

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Two Birthdays?

US Navy's actual Birthday is recognized as October 13, 1775. Therefore this past October 13, 2021 our fine US Navy was 246 years old! Happy Birthday Navy! But we have two Navy-wide celebrations for our Navy which we observe annually. Navy Birthday and Navy Day. Our Navy was originally established as the Continental Navy by the Continental Congress on October 13, 1775. Also established was a Naval Committee to supervise our Navy. The Continental Navy had fifty ships during our American Revolution, with only twenty ships classified as warships of maximum length.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



This may be a little confusing due to the fact that our first Navy, the Continental Navy was disbanded at the end of our Revolutionary War, 1775-1783. However perpetual Barbary pirate threats from four North African Muslim states attacking American civilian merchant shipping vessels (sound familiar?) prompted President George Washington to create the Naval Act of 1794 thereby creating our permanent United States Navy. Our fledgling USCG needed assistance in this same manner. In fact on August 4, 1790 President George Washington's "Tariff Act" authorized construction of ten vessels as "cutters" as "The Revenue Cutter Service", the forerunner of our USCG for defense against smuggling and the tariff enforcement in addition to the growing pirate threats. Our permanent US Navy of 1794 was much larger and fully equipped as warships. Today our Navy is our full time naval warfare branch of our Armed Forces, with more than 300,000 active duty personnel plus a Navy Reserve Force of more than 100,000. As conditions worldwide dictate, our Sovereign Republic wouldn't exist without our Navy on duty globally serving 24/7/365. Our proud Navy birthday is celebrated by personnel, Veterans and anyone else connected to our Navy. The Navy Birthday Ball usually is a formal dinner, birthday cake and entertainment. Go Navy!

Let's look at "Navy Day" officially observed on October 27 each year. This day was initiated by the Navy League of New York in 1922 for recognition of Navy service. This day was chosen in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt's birthday, October 27. The special committee recognizing October 27, 1858, President Roosevelt's birthday for our Continental Congress' desire to purchase merchant ships as the very foundation for our Navy. Now to further verify these Navy celebrations, in 1972 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Elmo Zumwalt authorized recognition of October 13 as the Navy's birthday. Not to be confused with Navy Day of October 27, 1775 recognizing our United States Congressional efforts to finance and create our Navy. Why not just celebrate our US NAVY for the entire month of October? Thank you ALL who have served in our Navy and who faithfully are currently serving our nation in our largest seagoing service that we simply cannot exist without!

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

General Powell legacy

Dear Editor,
 Vietnam War Army Colonel, Colin Powell learned early on that to get ahead, he needed to lie. Which he did when ordered to cover up the Mai Lai massacre. Powell lied in a formal report he wrote exonerating U.S. troops in the murder of over 500 Vietnamese mostly women, children and old men in what amounted to a genocidal war crime.

After Vietnam, at Fort Benning, GA, Powell oversaw the training of death squads for assassination operations in support of Latin American dictators. His role in Iran-Contra is one of the root causes of war refugees fleeing Latin juntas, many ending up in desperation at U.S. borders seeking asylum.

As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Powell engaged in the invasion of Panama that saw thousands of mostly poor civilian Panamanians killed by U.S. bombs in that war of aggression - a war crime.

Perhaps Powell's most heinous act was to go before the UN Security Council to argue in favor of invading and destroying Iraq. He lied about Iraqi WMD's. He lied about terrorist ties between Iraq and al Qaeda. In fact, his lies were used to justify, before the world, the illegal U.S. military intervention and violent occupation of the sovereign Iraqi nation. Wars of aggression are illegal as outlined in the UN Charter and agreed to by the U.S. Powell was one of many U.S. war leaders that were never held to account; instead they were promoted, or led off to cushy retirement.

Lance Jobson

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

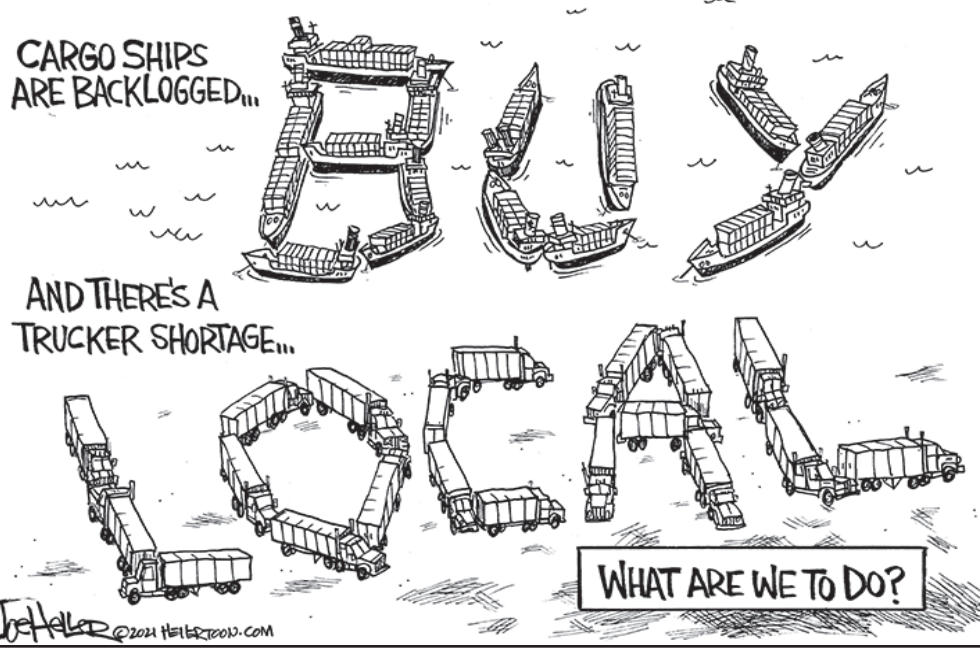
Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor
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 Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net

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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Everything Under the Sun is in Tune, but the Sun is Eclipsed by the Moon

It was one of those full moon days, when everyone is a little bit crazier than usual...

Even without the added lunacy, there are some days when you can almost feel the tension in the air, when people seem a bit more on edge, more prone to anger.

We've long suspected that much of this effect traces back to the unrelenting drama absorbed by a connection to any form of mass media. Most of us shrug it off, or process it with healthy coping mechanisms, or try to avoid as much of the negative stimulus as possible.

Whatever the cause, the full moon does seem to bring out opportunities for people to be what the CDC might describe as "mentally underserved," a theory supported by police records and emergency room admissions for decades.

In any event, in the current political animosity and economic hardship, with many of the diminishing number of people who still work finding themselves overworked, but still falling behind financially as prices continue to rise, there is an increasing chance that we will encounter someone who has "had it up to here" and considers us a convenient peg upon which to hang their frustrations.

Road rage, office rage, neighbor rage, family rage, online rage and even shopping cart rage all have a tendency to increase when the pressure is on, and more so in a culture that emphasizes self importance and encourages people to see themselves as victims.

Several months ago we decided to build a storage shed at home. We needed the space, and the cost of paying for storage made the idea a lot more affordable.

The Big Box corporation gladly took our money, and the salesman humbly admitted that with the strangeness of this economy and it's supply chain issues, there would be a delay, but no more than 7 or 8 weeks.

Fifteen weeks later I estimated that interest on the money I had paid for our building was beginning to accumulate, so I sent the company what I thought was a polite note requesting an updated estimate on their schedule for delivery. I suggested that if the company was unable to deliver before winter that I would need to make other arrangements and I would accept a refund, no harm, no foul.

The reply I received was unexpected. From somewhere in the bowels of the organization, an overlooked employee in an understaffed office had "had it up to here." The employee sent me a scolding reply full of "marshmallowing" statements. (In transactional analysis, "marshmallowing" was an informal description of insincere apologies, or sweet sounding statements embedded with needles.)

"I sincerely apologize, but you were advised that..." That was my first clue. A sincere apology is never followed by a "but."

"Since you have suggested a refund, which we certainly hope you don't have to do, your order has now been moved ahead of 5 people who actually made their purchase before you did." (Thanks for expediting my order, and for the invitation to feel guilty.)

What followed was an account of 12 hour days in an understaffed office burdened with a trainee who was unable to lessen the work load for an employee victimized by a company which assigned one person to process building permits for 4 states. "Since you chose to have us process your permit instead of doing it yourself..." (Forgive me for purchasing one of the options your company sells?)

I'm confident that among the people reading this today are those with a living memory of a time, not so long ago, when the customer was always right, particularly when we were actually right.

Sadly, social media has etched fundamental change onto the character of our culture, including the long tradition of geniality in customer service.

Today we are all too comfortable venting our anger and frustration the instant it appears, without any attempt to process those emotions with discernment or spending any time considering the consequences.

I think it began, perhaps, with the entertainment industry, which gave us celebrity chefs screaming profanity at raw chicken and 120 lb. police women kicking down steel doors before roughing up the bad guys. We began to admire all those characters getting even for us for all of society's wrongs. Then came social media, which encouraged us to expel our emotions, every one, every time.

The scolding email I received is only the most recent example of a decline in the relationship between customers and customer service.

There are too many chips on too many shoulders out there - customers who are weary of the declining value of their dollars are rude and demanding, and customer service from the check-out line at the grocery to the cubicle buried in the bowels of a corporation have seen so much rude and demanding behavior that they now expect it.

Over time, everything under the sun is in tune, but on some days, the sun is eclipsed by the moon. I think eventually a new balance will be found. The Market has a way of eliminating business practices which do not lead to the best results, and that applies equally to the consumer side of the transaction. A civil society, as you might expect, requires civility to function properly, and a drop of kindness, especially today, is like oil in a dry gearbox.

Outside The Box
 By: Don Perry
worldoutsidethebox.com

Bats

In the vein of talking about spooky creatures around Halloween, I'm going to talk about bats! Bats usually creep us out. They can be a pest if they get into your attic. However, they are also good at mosquito control, and mosquitoes are the real bloodsuckers that I don't want to have. Let's talk about bats, how to keep them out of your attic, the services they provide, and how to build a bat nest.

UGA extension
Watching and Working
 Jacob Williams



In Georgia we have 16 different species of bats. The gray myotis and Indiana myotis are both endangered. Several of the others are species of concern, due to low population. A single bat can eat hundreds of mosquitoes in one hour. They will also eat moths and beetles that cause damage to crops and trees. A couple of bat species have specific requirements for humidity and temperature. Those will reside in caves. Otherwise, bats are opportunistic in finding lodging. These bats may roost in dead trees, old barns, or in your attic.

Bats don't cause problems in the house by gnawing or chewing. Their droppings do cause an odor. If you have bats in your house, don't use exclusion practices from April 1st through July 31st. This is the maternity season for bats. If you put up a one-way door to keep them out during that time you will likely trap flightless pups inside your house. Openings that bats have used for a long time will usually have brown discoloration along the sides. There are a couple of different types of one-way doors that you can use. The first one is a mesh covering. Secure the top and sides of the mesh, but leave the bottom open. This way bats exiting will be able to squirm out through the bottom, but not be able to get back in. If you have openings in tight spaces outside you can use pipe (PVC, flexible, caulk tube) that is 2 inches in diameter and 10 inches long. Insert the pipe about a 1/4 inch into the opening and secure it with caulking, staple, nails, or screws. Bats will be able to exit through the pipes, but not fly back into them.

Bats can enter through holes that are as small as half an inch. If you are continuously going through the process of excluding bats and then finding new ones, you may want to buy a bat box to house those bats outside your home. Or you may want to buy a bat box so that you can have bats to eat the mosquitoes around your home. Bat boxes are placed about 15-20 feet off the ground in a spot that gets lots of sunlight. Make sure that the box stays wasp free, because they are a nuisance to bats. It can take a couple of years for bats to move into a bat box. Also, use a bat box that is a dark color because it will absorb more sunlight and be warmer. Bats like it to be 80-100 degrees inside the house. Bat boxes are fairly easy to build. free.woodworking-plans.org/bat-house-plans.html has plans if you'd like to build one.

If you have questions about bats in your home contact your Count Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Police, drag racing, guns, weed, drive-by-shootings, gangs, car jacking

I saw a sign the other day that said, "Don't look back because you're not going there again", but sometimes I just like to stop and look back at the "Good Ole Days" when I was growing up in Butler, a small "hole in the road" in middle Georgia.

RC&D
 Frank Riley
 Executive Director



Butler is in Taylor County halfway between Macon and Columbus at the crossroads of US Hwy 19 (north and South) and Georgia Hwy 96, or the Fall line Freeway (East and West). Nobody stops in Butler, it's just a small town where you better slow down especially if you are from "Up North" or Florida, but it was a great place for kids to grow up. We used to ride in the back seat of the police car, at night, with the police chief (we only had one) and you can imagine the surprise of a "Northerner" when they were stopped for just being from somewhere else and the police car was full of kids.

We had drag races down main street with the muscle cars of the 60s with CJ, the policeman, watching from the sidelines. We hung out after the basketball game at Aunt Susie's, the Sheriff's mother's hamburger joint, and the worst thing we did was try to smoke a cigarette to be cool or spin the wheels on our parents' cars, not much you could do with a 6-cylinder Tempest, but we tried.

We thought "weed" was what you had to pull out of the family garden and a drive by shooting was when some good ole boy shot at a deer in the head lights of his pickup truck. Guns at school were not a problem because every boy had one in a gun rack in his pickup. Car Jacking was when you took the wheels and hubcaps off your car. Our "gang" was called the Swamp Rats and we had painted army helmets and we rode in my grandfathers '59 Jeep up to our farm on the Flint River to "camp-out". Occasionally we would drive thru the back dirt roads to the beer joint across the river (Taylor county was officially dry) and get a wino to buy us a pint of Boones Farm or MD2020. Taylor County was dry because the sheriff and others that ran the moonshine business and did not want competition. They hauled moonshine in big tanks under sand in the dump trucks that ran to Atlanta 24 hours a day from the sand pits in the county. The Sheriff and police had no trouble with any of us because they knew all our parents and we knew that bad news traveled home fast if we did something that was not right.

The information hotline worked very well and we actually talked to each other when visiting our neighbors! Our Facebook was the telephone party line that we all had so everybody on the line could listen to everybody else. There were no secrets if you were on a party line. Our phone number was 249 and with no passwords!

If we got into trouble at school or on the school bus, there was no question about which side of the issue our parents would take, and it surely wasn't ours! We were raised to respect and treat all adults as if they were our parents and they treated us like we were their kids, so we were one big happy family that respected and protected each other. All we had to do when we rode off on our bicycles was be home before dark.

Our Smart phone was Ms. Byrd the operator on the phone company switchboard who listened to everything, and there were no secrets from her. You could ask her where "mama" was, and she would say "oh she's over at Livvy's with Myrtle and Sarah having tea. That was Then and this is Now, What Happened? Where did we go wrong?"

For more information on Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council, contact Ms. Byrd. I wish!

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