

Opinion

A community forum for viewpoints from around the world to your backyard

The Clinch County News

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 113 E. Dame Avenue • Homerville, Georgia 31634
 Telephone: 912-487-5337
 Published by
 AIR Publications, Inc.
A.I. "Len" Robbins, IIIEditor & Publisher
 lrobbins@theclinchcountynews.com
Holly Mullis.....Business Manager
 airpublications@outlook.com
Ben Murray.....Production Manager
 news@theclinchcountynews.com

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TALL TALES

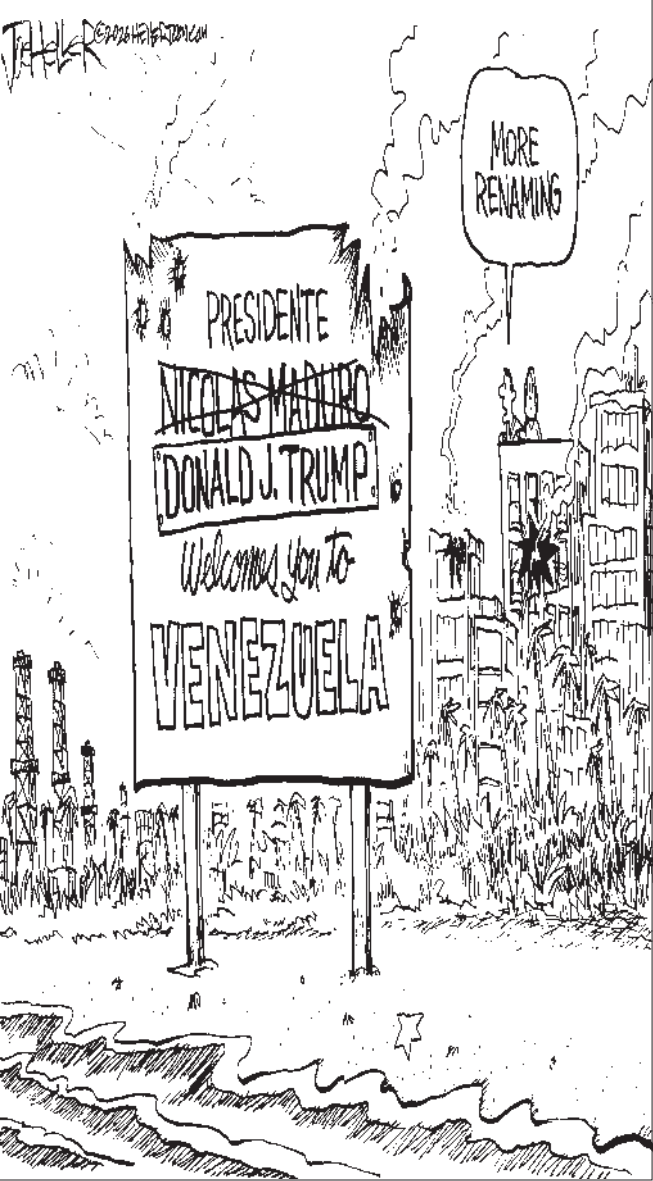
By Lem Griffis

Fish have begun biting down our way. One fellow caught one so large he put him in a box with a three hundred pound block of ice. The fish swallowed the ice and spoiled before the fellow got home.

Another fellow set in one place and caught so many bream he wore a big whole in the water and had to move.

Truthly yours,
 Lem Griffis

Our letters to the editor are intended to be a free and open forum for local and area citizens to comment on items of general public interest. If you wish to write a letter to us, please type it or write legibly, double-spacing preferred. Letters are subject to editing for length, good taste and newspaper style. Subjects of a personal nature are generally not acceptable. Endorsements of political candidates are also not acceptable during a campaign. All letters must be signed but names may be withheld under certain dire circumstances. Please include a daytime phone number and address. You can also e-mail us a letter at clinnews@windstream.net, or visit our website at www.theclinchcountynews.com.



Beans are neither fruit nor musical

"The Simpsons" has surpassed 800 episodes, in its 37th season on TV.

Many of those who read this column probably don't watch this television program because it's a cartoon. Fortunately, I don't read this column.

To truly "get" the appeal of "The Simpsons," you can't simply watch it. You have to pay attention. Much of the brilliant satire and humor is found in the periphery — on signs in the background, scribbled on t-shirts in the corner of the screen, or in fast-paced dialogue that takes a few seconds to sink in.

A prime example of this is seen at the start of each episode, where Bart Simpson, the mischievous 10-year-old son, is writing on a chalkboard, obviously as some type of punishment at school. The shot of Bart writing the same sentence over and over is shown very briefly, but to the very attentive eye, often results in a comical payoff.

I recently discovered a listing of "Bart's Chalkboard Quotes" — all in one place. I have

Len Robbins

lrobbins@theclinchcountynews.com
 EDITOR & PUBLISHER

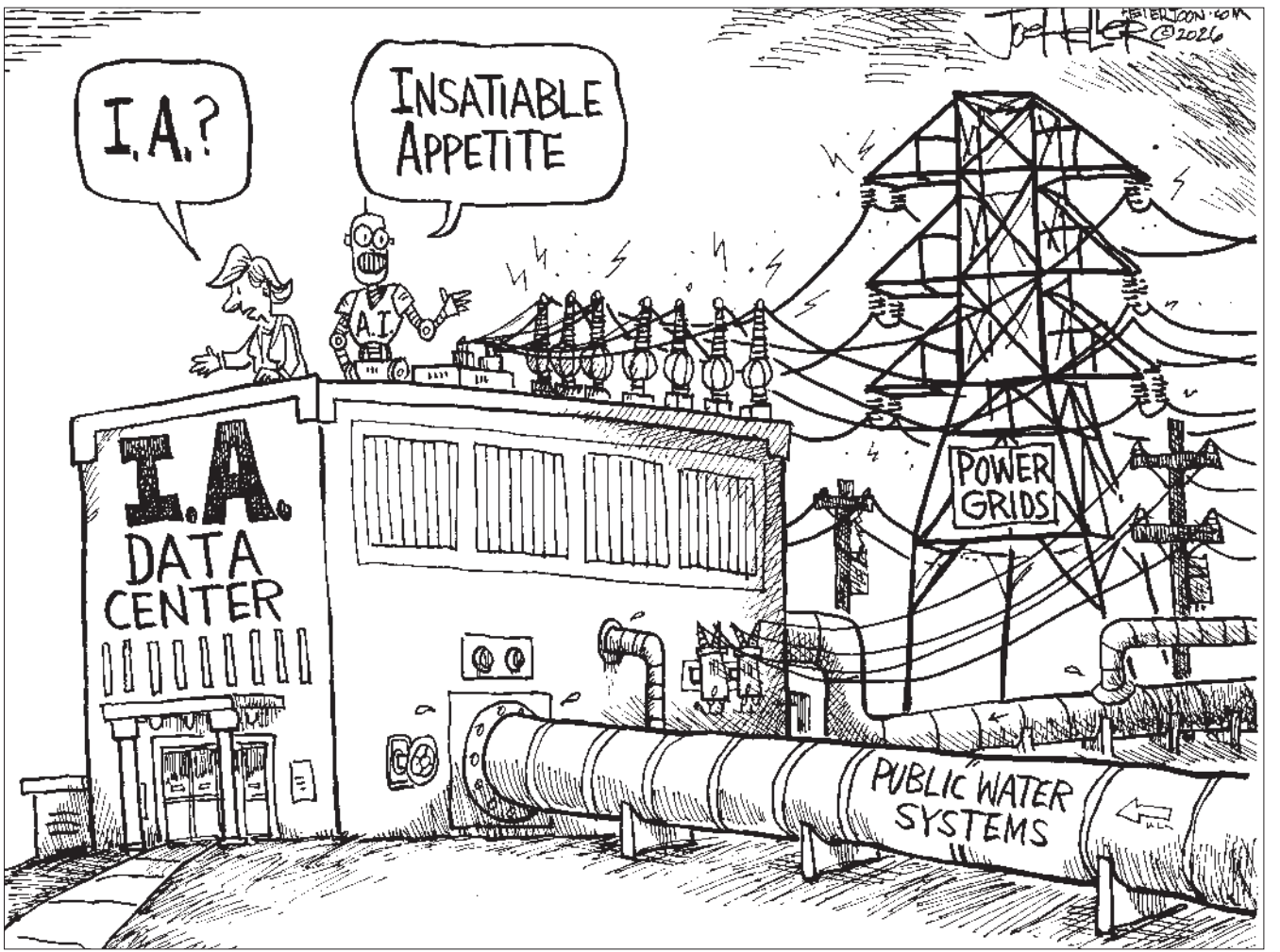


chosen a few for your my amusement:

- I will not speculate on how hot a teacher used to be
- They are laughing at me, not with me
- I will not yell 'she's dead' during roll call
- No one is interested in my underpants
- Beans are neither fruit nor musical
- Non-flammable is not a challenge
- Adding 'just kidding' doesn't make it okay to insult the principal
- I will only provide a urine sample when asked
- A person's a person no matter how Ralph
- When I slept in class, it was not to help Leonardo DiCaprio
- I will not eat things for money
- I will not call my teacher 'hot cakes'
- I will not xerox my butt
- I did not learn everything I need to know in kindergarten

- Tar is not a plaything
- I will not trade pants with others
- Indian burns are not our cultural heritage
- Beer in a milk carton is not milk
- I will finish what I sta
- I will not charge admission to the bathroom
- The cafeteria deep fryer is not a toy
- The Giving Tree is not a chump
- The boys' room is not a water park
- Millhouse did not test cootie positive
- Wedgies are unhealthy for children and other living things
- The hamster did not have a 'full life'
- Fridays are not really 'pants optional'
- I will not hide the teacher's Prozac
- A trained ape could not teach gym
- No one wants to hear from my armpits
- A booger is not a

- bookmark
 - I will not ridicule the teacher's Final Four bracket
 - Fish do not like coffee
 - Chili fries do not go in like a lamb and out like a lion
 - Dodgeball stops at the gym door
 - A burp in a jar is not a science project
 - Bagman is not a legitimate career choice
 - Organ transplants are best left to the professionals
 - A fire drill does not demand a fire
 - There are plenty of businesses like show business
 - Funny noises are not funny
 - I will not grease the monkey bars
 - The principal's toupee is not a frisbee
 - I saw nothing unusual in the teacher's lounge
 - The pilgrims were not illegal aliens
 - There is no such thing as an Ipoddy
 - Guinea pigs should not be used as 'guinea pigs'
 - Does any kid still do this anymore?
- I hope so — for comedy's sake.
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Wish List 2026

Here's my wish list for 2026, plus I'll share a secret for helping some wishes come true.

I wish for a cure for male pattern baldness. That idea came right off the top of my head. I just need some seed money.

I wish for a vaccine for lying politicians. Lying would result in Pinocchio-style noses, their length in proportion to exaggeration. Perhaps long noses in our nation's capital might point them toward honest debate.

"I'd like to teach the world to sing." Coke had a delightful advertising jingle which included those lyrics. I'm a mediocre singer, but I'd like to post some songs online which I wrote years ago. Our triplets enjoyed them for a while so perhaps other children would too.

"I've got some friends I'd like to see again." That wish is from the theme song of a television series Then Came Bronson. Michael Parks, the motorcycle-riding star of the show, was a hero to many teenage

boys during my youth. That tune has been stuck in my head for decades. Sometimes I sing it while meandering down country roads in my truck.

I wish to become as good a man as my dog believes I am. Harriet's opinion is no doubt influenced by regular walks and treats. Even without rewards though, dogs give mankind more credit than we deserve.

I wish to rid the woods we love of nandinas, cherry laurel, palmetto, briar vines, and kudzu. We've made some progress but have a long way to go. We won't conquer them in 2026, but wishing doesn't have to be limited by reality. Hopefully the list will remind me of wishes I can work on.

I wish to put in a shallow well with a hand pump in those same woods. I've been planning this for a while. Maybe I'll get past the planning and have fresh water at our picnic site.

I wish Charlie Brown would kick the football

Neil Joiner

COLUMNIST



gnejoiner@gmail.com

through the uprights. Lucy has tricked him too many times by pulling it away. The kid deserves a chance, as do all children.

I wish people on news shows would stop habitually responding to questions by first saying, "That's a great question." There are occasional queries which deserve compliments, but not routinely. It's fine to ask, "Do you believe the snow will impact travel?" but it doesn't rise to the level of journalistic greatness.

I wish Netflix would offer G or PG rated versions of movies and other fare. Otherwise decent shows which include crude language could be cleaned up with dubbed lines. I've suggested this to Netflix before. My letter must have gotten lost.

While we're on that subject, I wish influential

people would stop using vulgar expressions. Entertainers, athletes, coaches, and even Presidents have gravitated toward conversational vulgarity. Some of the most prominent of today's leaders are setting poor examples for the leaders of tomorrow.

I'm not out of wishes, but I am out of space, so here's my first and second place. I'd like to teach the world to sing, and I've got some friends I'd like to see again. Work is the secret to helping some wishes come true, so make your own list and let's see how we do.

Two more wishes before I close, though last perhaps the best. Happy New Year to you all. May our wishes which are worthy all be blessed.