

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Latest Anti-2A Attack

The Left's anti-Second Amendment attacks are only getting more out of hand.

On Sept. 8, New Mexico's Governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham, issued an executive order banning open and concealed carry — even for licensed concealed carriers — in Albuquerque and the surrounding county for at least 30 days.

Folks, this is beyond unconstitutional.

The move was made in response to a number of deaths, including the recent tragic murder of an 11-year-old boy. While every loss of life is heart-breaking, we cannot allow emotion to drive actions that have Constitution-altering consequences. Simply put, evil deeds do not transcend constitutional rights.

While this latest attempt to infringe on Americans' Second Amendment freedoms is unfolding in New Mexico, we can't turn a blind eye to any tyrannical tactic happening across the county. Because the harsh reality is that the Left will stop at nothing to achieve their ultimate goal of an unarmed and vulnerable America. Every inch we give in this fight, even silently, brings their unlawful efforts closer to our own doorsteps.

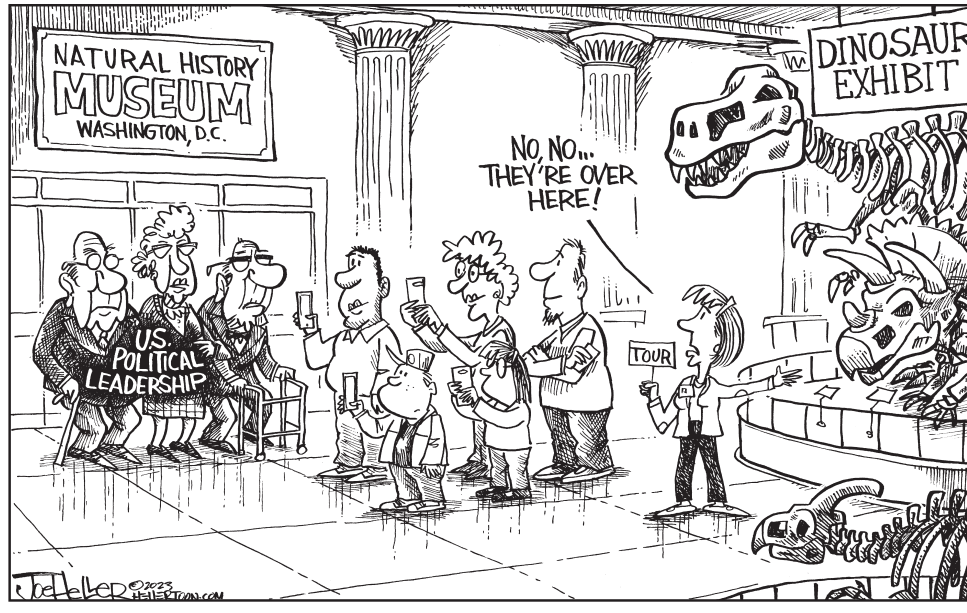
Notably, Governor Lujan Grisham's brazen executive overreach comes just days after the Biden Administration issued its newest assault on our Second Amendment liberties. Under the ATF's latest unconstitutional rule, any American who sells even a single firearm for profit — including to a family member — can be considered "engaged in business" of selling guns, subsequently forcing these individuals to obtain a federal firearms license, conduct a background check, and complete gun registration paperwork under federal law.

The Second Amendment is abundantly clear: Shall NOT be infringed.

In response to these wholly unconstitutional efforts, I will continue to do everything in my power to protect and preserve our unalienable right to keep and bear arms through my work in Congress. After all, an armed America is a more safe — and more free — America.



United States Congressman
Representative Andrew Clyde



A Time to Plant

Fall brings a change in the weather and the growing season slows down. A lot of people will put their gardens up for the winter, but there are still some tasks that are better done when temperatures are down. Lower temperatures means less water loss from plants. This makes it an ideal time to start putting perennials in the ground.

Trees that have been grown in a pot or are balled and burlapped that have a well-developed root system can be planted at any time of year. However, the ideal time of year to plant them is in the fall. This is because the top portion of the plant has gone dormant and temperatures are lower, which means the tree will lose less water to evapotranspiration. During this time the roots below ground are still active. That means they will still be growing through fall and the winter. This gives you a more established plant to come summer time. It also means that planting in the fall results in you spending less time watering your new plants.

Some of the most common issues when planting new trees is planting too deep, planting too shallow, and over watering.

If you are planting in a poorly drained soil creating a raised bed will help improve drainage. Raise the soil level 8-12 inches using native soil. Plantings at new construction sites may need an addition of organic matter to improve soil health. You will also need to till deeply around the planting site to alleviate soil compaction.

The hole that is dug should be 2-3x wider than the size of the root ball. If you are planting into a well-drained soil the depth of the hole should be the same as the height of the root ball. In a poorly drained soil the depth of the hole should be 2-4 inches less than the height of the root ball, then build up the surrounding soil to be level with the root ball. Planting a tree too deep leads to poor drainage and not enough oxygen getting to the roots. Planting a tree too shallow leads to the tree roots drying out too quickly.

Once you have placed the tree in the hole refill the hole. You want to mostly use native soil. Break up any clods and remove stones. You can add compost to the hole, but don't put more than 20% compost in the hole. Tamp the soil down with your foot and construct a 3-inch-high ring around the edge of the root ball to hold water. Apply 2-4 inches of mulch over the planted area. Do not put mulch up against the trunk of the tree, as this leads to rot. For the first few months after planting you want to maintain constant soil moisture in the root ball. The soil does not need to be saturated, but there should be water available to the roots.

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



Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



A Time To Every Purpose

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

It's that time of year again, and along with winter, spring, and summer, my favorite time. It's not quite fall yet, but it feels like fall on these cool mornings. Finally, we have some relief from the sauna. Sure, it's better here than most places, but when the temperature and the humidity run neck and neck, there's no escape outdoors, and inside, the air conditioner spins the electric meter like a whirling dervish.

The other day I spied a huge nest of hornets high in a holly tree. The size of it suggests that the nest has been there for a while. It's right above one of the most active areas of the compound, where the string trimmer has whined, and the pressure washer spewed, and countless other activities occurred that no yellow jacket nest would tolerate. I'm confident it's the home of the hornet queen I befriended some months ago before she abandoned her little starter nest by the turnip green patch. Never once have we been threatened with a sting, and though the valley is home to cattle, horses, and chickens, we've seen few flies this year thanks to our hornets, bless their little pointed behinds.

Funny how something as significant as a nest full of hornets can go unnoticed for so long. I think we finally saw it because we all begin to look up and away more often this time of year. The sky has been that exceptional blue that challenges the eyes to gauge its depth. The birds, sensing the imminent change of seasons, are more active and visible. No one is busier than the hummingbirds, who are quarreling less now that they are trying to take in as many calories as possible in preparation for their long trip south.

All of our pollinators are busy as well, and our efforts to attract them here really begin to pay dividends in September. Butterflies and bumblebees bounce from bloom to blossom among the sunflowers. They love the Carolina and Milk Thistle. Everyone visits the flowering Jerusalem Artichokes. Honeybees with yellow legs gather food for the winter, along with the three types of bumblebees we've seen here, and several tiny wasps I have yet to identify. We have partridge pea, and ironweed, Joe Pye weed, asters, and jewel weed among the natives.

Though the blue sky and aerial displays invite us to look up, the wise man walks with his head down, especially now. Those yellow jackets we mentioned don't look kindly on the change of seasons. They can develop quite an attitude in the fall, as if they sense their impending doom and blame anything that moves for their fate. A nest can appear as if by some dark magic along the same path you've walked all year, and without any warning you may suddenly find yourself running faster than you would have thought possible with a rapidly swelling ankle. A slice of onion, by the way, when applied directly to the sting is the best, fastest relief we have found.

Onions won't help if you fail to see that copperhead in the tall grass. He heard you coming all right, but he's not going to move. He has no love whatsoever for these cool mornings. They make him irritable and bad-tempered. He assumes your ability to detect his presence is as good as his ability to detect you. "I dare you to step on me or even near me, and I don't have to be coiled up to strike."

A good rule for September, or any time of year, is to watch your feet whenever they are moving, with an occasional glance at the overhanging tree branch you're about to attack with your forehead. Then when you're standing still you can gaze at the deep blue sky and enjoy the radiant splendor of this beautiful time.

Sometimes a look into the distance can open a window into the past. The days are shorter. The sun is riding lower in the sky and we are reminded of the passage of time. Surrounded by the sense of imminent change, the ripening of the fruit, the curling of the leaf, the flower gone to seed, we think of our own mortality. Each of us has our own way of confronting that fate. Some, like yellow jackets and copperheads, become bitter and aggressive. Others are aloof and stoic like the hornet. Don't bother me and I won't bother you, but if you do bother me...

I prefer to hang out with the honeybees. I may not survive the winter, but I'll leave behind something to nourish the next generation. I enjoy the company of butterflies. It is the only time we have. I love the hummingbirds. There is a long journey ahead; I intend to be prepared, and I'm too busy to worry about it.

Outside The Box

By: Don Perry
worldoutsidethebox.com

Rebuilding Humanity

Abraham, the first patriarch of the Torah (Bible) and founder of ethical monotheism, was the progenitor of the Jewish people and is revered by Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike. Interestingly, Abraham's father was not only an idolater but was actually in the idol-making business and trained his son in the worship of the many gods they sold. But at a young age, Abraham grew skeptical of all the deities and deduced that there must be a singular force that runs through and transcends all existence., at great risk of life and limb, he fought t against the paganism of his time, standing up against his upbringing and education.

A pivotal event occurred when Abraham was 75, which not only redefined his own journey but continues to shape our lives today. G-d called upon Abraham to "Go forth to yourself, from your land, from your birthplace, and from your father's house to a land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1). The Sages of the Talmud explained that "your land" refers to one's natural desires, "your birthplace" to the influence of the surrounding culture, and "your father's home" to the mindset and behaviors shaped within one's family.

To make Avraham into a great nation (Israel) and bless him (12:2), G-d wanted Avraham to "go forth to yourself." The phrase "go forth to yourself" implies that even if someone has reached their highest potential through self-work, only G-d can connect them with their essence — a place beyond education, culture, and family.

By conventional standards, anyone who has developed their potential and acquired vast knowledge through discipline and hard work is considered to have attained the ultimate level in human achievement. However, even at this elevated level, one remains limited — influenced by their education, upbringing, family environment, ego, and prejudices.

There exists a higher realm beyond these limitations — a spark of Divinity at the core of the human soul, breathed into man when he was created in G-d's image. G-d's message beckons not only to leave behind one's nature, habits, and rational self but also to transcend these boundaries. Through His guidance given to Abraham, G-d invites each individual to experience that which supersedes all limits and definitions: Himself.

To begin this journey toward Divine connection, one must first "go to yourself." Moving away from the finite self allows for the discovery of the "you" that only G-d can reveal — the "you" that is one with Him.

I would love to hear your thoughts on this week's column. Please email me at yonatan@chabadruralgeorgia.com.
*Wishing you G-d's abundant blessings,
Rabbi Yonatan Hamburger*



Echos from Sinai
"Torah for Everyone"
Rabbi Yonatan Hamburger

Letters To The Editor

How Fortunate

Dear Editor,

I'm sure I speak for many of my Towns County neighbors when I say how fortunate we are to have Andrew Clyde representing us in the United States House of Representatives. Yes, we were hoping that he and the Republican majority would tackle issues such as inflation, drug prices, immigration and a number of other things that they campaigned on. But let's face it, things have gotten pretty boring since Trump left office. Each day we would wonder what today would bring.

With Representative Clyde and the Freedom Caucus, things are getting fun again. We are getting to see what's in Hunter Biden's laptop. Not only that but they promise us that they will get to the bottom of the Biden crime family. I didn't even know that there was a Biden crime family. What a relief to have them on the job dealing with what's important to the American people. Plus, it's fun to watch them threaten Kevin McCarthy with his job every day.

Now Mr. Clyde is willing to shut down the government unless prosecution is stopped of the ex-president who is accused of stealing nuclear secrets and war plans and of organizing a coup. Now this guy has his priorities right.

I do worry about our military men and women not getting paid, and some of us may miss our Social Security checks. But hey, we must all do our part to support Congressman Clyde.

Dick Freeman

A Better Choice for Hiawassee

Dear Landowners (CME) of the development of The Overlook at Lake Chatuge,

We The People know that you own the property currently asking for a variance to have 54 homes on 4 acres at the intersection of Main Street and Ross Lloyd. We also know that you own other undeveloped land on Main Street.

We believe that you are considering two offers. One offer allows for a smaller return on your investment by following the current law. We also believe that the other offer affords you more money if you get the variance for the denser housing option.

We know our Federal and State Governments are financially incentivizing builders/developers to provide high-density housing developments to house the millions of people that have illegally crossed our borders.

We The People are on the tab to cover the costs of this endeavor. Our city is feeding this spending frenzy as well. We can all see that in the last few years there have been many changes to Hiawassee with a focus on growth and tourism.

I encourage CME to make a better choice for Hiawassee. Please consider the other people that will have to live with the costs of your decisions.

Terry Rathmann

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

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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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