

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Mission Accomplished

Dear Editor,
The Mama Bears Hiking Team thanks you for your generous support, we raised over \$8,300 for Make A Wish Georgia and completed the 20.5 miles hike on November 7th! Special thanks to Rick Andrews of Century 21 Black Bear Realty for sponsoring our team with a large donation. Thanks also to Gary Miller of McKinney Heating and Air and Fortitude Estate Jewelry for their support. It was a tough year for the fourth annual Trailblaze Challenge Hike, we had only half of the usual number of participants which caused the state goal to be reduced from \$150,000 to \$100,000 currently almost \$72,000 has been raised so fundraising is still ongoing. You can donate online by googling "Make A Wish Georgia 2020 Trailblaze Challenge" and click on Mama Bears team to donate to any team member. It will make a wonderful Christmas gift for a critically ill child, you can make their wish come true!

**Irene Reiner
Captain, Mama Bears Team**

Kudos to Callie

Dear Editor,
Kudos to Callie Moore and her MountainTrue trash-busters that cleaned up the Lake Chatuge Recreation Area off Sunnyside Rd. in Hiawassee. This park has never been so clean! Nice job and keep up the good work!

John Bowen

Obviously

Dear Editor,
Concerning a recent letter in your paper entitled Can you Believe it? The writer certainly has your readers confused regarding to which president he is referring when he makes a blanket statement about "the worst president in modern history". Is he directing his attention to the Socialist president of Venezuela, the Communist president of North Korea or our immediate past president Obama?

Obviously it wasn't President Trump because this man has immeasurably improved our standing around the globe, achieving peace between numerous Arab states and Israel, something no previous administration has been able to do. He has also utilized the power of his office to accomplish great things for the American people such as lower taxes, higher incomes and the nomination of three great Supreme Court Justices. He has fought against rampant corruption in Washington, attacked racism by developing a more diverse administration than previous presidents and tried to overcome the spirit of division and polarization created by the previous administration. Another colossal achievement was his total performance from day one in combating the Coronavirus. By developing Operation Warp Speed and working with the private sector, a vaccine for all the world will be available in a few short weeks.

His emphasis on the importance of women and their role in government is evidenced by the huge number of females on his team and his campaign committee. That, of course, is why such large numbers of evangelical Christians voted for him in this election. He is also considered to be the most prolific president in modern history.

More than 73 million people said by their vote it was imperative to return President Trump to the White House. With powerful evidence of election fraud being brought to light on a daily basis from all over the country, it becomes obvious that if all the votes were tallied, Trump's totals would far surpass those of the Biden. The bigger picture is the ascendancy of the Republican Party, breaking every prediction and projection of them losing 10-20 seats in the House and a half dozen or so in the Senate. The final result could be a gain of 13 seats in the House where not one Republican incumbent lost his election. The huge attrition in the Senate never materialized.

Can you believe it, the even bigger picture appears to be the descent of the democrat party which now prefers socialism, anarchy (note the continual violence in democrat controlled cities) and stripping away our freedoms.

Looking to democrat chicanery being foiled, giving us several more years of Trump/Pence.

Gary Meier

Unfortunately

Dear Editor,

This is in response to a recent letter from last week's 11-18-20, TC Herald, where he effusively celebrated the election defeat of President Trump. Unfortunately, what Mr. Day left out of his Trump critique is the fact that it doesn't really matter who is president when the U.S. ruling elite is the corporate capitalist and military-industrial complex ruling class that runs the government and by sheer power of unlimited Big Money influence, Citizen's United, K St. lobbyists, Super-PACS and gangs of corporate lawyers, lobbyists and bought and paid for politicians.

Borrowing from an era under another Democratic president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, referring to that earlier economic collapse known as the Great Depression, he said: "All we have to fear, is fear itself." Applied to today's war-based economy, the slogan should be revised to say: "All we have to fear, is fear of Joe Biden himself." Because the (deep) State Department and the Pentagon are not going anywhere, no matter who is president.

Interested in how U.S. regime change operated under the Obama-Biden regime are invited to search the internet for "Timber Sycamore" to learn more.

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.



Whether together
or apart
this
Thanksgiving,
we can be
together
in our hearts.

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

Pandemic Edition

"You shouldn't make light of a thing like that," said a friend in response to my title for this week's edition. Why would anyone joke about something which has stolen life, ruined and complicated lives, frightened and divided a nation?

Because humor is one pathway outside the box, and humor is sorely needed after eight years of non-stop political campaigning and 12 months of this boxing-in of our lives which feels like much longer. Humor is a survival mechanism, a release valve and a tonic. This is intimately known by anyone who has been to war or banded together to confront a challenge. Some of the best humor comes from the trenches, the locker room and the crew quarters.

We need to laugh because we are beyond weary of being quartered in our homes in what often feels like a version of house arrest. Though the armed guards and electronic ankle bracelets are thus far lacking, we are restrained by some combination of fear, cultural taboo and common sense from going about our normal pursuits.

We miss our relatives and friendships. We miss hugs and handshakes and human companionship. In some parts of the country we are rebelling, understandably but unfortunately, against all these constraints in ways that occasionally exceed the boundaries of common sense. Even those of us who have tried to be careful find that we are less so as time drags on – even as new records for infections are set and the death toll is climbing again. We are sick of being boxed in. What can we do?

No, we're not here to argue epidemiology or conspiracy, or especially politics, but I think we can all agree that there is much more virus news yet to be broken, and more inconvenience is on the horizon. There will be more lock downs in some parts of the country, and store shelves are already empty of various items. The last time I looked, Depotmart was running low on paper products. Not again! Right?

We'll pause here to get our bearings. Some of us are new to the concept of "thinking outside the box." What do we mean by "the box?" It's a metaphor for any habit of thought which inhibits us from adapting to new information and new situations. Dogma, tradition, addiction, fear and inertia are just a few of the things which can contribute to a feeling of being trapped by our circumstances or unable to find a solution to a problem. Scientists, artists and entrepreneurs, at least the successful ones, think outside the box on a regular basis. But not too much. A box is also a frame, and a frame is useful for helping us focus, to separate what is pertinent from what is not. There is a balance which avoids "analysis paralysis" and overthinking a problem. The revolutionary artist who begins a new movement still understands primary colors.

Getting back to our pandemic box, let's start with a simple problem we can use to practice our out of the box thinking: Toilet paper. We'll take it as one more sign that God has a sense of humor when I consider the fact that the paper towel was invented in 1919 – in the midst of another pandemic. Don't spread that around. Considering the quality of the thinking now circulating the pixel universe, someone might conclude that paper products actually cause pandemics.

We get it. When germs are on the move and looking for places they can lay in wait, we want to clean more. That means more cleaning products and disinfectant wipes are going to disappear from the shelves, and in our culture of instant and disposable gratification, that also means more paper towels. This is a logical consequence of rational thinking.

But toilet paper? Not to get too personal, but...y'all eating that much more on lock down? Staying at home makes folks more regular? CNN nervous stomach syndrome messing with your metabolism? We can go a week or two without food, a few days without water, but I've missed the directions on the back of a tp roll which say "take one every 4-6 hours," like aspirin. This is a great segue to our first out-of-the-box thinking primer, something which can make our box a little, or a lot less onerous: It's called a "bidet." If you don't have one, you can purchase a bidet for less than the price of two of those hay bales of toilet paper like they sell at the Box Club stores. You can install it in about 10 minutes, and it cleans everything that toilet paper will clean and more. And better. It will make your precious supply of paper last 10 times longer, and it won't clog up your septic system.

There are health benefits too, but you can research those for yourself. In some parts of the world where the bidet is more common, it's considered more civilized – and sanitary – than killing trees to make a product not much different from a handful of leaves; a product that requires heavy industrial processing which is also a dangerous polluter. And by the way, your grandparents boiled rags and reused them before paper towels were invented, and their kitchens were at least as clean as yours, and probably less toxic. And we can't live without all this paper because? We'll throw elbows and fight for the last 4 rolls because?

Because we're boxed in by tradition. We've always done it this way. It's just a natural part of life. It's our right. We've never considered anything else because our way of life is non-negotiable. It's a mental and emotional trap that can be very easily sidestepped. Subjecting our peace of mind to an inflexible paradigm of bathroom requirements is not the only box this pandemic is drawing around our lives, and we're going to be boxed in together for some time to come. Not "together" like celebrities spelling out "We're all in this together" with their yachts, but together in the sense that the rest of us are experiencing similar challenges "together," and in isolation, at the same time. Stay tuned.

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

Oh Christmas Tree

Having a real Christmas tree can be a great tradition this time of year. There are a number of places that sell Christmas trees here. Let's talk about selecting a Christmas tree and Christmas tree care so that you can avoid a National Lampon Christmas Vacation type situation.

Three trees grown in Georgia are fir, cypress, and cedar. Some things to consider when purchasing a Christmas tree are needle retention, strong limbs, fragrance, and dryness.

Before you even leave to buy your tree it's a good idea to select and measure the space where you'll be putting your tree. A good spot is away from space heaters, fireplaces, or wood stoves. Measure how high the tree can go in your house. It can be difficult to gauge if a tree is going to fit inside when you're looking at it outdoors. Trees can appear small outside, and then seem to grow a couple of feet once you bring them inside.

When you are selecting your tree it is important to make sure that you get one that is fresh cut. A fresh cut means that the tree will be able to absorb water more effectively, and therefore not dry out as quickly. Once the trunk of the tree has dried out you can cut off the bottom 1/2 inch to establish a new fresh cut. You really don't want your tree to be dry for more than 6-8 hours. When you are purchasing the tree give the limbs a good shake and see if many needles fall off. Then grab a branch of a tree and pull the branch through your hand. Ideally you don't want to see many needles fall off the branch. Also check for off color on any of the needles. If a bunch of needles don't fall off and the needles are a good green color you know that you have a healthy tree.

A dry Christmas tree can be a fire hazard in a house. If your tree has a fresh cut it should be able to last the entire Christmas season without drying out if you keep it well watered. There should always be water in the tree stand. Keep the water level above the cut on the tree so that the cut won't dry out and your tree is continually taking up water. Drilling a hole in the trunk does not improve water uptake. Using lights that put off heat will increase the drying of the tree. LEDs are a good option to reduce heat.

There are a couple of ways to dispose of your Christmas tree. You can use them for soil erosion barriers. If you have a pond you can sink them to create fish habitat. Chipping them to use as mulch in the garden is another good option.

Real Christmas trees are beautiful and a sound environmental choice. Trees are recyclable, produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide.

We have great locations to purchase a real Christmas tree around here, and this is the time of year to shop local, so I encourage you to check them out! If you have any questions about Christmas trees contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu. Merry Christmas and happy tree shopping!

**UGA
extension
UNION COUNTY**
**Watching
and Working**
Jacob
Williams



Thanks!

In America we've so much to be HUGELY thankful for! Be especially thankful for our Sovereign Republic, which absolutely would NOT EXIST minus those who have served our nation in uniform from it's very inception.

There were many who never wanted to leave home and go face danger. However they went forth anyway. I believe God has a special place for those who gave their lives for you and I, our nation, and they never shirked their duty. As in WWII a lot of young folks lied about their age and physical problems to serve the call of freedom threatened.

Ditto when Vietnam came around, even though popular Hollywood types and POLITICIANS messed that up worse than our Communist enemies ever could have!

There are, has been and always will be extremely important jobs for just about anyone who truly has a heartfelt desire to serve America. Regardless of physical limitations in a lot of cases. Be thankful for those who have stepped up to those special challenges!

Tomorrow, on Thanksgiving Day be sure to remember all those who have made this day possible for you and those you love. Let's remember all five, or is it six today (?) with our newly formed Space Force, forever keeping those "one per-centers" in your heart and mind.

While we're at it let's not forget those who currently serve in our military forces away from home, as well as our domestic warriors, the police, Sheriffs, EMT s, Firemen and women, doctors, Nurses and all those we often take for granted. (Note that I capitalized Nurses, as I always try to do with Veterans and Marines.)

Where would our society be without them ALL? It would be chaos and horror! Our USA wouldn't last long, maybe a couple of months.

The special kinds of one-percenters I refer to in this column are folks who run towards the threat. Towards and into the fire. Towards the collapsing building. Towards those who are hell bent on shooting, killing or maiming others both abroad and here at home. Those who risk their lives and well being to save others who may be drowning or burned alive on a sinking, burning vessel.

Sure enough! We've got so much to be thankful for. Some of these special folks may not look like it, they may not act like it, but they are and have proven themselves to be special. Why? Only they and our Lord, Jesus Christ know.

Have a Happy, Wonderful Thanksgiving and let's pray for many, many more! - *Semper Paratus*

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



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Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Kenneth West
Owner/Publisher

Shawn Jarrard
General Manager

Todd Forrest
Staff Writer

Derek Richards
Advertising Director

Shawn Henrikson
Copy Editor

Lowell Nicholson
Photographer

Publication No: 635540

Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.

Towns County (1 Year) \$25. Out of County (1 Year) \$35. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points. The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. **Postmaster:** Send change of address to: Towns County Herald, P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546.

Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawassee

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