

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Sleepy Joe Biden

Dear Editor,
Sleepy Joe Biden recently ventured out his padded basement to condemn President Donald Trump as a "climate arsonist," predicting that if the president wins reelection, the U.S. will experience even more "hellish" events like the forest fires on the West coast. He also assured us that if he (Biden) becomes President we will all suffer from fewer fires and of course, fewer floods, and fewer hurricanes. Really? His comments were directly focused on the wildfires in California, Oregon, and Washington. Never did he mention that most conservation experts blame these catastrophic fires on bad forest management rather than climate change.

Just for the record, climate activists, for decades, have opposed the harvesting of dead trees and the aggressive clearing of brush to prevent the fires now ravaging the West. Furthermore, in 2016, Governor Jerry Brown (D-Calif.) vetoed all such forest management attempts. Basement dweller Biden's argument is that burning fossil fuels is the root cause behind all extreme weather events.

That's right, because the teleprompter told him so. And of course, the people who disagree with him are "deniers of science." He never considers the fact that claims of a climate change consensus are overblown, or the fact that climate alarmist predictions have been proven wrong for over 50 years. The wildfires are indeed devastating, but climate change isn't the real story.

And there is no evidence that more stringent regulations on fossil fuels will prevent wildfires, or floods and hurricanes for that matter. And of course Biden never shares the fact that his energy policies could bring California's rolling blackouts to the rest of America. Far from preventing more tragedies, his policies will actually create them.

Tim Groza

PUP is Here to Help You

Dear Editor,
This letter is to the person who left six very young kittens in a field. I am sure you know that the mother cat needs to be spayed to prevent more unwanted kittens. If you need a trap to catch the mother, you can call the commissioner's office at 706-896-2276. Towns County has three traps that residents can borrow. Setting a trap is quite easy, and we can train you on how to do that.

If you cannot afford to have your cat spayed, then Operation P.U.P. can help you with this. You can contact P.U.P. at 1-888-496-2387. We are here to help you control the kitten population, but you have to work with us to make that happen.

Sue Scott

Mixed-Up Tyranny

Dear Editor,
For centuries, monarchs ruled by the law of divine right. It was decreed that monarchs are ordained by their Christian God to rule over the people with absolute power.

This tyranny on peoples' freedom in colonial America led to the Revolution. A war fought against the tyranny of the British Empire in bed with the corrupt state approved Anglican Church.

The TC Herald's unsigned column titled, "Weekly Patriot Reflection," claims to be the arbiter of the word "tyranny." But then goes on to declare: "The religion and public liberty of the people are intimately connected: their interests are interwoven and they cannot subsist separately; and therefore they rise and fall together."

Such dogma is anathema to a freely evolving society. A free and liberty loving people are constantly evolving politically and intellectually. Any attempt by religious decree to put a hold on peoples' thinking is to be enslaved by fixed, inflexible and unchanging ideology. If rigid Church ideology ruled today, we'd all be saying, "God Save the Queen."

The anonymous author's wrongheaded idea of Church-State union would have more likely resulted in people on their knees in pews praying for an afterlife. Instead, patriotic fighters fought for freedom from British tyranny and for Church-State separation.

Lance Jobson

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.

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.

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"No, I'm not going to tell you who I'm voting for. It's bad enough that I know!"

Shift

It was my intention this week to write about gun violence in America and how it is a failure of our culture, not our legal system. I wanted to write about how we are inundated by violent images from an early age, yet our understanding of the issue is no more sophisticated than the teenager (or the thirty-something male) playing "Call of Duty - Black Ops" on Xbox. I was going to highlight the link between acts of violence and the use of psychiatric drugs, and contrast the knee jerk reaction of politicians calling for more laws with the long standing traditions of individuals and families exercising their Second Amendment rights responsibly. I was going to close by pointing out that, though the media is howling over the tragic deaths in Las Vegas, there was hardly a whimper when about the same number were killed in Chicago last month. (Most of the victims were young, poor, and black.)

If I elected to turn on the television this morning or scan the headlines online, I would find talkers with plenty to say about this topic and others. The work of herding our attention to the topics that have been selected for dissemination across the land will have reached a crescendo for the morning. Instead, I would prefer to leave this gathering early, and I invite you to come with me. If you are like me, you have grown weary of worry, and you have started to wonder whether the constant barrage of bad news is a result of some kind of group insanity particular to our times, or whether there is some design or intent behind the effort to keep us fearful and angry, all the time.

Personally, I believe it is the former, though there is little doubt that there are those willing to exploit that insanity. The worldwide information network we have created is a powerful golem that leverages and magnifies everything we say, or see, or think. Unfortunately for the human race, our most basic programming is a survival instinct designed to identify and react to danger. We are wired to accentuate the negative, and our electronic golem consistently magnifies that natural tendency.

To compensate for this impediment to modern life, we educate ourselves and, if we are lucky, we learn self-determination. We learn to be the masters of our own minds. However, this is difficult when both parents are away from home working, when teachers are overburdened by babysitting and we are left to roam unguided among the sensations and enticements of mass media and popular culture.

Cognitive shifting is a method of consciously redirecting our attention from one fixation to another. When we are preoccupied with thoughts that detract from our well being, thoughts that cause worry, anger or anxiety, we exercise our will and we shift.

For most of us who do not suffer from mental illness, it is just as easy as it sounds, yet we forget, and we are distracted from the realization that it is well within our ability to do so. Determining the thoughts that occupy our minds is one of our most basic rights as human beings, and yet those thoughts are the aspect of our lives most targeted by those who seek profit and control.

Many of us shift without even realizing it. We shift when we worship, when we pray, when we focus on our families and communities, when we meditate, walk in the woods, work in the garden, exercise, read a book, bait a hook. We shift when we pause to spend a moment in gratitude.

Cognitive shifting does not mean that we stick our heads in the sand and ignore the problems of the world. It means that we choose not to fixate on them. It means that we make a conscious effort to have a more balanced perspective on life.

We can do it right now, together. Turn off the television. Shut down the computer. Take the smartphone out of your pocket and leave it on the desk. Shift.

There is a mist on the mountain this morning, and the valley is quiet and peaceful. The air is cool and heavy with moisture from the much needed rain we just received. The broccoli in the garden has grown an inch since yesterday, and the greens are sprouting. A single hummingbird is drinking at the feeder, one of the last of the busy little group to remain. Any day now she will come to the window and hover for a moment to say goodbye before beginning her long journey south.

These are the thoughts I choose to carry with me today. What will you choose?

The Middle Path
By: Don Perry
onthemiddlepath.com

Chrysanthemums

Chrysanthemums, also called mums, are the Queen of Fall flowers. They can have gorgeous flowers each fall and bring a lot of color to the home this time of the year. There are several nurseries around here that grow beautiful mums. Let's talk about some of the properties of this plant and what you could do to have mums in your yard.

Mums are a member of the daisy family (Asteraceae). This is one of the biggest families in the plant kingdom with a wide variety of flowering plants. The mums were first cultivated in the 15th century B.C. in China. In the 8th century A.D. the mum made its way to Japan. They were so popular there that the mum became the official seal of the emperor. The mum was introduced to the Western world in 1753 by Karl Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist. Growers from ancient China would probably not recognize modern day mums due to the breeding that has given them more showy flowers. Chrysanthemum is also the source for an insecticide called pyrethrum. Because this insecticide is developed from a natural source it is considered an organic insecticide.


The easiest way to have blooming mums at your house each year will be to buy them in the fall from a local nursery. However, if you are interested in growing your own mums it is possible. There are many different varieties available, so talking with a local nursery will help you choose a variety that is acclimatized to our area. They do best when planted in the spring after the last frost. Planting in the spring will give them time to develop a root system so that the following winter they will be able to survive. Well drained soils with full sun are the best for growth. Mums need a slightly acidic soil with a pH near 6.5.

After planting fertilize mums with 5-10-5 fertilizer. The high phosphorus will assist root growth on mums. As the mums are growing in the summer pinching the tips of the mum will increase the amount of branching on the plant. More branching will lead to a fuller plant. Pinch the top half inch to full inch of the plant to encourage branching. Pinch every four to six weeks until August when the flower buds begin to appear.

Mums are relatively easy to take care of, but there are a couple of diseases to look out for. Some of the most common diseases are powdery mildew, blight, leaf spot, and rust. These diseases are fairly easy to control either by fungicide applications or removing the infected leaves. Spider mites and aphids can be pests of mums. They can be controlled by insecticides but good coverage of the plant is necessary to control these pests. Spider mites and aphids are capable of population explosions in a very short amount of time, therefore make sure that you completely cover the top and bottom of the leaves when spraying for these pests.

If you have questions about growing mums please contact your local Extension Office. Or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

UGA extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



As We Wrap Up September

I hope no one considers me remiss for not mentioning one of our greatest American heroes who passed away on September 2, 1964. Of course the Vietnam War was heating up in 1964 and we had a lot on our minds then.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



Even as we still do today with all the politically based attacks on our USA, just as deadly or more-so than a shooting war, and the Chi Com virus which for all intents and purposes is defined as biological warfare.

Those of us who have served our great Sovereign Republic in uniform received training in nuclear, chemical and biological warfare.

As our United States of America is the icon for all that represents freedom, liberty and sovereign individualism in mankind's history, we should always have our nation's security on our minds, when in war or in peacetime. As such we should never forget those who sacrifice to keep our nation intact, NOT those leftist politicians, but our great men and women who serve in uniform.

One of the best of the best, who had a lot in common with the mountaineers who are native to this wonderful region of the North Georgia Mountains was Alvin Cullum York, born December 13, 1887 in Pall Mall, TN. A mountain boy and blacksmith in Cumberland Hill, TN who was denied conscientious objector status when he was drafted into the Army during WWI.

He went on to serve in the 82nd Infantry Division at the Meuse-Argonne battle in October, 1918. He and only 17 men were ordered to take a German machine gun emplacement which was killing so many Americans. His unit suffered extreme losses due to German fire.

As their command was also lost, Corporal York took command and while his troops kept guard over the German prisoners they had taken York, with his old mountaineer and hunting acquired rifleman-ship skills, rapidly killed more than two dozen Germans, prompting the rest of the entire German unit to surrender. He alone scared the living dickens out of those hardened German soldiers!

Upon the return trek to the American unit they captured even more Germans! One hundred and thirty two German prisoners! York was promoted to sergeant and later received the Congressional Medal of Honor and other awards.

After WWI, Alvin York was given a farm by the state of Tennessee, established an industrial institute (Alvin C. York Foundation) and a Bible School for rural young folks. As well as the old movie circa 1941 titled "Sergeant York", which I've watched no less than three times, please read his autobiography, "Sergeant York, His Own Life Story and War Diary." Never in the best health, Alvin left us to be with our Supreme Commander from the Veterans Hospital in Nashville, TN, on 9/2/1964 at age 76.

Alvin York exemplified that which most of us old country boys and girls who when needed would have sacrificed all we had for something far greater than ourselves. And we still would, today!

Semper Paratus

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