

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Similarities

It appears to me, after being bombarded with information and misinformation on the rapidly spreading disease affecting each and every American that we are now in a WAR similar to WWII. And here I am doing it again. Only this war is against an invisible, sneaky virus or "germ". Similar to what America's greatest generation accomplished in WWII, we can defeat this enemy too; very much similar to how we did in WWII. As well as all our other conflicts, only this one is our homeland, our United States of America. Sacrifice, discipline, situational awareness, some discomfort, change and adaptability will be required on behalf of all Americans, similar to what it's like to serve in our military forces. Only we won't be wearing uniforms. We still will have a lot of freedoms and choices to make. Not always like while serving in our armed forces.

The heroes, when America finally wins this war will be those unsung heroes, similar to those many who took great risks, flew the planes, manned the ships, and as always our Marines and soldiers, only today they will be the doctors, nurses, health care workers, scientists, lab workers, those who will build the weapons we need, vaccines and cures to kill this common enemy; EMTs, firefighters, police and others who put themselves at risk to aid others. All Americans who do their part will be heroes. Count on assistance from those military volunteers who as always are risking their lives to render aid whenever and wherever they are needed. Similar to military life so many are working around the clock for all of us.

We know so very little about this monster and it mutates often. We certainly don't know how long it'll take or what we may have to do in the future, just exactly like being in military service!

Here's what we all can do that we do know. Wash, wash, and WASH our hands every time we think about it. Try to maintain "social distancing" as it's known, similar to being on a very small patrol team, or even as I was once as an at risk solo observer of bad guys. Do not go out and try to buy everything on the store shelves as hoarding will only enhance the problem we seek to avoid. We have a wonderful supply chain throughout America and those efforts are only hindered by those who buy up all the toilet paper, etc. (I never did figure out this "toilet paper" thing.)

Similar to being members of our armed forces, we can all do with a little bit less and we can adapt and improvise while spending as much time at our homes as possible. And similar to those many civilians who rolled up their sleeves and went to work in the various industries and manufacturing jobs in WWII, we WILL win this thing by doing simple things. Similar to WWII pulling us all together as a nation, this too will leave our nation stronger and better off one day when we ALL throw in and win, for each other! Don't forget to PRAY!
Semper Paratus

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



Mettle

The word "mettle" has fallen out of favor in many circles. A good working definition of the word is: "A person's ability to cope well with difficulties or to face a demanding situation in a spirited and resilient way." Courage, spirit, resolution and tenacity are excellent synonyms for "mettle."

You won't have to look far to find examples of people proving their mettle. If you've had an appointment with your doctor or been to a hospital recently, it was because someone proved their mettle. If you've had a delivery from your Fedex driver who's been working 7 days a week, if you've picked up a dozen eggs delivered to the grocery store by an exhausted truck driver, or if you've been served by a police officer, an EMT or a firefighter who was trying to continue serving the public while protecting their health and the health of their families, you've seen people proving their mettle.

If you haven't seen it, or acknowledged it, you have benefited from it nonetheless. It's every place where people have squared their shoulders and stepped forward to fill the breach. All across the nation people are sacrificing, working longer hours and confronting dangerous situations to keep life as we know it as close to normal as possible. People are worried. They're scared. They're emotionally distraught. (After being confined at home with your kids what criticisms do you have for their teachers now?)

It is not given for everyone to be able to demonstrate mettle in as visible or as public a way as our medical professionals, civil servants and tradesmen who keep things running. Society is held together by countless beneficial individual choices that will never be of lighted day. It may be that your opportunity to show your mettle is in your choice to shelter in place, to comply with the considered recommendations of the medical community through various levels of government, and to use common sense in public.

Many of us are doing that, and we will be the deciding factor between hardship and disaster.

Too many of us are not doing that. We are failing the mettle test, and if enough of us continue to fail, then disaster is inevitable.

Of course we are human and fallible, and history has demonstrated that when it comes to mettle, not everyone makes the cut, but the outcome of difficult times always depends on how many do. Humans, even at their best, are subject to rationalizing their fears and choosing accordingly. We've already seen the hoarding and the outbreaks of violence in those areas hardest hit by the pandemic. We're also seeing another fear based behavior that threatens the vitality and the civility of small towns and rural areas like ours.

You see, small mountain towns like ours are at the end of the supply lines. That's why our grocery prices are higher than larger towns that are better supplied. We are also last in line when it comes to getting resupplied. That's why the meat section in our local grocery stores has been empty so often lately.

But that's not the only reason. Small towns in out of the way places, with abundant hotel rooms, cabins and campgrounds, have seen an influx of "virus refugees" who have left the city thinking to somehow escape the pandemic. In some cases they have brought it with them. In many cases they have helped strip the shelves of needed food and supplies. In many cases they have abandoned a place with hospital beds and ventilators for a place with few or none, and they are a life flight away from the nearest facility that might help them.

Let's digress for a moment so we can bring this problem into better focus. From where I stand, the problem is to a certain degree a generational problem, at least in our area, and my own generation bears a large part of the responsibility. I'm between what is commonly known as Gen X and Boomer, and my comments now are directed to the people who are also in that age range. If that makes you mad, take a moment and allow some blood to circulate to your brain. I'm speaking now to people who are a bit older, perhaps more affluent, retired or financially able to pack up and relocate to another town for an extended stay. I'm sure there are plenty of 60 year old truck drivers, doctors, and civil servants who still have their shoulders to the wheel, but by and large the ongoing burden of this crisis is being borne by younger generations.

Disregard the popular videos of kids partying on Spring Break in defiance of caution and common sense. They are children, and doing stupid things is what children do. Children are not hoarding toilet paper. Millennials are still at work, doing double shifts at the hospital, driving delivery trucks, walking a beat. The elderly are sheltering in place or trapped in a nursing home and isolated from the love and support they need the most. It is the "mature" generations who are refusing to stay at home, who are taking virus vacations to small towns and buying up the groceries.

I'm sorry Gen Xers and Boomers, and I'm ashamed. I know this doesn't apply to all of us, but it does apply to many. Art is long and time is fleeting...and this was probably our last chance as a generation to prove our mettle. It's not too late...

The Middle Path
By: Don Perry
onthemiddlepath.com

Soil Test Report

In the past, I've talked about the importance of soil testing and how to take a soil test. If you have questions about how to take a soil test, I've posted videos on the Towns County Extension and Union County Extension Facebook pages in the past that you can go check out. Today I'm going to talk about how to interpret the report that you get back. The soil test report can be confusing if you're not familiar with nutrient and pH requirements for plants.

Once the lab has processed your soil test, you'll receive your soil report by email or mail. At the top, you'll see your information - name, address, and email. Right beneath that is a line that says sample. If you are submitting more than one soil test you can give each sample a name so that you can keep them straight. If you're only submitting one sample we'll usually just call it "1" or your last name. Right underneath Sample is the heading Crop. When you bring in your soil sample, we'll ask you what you plan to grow, or already have growing in that spot. That way when you get your report you'll have results that are specific to your soil and specific to whatever it is that you're trying to grow. Different plants have different nutrient requirements, so you will have customized results for your situation. We have many different crops that we can run a soil test for, so most likely we can find a crop that applies to your situation. You can put up to five different crops in a single soil sample.

Below the client information, you'll see the results. The basic soil test gives results for phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and pH in a bar graph. You'll see a line going through the bar graph, where the bar graphs are. If the bar graph column goes above the line then you have enough of the nutrient. If it's below then you need to add that nutrient to the soil. The amount of the nutrient present is reported in pounds per acre. pH is reported a little bit differently, because it's measured on the pH scale. You will still see if your pH is below the desired line.

Now below the Results graphs are the Recommendations. The recommendations are specific to your soil and the crop that you're growing. If you need limestone to raise the pH, the amount needed will be included. Below the limestone recommendation is the pH recommendation. This is going to be a range. Next, come the fertilizer recommendations. The fertilizer recommendations will satisfy deficiencies in your soil. The fertilizer recommendations also include timings so that you know when to apply the fertilizer. For some crops, there are recommendations for establishment and maintenance. An example is lawns. You will get a recommendation for putting in a new lawn or what you need to do you to keep your already established lawn healthy.

Sometimes the fertilizer recommendation includes a fertilizer that you can't find. In that situation, approximate with another fertilizer that you can find or use the fertilizer calculator link on the report if it was emailed to you.

If you have questions about interpreting your soil report, email or call me. Currently (3/26/2020) the Towns County Extension office is closed. The Union County Extension office is open by appointment only. You can call me there at 706-439-6030 or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

UGA Extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



Letters to The Editor

Congratulations to new Superior Court Judge

Dear Editor,
The State Bar of Georgia congratulates Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit Senior Assistant District Attorney T. Buckley "Buck" Levins on his appointment by Gov. Brian Kemp to serve as a Superior Court judge for the Enotah Judicial Circuit, covering Superior, Towns, Union and White counties.

Judge Levins brings 14 years of experience in the legal profession to his new position, including seven years as senior assistant district attorney in the Enotah Circuit before moving to the Tallapoosa Circuit last August. Named as the Georgia Council of Accountability Court Judges' Prosecutor of the Year in 2019, he was engaged in private law practice for the first half of his career.

By accepting this appointment, Judge Levins continues to demonstrate his commitment to serving the public and the justice system. His fellow members of the State Bar of Georgia wish him well in this new capacity of judicial leadership.

Sincerely,
Darrell Sutton
President, State Bar of Georgia

Fluoride - Yes or No?

Dear Editor,
The upcoming election gives you the chance to vote on the choice to add fluoride to your drinking water. I worked in the water and wastewater field for forty years and still care about the quality of water in our lake, creeks and faucets.

Adding fluoride to drinking water does more harm than good to your body. Please, go to your smart phone, tablet or computer and spend a few minutes doing your own research, consider the cost.

In 2020 the officials you elect and the virus will come and go but for the rest of your lifetime (and your children's) you will be putting a chemical into your body that does bone and kidney damage.

To prevent children's tooth decay and cavities have them brush often and give just a few less sweets.

You are told fluoride is the best thing to do...and it just isn't!

Sincerely,
Dorothy Handy

Editor's Note: The upcoming Fluoride Referendum is to be decided by Hiawassee residents only. The referendum question will read: "Should the City of Hiawassee add fluoride to the City's water system? (Yes or No)."

Once Again

Dear Editor,
Once again, our resident climate change alarmist cannot pass up an opportunity to take advantage of a crisis and warn us of the evils of climate change.

In effect, he equates climate change with COVID-19. We, as a nation, are going through one of the worst pandemics in history, people are dying, schools and churches are closing, restaurants and other small businesses are having to lay off employees and all he can talk about is climate change. Gag me with a spoon! Has he no respect for the people who are suffering through this crisis?

How about offering some constructive suggestions as to how people in the community could be of help to each other rather than spewing this evangelistic fervor about an issue that most people, frankly, don't give a damn about.

Tim Groza



Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Sharp USMC (Men)	7 pm
	Every Wednesday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Hiawassee UMC	Noon
	Every Thursday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Friday:	
Movers & Shakers	Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Sunday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	First Tuesday of each month:	
Alzheimer's Supp.	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
AMERICAN Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
MRACG	Calvary Alliance	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	6 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
	First Wednesday of each month:	
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
	First Thursday of each month:	
Stephens Lodge	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
	Second Monday of each month:	
Chamber Board	1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
VFW	VFW Post	5 pm
Historical Society	Hist. Soc. Bldg.	6 pm
School Board	Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm

Have something to sell?
Let the Herald work for you!
Contact us at 706-896-4454
Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Kenneth West Owner/Publisher
Shawn Jarrard Editor
Mark Smith Staff Writer
Chad Stack Sports

Derek Richards Advertising Director
Shawn Henrikson Copy Editor
Todd Forrest Sports
Lowell Nicholson Photographer

Publication No: 635540

Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.

Towns County (1 Year) \$25. Out of County (1 Year) \$35. 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.

Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawassee
Phone: (706) 896-4454 **Fax:** (706) 896-1745 **Email:** tcherald@windstream.net
Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546