DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Let Us Be Thankful

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran

Very early this Thanksgiving Day having already decided to submit this column dedicated to gratitude, honor, THANKS and respect for those who we need to love and perpetually give Thanks for and to. I understand that our wonderful small, not "little" Towns County Herald is a week out from Thanksgiving week, with this issue 11/30/2022. However this week or any other, matters not, as our Thanks should be heartfelt every single day, no matter how we are tested or tempted otherwise. As citizens of our SOVEREIGN REPUBLIC, plus our North Georgia Mountain homeland we have much to be thankful for 24/7/365. And why does our USA and all of this still exist? For the following sacred and certain reasons:

We need to be Thankful for every man and woman who has Honorably served or is serving in our United States Army. No matter their job, mission or assignment. America would not exist without them.

We need to be Thankful for every man and woman who has served Honorably or is within the ranks of our United States Navy. They are a superb team. Unyielding in massive, overwhelming strength on a global level.

We need to be Thankful for every man and woman who has Honorably worn the outstanding uniform of our United States Marine Corps. These are most certainly very special folks. Often called upon to be the "tip of the spear" when politicians blunder and fail us and lead us into war. We The People have the freedom to fire them!!

We need to be Thankful for every man and woman who is or has served Honorably in our United States Air Force. Often overlooked and taken for granted. Our Air Force personnel have mastered the might of the mighty eagles and birds of flight looked upon in mankind's history as impossible.

We need to be Thankful for every man or woman who has or is currently Honorably serving in our United States Coast Guard, very often misunderstood global security, rescue, and combat capable men and women, extremely adaptable humble Americans. A "CAN DO AND WILL DO" very small force of my own special brothers and sisters.

We need to be Thankful for ALL of the families of those listed above who have sacrificed and serve us in jobs and missions that soooooo many cannot or refuse to commit to.

We need to be Thankful for our men and women of our USSF, our newest military force that we will gradually learn more about, Our dreams, books, daydreams and movies of our childhoods have become true with what these special folks are capable of, on earth and in the far reaches of outer space.

We need to be Thankful for the men and women, our First Responders who typically wear the blue or tan uniforms and wear a badge. They rush towards the bad actors, thugs, the drug dealers, the shooters, the fires, the wrecks, the chaos and catastrophes, while most of us head away, at warp speed! The Sheriffs Department, local police teams, EMTs, Firemen, medics, doctors, nurses, et al.

They all serve in order to keep Peace on earth in so much as possible. May God, our Creator overlook, bless and protect them every one.

We need to Thank our Creator, our Almighty Lord for Blessing us that we were born in America. -*Semper Paratus*

Letters To The Editor

Election

Dear Editor,

Superior Fulton County Judge Thomas A. Cox Jr. wants to decide the outcome of the Senate before the first vote is cast. In Warnock for Georgia vs State of Georgia, he ruled that counties can do Advance In Person (AIP) Saturday, Nov. 26. Why, "The court finds that the absence of the Saturday vote will irreparably harm the Plaintiffs," i.e. Warnock can't win if he is not able to bus in voters for Saturday AIP.

On appeal, the decision was upheld by the appellant court, and the SOS will not appeal. The result of this decision is, of 159 counties, 18 have enough full time staff to conduct early voting. The 18 are in metro areas that are predominantly Democrat. How this is fair to the voters across the state was not addressed by the court.

What now? Well, early voting goes through Friday, Dec. 2, and Election Day is Dec. 6. This is an unfair election because, with only 18 Democrat counties voting Saturday, how do we fight back? Only a large turnout for Herschel Walker will show Judge Cox and Warnock that they cannot steal an election by changing the rules in the middle of the game.

One last note, in the court document related to this case there is no mention of voters. It appears from the document that voters are of no importance in determining the outcome of this election.

George Burch

Trump to Run Again

Hoorah, hoorah, you son-of a-gun,
Donald Trump is going to run.
He moved the U.S. Embassy
inside Jerusalem's gate.
He taught the Arabs how not to hate.
Their hearts with love to fill.
Not to burn but to build.
If you have a guy like that,
He will help the child and control the brat.
And what's more
He will lead them both to heaven's door.
Once again our guns we can shoot.
He will give the bad business deal the boot.
On election day don't be a chump.
Strut to vote and vote for Trump.

Billy Joe Parker
Prohibition Party of Georgia

Classifieds SELL!
706-896-4454

Milestone in Human Development

Outside The Box
By: Don Perry
worldoutsidethebox.com

On November 15th the world achieved what the United Nations called a "milestone in human development." The 8 billionth baby was born, no one truly knows where for certain, but symbolically, in the Dominican Republic. This achievement has been attributed to improvements in medicine, nutrition and hygiene.

I was thinking about that milestone in heavy traffic on the Friday before our holiday week of Thanksgiving began, a palpable press of panic apparent in the dodge and dart of motorists intent on compressing the time and distance between the tail lights in front of them and the perceived obligations of the holiday. I thought about it at home, the sound of bulldozers in the distance as another development digs into one of our mountains.

That milestone was in the back of my mind on Thanksgiving Day as a friend described the frustrated idle of the hour-long stop and go just to get from one side of Knoxville to the other. I thought of it again on the way to town, dodging a discarded bag of fast food tossed out of a window onto the highway, contempt or carelessness, the result being the same.

On the day of thanks, when gratitude helps realign our priorities and put a lot of petty annoyances into perspective, I was doubly grateful to live where, and how, we do. With all the fears and frustrations we are given to consume, the rising prices, the increasingly frequent scarcities in the breakdown of international commerce and supply chains, consider this: As beleaguered as we think we are, if the rest of the world were to suddenly be granted the lifestyle that Americans often take for granted, it would take 5.8 planet Earths to supply the necessary resources.

If we were all to suddenly enjoy the material abundance of people living in India, 8/10ths of our planet would suffice.

Milestone indeed. Yet certain alarmists are fearful at the decreasing, yes, rapidly decreasing birthrate worldwide. The dominant economic paradigm depends on permanent growth, and a stable or declining population does not bode well for share prices and CEO bonuses and the retirement accounts now dependent on such ephemeral things.

It will be left to future generations to validate or disprove the "growth for the sake of growth" theory. Such theories tend to underestimate human ingenuity and invention born of necessity. They also forget that Nature always bats last.

As for the 8 billion of us already here and with the potential to live long enough to be joined by another billion or so even with the decreasing birthrate, a few things seem certain. Most will seek to maximize their own affluence. That is a fundamental aspect of human nature. Some will seek power – another given. Quite a few of those will be more than willing to send other people to their deaths in order to achieve that power. That is history.

And this is where the bullet hits the bone. Democracy struggles in a crowd, especially a democracy unmoderated by the stabilizing influences of a republic or constitutional law. Consider that just one man controls the fate of over a billion in China. One man wields the terrible, planet-killing destructive power of the Russian nuclear arsenal. One American president makes and unmakes "law" via executive order, memorandum , proclamation and notice, unhindered by a Congress preoccupied with politics and re-election. "Democracy" unhinged threatens an anarchy which leads to despotism, and history reveals this well-trodden path to revolution and war time and again.

Eight billion. Is it a milestone or a millstone? Only history will decide, and history is merely the opinion of the person who prevailed long enough to write it down. I look out over this excellent cup of coffee at ancient trees on the unbroken ridgeline we are still blessed to behold. Much needed rain is dripping off the branches of the old persimmon tree outside the window. I've seen how much of the rest of the world lives. So many will never know the luxury of a quiet moment in safety and comfort to indulge an opinion over a full belly. I have some small sense of the tremendous effort and sacrifice that purchased this moment, and it grieves me to see so many such blessings disregarded, cast aside, or torn up in the petulant and self-indulgent raging of our times.

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.

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.

Lime

UGA extension UNION COUNTY
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams

Lime is a very important part of having healthy soil where we live. Knowing how much to apply and where to apply are very important considerations to effectively use lime. Let's talk about what lime does, why you need it, how much to apply, and how to apply it.

There are a couple of different types of lime that you can purchase. Ag lime is a very common type. It is made up of calcium, carbon, and oxygen. Ag lime will do a very good job of raising the pH in your soil. Dolomitic lime also raises the pH level of soil, but it has magnesium in it as well. If your soil is deficient in magnesium, dolomitic lime is a good option to raise the soil pH, and to increase the amount of magnesium in your soil. Both of these types of lime take 6-9 months to be fully active in the soil.

When you get to the bottom of it lime raises the pH in soil. If you recall from chemistry class, pH is basically a measure of the free hydrogen ions in a substance. In this case that substance is soil. pH is a scale that goes from 1 – 14. Numbers below 7 are acidic and numbers above 7 are basic. 7 is neutral. Our soil is going to be naturally acidic. I've seen soil reports with pH ranging from 4.5 – 5.5. Most plants like to have a pH of 6 – 6.5. pH is very important because it impacts how available the nutrients are to plants to be able to take them up. If the pH is low, then most plants won't be able to grow because they can't utilize the nutrients that are in the soil.

There's no way to accurately know how much lime you need to add with doing a soil test first. A soil test will make a recommendation for how much lime you should add based on your pH. It is possible to add too much lime. If you add lime year after year with looking at a soil test as a guide you may end up over liming your land. This can lead to a pH that is too high. You can run into similar issues as with a pH that is too low. A high pH is not common around here unless you've over applied lime. In the western half of the country soils naturally have a high pH.

In small areas lime can be applied with a push spreader. You want the lime to make as much contact with the soil as possible, so it may take a few days to water it in. Lime does not dissolve very well in water so it may take a while for the lime to take full effect. Lime can be bought in powder form or pelletized. Both works well, but the pelletized may make less of a mess. Liquid lime or fast acting lime start to work in the soil more quickly, but their effect does not last as long, meaning that you will need to reapply lime every year. Ag lime and dolomitic lime should last about three years. Because they take months to become effective applying lime at this time of year is a good idea. Ashes can also be used to raise soil pH, but be careful as they may raise the pH higher than desired.

If you have questions about lime contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat Happenings
Executive Director
Charlotte Randall

Gratitude and appreciation together form a foundation that promotes one to think about why they are grateful and what elements come into play. Appreciation for these elements is what makes up what we have gratitude for. Within our community, it's the workers that run our restaurants, the small business owners that work relentlessly day in and day out to make our community "quaint."

For Habitat, it's our employees and volunteers who, whether paid or unpaid, pour a tremendous amount of work into ReStore, which then cycles into our Helping Hands projects and Habitat homes. For example, our truck drivers, who work extremely hard daily to bring donated items safely to ReStore, or the volunteers and ReStore staff who price and take care of the customers to create the positive energy that makes ReStore a success.

In the spirit of gratitude, our fearless ReStore manager, Stephanie Low, works tirelessly every day to make the store a positive place to be, and keeps the store profitable, which allows us to complete construction of homes and help these individuals, and Barb Lorello, Specialty Manager at Home Depot, who has worked with me to secure $10,946 in grants this year that go directly to our construction projects.

The gratitude shown by Helping Hands recipients and Habitat Homeowners leave a more hopeful outcome and positive impact on these individuals within the community. When members of our community are shown appreciation for their services, the mentality of our citizens becomes a more positive and hopeful place. Let's go forward showing gratitude to others, and by paying it forward, so together we can create a more enjoyable community.

From George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1789:

"To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us—and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best."

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

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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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