

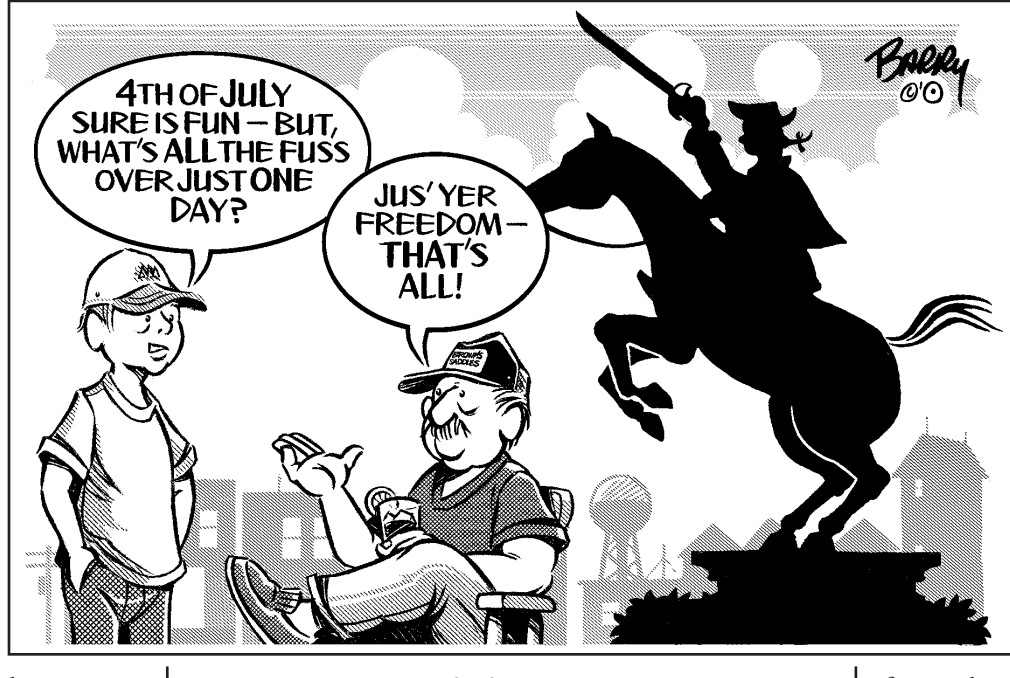
DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Reword

Words are sort of like wallpaper and paint colors. Their popularity ebbs and flows and is often fated to the dust bin. If those avocado kitchen appliances are revived from the ashes, I'll stay delightfully out of the groove and the word verily would best be left to the King James version. Style, or perhaps it's now called trending, seems the dictator of vocabulary. Awesome, isn't it? New words are coined to fit new situations and inventions. Necessity dictates it so. The words buggy and whip are seldom used together nowadays unless they are describing the stinging feeling of standing close behind a happy dog who has a long, relatively skinny, tail. Although never stricken by a buggy whip, it sounds like an apt description. Hybrid and self-driving cars are new phrases to me. Now we'll fall asleep at the wheel and away from the wheel. I'm still a little leery.

**Around Towns**  
Dale Harmon



Hay Testing

Hay testing is an important part of any livestock management program. If you feed hay, it's important to know the quality of the hay. Without performing a hay test, you don't know the quality of the hay. Feeding hay that is poor quality can lead to an impaction in the animal's stomach. Essentially, what happens is that the hay fed to cattle has a lot of fiber in it. Lots of fiber in hay without nutrition means that the cattle can't properly digest the forage. Cattle will eat enough forage to be full, but all that indigestible forage creates an impaction in their rumen. The effects of cattle eating low quality hay and getting an impaction can range from calving issues, to diarrhea, to weight loss, and even dying. When cattle start to die because of poor quality hay, usually you will have at least a few cattle go down. Forage quality issues can be made worse if they are combined with supplements that stimulate forage intake, because then cattle are eating more of the low quality hay. The best treatment for low quality forage is to know ahead of time about the quality of your hay. The only way that you can do that is through hay testing.

Watching and Working  
Jacob Williams



Rabbit in the Box

If you have lived in rural America for any length of time you're probably seen, perhaps even made for yourself, a rabbit box.

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

Traps and snares are almost as old as humanity, but the rabbit box evolved out here in the country where lumber and wood working tools were common, and the need to protect the garden while adding some protein to the diet was great.

Whoever made the first rabbit box was surely thinking outside the box. The design is as simple as it is elegant, consisting of a rectangular box closed by a sliding trap door triggered by notched stick attached to a string connected to a lever. The rabbit enters the box and pushes against the trigger, lured by the safety of the dark warren and drawn by the bait inside. The stick releases, allowing the gate to drop down behind the rabbit, which can then be humanely released to plague someone else's garden or served up at the supper table.

I've considered crafting my own box lately. For years we rarely saw a rabbit in our neck of the woods, and a bit of electric fence was enough to keep the deer out of the beans. There were so many coyotes in the area, the rabbits didn't stand a chance.

In recent years, however, the coyote population, at least where we live, was drastically reduced, and then came the unintended consequence: Last year the rabbits came back with a vengeance, hopped right through my electric fence and wiped out three successive plantings of beans.

Food for rabbits is food for thought. In some ways we're very similar to the task-oriented rabbit intent on following the lure of its desire all the way to the loss of its freedom and perhaps even its life.

We frequently come up short in considering the consequences of our actions beyond the hoped-for results.

It happens every day to the angry and the greedy, and to anyone who surrenders to the needful emotions, but even the thoughtful can get trapped in the box after carefully and scientifically rationalizing the need to go in there. Someone once told me that smart people are difficult to counsel because they're so adept at rationalizing their mistakes.

When I take a long look outside the box I can see some interesting times ahead.

The "box" in this case is the one we carry as if our life depended on it, always within reach, even as we sleep, like a pack of cigarettes, or the box that sits across our lap like a child or the one that dominates the living spaces. These boxes entertain us and they feed us information.

They tell us what to think and what to buy and what we should value. They tell us who we should fear and what we should be angry about, and because of that information, our culture is ailing. It suffers from an imbalance in its value judgments.

Emotion has ascended to supplant reason, and there are millions who seem to believe that reality conforms to our emotions, and facts will transform to accommodate feelings.

If we are counting on being led safely through the hazards of this age, we may share the same fate as the poor rabbit, baited by our emotions and lured by the promise of safety from the coyotes.

The entire political class is almost completely devoid of leaders. If they tell us the truth, they may lose power, and they are so habituated to watching polls and maneuvering for position, they may have lost their grip on what is true as well.

The last two years have been an object lesson in unintended consequences, but also in how easily we can be both driven and lured.

The ascendancy of fearful and the fragile rabbits among us has led to an almost unprecedented dependency on government, which is ready to step in to protect us from the dangerous coyotes, and make that dependency permanent.

The traps are set, and the lure is powerful. Be wary of free carrots and the promise of safety in a box from which there is no exit.

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.

Body Condition Scoring (BCS, not referring to college football) also shows how important hay quality is. BCS is an index that measures the health of the animal based on how fleshy or boney the animal is. The scale ranges from 1-9. A one is a severely emaciated cow. Bones in the shoulders, back, and ribs are clearly visible. A BCS of one is rarely seen in the field. A BCS of nine is a very obese animal and its mobility is impaired by excessive fat. This score is also rarely seen in the field. In cows, you ideally want a BCS of five to be maintained for calving. If BCS drops to a four then your calving interval will increase. Typically a BCS of five will give you conception rates of >85% and calving every 360-370 days. A BCS of four or lower means calving will be >380 days. Cows will require high quality forage for about 70 days to go from a BCS of 4 to 5.

We have three main tests for hay. The basic one costs \$15 and will tell the moisture, fiber, crude protein, lignin, total digestible nutrients, and give you a relative forage quality (RFQ). The RFQ is an index that will give you a number to give you a reference on the quality of your hay. Dry cows do not need as high of an RFQ compared to gestating cows, or cows with a calf that they are feeding. Above the basic test is a \$20 test that is the basic test + nitrates. Above that is a \$40 test that is basic + nitrates + minerals.

A single hay test can cover an entire hay lot. A hay lot would be all the hay from a particular field at the same cutting. I have a hay probe in my office and I would be happy to come out and collect the hay sample for you. Once we've processed a hay sample, I can help you come up with a balanced ration to get you through the hay feeding months. If you think you have some good quality hay let me know, and we can submit a sample to the Southeastern Hay Contest.

Quality forage when grass isn't growing is a big part of any livestock operation, no matter how big or small. If you have questions about hay testing contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Three Young Brothers

A heart-wrenching story of three young brothers who gave their lives for America on the infamous morning of December 7, 1941. We can only hope and pray that the identity of these three wonderful young sailors bring some degree of comfort to their family and friends who weren't sure of their whereabouts for the last almost 80 years. There are many MIA and POW men and women who have given their all throughout the world, for something far greater than themselves and for all of us. It is inspiring that we have attachments to our military forces that continue this hard, often unappreciated task of recovery and identification for families and friends left behind, an almost impossible job. God Bless them in their efforts. As received and copied from a fellow Veteran and friend in deed of our VFW Post #7807 and American Legion Post #23 in Towns County.



The Veterans' Corner  
Scott Drummond  
USCG Veteran

WASHINGTON - The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that brothers, Navy Fireman 1st Class Malcolm J. Barber, 22, Navy Fireman 1st Class Leroy K. Barber, 21, and Navy Fireman 2nd Class Randolph H. Barber, 19, of New London, Wisconsin, killed during World War II, were accounted for on June 10, 2021.

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Barber brothers were assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including the Barber brothers. From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu'uuanu Cemeteries.

In September 1947, tasked with recovering and identifying fallen U.S. personnel in the Pacific Theater, members of the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) disinterred the remains of U.S. casualties from the two cemeteries and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. The laboratory staff was only able to confirm the identifications of 35 men from the USS Oklahoma at that time. The AGRS subsequently buried the unidentified remains in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. In October 1949, a military board classified those who could not be identified as non-recoverable, including the Barber brothers. Between June and November 2015, DPAA personnel exhumed the USS Oklahoma Unknowns from the Punchbowl for analysis. The Barber brothers' names are recorded at the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to their names to indicate they have been accounted for.

For family and funeral information, contact the Navy Service Casualty office at (800) 443-9298. DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of the Navy for their partnership in this mission.

Please bear in mind that if it wasn't for those who served America in often perilous conditions, at any hour of the day or night a sneak attack could occur anywhere on our American soil. Our first line of defense has been and always will be our men and women of our military forces. - Semper Paratus

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Letters to The Editor

Colonial Pipeline

Dear Editor,

The recent Colonial Pipeline hacking incident caused my exceedingly small business to decline from the day after it was announced. People rushed to fill up their tanks and begin hoarding gas. People told me they were afraid to leave home and my revenues were reduced by 70%. I do not know if the average person knows that the Koch brothers are affiliated with the Colonial Pipeline. Due to the serious damage this has done to my business, I began weekly billing of both the Colonial Pipeline at their corporate office in Alpharetta, Athens Georgia, and the Koch brothers at their offices in Virginia. I am sure that I am not alone. There must be other business that have suffered cruelly at this "event." Personally, I am not sure that it was not just a ploy to drive the prices up. Ironically, the largest meat processing plant, JBS, was "hacked" just a few weeks afterwards. The price of meat has now skyrocketed.

Being that the majority of the Bitcoin used to pay the ransom to the hackers has been recovered, by great coincidence that the FBI had the Bitcoin Wallet password: www.businessinsider.com/fbi-used-hackers-bitcoin-password-to-recover-colonial-pipeline-ransom-2021-6#:~:text=The%20DOJ%20seized%20%242.3%20million%20of%20the%20ransom,money.%20See%20more%20stories%20on%20Insider%27s%20business%20page.

I feel that the company should make restitution to the businesses that have been affected. I am enclosing a copy of the invoice I have sent to the following addresses: Colonial Pipeline, 1185 Sanctuary Pkwy, Alpharetta, GA 30009. Colonial Pipeline, 200 Camak Drive, Athens, GA 30607. Koch Brothers, 1320 N. Courthouse Road Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22201.

These companies knew that they are vulnerable to attacks. They need to be held responsible for the fallout and damage that are caused by lack of preparation. Until Americans that are heavily affected start hitting back for financial recompense, these large corporations will remain negligent.

Thank you,  
Candace Littlejohn

VA to fund gender changes

Dear Editor,

Biden's Department of Veterans Affairs is enacting a new policy that will pay for gender change surgery for active duty and reserve personnel as well as veterans. According to VA Secretary Denis McDonough, paying for the expensive surgeries will allow "transgender vets to go through the full gender confirmation process with VA at their side." This is obviously an effort by the Biden administration to make diversity and inclusion a priority as opposed to the readiness of our troops for combat. Should the taxpayers have to pick up the tab for soldiers or veterans that are searching for a cure for their gender dysphoria? Apparently the current administration thinks so. The Democrat's obsession with gay, lesbian, and transgender at every opportunity has now spilled over into the military. The Biden administration's priorities are obviously all out of whack. How much longer can this nation survive being run like this? It's as if the out of touch Democrats are running the country into the ground on purpose. Are they really that incompetent?

Tim Groza

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Towns County Herald

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