

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

October 7

Marking a Year Since October 7 This Yom Kippur Eve



Echos from Sinai "Torah for Everyone" Rabbi Yonatan Hamburger

Monday, October 7, marked the first anniversary of a day that changed the course of many lives forever.

In the powerful words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, it has become a "day that will live in infamy."

This past year has been both terrifying and eye-opening not just for the Jewish community, but for all people who believe in freedom, tolerance, and the principles of Western civilization.

As Hamas unleashed a merciless assault on Israel, videos and images of the atrocities quickly spread across social media, often posted by the terrorists themselves.

Yet, despite these challenges, there is hope. Support for Israel has never been stronger among those who understand the importance of its role as a defender of Western values in the face of radical extremism.

As we reflect on this past year, it's important to recognize that the struggle is far from over. Israel continues to face existential threats from Iranian-backed proxies, about 100 hostages from dozens of countries including the United States still languish in terror tunnels, and the fight for truth and justice in the media and on the international stage is ongoing.

By Divine Providence, Yom Kippur begins this year this Friday night, days after the first anniversary of October 7. It is a solemn day of judgment, where humanity pleads for forgiveness for our sins of the past year and begs to be inscribed for a year of blessing, sustenance, and life.

From October 7 until this tragic anniversary, the world has been in a solemn and terrifying place, and it feels as though we've been living through one long Yom Kippur.

Yonatan Hamburger is a rabbi and writer serving spiritual seekers of all persuasions on behalf of Chabad of Rural Georgia.

Guest Columns

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial.

If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.



What Are Your Priorities?

Last week I wrote that the storm could have been much worse for Georgia. I regret saying that. While it's true statistically, this is the last thing someone wants to hear who is sleeping on a cot in a temporary shelter or waiting for their electricity to be restored.

Outside The Box By: Don Perry worldoutsidethebox.com

In North Carolina, there are still over 600 people missing, and by now we have all seen the pictures and videos of the results of a 1000-year flood, an event that has a .1% chance of occurring in any given year.

This morning I saw a meme that brought the relief of a smile. The image depicts a group of 4-wheeled drive trucks and ATVs crossing a flooded road, and the caption reads, "In almost any emergency situation, but especially natural disasters, one redneck friend or neighbor is worth a thousand PhDs."

If you're offended by the humor, it might be because you're too many years away from the squad bay or the shop to remember that coping humor and survivor humor can be an essential part of dealing with the stress and emotions of a disaster.

It also suggests an uncomfortable truth that many thousands of people are now facing: Expect little help from the bureaucracy. Yes, there is a federal response, and those boots on the ground are to be admired and appreciated as much as any volunteer for the risk and discomfort involved in disaster mitigation.

FEMA has announced that it lacks funding to see it through the remainder of the hurricane season. Inquiring minds are curious. FEMA has spent about \$10 billion on disaster relief so far this year.

FEMA spent \$650 million so far this year (and over \$1 billion in the last two years) on undocumented immigrants. The U.S. has spent over \$175 billion on the war in Ukraine.

That is true. Victims of Helene are eligible for a one-time payment of \$750. All you have to do to receive this payment is:

Register with FEMA: Visit the FEMA website or call the FEMA helpline to register for disaster assistance. You can also use the FEMA mobile app.

Provide Necessary Information: Be prepared to provide details such as your Social Security number, address of the damaged property, a description of the damage, insurance information, and a contact number.

Complete the Application: Fill out the application form with all required information. Make sure to double-check for accuracy.

Submit Supporting Documents: You may need to submit documents such as proof of identity, proof of ownership or occupancy, and insurance documents.

Follow Up: After submitting your application, keep an eye on your email or phone for any follow-up communication from FEMA. They may request additional information or documents.

Perhaps a better and longer-lasting mitigation already exists. There is a federal program designed to help undocumented immigrants called "Refugee Cash Assistance," which pays up to \$800 per month for a family of four, who can also receive up to \$600 per month from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

All that remains is for the president, via Executive Order, to declare the thousands of tax-paying American citizens who are now homeless, and by virtue of that loss also undocumented, to be refugees.

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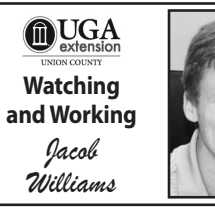
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Erosion Control

Georgia, along with much of the southeastern US, don't have a positive past with erosion. Repetitive cropping of cotton in the Piedmont resulted in seven inches of topsoil being washed away into the ocean.



Watching and Working Jacob Williams

Soil takes hundreds of years to create, meaning that loss of soil is something that is felt for generations. By the 1950s, new policies and programs began to change Georgia from endless cotton fields to forestland and other uses that are less susceptible to erosion.

Erosion can also lead to water quality issues. Not only does the topsoil muddy up our lakes and rivers, but also the nutrients that the topsoil is carrying can create algal blooms leading to decreased aquatic life.

So, what you can do to reduce erosion? First, construction makes soil very susceptible to erosion. Removing all the vegetation from the top of the soil leaves it open to the rainfall.

Planting permanent vegetation is the long-term goal for erosion control. Mulch can also be used temporarily while you are establishing vegetation. Trees are going to be the best for long term protection from erosion.

A lot of our soil in the mountains is most likely going to need lime and fertilizer before you can replant it with vegetation. A soil test is a great place to start to learn how much lime and fertilizer you need to add.

Minimizing impermeable surfaces such as the driveway or walkway on your property will also reduce erosion. Obviously, you will need some impermeable surfaces at your property, such as a roof for your house.

If you have any questions about erosion or what you can do to prevent erosion at your property please contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

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

Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor P.O. 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.

Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

The Towns County Herald is an independent and non-partisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

Towns County Community Calendar

Table with 3 columns: Event Name, Location, Time. Includes: 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 6 pm; YH City Council... YH City Hall 6:30 pm; 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 5:30 pm; City of Young Harris Planning Commission... Meeting Room in City Hall 5 pm; TC Water Authority Board Meeting 6 pm

Towns County Herald

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