

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

WWII Veterans achieved "Impossible"

Not to take away from ANY other American who served our great nation in uniform, our WWII generation is truly "our greatest generation". Our real heroes, as in other wars, battles, skirmishes and many unknown occurrences in defense of America or offense against evil, whichever you prefer, never came home. Always remember them! Only with the aid of our civilian population, laboring hard and tirelessly in order to produce the materials', required to defeat malice and evil at a global level could our nation be saved. Never forget!

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



Below is a copy of what our men and women of WWII accomplished in the European theater. Only a portion of what these men and women sacrificed so much, in their "do or die" efforts to save not only our USA, but our entire civilized world. So please read this, deemed "impossible" by many. As you read this copied document, bear in mind another "impossibility": occurred halfway around the world, the Japanese surrendered on September 2, 1945, a five long hard months later. God Bless every American who ever served and sacrificed for what we now enjoy, and continually must maintain vigilance to maintain from the forces of evils within our borders and globally. Please read the "impossible":

German Surrender Documents
 Instrument of Surrender of
 All German armed forces in HOLLAND, in
 northwest Germany including all islands,
 and in DENMARK.

1. The German Command agrees to the surrender of all armed forces in HOLLAND, in northwest GERMANY including the FRISLIAN ISLAND and HELIGOLAND and all islands, in SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, and in DENMARK, to the C.-in-C. 21 Army Group. --This to include all naval ships in these areas-- These forces to lay down their arms and to surrender unconditionally.

2. All hostilities on land, on sea, or in the air by German forces in the above areas to cease at 0800 hrs. British Double Summer Time on Saturday 5 May 1945.

3. The German command to carry out at once, and without argument or comment, all further orders that will be issued by the Allied Powers on any subject.

4. Disobedience of orders, or failure to comply with them, will be regarded as a breach of these surrender terms and will be dealt with by the Allied Powers in accordance with the laws and usages of war.

5. This instrument of surrender is independent of, without prejudice to, and will be superseded by any general instrument of surrender imposed by or on behalf of the Allied Powers and applicable to Germany and the German armed forces as a whole.

6. This instrument of surrender is written in English and in German. The English version is the authentic text.

7. The decision of the Allied Powers will be final if any doubt or dispute arise as to the meaning or interpretation of the surrender terms.

Hans Georg Von Friedeberg
Kinzel
G. Wagner
B. L. Montgomery
Field - Marshal
Poleck
Friedel
 4 May 1945 1830 hrs.

Semper Paratus

I Knew You'd Be Surprised

Ask a happy person to tell you about the place where they live and chances are you'll hear good things about that area. The way we feel directly affects, and for some people determines, how we perceive reality. Most of us who live in our neck of the woods, even on our bad days, know that we are fortunate to be here, and that knowledge increases in direct proportion to how many other places we have lived or visited.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Nevertheless, we do live in interesting times, in a strange age of confusion in which the way many people perceive reality is affected as much or more by the virtual world as it is by direct experience.

It's human nature to be vulnerable to stereotypes and prejudice of all kinds. Our brains are differencing engines with a limited capacity for compiling data on more than just a handful of individuals, and anyone outside that small group, or anyone we perceive as different than our group, is considered "the other." Our fears and prejudices were bad enough long before the age of information came along to leverage those shortcomings and facilitate even further divisions. For its effect on our national identity and civil society, "anti-social" media is perhaps a more accurate description for what we commonly refer to as "social." Long before "social" media and the ascendancy of virtual reality, our part of the world often got a bad rap. Even today, southern states are assumed to be homologous organs of a monolithic south, and now stereotypes about southerners, hillbillies and rednecks, encouraged by mainstream media, have merged with stereotypes about "red states" versus "blue states."

Here at home, we always knew differently. Now we have the data to back us up. The Atlantic magazine recently sponsored a study on partisan prejudice. The analytics firm, PredictWise conducted the study. Towns County, Georgia, ranks in the 13th percentile, which means that 87% of all US counties are more politically intolerant than we are.

In fact, all of North Georgia and most of the Southern Appalachians rank as being significantly more tolerant than the rest of the country. Fannin County is in the 9th percentile, Union County is in the 20th; Clay and Cherokee counties in North Carolina are in the 2nd percentile.

The most intolerant county in the nation? Suffolk County, Massachusetts, in the heart of the most "liberal" part of New England. No county in the state of Massachusetts ranked below the 85th percentile. None of Georgia's hillbilly counties ranked higher than the 20th. The most politically tolerant city in America, according to the study, is Watertown, New York, which is in a county that voted for Donald Trump by a 20 point margin. I knew you'd be surprised.

The most intolerant demographic group? Older white educated urban dwellers who tend to associate much more with "their own kind." Ironic, isn't it? That some of the loudest voices calling for it have the least experience of diversity.

One thing is clear. Prejudice knows no geographical boundaries, and the same is true for tolerance. We are fortunate that tolerance has taken root in the place we call home.

Fertilizer

As we get closer and closer to spring and plants begin to come out of their winter slumber, I'd like to talk about fertilizers. There are many different types out there. I'll talk about some basics of fertilizers. Next week I'll talk about some of the different types that are out there, so that you can make an informed decision about which kind fits your needs this spring.

UGA extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



First thing to talk about with fertilizer is what's in it. Usually a fertilizer will have a series of three numbers on it, for example 10-10-10 or 16-4-8. These numbers are percentages. The first number is always nitrogen, the second phosphorus, and the third potassium. These can be abbreviated to N-P-K, which are the symbols for these elements on the periodic table of elements. These three elements are the most important for plant growth. That's why we make recommendations based on them. If you had a 100 lb bag of 16-4-8, that bag is 16% N, 4% P, and 8% K. Meaning in that 100 lb bag you have 16 lbs of N, 4 lbs of P, and 8 lbs of K. Now, you make be thinking, "I paid for a 100 lb bag! Why am I only getting 28 lbs of nutrients from it?!" The rest of the poundage in that bag is probably going to be some other nutrients that are needed for planted growth, but in much smaller quantities, and other inert materials that keep those nutrients in a form that's usable by plants; there could be a special coating on the pellets that make them easier to apply as well. But now that you have this knowledge it brings up an important point, that when purchasing a fertilizer it is good to look at how much N-P-K you are getting for your money, because it will vary.

Now let's talk about when to apply it. It's best to apply fertilizer when plants are actively growing. Fertilizer that is applied when plants are in a dormant state can be washed away before the plants wake up and need the fertilizer. Nitrogen is very mobile in the soil, meaning that when it rains your nitrogen will likely be leached out of the soil. Phosphorus and potassium will stick around a lot longer in the soil, but can be lost by erosion. Never apply fertilizer to a stressed plant. If the plant is wilted from lack of water applying fertilizer can do more damage to the plant.

Where you apply fertilizer is important. Don't just dump all of it at the base of the plant, instead spread it around so that all of its roots growing out from the plant can reach out and receive it. Applying it too heavily in one spot can result in burn or keep the plant from properly taking up water. If you're fertilizing trees remember that tree roots extend out beyond the canopy of the leaves, so you're going need to make that application in a wide circumference around the tree. Fertilizer left on the leaves can burn the leaves.

Knowing how much to apply is very important. Under fertilizing can leave plants underdeveloped. Over fertilizing can result in a lot of young tender growth that is susceptible to disease or insect pests. Taking a soil test and bringing it to the Extension office, to send to the lab, will tell you exactly how much fertilizer you need for what you are growing.

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

Letters to The Editor

Open Letter to BRMEMC

To: Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors and General Manager
 Subject: Plan to increase EMC Customer Charge to \$40 per month

This is in regards to articles in the Towns County Herald Jan. 23, and Feb. 20, by Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Manager Jeremy Nelms stating his proposal before the EMC Board to increase the Customer Fee in increments to \$40 per month and decrease the electric kWh cost. This plan is to shift the cost of operating the EMC from the high power users (mostly commercial) to the home owner who uses a small amount of electricity. For example, a home owner using 1000 kWh of a month would have their customer charge raised to \$40 per month while a usage of 220,000 kWh or more per month would stay at \$75 per month. This is simply WRONG to shift this cost from the HAVE'S to those (many) that are retired, living on a fixed income and struggling to meet their financial costs of the necessities of life; food, clothing, shelter and health care.

Towns County has the highest percentage in the state of citizens age 65 and over and is among the counties with the highest percentage (50%) of public school students on reduced cost of meals, which is based on their family income.

Let me point out to the EMC Board Members that the members they represent in the other EMC counties of Union, Fannin, Clay and Cherokee have similar demographics on age and income.

A Towns County friend checked with his sister living in Tennessee who is getting her electricity from the same TVA. She pays \$11.71 Customer Charge per month and our EMC is charging \$21.37, almost double. She also pays less per kWh. Our EMC Customer Charge has increased almost 50% over a six-year period from 2012 to 2018. Our EMC members have not received 1/3 as much of an increase in their wages, salary or retirement.

One lady I talked with was very distressed. She and her daughter each have a meter. She works two jobs trying to make financial ends meet. This increase would mean the Customer Charge plus 7% tax for one year for the two of them will be \$1,027.20 plus the cost of the electricity they use. I urge you to not shift this financial burden from those that have plenty to those living on a fixed income.

I appreciate the time and courtesy shown by Towns County EMC Board Members and Manager Nelms in listening to my concerns and request that they NOT follow through with this plan.

Sincerely,
Bill Kendall
 Former Towns County Sole Commissioner

"Hey, you better get ready for March Madness!"

"Why? What's the General Assembly doing now?!!"



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.

Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Bridge Players	Every Thursday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Movers & Shakers	Every Friday: Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
YH Plan Comm.	Third Tuesday of each month: YH City Hall	5 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Blairsville store	5:30 pm
Water Board	Water Office	6 pm
Quilting Bee	Third Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Joff @ 386-530-0904	
Book Bunch & Lunch	Daniels Steakhouse	11:30 am
Friendship Comm.	Third Thursday of each month: Clubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party	Civic Center	5:30 pm
Goldwing Riders	Third Saturday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
Red Cross DAT	Fourth Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm

Towns County Herald

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