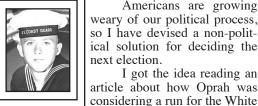
DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

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.





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. Please note that these nuclear bombers were limited to about 400 miles per hour, slow by today's standards, yet unsurpassed for their load carrying capacity and high altitude capabilities of that day. And most importantly they were integral to America's peace keeping mission and deterrent to all out devastation by those who always seem to have a grudge against humanity and freedom. It bears repeating: "Freedom is NOT free!"

Those in England were considered top secret with their nuclear arsenal at the time and were heavily guarded by serious USAF personnel. Believe it or not some 30,000 sorties were flown during the period from 1952-1958 by 3 squadrons of the 47th Bomb wing out of RAF Sculthorpe, Norfolk and RAF Alconbury in Cambridgeshire.

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. Why one might ask? It was extreme ly important to photograph Soviet bomber and missile sites.

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. If the unthinkable were to happen, initiated by the Soviet "dogooder" Communists, our men were only within two hours of their strike zones, even if it cost them their lives. They were very well aware of the devastation of nuclear warfare and none of these highly qualified men would ever fail in America's mission to prevent it. Peace through Strength is more than just

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. We love and miss "Captain Jim", now resting beside our Supreme

Semper Paratus

Letters to The 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. Most atheists believe that modern science has ruled out the possibility of the existence of God. For this reason, they label believers with a lack of critical thinking any evidence at all) the Why questions that God has set within the heart of us all, you are depriving people of the very thing that makes us human. As the Bible says, we are made in the image of God. We are made for God. Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Him. Atheists/agnostics seem to believe that a world without God in the picture will ultimately solve all the world's problems (wars, racism, etc). They may believe that their views are what any right-minded individual would hold. Christians have considered the evidence, and as a result believe that God exists and one cannot have real peace without knowing Him. I would add that according to a recent study published in *The American Journal of Psychiatry* religious affiliation is associated with significantly lower levels of suicide compared to religiously unaffiliated people, atheists and agnostics. Why do atheists/agnostics have the highest suicide rates? Despair perhaps. Mr. Jobson seems to be an intelligent man. I invite him to read I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist, by Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek. (Crossway, USA, 2004). It is a very scholarly book which sets out, in very interesting detail, the philosophical and scientific evidence for the existence of God, as well as the historical and archaeological evidence for the reliability and truthfulness of the New Testament.

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. 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, 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.

Georgia Small Farm Conference

The

Middle Path

By: Don Perry

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

I got the idea reading an article about how Oprah was

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 com-

petition. 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 At the end of this phase some contestants will be elimi-

nated 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 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

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 Celebritocracy.

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. You can help protect yourself and aid

your Sheriff's Office in finding the criminals and recovering your property if you follow these practices for safety and security recommended by the Georgia Sheriffs' Association:

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. If you see signs of forced entry, do not enter. It is important that you stay outside of the building. Call 9-1-1 immediately, but try to do so from a safe location, such as a neighbor's house or your own vehicle. If necessary, leave and drive to a safe location.

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. When they do, don't touch anything without first asking. Try to do a walkthrough with the deputy to advise of any stolen or damaged items. If you enter your home or business before noting signs of a burglary, leave immediately and call 9-1-1. If you return to your vehicle and see signs of damage, entry, or theft, call 9-1-1 immediately, and do not touch anything.

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. It is often helpful to also make a video or photo journal of valuable items and provide it to the deputy in charge of your case. Ask your insurance company if they recommend inscribing identifying marks on electronics or other valuable items, such as lawn equipment.

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. If you know a Master Gardener Extension Volunteer, please extend your appreciation and gratitude for all they do in the community. For those of you not familiar with these incredible volun-

teers, 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 To do this, they recruited as many avid gardeners with a passion for education and volunteerism as they could find and provided them with additional horticultural training. These volunteers were dubbed "Master Gardeners" and mobilized within the community to help answer questions about gardening, plan local programs, and assist extension offices. Eventually, this program spread across the country to nearly every state. 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. After passing two exams, Master Gardeners then have a fifty hour community service commitment their first year Trainees, and twenty hours for each subsequent year as official Master Gardeners. They attain these hours by planning educational, horticulturebased programs, working in the extension office, preserving demonstration gardens throughout the community, maintaining information booths at local events, and countless other ways. 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. which is valued at over \$128,000! Because of their hard work. Master Gardeners in every county are honored for their volunteerism and passion yearly on the third Saturday in March.

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!

If you are interested in growing vegetables in your garden this year, please join extension for our annual Northeast Georgia Vegetable Production Meeting. This year, the meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 14th from 10:30am to 2:00pm at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. There is no cost to register, and lunch will be provided courtesy of the White County Farmers' Exchange. Topics will include suggested vegetable varieties for our North Georgia climate, soil nutrient management, best management practices in pest management, and an update on the pesticide applicator's licensing requirements and procedures. Please RSVP to the Union County Extension Office at 706-439-6030 by March 10th.



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

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

Towns County Community Calendar

Every Monday: Brasstown Manor 9:30 am All Saints Lutheran Bridge Players 12:30 pm Every Tuesday: Free GED prep. Old Rec. Center 4 pm **Every Wednesday** SMART Recovery Red Cross Building 7 pm **Every Thursday:** Bridge Players All Saints Lutheran 12:30 pm Free GED prep. Old Rec. Center 4 pm **Every Friday:** Alcoholics Anon. Red Cross Building 7 pm **Every Sunday:** Red Cross Building Alcoholics Anon. 7 pm First Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. 6:30 pm Mtn. Amat. Radio First Tuesday of each month: Alzheimer's Supp. McConnell Church 1:30 pm American Legion VFW Post 7807 4 pm Hiaw. City Council City Hall 6 pm Young Harris Coun. YH City Hall 7 pm Second Monday of each month: Chamber Board 1411 Jack Dayton Cir. 8 am 5:30 pm Historical Society Old Rec. Center Mtn. Comp. Users www.mcug.org 6 pm 7 pm Civic Center

Planning Comm. School Board 7 pm 7:30 pm Auditorium Unicoy Masonic Lodge Hall Second Tuesday of each month: Caregiver support Brasstown Manor 3 pm Arts & Crafts Guild Calvary Alliance Chapel Daniel's Restaurant

6 pm Lions Club 6 pm Mtn. Coin Club N. GA Tech $6 \, \mathrm{pm}$ Second Wednesday of each month: SC Fire Hall

Basket Weavers 10 am Board of Elections 67 Lakeview Cir., Ste. A 4 pm **Second Thursday of each month:** 9 am CVB Board Rec Center

Mtn. Comm. Senior Senior Center 1 pm Democratic Party Civic Center 5 pm

Second Friday of each month: Square Dance Club Rec. Center

Towns County Herald

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Publication No: 635540

Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m. Towns County (1 Year) \$20. Out of County (1 Year) \$30. Entered as second-class matter on November 8,

1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. Postmaster: Send change of address to: Towns County Herald, P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546.