

# DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Frozen Chosen

Reprinted from TCH 11-11-20: This story in our American Legion November magazine caught my eye immediately



**The Veterans' Corner**  
Scott Drummond  
USCG Veteran

as my friend, OUR FRIEND to all in Towns County, Cecil Sanders, Jr. has told me this almost verbatim story of his experiences in the Marines, several times. Cecil is now experiencing true peace at the Right Hand of our Supreme Commander, no more wars or hardships to endure.

Charlie Gebhart, from Chicago's West Side, served as an Army sergeant in that sub-freezing hell of the Chosin Reservoir also. He was 21 years old. Temperatures were 35 degrees below zero. His fingers were black and his feet felt like balls of lead. Charlie is a member of Boone American Legion Post #77 in Belvidere, IL, today. Just as our own Cecil Sanders told me the freezing temperatures took a greater toll than the Communist bullets.

Communist Chinese troops surrounded the Army and Marine Corps units as they neared the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. This evolved into a hellish seventeen day battle in extreme cold conditions. Our America lost 2,500 precious lives, KIA; 5,000 wounded and 8,000 were unable to fight due to frostbite. They were outnumbered 10 to one and Army and Marines were forced to make a 70 mile retreat with Chinese forces fighting them all the way. Marine aircraft were the only aid they had to help them escape certain death from the cold or the Chinese. "I was just trying to survive the moment" says Charlie. "We were surrounded and outnumbered 10 to 1. We were fighting the impossible. Death was always there. You were always next." Everything was frozen and virtually nothing worked as it should have. Charlie puts it like this, "I had to put up with a lot of combat, but got through it because I had so many great people beside me. "I don't care about the awards and decorations that much. The only badge I really respect is the Combat Infantry Badge. I'd do it all over again, because of my band of brothers." Gebhart came home in July, 1951 and worked for Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad as a switchman, conductor and yardmaster. In 1970 he married his wife, Linnea and had two children, John and Julie. He has also served in the Honor Guard for Veteran burials. He goes on, "I've had a good life". "The whole thing has been a good life."

There exists the high probability that Charlie Gebhart and Cecil Sanders Junior were nearby each other during this awful battle, but for good reason, to save our allies of South Korea who are grateful allies to this day. Just like Cecil said many times over, "this is not about me, but about them", referring to all those who gave their lives. If these two fine men could have ever met, they would have formed an immediate bond, not known or felt by anyone who has never experienced what they survived. Their stories are identical. They are both wonderful Americans. Fact not opinion!

*Semper Paratus*

## Letters to The Editor

### Election Results Speak Volumes

Dear Editor,

The results of the gubernatorial election in Virginia are a true indicator that the Biden presidency has been a failure on many fronts. Inflation is skyrocketing and millions of jobs remain unfilled. Thousands of illegal immigrants are pouring across the Southern border. With respect to foreign policy, Biden never had any real expertise. Even many Democrats recognize the Afghanistan debacle and bungling the withdrawal. As a result, China and Taiwan are on the brink of war. But Biden is most concerned with the Democrats' tax-and-spend agenda while appeasing the radical left with trillions of dollars to be spent on social welfare programs. The message being sent to the rest of the world is that America cares more about socialism than foreign policy. The Biden administration is more focused on government hand-outs than collaborating with our allies and confronting our enemies. Biden is not the leader of the free world but rather a puppet of the radical Left. How much faith can Americans and our allies have in a commander-in-chief who is losing here and abroad?

Tim Groza

### 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:

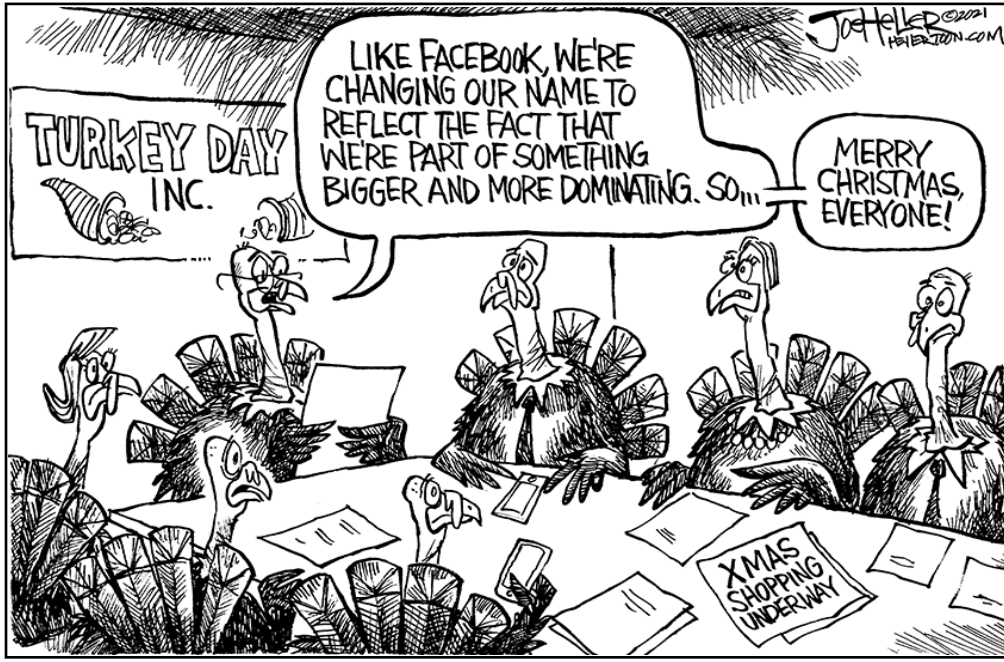
Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor  
P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546  
Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net

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 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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## Lighten Up

Work is hard enough. Raising kids, caring for the elderly, eating right, sleeping well and staying fit, all require thought and energy beyond what we spend on the job. This has always been so, but we've never felt so tired. We thought

our parents were too serious, but we worry more than they did and we don't sleep as well. Ours is not the only generation to feel this way, but those that did were usually in the midst of war, disaster or upheaval. In spite of recent struggles with pandemics and politics, we still live in unprecedented affluence, in times that are extraordinarily peaceful in a historical context. Yet many of us feel and we act as if something were draining our spirits, destroying our faith and crushing our hopes into despair.

Let's have a show of hands, how many are worried right now about the fate of the world and the state of the nation? How many are fearful of supply chain problems, rising prices, migrating hordes, melting glaciers, Marxist ideas, racial hatred and domestic terror, not to mention earthquakes, famine, war and rumors of war? Do you remember the precise moment in time when you decided to worry? Where did you get your information? Who told you to be afraid? Was it one of the 6 companies that dictate 90% of the information published and broadcast to the masses, companies that depend on your clicks to keep their shareholders happy and on drama to keep you clicking? Was it one of the politicians who need for you to be angry so you'll keep voting for the party rather than the person or the idea?

We're not suggesting that these problems don't exist or that they don't require our attention. We do state categorically, however, that none of these problems requires the sacrifice of our peace of mind. In fact, without peace of mind and the hope and faith which produce it, a solution to the problems is beyond our reach. My brother says we spend too much time "doom-scrolling," following one frightening or salacious headline after another down a rabbit hole of despair into an underworld of imminent apocalypse. Let's recover some of the energy we have invested in worry and redirect it to a more productive venture. Perhaps if we can deconstruct just one or two of the doom paradigms corporate media has used to herd our attention, we can let a little light into the room and begin to gain a healthier perspective on the world.

It's fashionable now to worry about China. China is the latest adversary of the kind that a top heavy ship of state such as ours needs as ballast. When Australia dared to challenge China and demanded a thorough investigation into the origins of the Covid virus, China, emboldened by a successful run of bullying the world economy, threatened economic retaliation and the destruction of Australia's export markets. The experts of corporate media predicted that the sky would fall down under, and the world waited for the Australian economy to collapse.

It did not. Instead, it adapted. China discovered that it had overplayed its hand and a full blown energy crisis forced it to back away from some of the bluster. Today the Australian economy is humming along as if China did not matter.

Let's look at our supply chain problems, which are very real and likely to continue for some time, though the President has told us at least twice now that they're too complex for us to understand. The beauty of a free market economy (as opposed to a Marxist command economy) is that a free market allows something called creative destruction, and that's what's happening now to our supply chain. Companies are changing the way they do business so they are not so dependent on long global supply chains that are susceptible to interruption at so many junctures. Some companies will fail, but those that are vigorous enough to adapt are finding raw materials and suppliers closer to home. New businesses will be created. It's a movement toward a model which some economists, warning of the hazards of globalization, have advocated for some time. It's just a shame that we had to be forced into making that move.

The shelves at Walmart might be devoid this Christmas, perhaps even the next, of the usual abundance of glitter encrusted Styrofoam from Asia, but some of us may get an opportunity to remember that we aren't 4 year-olds who have just been denied an ice cream when that hoped-for gadget does not appear under the Christmas tree. Empty shelves will fill up over time. Business will adapt. We will adapt.

Let's talk about values for a moment. Some of us are deeply concerned by what we perceive as an assault on our values. The corporate elite would have us believe that we are outnumbered, that what we call "woke" is established science, that our values are outdated, irrelevant, canceled. As the Lieutenant Governor elect of Virginia said recently, "We beg to differ."

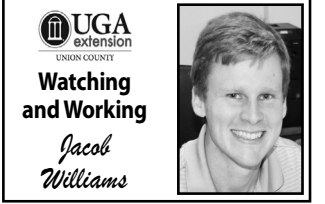
Truth reaches out to us through many channels, even an unpopular vice president who, in a recent theatrical presentation said, "Don't let anyone tell you who you are. You tell them who you are." Do not believe for a moment that our values are outdated and outnumbered, that our nation originated in evil intentions, or that some of us are flawed from birth, simply because we are told that by the people holding the microphones, running the board meetings or tweeting from the faculty lounges. They have stirred the great silent majority, and resistance is running like a riptide ahead of a storm. Ask Dave Chappelle. Ask governor elect, Youngkin. Ask democrat Senator Joe Manchin, who has held the fantasies of the far left in check with another outdated value called common sense.

Are you worried and afraid? We've asked you a hundred times over the years to turn off the computer, and if you can't do a better job choosing what to read or what to watch, leave it off for a while. Lighten up and stop brooding. Go outside and enjoy this phenomenal weather and the breathtaking beauty still clinging to our beloved mountains. Above all, have a little faith.

**Outside The Box**  
By: Don Perry  
worldoutsidethebox.com

## Composting

Compost is a welcome addition to any garden. It's a popular and effective method to improve the quality of your soil. It can also help you get rid of lawn debris such as grass clippings or leaves as they are beginning to fall. Composting is not difficult to do, but here are some tips so that you can start your own compost pile.



**Watching and Working**  
Jacob Williams

Compost is rich, dark humus that is the end product of the natural decomposition of plants or plant products. Using a compost pile will speed up the natural decomposition of plant material. Compost can improve soil drainage, structure, and help hold water and nutrients. The nutrients in compost will not be enough to replace fertilizing, but they can reduce fertilizing.

You can use just about any organic material for composting. Leaves, grass clippings, twigs, old annual or perennial flowers, old vegetable plants, straw, and sawdust can all be thrown into the compost pile. Try to avoid using insect or disease infested plants to reduce the spread of those plants the following season. You can put things like kitchen peelings and coffee grounds into the compost pile too. Kitchen scraps should be buried into existing compost so that they don't attract too many wild animals. Covering your compost pile will help keep animals out too. Avoid using highly processed foods because these will take longer to break down.

When making a compost pile, it's helpful to have something to contain it. A lot of different materials can be used from wire, fencing, wood pallets or concrete blocks. Leave some open spaces on the sides for ventilation. Good air circulation is important for successful compost. The bottom of the pile needs to be open to the soil to allow good drainage. Construct your pile in an out of the way place in your yard, in full sun.

Once you've constructed your container for the compost pile, start adding organic matter. Smaller pieces will decompose more quickly than large pieces of organic matter. Once you have a layer of organic matter in there add in some garden soil or animal manure. These will add fungi, bacteria, insects, and worms to the pile. They're the critters responsible for breaking down the plant material into the humus that you add to your garden. You'll want to keep the pile moist, but not soggy.

Sometimes a concern with compost piles is that there might be an odor. If you turn the pile with a shovel at least once a month this will reduce the smell. A good functioning compost pile will heat up from the activity of the microbes decomposing organic matter. The heat produced will kill off the odor causing bacteria. If you add manure to your pile there will be some initial odor, but as the pile matures the smell will go away. A well maintained compost pile should not have a strong odor.

Once the compost has a crumbly earth look and you can no longer recognize the plant material it's ready to be added to the garden. If you add the organic material over time the compost will become ready a little at a time. If you have questions about creating or maintaining your compost pile contact your county Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

I will have a septic program for homeowners on Thursday, November 18 in the Union County Civic Center Auditorium at 6 p.m. If you would like more details call 706-439-6030.

## Not too Late to Honor Veterans

There is so much going on at Habitat for Humanity, Towns/Union Counties, that I hardly know where to start!

First of all, thank you to all who stopped by on November 11th (Veteran's Day), and signed some Christmas cards.

These cards will be sent overseas, and distributed to our servicemen and women who are deployed, and won't make it home in time to celebrate the Holidays.

We have a huge box of cards that are filled with well-wishes, ready to go in the mail. If you missed this card-signing event, it's not too late! We won't be mailing our big box until around Thanksgiving. If you would like to get a few Christmas cards and write a line or two thanking our active-duty personnel for their service, you can drop them off at the ReStore before Thanksgiving, and we will be sure to get them included in our mailing. It means a lot to those military people serving overseas, that we would think of them during the Holiday Season.

We have had a great response to our orientation meetings for potential new Habitat Homeowners. There were four sessions, and many families attended to learn what it takes to partner with Habitat for Humanity, to build and purchase a home. Thank you to all of our Habitat Volunteers who helped with these orientation sessions, or helped with publicity by distributing fliers throughout Towns and Union Counties. Habitat hopes to choose a family in January, and start construction on their house shortly thereafter.

For those of you with pets, Habitat for Humanity has an exciting Christmas opportunity for you! It's "Christmas Pictures for Santa Paws"! On Saturday, December 11th from 2-5 p.m., you can bring your furry friends to the Habitat ReStore (225 Wellborn St., in Blairsville--across from The Skillet Restaurant). We have a professional photographer who has volunteered to take pictures of your furbabies in front of a Christmas background! You are welcome to be in the picture with your fuzzy friends, or just get pictures of them. Our photographer will upload all the pictures online, and you can print out as many pictures as you would like. Although it's not required, we are requesting a \$5 donation for this service.

If you need to find some "Christmasy" things for your photos (such as collars, leashes, harnesses, bows, bowties, or scarves, be sure and stop by The Farmhouse Co. (307 Cleveland St., in Blairsville) to pick up some great props at some great prices. All money raised from this event will go directly to Habitat for Humanity, Towns/Union Counties, Inc. Donations will be used to help Towns and Union County residents get affordable housing and have repairs done to their homes so they can stay there, instead of having to find other places to live.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer for our Organization, please call the Habitat office at 706-745-7101.



**Habitat Happenings**  
Cathy Wheeler

## Towns County Herald

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