

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

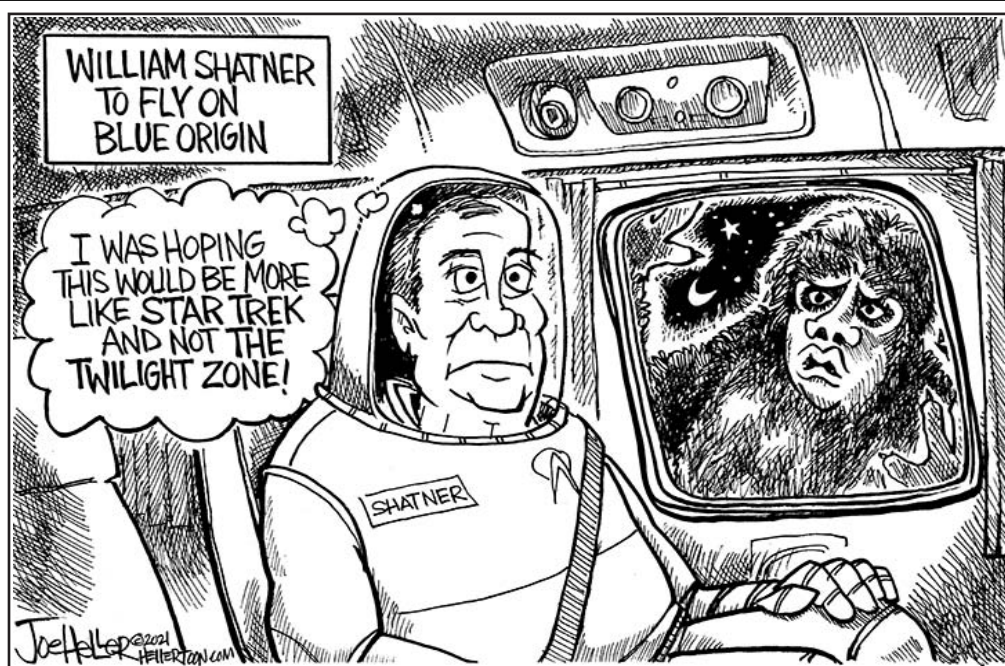
OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

102 and Needs You!

Back in March, 2019 our nation's American Legion, the largest VSO in America turned 100 years of age. Now today, in 2021 would be a perfect time to join, renew your dusty old membership, or transfer your membership from other posts to here. We NEED you! This cannot be over emphasized!

In Towns County, GA we are a part of VFW Post 7807 also shared with the following Veterans associations: VFW post #7807; American Legion Riders (recently chartered as an outstanding group of individuals who do great things for our communities, veterans, and bereaved loved ones.); SAL (Sons of American Legion), for those who are family of Veterans, but never served in uniform; American Legion Auxiliary, previously "ladies auxiliary"; and VFW Auxiliary.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



Joe Heller
 www.joeheller.com

Our post information: American Legion Post #23, Post address: P.O. Box 927, Hiawassee, GA 30546 Post telephone: 706-896-8387 Post Email: vfw7807@gmail.com Hours: Monday through Friday 1500 - 2000. Saturday 1500 - 2400. Sunday 1200 - 1800 we invite you to come by and join! If there is no one there to answer your questions on any of the aforementioned organizations, we'll find someone. Applications are there to be handed out for potential members or those who wish to transfer their membership from prior home towns. Websites for your research: www.legion.org/; www.townsveterans.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?wam=MYSINTRO&webrtn=WR_SaIntro&ml=LANSAXHTML&part=TAL&lang=ENG; www.legion.org/auxiliary.

Our Veterans organization members work together; we are like a family, undertaking various and asunder community services and projects. We do simple things such as road cleanup alongside church groups and other community clubs and businesses. Even us older folks, many with arthritis and other health conditions may work slower than we used to but we "git 'er done!"

"Older" is a fact, therefore our Veterans organizations today need younger Veterans, recently discharged from any of our branches of armed services. The age bracket of Veterans active in our clubs today are of the Vietnam War Era, age 70 being just about average.

A great fellowship is in the offering, along with plenty of officer positions which need filling. We love to hear younger folk's stories, and how things have changed and how many are still the same. I have been advised that for new American Legion Post #23 members, we will pay your first year's dues. It doesn't get any better than that.

Let's do our part as Veterans to keep our All American spirit alive for the future of our communities and our homeland, our USA! We've ALL already done the hard part.

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

Hamilton Gardens

Dear Editor,

Many former volunteers, locals, area visitors, and tourists will soon be aware of the change in operations at Hamilton Gardens.

For those of us who are in one or more of these categories, we want to thank the dedicated, unselfish staff and volunteers who have woven their hearts, knowledge, experience, and time into the fabric of Mother Earth.

The blooming season of May and June explodes in glorious colors among the rhododendrons and azaleas. Sprinkled among them are native plants such as trillium, Solomon's seal, lady slipper, mayapple and more.

Not to be outdone, a treasure of hardwood trees stands guard over the gardens protecting nature's family and watching over the gentle, magnificent, southern Appalachian mountain range.

For so many of us, the gardens touch us as a memorial to the ones we have lost. The angels who maintain these few acres of precious ground with its feel of quiet calmness and one with Creation, are past and present.

Grace Howard, Maggie Oliver, Marsha Elliott (in loving memory), Carol Townsend, Linda Jones and all that we are not personally aware of.

You have all made Hamilton Gardens a gift back to Mother Nature. We believe the Native American Indians are proud of you!

With respect,
**Beverly Mosely, Alice Bergman, Elaine Bliss,
 Sylvia Purcupile, Donna Cates and Leslie Wade**

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.

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Bezow!

For lovers of words there has been a long suffering concern over the steady decline of the quality of our language. Today's college graduate would struggle to achieve the style and elegance of "unschooled" farmers and laborers writing home from the battlefields of the Civil War. Language has always been fluid, dynamic and evolving, but if we were to do a side by side comparison of the common discourse of 100 years ago and the pixelated promulgation of today, an historian of the future might be tempted to think some apocalypse had befallen the people and culture of our civilization.

"Lovers" of words? We might find a case study in the abuse of the word, "love" alone. The creative force of the universe, the spiritual essence of the Almighty, and the inspiration for the sonnets of Shakespeare has been stretched to cover every needful impulse and desire. The same word that describes agape and the powerful, mystical union of a mother and child is also used to recount our relationship with our favorite candy bar, and so much less.

With the development of the internet and advancing communications technology, words began to experience inflationary pressure. Everyone was connected; everyone had an opinion and everyone needed to be heard. The world needs to know the contents of every dinner plate and every stream of consciousness, so it had to be shared, all of it. There were so many words that, like so many fiat dollars, they rapidly diminished in value. And then the corporate media, ah, yes, the media. When every event is imminent, revolutionary, and unprecedented, it's hard to discern which ones really are. (Which is how wars go on for 20 years unnoticed by the general population.)

A few years ago I stumbled across a name in a police report that was making the rounds via the Associated Press, and it gave me pause to consider that perhaps we had reached some kind of turning point in the devolution of our respect for words. A fellow by the name of Bezow Doo Doo Zopittybop-bop-bop had appeared before a Wisconsin judge to answer a misdemeanor charge.

I kid you not. You can look it up for yourself. In fact, the name was interesting enough to catch the attention of the Wisconsin State Journal, which conducted an interview with Mr. Zopittybop-bop-bop. When he was queried about the meaning of his name he replied that his first name, "Bezow," represented "the explosion of awareness of the interconnectedness of the infinite love in the universe."

Doo-doo "is the struggle of our daily lives with that awareness that with love comes chaos."

Zopittybop-bop-bop "is the outcome of that struggle, which is often ironic, especially because all life ends in death."

Well, it's not Byron, but it does indicate a certain thoughtfulness.

Alas, the creative individualism of Mr. Zopittybop-bop-bop did not retell a reinvigoration of the English language. We all began texting about that time, and where previous generations were capable of comprehending detailed expressions in complex paragraphs, many students (and their parents) today are challenged when there is more data to compile than that which is usually contained in a text or a tweet.

Then it got worse. Among a thin slice of elites positioned in academia, media and politics, a small segment of the population who did, in fact, understand the power of words, there occurred a weaponization of language designed to manipulate, enrage and divide.

Enter the "pronoun wars," promoted by a segment of the population which was primarily younger but not exclusively so; a minority, but uncomfortably large enough with the goading and amplification by corporate media - a culture with little understanding of or regard for grammar, yet obsessed with pronouns.

Couldn't get much worse than that? Well hold on to your hat. This year the CDC, an organization tasked with the prevention of communicable disease, paused in the middle of a pandemic to issue a proclamation on "Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication."

That just doesn't make me hopeful for the future of our language. A prisoner is a "person who is incarcerated." The uninsured are persons who are "medically underserved." A drug addict is a "person who uses drugs."

I don't look for a new Shakespeare to emerge fully woke from a culture swelling the ranks of persons burdened with a self-image of fragility and victimization by forcing Orwellian mutations on the free exchange of ideas and opinions. It is a tale told by a person who is mentally underserved, full of sound and fury. No more Faulkners, Steinbecks, or Lewis Grizzards. No more comedy, and we'll even have to cancel Mister Rogers in such a frigid climate because for thirty years he sang, "Boys are boys from the beginning. Girls are girls right from the start."

Ironically, the principle of inclusion beats at the heart of Christianity and the Judaeo-Christian heritage of western civilization, which the rise of socialism attempts to undermine. From the King James Bible and in the language of Shakespeare it says elegantly and succinctly, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Sadly, there is no guiding spiritual principle behind attempts at using language to destroy a robust culture of free thought and free enterprise and replace it with one more submissive to the coercive power of the corporate nanny state. We're well past Bezow, and from this point on it looks like there is Doo Doo to be negotiated no matter which direction we turn. And it's getting harder to find the higher ground.

Outside The Box

By: Don Perry
 worldoutsidethebox.com

known for sorghum syrup production.

Sorghum syrup production has declined over the years. This decline is largely due to its production being heavily labor intensive. Production has also declined as other glucose syrups have taken over. However, recently sorghum syrup has seen a bit of a resurgence with the increased interest in locally made products.

Sorghum is an important crop because it performs well under adverse soil conditions or drought. It does not require a lot of fertilizer, and adding too much nitrogen to the soil will decrease sugar levels. Typically sorghum is planted in May and ready to harvest at mid-September through early October. Weeds can be an issue with sorghum because it grows very slowly at the beginning of the season, giving the weeds a chance to grow up around it.

Sugarcane aphid is the biggest challenge of growing sweet sorghum. Sugarcane aphid is an invasive species that is resistant to many different insecticides, making it very difficult to control. It overwinters in south Florida and moves northward each year. If left untreated, sugar cane aphids will destroy a field of sorghum. When they start to arrive, you will see hundreds of them clustered on a plant, and they will feed off that plant until it dies and move onto the plant next to it. There are websites that are used to track the movement of sugarcane aphids northward each year to let growers know when they need to begin the treatment.

The key to producing good syrup is to have a high Brix level in the sorghum stalks. Brix is a measurement of sugar in an aqueous solution. One degree Brix is 1 gram of sucrose in 100 grams of aqueous solution. Deheading, or removing the seed head at the top of the plant will increase the Brix number. It is also important to harvest at the time when Brix is at its peak. After it peaks, it will start to decline.

Once the sorghum is harvested, it must be pressed to extract the juice out of it. Historically this was done with a mule-powered press, but there are electric ones available now. The juice is allowed to settle and then run through the pan. The pan is over a fire that cooks out the water in the juice. Typically, a producer will get 1 gallon of syrup for 8-10 gallons of juice. After cooking, the syrup is ready to sell.

If you are interested in growing sorghum, contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Oodles of Pharmaceuticals

Have mercy. Medicines are touted to cure the ill of us. Be sure to read all the side effects or the meds could kill us.

I'm boggled at the sheer volume of drugs on the market, the black one as well as the white one.

Before I was allowed to attend public school in the great state of Georgia, back when the earth was still flat, it was required that a battery of vaccination injections and a dental exam be administered to me.

School in the olden days started in September, after Labor Day and the certification of compliance was due on the first day of the school session. My mother took me to the health department in mid August to be poked and prodded. When her kid cried, so did she.

From autism to zits, pharmaceutical companies have cracked codes and developed antidotes. Lives have been saved or enhanced by the plethora of drug options available and lives have been ended or diminished by the plethora of drug options available.

To take or not to take the covid vaccine has become a hot, angry debate. Both sides have some rational validity and both sides are infected with some rabid supporters. Of course I have my own opinion and that is just what it shall stay.

When new drugs are introduced there are always questions that arise. Viagra, now old hat, was one of the most awaited drugs ever developed.

In a fashionable, well known city near Atlanta, the state capital of Georgia, a doctor at the Bumwoody Erectile Dysfunction Clinic, was overheard explaining to his patient how enriching to life this new blue pill could be. "Boy, Doc, that sounds great. Can I get it over the counter?" "If you take two" the doctor replied.

Lighten up, people.
 See You Around Towns!

Sweet Sorghum

Growing sweet sorghum is part of culture and history in the mountains. It used to be more common and there were sorghum mills scattered all over the place. There are still a few people who grow sweet sorghum for syrup and carry on the tradition. Today let's talk about the history of sorghum, how it's grown, and how it's turned into syrup.

Sorghum is a member of the grass family. It originated in Northeastern Africa. Sorghum has been bred to fulfill four different modern day uses. Grain sorghum is used for flour. Forage sorghum is used to feed livestock. Biomass sorghum is used for bioenergy. Sweet sorghum is used for sorghum syrup. Sorghum made its way to America in the 1850s. Today, the Southeast, and particularly Appalachia, is

UGA extension
 Watching and Working
 Jacob Williams



Around Towns
 Dale Harmon



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