others in time of need and very possibly putting themselves face-to-face with danger. I am referring to our first responders, firefighters, police and in this instant medical folks, doctors and nurses. Our healthcare professionals. They are exposed to unknown diseases and those who may not be the happiest patients on earth and like our military Veterans they willingly accept all of us. Serving others in time of need.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran
[Photo of Scott Drummond]
On August 8 this year I was stung (AGAIN) by murder hornets on top of already being infected with poison ivy. Within minutes the pain was tremendous and I almost passed out due to my heartbeat rate plummeting 80 BPM in mere minutes. Sweating profusely. Right hand was in pain like I had been shot. Enough about me. This is for those who come to the aid of all of us who, especially with age, need help.
Within a half hour I was driven to Chatuge Hospital ER and was admitted by kind, professional, easy going staff. I cannot remember their names but like in all instances here in Towns County with firefighters, EMTs, police, first responders they are world class and performed just as we military Veterans did in our younger years. The fine lady in admittance had to fill out my form for me as I could NOT write, my hand being out of commission. The kind and sweet young nurse was excellent in monitoring and recording my vitals. The Doctor (Davidson) came in, asked all the important questions, then explained in detail what happened to my body due to an overdose of powerful toxins. These professional, kind folks never know what or who they are going to encounter, nor if they are going to be exposed to someone carrying a disease such as we hear far too much about today. Their recommendations, treatment and prescriptions worked wonders. And they all had a great sense of humor and caring.
Our civilian world would fail to function without those who choose to serve our community in unknown and sometimes precarious situations. In that respect they have a tremendous lot in common with us Veterans who also served something far greater than self, in often unknown and unplanned difficulties. Our nation would not exist without our Veterans protecting her. Likewise our nation would falter and fail without those amongst us who by choice serve others in time of need. We are blessed and fortunate here in Towns County to have those great individuals who serve as First Responders.

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Towns County Herald

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