

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Two Oft-Ignored Heroes

Their sacrifices for America should be taught in every school in America! Audie Murphy, the small statured kid from Farmersville, Texas came to be feared by the NAZI forces during WWII. Coming home he became a famous actor in Western movies. However he suffered greatly from mental anguish from what he experienced fighting for America and indeed world freedom, called PTSD today. He never got the medical care he deserved. Murphy soaked his life in alcohol, gambling, and exploits with women until he was killed, financially broke, in an aircraft crash in the Virginia mountains, 1971 at the young age of 46. He had earned: Medal of Honor; Distinguished Service Cross; Silver Star with oak leaf cluster; Legion of Merit; Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster and Valor device; Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters; U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal; U.S. Army Good conduct Medal; Presidential Unit Citation with oak leaf cluster; American Campaign Medal; Euro-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; Silver Star; Four Bronze Service Stars for 9 campaigns; Bronze Arrowhead for assault landing at Sicily and Southern France; I just don't have room here for his entire plethora of over two dozen decorations. I must speak on behalf of his wife!

Audie's wife, Pamela Murphy, served America as he did, a much understated, and unknown heroine! She served a distinctive 35 year career at the Sepulveda Veterans Administration hospital, treating each and every Veteran as a VIP! She was an outstanding patient liaison, insuring that every soldier, Marine or other Veteran got to see the specialist they needed. Owed to them! Quoting Pam, she said, "Even with the adultery and desertion at the end, he always remained my hero."

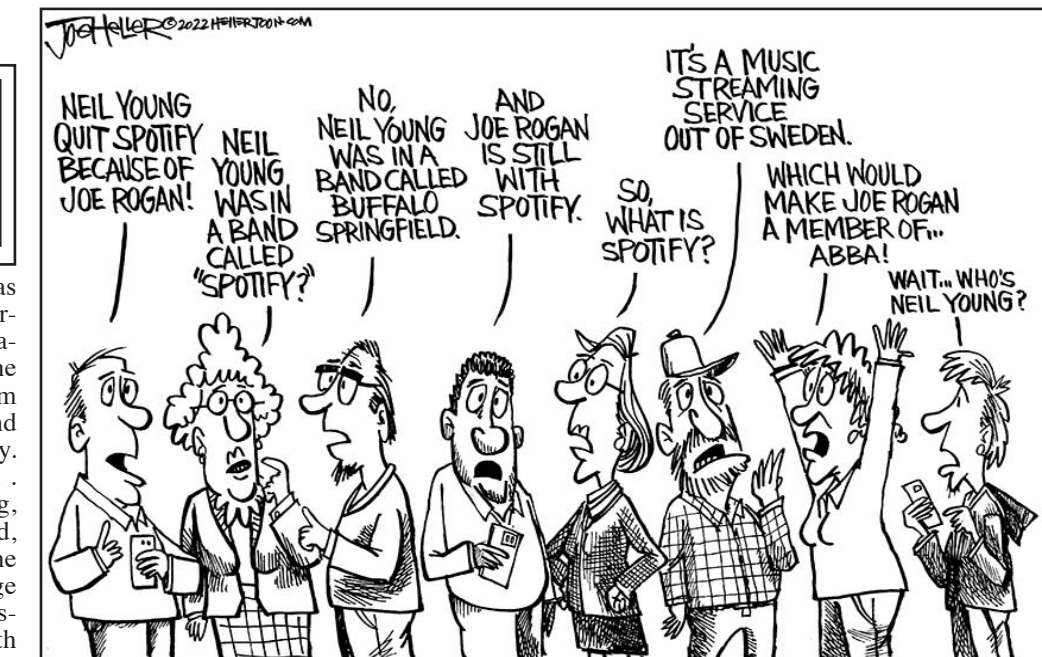
With that in mind, she even got reprimanded several times for going above and beyond to represent "her boys". Our Veterans soon called her "our angel"! One year Pam was asked to become the focus of a Veterans Day column addressing all the work she had done. Pam said, "Honor them, not me! They're the ones who deserve it!"

In 2002, bureaucrats representing a politically correct government declared Pam's job as "excess" and decided to eliminate her position via "budget cuts". Our Veterans community staged an overwhelming mass protest outside the VA gates. Soon, afterwards, Pam's job, representing Veterans was no longer "excess"! At this point I must ask, "How the hell anything in our nation's Veteran's budget can be considered "excess"? To this humble writer, that is profanity at the highest level of hypocrisy.

This finest of our greatest Americans Pamela Murphy continued working for our Veterans at the VA until 2007 at age 87. Pamela Murphy went Home at age 90 to be with our Supreme

Commander and her beloved husband Audie Murphy when she was 90.

I was recently reminded of these REAL American Patriots by my friend, Frank Gibbs a REAL American Patriot from South Georgia who also sacrificed and suffered much from his service in our Army's Americal Division, Vietnam. We owe ALL of our Veterans and their families, those who served Honorably our unbridled gratitude, honor, and NO budget cuts!



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## Mixed Signals (Part II)

Alas, freedom is not for the fragile. In the same way that the rule of law means that sometimes criminals will go unpunished in order to protect the rights of the majority, free speech means that a lot of stupid opinions will be allowed to flourish.

I'm not implying that Rogan's opinions, or those promoted by the books on the Texas ban list are stupid, but that is the opinion of those who want to silence their opposition.

Mark me safe from Neil Young's exit from Spotify. "A southern man don't need" his opinion about pandemics anyhow. Neither do I need Joe Rogan's opinion. I don't need Fox News to tell me what Joy Behar said on The View (had to Google her) and I don't need to hear AOC's "reaction" to what Fox News said about what Joy Behar said on MSNBC. I will listen to my own doctor, and if more people did that, I'll wager that things would go a lot smoother.

Rumor has it that Yoko Ono has threatened to ADD her music to Spotify unless they remove Joe Rogan. I'll be interested to see how this all plays out.

If enough celebrities jump on the bandwagon, Spotify may cave to their demands and political censorship will have advanced another step in our nation. Or, by removing their own voices from the Spotify, Neil and anyone else who joins him in exiting the platform will simply make Joe Rogan's voice even louder in their absence.

Yes, I said "political censorship" for the benefit of anyone who believes that this is simply a high-minded effort to combat "vaccine misinformation."

This pandemic is something that scientists are still struggling to understand. That understanding has evolved, and it is still evolving.

This is the nature of science. Science is dynamic by definition. That's why scientists never completely agree on anything. When science stops being dynamic, it ceases to be science and it becomes dogma instead.

Buckminster Fuller said that instead of tearing down an old system, it's better to invent a new one that makes the old obsolete. Anyone who wants to ban books or silence opposing views has not done that.

Science must transcend human nature, value judgements, logical fallacy and cultural conditioning to qualify as science. Beyond that, science polluted by even the smallest amount of contamination becomes something else. Science plus celebrity equals entertainment. Science plus politics always equals politics.

Our unfortunate belief that everyone is "entitled" to an opinion also prevents understanding. It sends mixed signals to those of us trying to make informed decisions. Everyone has a "right" to an opinion, including Neil Young and Joe Rogan, but to be "entitled" means that you have done the work and earned the credentials. Many of us assume that celebrity status automatically earns those credentials, and that is an unfortunate, even dangerous assumption.

As for the Texas books, we could almost wish that the effort is really some kind of satire. There is certainly plenty of irony to be found in the movement. For some time now the narrative has been dominated by complaints that our history and culture are fatally flawed by ideas and events that make our underserved and marginalized feel unsafe or uncomfortable or outraged.

Texas is simply saying that there are fatally flawed ideas and facts which cause the majority to feel unsafe or uncomfortable or outraged, and they want to purge that information in the same way that Huckleberry Finn was removed from libraries and reading lists in other parts of the country.

An eye for an eye until everyone is blind, and dumb, and not in the service of justice, but in the pursuit of control. And that, my friends, is what this is all about, and what connects two stories that should be unrelated, but are tied together because both are ultimately about coercing what other people think by eliminating any opportunities to think otherwise.

### 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.*

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

## Soil Testing

Soil testing is a very important part of growing a quality crop, having a good looking garden, having a quality lawn, or a good pasture. Soil testing gives you an insider look at what is going on in your soil. Even though it's only February now is a good time to think about soil testing and preparing the soil. Let's take a look at what a soil test can do for you and why it's a good idea to have your soil tested.



If you have a garden at your house it's a good idea to have your soil tested every other year. A soil test will show you the pH, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and manganese levels in your soil. These are essential elements for plant growth. Nitrogen is also a very important nutrient for plant growth. However, nitrogen is very mobile in

the soil. Therefore, you could test your soil and by the time that you receive your soil results back from the lab the amount of nitrogen in the soil could be drastically different.

pH is often the most limiting factors when it comes to growing plants in the mountains. A soil test will tell you the pH and the recommended lime to bring that pH up to an acceptable level for the plants. Any lime that is added to soil will take 3-6 months to fully take effect. That means for spring plantings, now is a good time to take a soil test and begin adding lime.

When taking a sample for your lawn, a depth of 4 inches is appropriate. If you're taking a sample for gardens, ornamentals, mixed fruit trees, and wildlife plots sample to a depth of 6-8 inches. You can use a spade or a soil probe. When you take the sample it's best to take multiple samples from around the plot that you are interested in. This way you'll get an average of the area that you're sampling and a better representative sample. Using a trowel or small shovel, take 8-10 samples and mix them together in a bucket. From that bucket take the sample that you'll bring into the Extension office so that we can send it to the UGA labs. Make sure that you get enough soil so that the lab can test properly. About 2 cups of soil is needed.

If you're sampling from an area that has mulch or grass on top of it push that material away so that you penetrate down to the soil. Pull out any rock or roots that you get with the soil sample and throw them away. When you take the sample, spread the wet/damp soil on a newspaper and let the soil air out overnight before bringing it in to the office, so that it dries down some.

When deciding how many samples you need to take, look at the area and determine how many different types of conditions you have. Each soil test costs \$10. For example, if you have a low lying spot, a steep slope, and a wooded area, each one of these would need a unique soil sample done. When you receive the results from the lab they will have recommendations for you based on the types of plants that you have on plan to have.

Bring soil samples into your County Extension Office. If you have questions regarding the soil sampling or the results you can call your local Extension office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

## New Habitat Homeowner announced

On Tuesday February 1st we held a small announcement ceremony to reveal the decision of the Family Selection Committee regarding our newest Habitat homeowner! Habitat board members, employees, and volunteers gathered in the early afternoon at the Habitat ReStore to celebrate. The Family Selection Committee presented Brandy Snow with a symbolic key, and a sentiment, "Your family has touched our hearts, and we are excited to build you and your family a Habitat home." Teresa Colwell spoke on behalf of the Family Selection Committee and the Habitat board.



Brandy Snow and her two boys, Wyatt and Elijah, were so excited to hear the news. Wyatt and Elijah were already telling us what color they would like their rooms. Brandy stated that she was expecting this because she had been praying for it for so long. God is good! Habitat for Humanity and its members are so happy to be a part of this incredible home build. Habitat members are humbled to be the hands in bringing about blessings in the lives of our community members. The process is underway for Brandy Snow, and her family as we embark on the planning stage for their partnership with us.

Local businesses are already volunteering to help. The Marina Station in Hiawassee will be holding a benefit spaghetti dinner to raise funds for the new Habitat homeowner and family. The event will be on March 2nd, and all the proceeds will go towards the Habitat home build. Be sure to mark your calendars and be apart of this exciting time in our community by coming out and showing your support.

If you are interested in offering your skills in building their home, or in simply donating, please contact the Habitat for Humanity ReStore at 706-745-7101. We have opportunities for you to get involved and be apart of changing lives in our community. We would love to connect with you!

More updates to come on the Habitat home and the new family!

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## Letters to The Editor

### Biden on Political Life Support

Dear Editor,  
As most people have known since he was elected president, Biden is just not up for the job. Look at his record thus far after just one year in office. Biden promised that he was going to "shut down the virus." But he hasn't. There have been almost 100,000 more deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2021 than there were in 2020. Biden insisted that inflation wasn't really a problem, however, inflation is soaring. It's the worst in 39 years. Biden insisted that the wave of illegal migrants coming across the border was just the usual seasonal pattern. But it wasn't. The number of those apprehended crossing the southern border illegally during 2021 exceeded the population of 11 American states. Biden insisted that he was going to get tough on China. He hasn't. And, the Afghanistan pullout played out about as poorly as it could have. Further, Biden's warnings haven't deterred Russia from continuing to build toward an invasion of Ukraine. Build Back Better was supposed to be Biden's FDR moment. But it didn't happen. Now that we can all be thankful for.

In a recent Quinnipiac poll, Biden had a 33% approval rating. That tells us something. The man has been in over his head since taking office.

Tim Groza

### The Real Cause of Inflation

Dear Editor,  
A major way the capitalist ruling class and their bought off lawmakers squeezes the middle and poor working class is by inflation. By paying working people less than the rise in prices for products across the board. They then blame the huge rise in the cost of living on Covid, or supply chain slowdowns, or greedy demands by workers.

But never mentioned, are oligarch bankers' printing money through the Federal Reserve System, in which they reward fiat money to themselves. Creating money out of thin air is the primary cause of inflation, not phony supply chain delays, and whereby the already super-rich get richer by investors buying back their own stock, by tax cuts to the rich and by insider trading in what amounts to corrupt money laundering, off-shore bank accounts, criminal conspiracies and fraud.

The latest 2022 Oxfam Report says it all when: "The wealth of the world's 10 richest men has doubled since the pandemic began.

The incomes of 99% of humanity are worse off because of COVID-19. Widening economic, gender, and racial inequalities — as well as the inequality that exists between countries — are tearing our world apart."

Lance Jobson

## Towns County Herald

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