

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Department of Injustice

Apparently sham indictments come in threes.

On August 1, President Donald Trump was indicted on charges related to Special Counsel Jack Smith's probe into January 6th and the 2020 election – marking his third bogus indictment in just four months' time. While the 45-page document may read like an absurdly liberal New York Times op-ed, the efforts behind the indictment should terrify every American.

It is abundantly clear that the Left knows that they cannot beat President Trump at the ballot box in 2024, leaving Democrats desperate for an escape. So rather than trying to beat his opponent fair and square, Joe Biden is dangerously abusing his power as the Chief Executive to politically persecute Donald Trump.

And there's no denying that the timing of each indictment is uncanny... Crazy coincidence, right? Not a chance. This is all part of President Biden's plan.

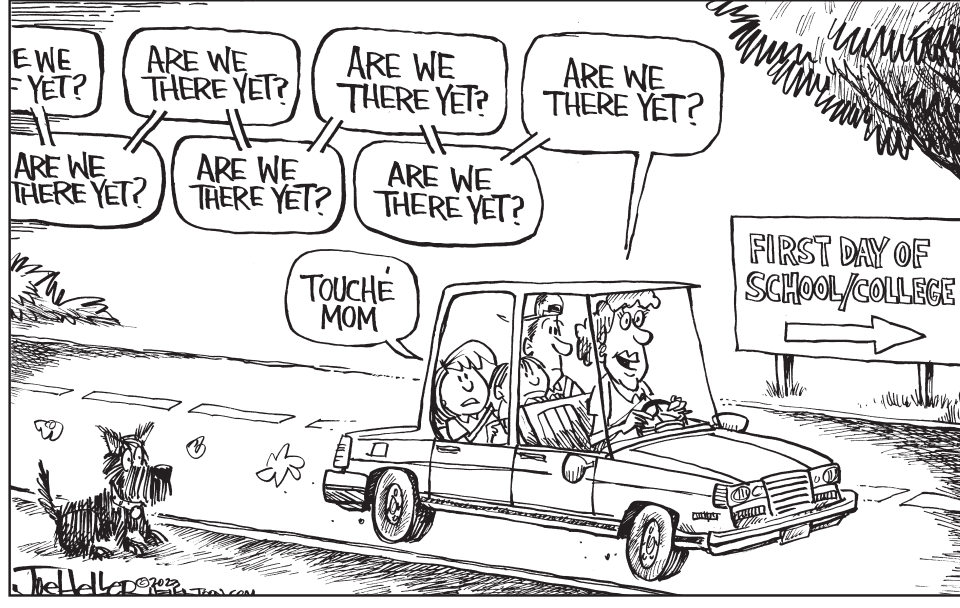
In addition to attempting to smear President Trump and obstruct his ability to campaign effectively, Joe Biden is using these witch hunt indictments to distract the American people from his family's corrupt and criminal past. Every week, we obtain more incriminating evidence against the Biden Crime Family Syndicate. And at every turn, Joe is ready to launch another strike at his political rival in hopes to divert our attention and shake up the news cycle.

It seems apparent to me that the Department of Justice – or rather, the Department of Injustice – is carrying the water for President Biden with its two-tiered system of justice. Alarming, this is another example of the DOJ's intentional failure to maintain strict fidelity to the law and a direct repudiation of our nation's foundational principle of "Equal Justice Under Law."

Ultimately, President Biden and the Department of Injustice's efforts are overt acts of election interference. Therefore, it is imperative that Congress swiftly act to protect the integrity of the upcoming election, as well as restore Americans' faith in our justice system. Please know that I am actively working on solutions to help achieve this critical goal, and I look forward to sharing more details with you in the near future.



United States Congressman
Representative Andrew Clyde



Hurry Up and Relax

Sometimes you get in an unnatural hurry. Granted, there are times when you need to hurry: The pan on the stovetop is smoking; the dog is chasing a squirrel and dragging her leash, or you forgot that today is your anniversary. Hurry is the appropriate response to these situations and many others, but so much of today's hurry, in my opinion, is unnatural to a contented human being.

We could argue whether contentment has ever been characteristic of humans, but I think we would all agree that there is less of it now than in days gone by, and that contentment is, in fact, rare as hen's teeth.

We've seen it coming for a long time. The beloved Andy Griffith Show episode, "Man in a Hurry" first aired in 1960. My grandfather, born in 1886, was old before I hatched and wise beyond any wisdom I might hope to attain. He would caution people to stop "going at it like you're fighting fire." The word to the wise suggested pacing ourselves in order to work longer and for better results.

I've never forgotten his words, but there have been plenty of reminders to heed them. The carburetor installed backwards on the mower, the pecan sapling I mangled with the trimmer (thankfully it recovered), the face cream on the toothbrush; these were all effective prompts.

Last week I was in an unnatural hurry when I abandoned you with the unanswered question, "What hope do we have?" when a book written for the masses 85 years ago is beyond the understanding of all but the most advanced students today. A partial answer is in the act of hurrying itself.

I submit to you that while the average citizen today is less literate and less adept at math (history, science, civics) than our forbears, we are still endowed with the basic tools of discernment possessed by any rational person – if we take the time to use them.

The success of either a manipulative marketing campaign or a manipulative government depends heavily on getting us to hurry past rationality and discernment. We scan the headlines and accept them at face value. When the same headlines appear, word for word, from multiple sources, we accept that as validation rather than question it as a sign of manipulation. We are skeptical creatures, but only of information that runs contrary to our cognitive bias.

However, though we may not be trained in syllogistic reasoning, when we hear, "More doctors prefer Camel than any other cigarette," we sense that something is not quite right.

When we become aware that most of the information now published and consumed passes through partisan lenses on both ends of the exchange, if the information is important to us, we can slow down long enough to dig a little deeper.

And that's the catch. Separating fact from interpretation takes time and effort, and we are conditioned by instant gratification to avoid them both. So here's an experiment which I submit may begin to help us break free of the conditioned response:

Grit your teeth and browse or channel surf over to Fox News. Take note of the choice of headlines. Then hold your nose and do the same at MSNBC. I think you will find that it's as if the publishers lived on two different planets, their versions of reality being so different and often diametrically opposed. Then the lightbulb may go off, be it a good old illegal incandescent bulb or an LED: Either the truth is somewhere between those two versions of reality, or it does not exist in either version.

You may then consider that it's worth the effort to look elsewhere, or you may decide that the question is not essential to the contentment you seek. The issue may, in fact, be designed to keep you from that contentment, designed to create a fear or an anger, generate a need that will keep you coming back for more of the same.

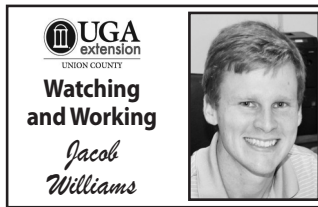
Alternately, you may find that you are already possessed of sufficient mathematical proficiency to debunk many of the claims that politics makes. Politics may tell you that the economy is good, that things are improving for the "average" person, which means that for half of your neighbors or more, things are not getting better, and your hamburger still costs twelve bucks.

In conclusion, discerning truth today is largely a matter of slowing down long enough to apprehend it. "Relax," I tell Tracey, my beautiful and energetic modern woman. "I am relaxing!" She says. "Relax harder and faster, then!"

Outside The Box
By: Dan Perry
worldoutsidethebox.com

Webworms

Have you seen webs spreading throughout your trees? They can be unsightly and leave brown patches where the webs are.



UGA extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams

Those are webworms. They are very common so let's talk about these little guys that are spreading from tree to tree.

We have two types of caterpillars that make webs in trees in North Georgia. Eastern tent caterpillars will make webs in the spring. Fall webworms will make webs in the late summer or fall, hence their very original name. Webworms will have one to four generations each year. There are many different tree species that they will use to make their nest. They generally prefer to make their nests on deciduous trees over evergreens.

Webworms grow into a moth that has a one and a half inch wingspan. The wings are white and sometimes have black spots on them. The female moths will lay egg masses of up to 600 eggs. The egg masses are covered in hairs, which protects them from predators. When the caterpillars emerge from the eggs, they begin constructing nests on the ends of tree branches. The webworms will begin eating the new growth at the end of the branch. The webs that they construct protect them from predators and some insecticides. As the weather gets cooler, the caterpillars will burrow into the ground where they will pupate, the cocoon stage, and emerge as moths when the weather warms up again.

Webworms can heavily infest some trees. If a tree is heavily infested the webworms can completely defoliate the tree. Complete defoliation is not a common occurrence, but it is a possibility. Completely defoliating a tree leaves the tree bare and less attractive. However, deciduous trees are able to handle losing their leaves, because they will grow new ones back the next year.

In most situations, it isn't necessary to remove the webworms from trees. The damage that they do is largely aesthetic. If there are some webs on lower branches that are easy to prune then physical removal of the branches is an option. If the branches are out of reach, it is possible to use a long pole or rake to knock the webs out of the tree. A pressure washer is also an option to remove webs from hard to reach places. Opening up webworm nests will expose them to the elements and enable predators such as birds, assassin bugs, and parasitic wasps to get inside and control the webworms too.

It is possible to use insecticides to control webworms, but I usually don't recommend them because webworms rarely cause significant damage to the tree. If you decide to apply an insecticide one containing Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) or spinosad will kill the webworms and not beneficial insects that are also nearby. Broad-spectrum insecticides like pyrethroids, which are any insecticide with an active ingredient ending with -thrin, will kill any insects it meets. You will have to open the nest first so that you get the insecticide inside the web. Always, read the label before applying a pesticide so that you know how to properly handle and apply the pesticide.

If you have questions about webworms contact your county Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Achieving Personal Liberation

From the time of Moses, Jewish people around the world have been reading a portion from the Torah (Bible) each week, in sync. We complete the cycle each year and immediately return to the beginning. This week's portion is from the book of Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17.



Echos from Sinai
Rabbi Yonatan Hamburger

There, in Moses' farewell address to the ancient Israelites, he reminds them that "since you were commanded to go out of the land of Egypt in haste, there was no opportunity for your dough to rise." When the moment of liberation struck, the Children of Israel didn't lose a moment, "not even the wink of an eye!" Why did they have to move so quickly?

The Egyptians had just barely survived G-d's wrath in the form of ten devastating plagues, culminating in the death of all their firstborn. They were happy to see the Children of Israel go. The danger was not that the Egyptians might change their minds. Rather, it was that some of the ancient Israelites might change their minds, having become accustomed to the Egyptian way of life.

In fact, the sages of the Talmud say that had they missed that auspicious moment, the opportunity for liberation would have been forever lost.

So too, we must guard against complacency. Exodus from Egypt was not a one-time historical event. Rather, the root of the word "Egypt" in our everyday lives, the root of the word for "bondage." In every day shares the root of each contend with our own "inner Egypt," which is one reason why the Jewish people reference the Exodus in their daily prayers.

Our task is to break free from anything that causes us to be subservient to the 'animal' within or our materialistic environment without. We should seize the opportunity to achieve personal liberation and to help others do the same. This means freeing ourselves from undesirable and self-limiting thoughts, feelings, and actions. For one person that could mean making peace with an estranged loved one. For another, it could mean resisting an unhealthy urge. For someone else it could mean celebrating instead of feeling jealous of another's good fortune.

Let's not be satisfied with the status quo nor give into the pressure to conform to the prevalent culture around us. At the same time, let us be sensitive to those around us who are enveloped by a state of darkness. One cannot hit darkness with a stick. It's much more effective to simply turn on the light. Remember and remind that the darkest moment of night is just before the dawn!

Wishing you G-d's abundant blessings,
Rabbi Yonatan Hamburger

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 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.

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.

Letters To The Editor

Memories

Dear Editor,

We all have memories, some good and some not so good. It's wise to keep the bad ones covered with the good ones so they can't surface and remind us of mistakes, missed opportunities or failures. Inside each of us is a little bit of the child we used to be. Instead of putting smiley faces and thumbs up on someone's Facebook page we haven't seen in 50 years or so, why not take that opportunity to revisit a favorite childhood or family memory?

Perhaps it was a vacation Bible School, a county fair or a special boyfriend or girlfriend that makes you smile when you remember that moment so long ago. Maybe your high school graduation, memories from your college days or your wedding day would put a smile on your face if remembered. More importantly, perhaps it was the day you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior. Why remember your first car or your first date? That was in the past and is pointless to remember. But, I say, it's better to remember family, friends and things you enjoyed in your past than to constantly be texting, tweeting and Facebooking or whatever the world is doing today.

Our past helps to keep us grounded in family, love, hope and faith. Let the good cover the bad and remember that looking into our past, and learning from it, will help to make tomorrow's memories better. The little boy or the little girl who is lost somewhere deep inside is expecting a visit from you. Go ahead -- remember. I promise that it will put a smile on your face.

Gene Vickers

Towns County Community Calendar

First Monday of each month:	School Board... HS/MS Media Center	6:45 pm
Every Tuesday:	Storytime for Children... TC Library	10:30 am
First Tuesday of each month:	Hiaw. City Council... City Hall	6 pm
	YH City Council... YH City Hall	6:30 pm
Second Tuesday of each month:	Conventions & Visitors Board... Civic Center	8 am
Second Wednesday of each month:	Board of Elections... Elections Office	4 pm
Third Monday of each month:	Planning Commission... Temporary Courthouse	6 pm
Third Tuesday of each month:	Commissioner's Mtg... Courthouse	5:30 pm
	City of Young Harris Planning Commission... Meeting Room in City Hall	5 pm

Towns County Herald

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General Manager/Editor

Todd Forrest
Staff Writer

Derek Richards
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