

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

North American B-45 Tornado Model

Never heard of this? Neither had I until Jim Hoyt, our American Legion Post #23 Commander for 7 years, now Past Commander informed me of his USAF duties and maintenance on these one time "secret" aircraft in Sculthorpe, Norfolk, England.

The Veterans' Corner Scott Drummond USCG Veteran



These post WWII models were our "Peace through Strength" contribution standing strong against Soviet aggression thus all our nuclear war. They were the first jet powered atomic bombers and assigned to NATO in the 1950s for high altitude all weather delivery of atomic weapons in the event of a Soviet Communist attack on Western Europe.

Potential targets were covered around the clock were in Poland, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia. However during the period 1952 and 1954 due to American government restrictions concerning flying over the Soviet Union, RB-45Cs were painted with RAF markings and flown by RAF crews on reconnaissance operations.

Our armed airmen stationed with these highly classified weapons delivery systems were required to do their own laundry, cooking, housecleaning, etc. No civilians allowed! This very well stands to reason after being thoroughly vetted, physically, mentally, psychologically for this top secret mission.

Does anyone believe that the Japanese would have attacked Pearl Harbor if they had known of the outcome headed their way just a few short years later? Our men and women in uniform to this day are still our retainers of peace, freedom, liberty and opportunities as long as our nation has the wherewithal to support them.

As a grateful nation we should know that Captain Jim Coker, of WWII bravery, went on later to assess, teach and train on these B-45 machines while stationed in Louisiana during this "cold war" aftermath of WWII.

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to another reader's recent diatribe against what he calls "religious dogma." He also seems to take pride in his claims that "nearly 25% of the American public is atheist or agnostic." He seems to imply that in order to believe in God, one must have a significant lack of intelligence and/or reason.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net.

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.

Georgia Small Farm Conference

Americans are growing weary of our political process, so I have devised a non-political solution for deciding the next election.

I got the idea reading an article about how Oprah was considering a run for the White House.

Instead of a traditional election with primaries and PAC money and the long, drawn out annoyance of a two year campaign (not to mention the arcane and archaic Electoral College which disappointed so many voters last year), let's combine elements of what we already have in place with what we truly like, and hold a "Selection" based on reality show principles.

We'll begin with candidates who are "sponsored" by any corporation large enough to afford the registration fee. (Production costs will be enormous, but still much less than either candidate spent in 2016.)

Like NASCAR drivers, the contestants will wear the company logos of their sponsors throughout the competition. (Contestants like Oprah or Mark Zuckerberg who can afford their own entry fees can design their own logos.)

For maximum Nielsen ratings we'll have the contestants pair up with their running mates at the beginning of the competition. Just imagine the power pairings: Oprah and Michelle Obama, Meryl Streep and George Clooney, Sean Hannity and Bill O'Reilly, and that's just off the top of my head.

As the competition progresses we can add a component based on the Bachelor/Bachelorette shows, where contestants can "date" different partners.

The intrigues and shifting alliances will be a good indicator of how effectively a contestant can function in the swamps of Washington D.C.

All the contestants will first be sent to a remote island, preferably one with a real swamp, where they will undergo "Survivor" style challenges. Endurance became a campaign issue last year, so the Survivor phase will eliminate any candidate who can't withstand the rigors of office.

The contestants that survive the Survivor phase will next enter the Big Brother phase - for obvious reasons.

If you're going to be in charge of the biggest Big Brother of them all, you need to demonstrate your Machiavellian skill set beforehand.

The next phase will be an opportunity for the contestants to win bonuses or advantages for the final round. This will be a combination of "America's Got Talent," "The Voice," "X Factor," "Top Model" and "Dancing with the Stars." This process will ensure that the contestants who are not already celebrities at the beginning of the competition will certainly be celebrities by the end.

At the end of this phase some contestants will be eliminated by a minimum threshold of popularity/name recognition according to at least 3 national polls (although we need someone other than last year's debate sponsors to handle that part of the process).

The final round will be based on "Fear Factor." Let's face it. Being President is a scary job, and most celebrities are rarely exposed to frightening, real life situations.

When the Bat Phone rings at the White House in the middle of the night and Kim Jong Un has just launched a diplomat into the Sea of Japan, we need a Celebrity In Chief who can respond in a level headed way.

At various points during the Selection/Election we will need to allow the public some form of nominal participation in the process, perhaps by a combination of phoning in, voting online or clicking "Like" on Facebook. We are, after all, a democratic Celebrityocracy.

If we are honest with ourselves we will admit that what we really want in the White House is a celebrity, but since that person will be required to look presidential and be in charge of American popularity around the world, we need to pick the best celebrity possible.

Responding to property crimes

Property crimes such as thefts, burglary, stolen vehicles, etc., are increasing in many areas of the country. It can be very frightening to return to your home or business after being away to find that your property has been entered and your personal items stolen or damaged.

When you return to your home or business, always do a quick visual inspection for signs of forced entry. These signs may include broken windows, removal of screens, doors kicked in, or locks damaged.

Do not enter the building without law enforcement. When they arrive, advise them of any weapons, animals, alarms, or dangerous conditions in the building. They will let you know when it is safe to re-enter your home or business.

You can help your Sheriff's Office recover your property by providing as much information as possible on any stolen items, such as complete descriptions, make, model, color, or any serial numbers or identifying marks.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Master Gardener Appreciation Day

The month of March has a very special holiday. I'm not talking about St. Patrick's Day or the first day of spring. I'm talking about Master Gardener Appreciation Day! This important day falls on the third Saturday of March and celebrates some of the hardest working individuals in our community.



From the Ground Up Melissa Mattee

For those of you not familiar with these incredible volunteers, let me give you a little background. The program started in Tacoma, Washington in 1972. As county agents were getting overwhelmed with the demands of the growing population, it was clear that they needed help with educating the community.

Our local Master Gardener chapter consists of both Union and Towns County Volunteers. These individuals have gone through a rigorous ten week training course where they learn plant pathology, insect identification, native plant care, ornamental plant varieties, and so much more.

In 2016, we worked with Fannin County to welcome a brand new training class of Master Gardener Trainees. These trainees have worked tirelessly with our veteran Master Gardeners to assist the extension office and educate the local community, contributing over 5,500 hours of volunteer service.

If you are interested in growing vegetables in your garden this year, please join extension for our annual Northeast Georgia Vegetable Production Meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener or have questions about what the program entails, please contact your extension office. This program is only offered every few years, so if you would like to be notified of when the next training begins, please let us know!



"He says he's getting in shape for the time change."

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

Towns County Community Calendar

Table listing community events: Every Monday (Bingo, Bridge Players, Free GED prep, SMART Recovery, Bridge Players, Free GED prep, Alcoholics Anon., Alcoholics Anon., Mtn. Amat. Radio, Alzheimer's Supp., American Legion, Hiaw. City Council, Young Harris Coun.), Every Tuesday (Old Rec. Center), Every Wednesday (Red Cross Building), Every Thursday (All Saints Lutheran, Old Rec. Center), Every Friday (Red Cross Building), Every Sunday (Red Cross Building), First Monday of each month (1298 Jack Dayton Cir.), First Tuesday of each month (McConnell Church, VFW Post 7807, City Hall, YH City Hall), Second Monday of each month (1411 Jack Dayton Cir., Old Rec. Center, www.mcug.org, Civic Center, Auditorium, Lodge Hall), Second Tuesday of each month (Brasstown Manor, Calvary Alliance Chapel, Daniel's Restaurant, N. GA Tech), Second Wednesday of each month (SC Fire Hall, 67 Lakeview Cir., Ste. A), Second Thursday of each month (Rec Center, Senior Center, Civic Center), Second Friday of each month (Rec. Center).

Towns County Herald

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