

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

No Security, No Funding

Congress will have a grueling spending fight on its hands when members return to Washington in a few weeks. We'll only have a few legislative days before government funding expires on September 30th — leaving a very short timeframe to pass and enact all 12 appropriations bills. Therefore, both House and Senate leadership are preparing for a short-term extension of government funding through a Continuing Resolution (CR) to avoid a government shutdown. Yet CRs are notoriously used to kick the can down the road, intentionally forcing members to engage in a spending battle in December prior to leaving town for Christmas. Last year, this tactic led to a disastrous omnibus spending bill, which was chock full of Democrats' Big Government Socialist policies and pricey pork projects.



United States Congressman
Representative Andrew Clyde

Given our dire economic outlook, we simply cannot go down this road again.

Consequently, I joined my House Freedom Caucus colleagues in opposing any "clean" CR that advances President Biden's radical agenda while also abdicating our fundamental duty of responsibly funding the government. In fact, we will reject any spending measure that fails to secure the border, address the weaponization of the Department of Justice, and end the woke policies that continue to undermine our military. Lastly, we will oppose any blank check for Ukraine in any supplemental appropriations bill.

Ultimately, we strongly believe that it's time to use the power of the purse to defund Joe Biden's reckless, woke, and bloated agenda. The stakes are too high to greenlight the Left's out-of-control spending and harmful policies, which is why we're prepared to hold the line yet again in our fight to cut spending and get our nation back on track for the American people. Please know that as a new and conservative member of the House Appropriations Committee, I look forward to helping lead this effort when we return to Washington in September.

"Adam's Legacy"

In perhaps the best-known story from the book of Genesis (2:25-3:24) G-d banishes Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden for eating from "the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil" against His direct command. Prior to that G-d had provided Adam & Eve with everything they needed and desired, with no effort required on their part. His only condition was simply to not eat the fruit from one particular tree.



Echos from Sinai
"Torah for Everyone"
Rabbi Yonatan Hambourger

What is less well known is that the "sin" occurred at 3 o'clock in the afternoon on Friday, and Adam knew that if he held out another three hours until the Sabbath, he would have been allowed to eat from the Tree of Knowledge. And as for Adam himself, he was the perfect human specimen; his soul was blown into his nostrils by none other than the Divine Creator. So here was human perfection with a very minimal instruction from G-d to carry out, for a mere three hours. Come on! Couldn't he control his desires? Something bigger is going on here.

Adam made a fully informed decision to trade paradise for toil, struggle, and certain death, not just for himself and his family, but also for all of humanity. There must be more here than meets the eye!

Let's go back to the beginning, so to speak. G-d created a perfect world, inhabited by perfect people, surrounded by pure goodness. Man was also given a choice to make. Did Adam want a perfect life given to him and all of his descendants, or did he want to choose a life earned by the "sweat of his brow" while challenged relentlessly by darkness, lust, and envy?

Maybe Adam knew what he was doing, and he chose wisely.

People endowed with immortality without any challenges could never realize their full potential. Instead, thanks to Adam, humanity was gifted with a mission to bring heaven down to earth by taking responsibility each for his own corner of the world and transforming G-d's creation back into a garden. Yes, there are thorns and thistles, struggle, and pain, along the way but also the satisfaction of one's own efforts on his way to accomplishing ultimate good. Only with the coming of the Messianic era (speedily in our days) when the world reverts back to the perfection of the Garden of Eden, will we fully appreciate the fruits of our labor. Most definitely a more challenging path, but also incomparably more rewarding.

Wishing you G-d's abundant blessings,
Rabbi Yonatan Hambourger
yonatan@chabadruralgeorgia.com

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 YH City Council... YH City Hall	6 pm 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 City of Young Harris Planning Commission... Meeting Room in City Hall	5:30 pm 5 pm



What Are The Chances?

*"The race is not to the swift,
Nor the battle to the strong,
Nor bread to the wise,
Nor riches to men of
understanding,
Nor favor to men of skill;
But time and chance
happen to them all."*

**Outside
The Box**
By: Dan Perry
worldoutsidethebox.com

You can never step in the same river twice. New waters take the place of old. The river rises and falls, comes out of its banks, changes course. Such is life, and even with the best of maps, there is an element of chance and unpredictability.

These were my thoughts today when I came across an old photo of T-bone and Bufarb, my two legendary German Shepherds from days gone by. The three of us loved the water, and we swam together in many rivers and cold mountain lakes.

There is a deep loyalty and sense of responsibility built into shepherds. If I jumped into the water, they jumped with me, and without hesitation. They would swim side by side like a team of horses, and occasionally, I would amuse my friends by holding onto the pups' tails while they towed me like a frye. No tails were damaged during the making of this story.

We also had two human companions during the early years of our aquatic escapades. Ron and Rick would sometimes join us for a bit of calculated risk-taking. Looking back, I must admit that often our math wasn't very good, but fools have better stories if they survive to tell them.

As poor college students, we didn't have canoes or kayaks, but there is hardly a watery place you can't go with a truck inner tube and the ability to swim. Little River in northeast Alabama was one of our favorite playgrounds, and when we heard that it had flooded, bad math and the immortality of youth put us right on course for another hazardous undertaking.

Unfortunately for our aquatic adventures, Rick had married young, to a woman with a little dog, who insisted on coming with us to keep an eye on her detainee. Our adventure devolved into wading an eddy of the river that was relatively shallow. Still, the water was quite high, and there were rapids where none were usually to be found. Every foolish impulse urged us to jump in, but the anchor held.

After an excruciating hour of wading about, Rick's wife made her own bad math decision and put Little Dog down in the water to wade — because he was "jealous of the big dogs and their freedom." Down the river, he went, swept away by the rapids.

To this day, I don't know if it was chivalry, elan, or a convenient excuse to weigh anchor, but manning my tube, I jumped into the rapids as well. Realizing that my feet couldn't touch the bottom, that the next bend in the river ran straight through the woods, and there were signs of holes, or hydraulics where rock formations were now underwater, I began to question my decision.

Just then something bumped me on my left. T-bone pulled up alongside me, followed closely by Bufarb, who flanked me on the right. I put both arms around them, and we "gunwhaled up" in a tight formation. They paddled hard, and I steered with my legs as we kept to the main channel and away from the hazards.

Eventually, the river straightened out and calmed down. We managed to overtake Little Dog, and I snatched him out of the water and into the tube. When my feet finally touched the bottom, we exited onto a sandbar and counted our blessings.

Rested and relieved, I began to take stock of our surroundings. Just downriver from us, in a sharp bend, what had appeared through the trees to be a ridge line was, in fact, the largest log jam I've ever seen. As high as a two-story house, a massive pile of logs, roots, branches, and rocks stood in testimony to the power of the flood. Naturally, we had to explore further.

Upon gaining the top of the pile, we could see, just on the other side of the jam, a one-story woodframe house, undamaged by the deluge. It was saved by a "chance" occurrence at the last possible moment when the log jam diverted the course of the flood.

"What are the chances?" We ask when the seeming randomness of life reminds us that we are subject to forces greater than our own will and intentions. We never really know what's around the next bend in the river or how deep the water runs.

It's good to "do the math" to avoid foolishness, but the victim of a stray bullet is not the fool, only the recipient of unintended consequences for turning left instead of right. We could go mad trying to calculate the chances of every turn. The very young, being immortal, don't do much math at all. When we get older, we often do too much math and become paralyzed by fear.

There is a balance to be found, and it fascinates me that people of faith seem to find it more often than others. They are more likely to find the main channel in a flood or receive help from unexpected quarters. Some people believe in luck, but I believe in Divine order, as surely as every river, flooding or not, in time will flow to the sea.

We returned Little Dog to the Anchor without receiving a single word of thanks for hazarding the rapids or hiking half a mile back upriver carrying a wet, squirming canine. The adventure was thanks enough. Rick gave up his inner tube soon after that, firmly anchored to prudence and, I hope, contentment. I never saw him again.

Ron and I and a small group of companions continued to push the river, push boundaries and take uncalculated risks. My uncharted course took me all the way to Parris Island where I found a better route, and much better tools for navigating. I still see Ron from time to time for an adventure, and we plan to continue until our rivers run their course.

As we navigate the river of life, let us remember that while we may drift, we are not without a rudder. We will surely encounter hazards from time to time, but it is in those moments that we discover our truth. May we embrace the chances, navigate the currents with courage and grace, and enjoy the journey, regardless of what lies around the next bend.

Favorite Flowers

This week I wanted to spend a little time talking about some of my favorite flowering plants. These are all plants that are in bloom now. The reason why I'd like to talk about them is they are all native, they bloom late in the summer which is great for pollinators, and sometimes these plants are thought of as weeds. Some of these plants have "weed" in their name. Some people might think that means they can't have them in their yard. I would disagree. These are plants that provide immense value to any landscape.



UGA extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams

Joe Pye weed is a beautiful plant that starts to bloom in August. This plant can be about 7 feet tall and has a gorgeous head of light pink flowers at the top. They are perennial so they'll come back each year, and seed out new Joe Pye weeds. They do well in the clay soil that we have. At this time of year, you'll often see them with butterflies clustered around the top. You'll often see these growing on roadsides or in ditches that haven't been maintained, but they can be a great part of a garden landscape design. It can take full or part sun.

Goldenrod is another one of my favorites that sometimes gets a bad rap. Goldenrod is sometimes blamed for causing allergies, but usually ragweed is the culprit. Both plants have yellow flowers, and since the goldenrod is so prolific, unjustly it takes the blame. There are actually over 100 different species of goldenrod out there. It is also a perennial. In the late summer and fall when it's in bloom the flowers can light up an entire field. It's great for pollinators that need to collect some more nectar before they go down for the winter. Goldenrod should be grown in full sun.

Ironweed is another tall plant that can grow up to 8 feet tall. It will have a cluster of purple flowers at the top. It's a perennial that grows in full sun. The seeds that the plant produces are great for birds to eat, making it good for pollinators and wildlife. It can tolerate wet soil, so you may see it in swampy areas that aren't mowed as often.

I have found white, orange, and yellow Jewelweed. These are different species, but are all called jewelweed. This plant likes wet areas and can take spots that are partial shade to deep shade. They start to bloom in the end of July. They are an annual that reseeds itself readily. They get the name jewelweed because when the dew forms on the leaves and flowers it looks like sparkling jewels. Native Americans would use the juice in the stem to treat poison ivy rashes.

All of the plants that I've mentioned here are native and are at least moderately deer resistant. I think one of the reasons I like these plants is that they bloom at the end of summer when fall is approaching. To me these plants show the promise that fall is right around the corner. If you have questions about these plants contact your County Extension Office, or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Letters To The Editor

It Finally Happened

Dear Editor,

The Georgia DOT albatross of a crosswalk at the hospital was hit by a vehicle and demolished. One can only guess at why THAT location was chosen and WHY there was no yellow banding around the base to let motorists know to stay away. It was clear day, and hopefully the people in the accident were not hurt. Had it been one of our miserable weather days things could have been much worse.

This brings us to ask, why was it put in that location? How many people actually use the crosswalk, and could it have been placed in a more opportune location? It was night and impossible to turn left from the hospital with oncoming traffic as the merging lane was blocked by this monster.

So, do we need to get into more GDOT balderdashes? The eastbound turn signal on US 76 at Bell Creek... why doesn't it activate at the beginning of the green cycle rather than the end? True, the GDOT supervisory staff doesn't have to live with the utter goofiness of the department. But we do, and something needs to be done.

Larry S. Chandler

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 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.

Guest Columns

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that 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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Towns County Herald

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