

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

NMFA

As submitted by a member of our American Legion Auxiliary, who is dear to us all:

The Veterans' Corner Scott Drummond USCG Veteran



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What is a GMO?

This week I want to cover a topic that usually elicits a strong reaction from people. My intent is to talk about GMO's so that we can all have a better understanding of what they are, how they are made, and how they are used.

UGA extension Watching and Working Jacob Williams



GMO stands for genetically modified organism. It might sound obvious, but products that are not organisms cannot be genetically modified.

Gene modifying technology has come a long way. It used to be done using the particle gun method. Tiny metal particles were coated with desired DNA and blasted at plant pieces, hoping that the genetic modification would take.

There are 29 crops that have received approval for use. Not all of those are still in production. Sometimes advertising that says a particular crop is non-GMO is misleading, because a GMO version of that crop doesn't exist.

So, for what traits are GMOs normally modified? Herbicide tolerance is a big one. Herbicide tolerant crops allows farmers to use fewer herbicide applications and use conservation tillage, which captures more carbon in the soil.

GMO crops have provided benefits, but there are negatives too. There are cases where pests have become resistant to pesticides due to reliance on individual pesticides. Pesticide resistance means that pests present an even larger problem than they did before.

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

On Thursday, November 18th I will have a program on Septic System Management for homeowners in the Union County Civic Center at 6 p.m. Contact the Union County Extension office at 706-439-6030 or email me for more information.

Blairsville Scarecrow winners

Fall is here. The leaves are just about finished changing colors, and the holiday season is sneaking up on us. One of the fun things that Habitat for Humanity (along with the Downtown Development Authority) does each year is sponsor "Scarecrowville" around the Old Courthouse.

Habitat Happenings Cathy Wheeler



To make it even more fun, we turned this event into a contest, with first, second and third place winners. Third place was awarded to Abide Coffee (who had their scarecrow in a chair, petting a skeleton dog). They won a gift certificate to the Tin Roof Creamery.

Habitat's next event is a Veterans' Day Appreciation party. Stop by the ReStore on Thursday, November 11 from 9 a.m. until noon.

While you are here, we will have their Service cards available for those who would like to send some encouraging notes to some members of the armed forces who are deployed overseas, and won't make it home for the holidays.

Don't forget that Habitat is in the process of choosing our next family for the home that we will start building soon! If you are interested in finding out more information, call the Habitat Office to get on the list to attend an orientation meeting.

The dates are November 9th at 7 p.m. at the Hiawassee Civic Center, and November 11th at 7 p.m., and November 13th at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Blairsville.

Until next time, join us in carrying out Habitat's Mission of "Putting God's Love into Action", creating a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Bathwater Barracuda

It was our privilege recently to spend some time in the beautiful coastal plain of Georgia, where, "...somehow my soul seems suddenly free from the weighing of fate and the sad discussion of birth, by the length and the breadth and the sweep of the marshes of Glynn."

Our travels took us across the coastal plain and down the road to Brunswick, Georgia, where corporate news talkers and paid protesters have migrated from out of state to demonstrate the "rising tensions" emanating from the now famous trial taking place there.

Away from the microphones, however, the residents of Brunswick and the surrounding area seem to have forgotten that they are supposed to be tense and worried. We spent a long lunch in a fine little Jamaican restaurant visiting with Chef George of the Jerk Shack, passing the time of day with some folks who, incidentally, happened to be black, and there was not one mention of the trial.

This is not a commentary on the merits of the trial which, though it has already been decided in the pixel universe, has not yet been adjudicated by the courts. This is not a suggestion that racism does not exist or that there is not plenty of room for improvement in the way people with different perspectives and life experiences relate to each other.

So media has doubled down by turning up the volume and the contrast, and fishing for an audience like a shrimp boat dragging a net through endless news cycles - and they're not above chumming the waters. News is always breaking, but when something is fixed, we rarely hear about it.

The trial in Brunsonwick is the final chapter of a tragedy. Cameras and microphones feed on tragedy today like barracuda feed on an open wound. We've seen it here in our own town. For someone who looks beyond the provocative headlines at information less newsworthy, like statistics, an appropriate question might be, is this event more important than other tragedies, or does it demand a bigger audience because it can be leveraged to promote a social/political agenda?

Of course this is just one man's opinion. Another man on another day might have had a very different experience than I had in Brunswick, GA, over the course of several days, with a variety of people, in a number of neighborhoods and businesses among the very same "identities" that media claims divide us.

I stake no claims on the possession of the universal truth of this matter. But when it comes to personal truth and the information I choose to own, the information that guides my response to the events of this world and the people in it, I have to go with my own experience over the pixelated opinions of bathwater barracuda.

Outside The Box By: Don Perry worldoutsidethebox.com

Letters to The Editor

Disappointed

Dear Editor, My family and I attended the Fall Festival at the fairgrounds for the closing weekend this year. Except for last year, we had not missed a single one since 1995. When we left GA for the Greenville, SC area in 2001, we continued to attend and camp at the beautiful campgrounds at the fairgrounds.

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.

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.

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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