

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Babies and Mothering Tips

Although Towns County has the oldest median age of citizens in the state of GA, it is experiencing a population explosion.

Actually this phenomenon occurs every spring. The average weight of the infants is 63.6 pounds for females. Males weigh about 5 per cent more at birth. Of course genetics impact all babies. Some of the newborns are black and white, some appear to be solidly colored and some are a pretty reddish-brown with white faces.

Looking small and innocent in the greening pastures, these newly born calves always elicit a smile and remind me of yet another reason to be glad that John and I live here. New lambs, and a little later in the season, little wild turkeys do the same.

If I could speak one mother to another, I would tell a particular brown haired, brown eyed young beauty that the heifer who is already 3/4 her size and could probably eat a bale of hay a day, is too old to still be drinking from the milk jug. A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, a favorite book read in my youth, tells the tale of a four year old boy named Gussie, who refused to give up his original food source. Are you catching my vibe here? He would pitch a hissy fit until his tired mother relented and put forth.

When finally at her wit's end, she thought to draw a horrifying face on her anatomy of nurture. She did so and waited for her son to come from play.

Upon the usual demand, she offered what Gussie wanted. With one look and a blood curdling scream, a four year old boy was weaned. This action set in a 1912 impoverished tenement became known as "Giving in the Gussie" and spread to other mothers with kids who had stayed too long at the fair, so to speak.

If you know of a Bovine Whisperer in our area, please let me know. I want to tell the young brown cow, "It's time to let your daughter stand on her own four hooves. Give that girl the Gussie for goodness sake and your own."

After reading all this udder nonsense, John said that he agreed to stay with me through sickness and health for richer or for poorer, for better or worse, but not through bad prose.

Around Towns
Dale Harmon



Is it true? Is it kind?

Does it help improve the silence? There is truth in the title. Those of you of a first class intelligence (the majority of people who read the TC Herald), will hear the truth and act on it. Some of us hear the truth and need to verify it with our own experience before we will act on it. The rest of us, sadly a rapidly growing group, may hear truth but, failing to act on it, will repeat the experience many times.

Think before you speak. Discretion is the better part of valor. A word to the wise is sufficient. Don't let your mouth write a check that your buttocks cannot cash.

From the time we first learn to talk, the momentum of civil society itself attempts to imbue us with the simple but essential knowledge necessary to maintain that society.

The human psyche is a complex summation of chemical reactions and electrical currents, tentatively balanced on the boundary between instinct and cognition; prone to impulses that are often chaotic and unreliable.

We don't act on every impulse. We don't say everything that pops into our heads.

The above statement delineates half the challenge of raising a child. Put that down. Be nice to your sister. That's not a toy. Don't yell. Be still. Learning impulse control is the primary lesson of childhood, and for many, that lesson continues for a lifetime. Prisons, asylums and grave yards are populated by those who did not or could not learn it, or who forgot it at a critical moment.

Somewhere between the temper tantrums of a two year old and a Youtube video of a knock down drag out fight between adults in a fast food restaurant, outraged because somebody's fries were cold, is a failure of civil society to produce civilized members.

Blame what or who we may, for there is a sufficient quantity for some of it to always find the mark. But we, ourselves, participate every day in a modern ritual of obsession which eats away at civil society like an acid. Technology unguided leverages our lack of impulse control into a anxious and debilitating force. It makes us angry. It makes us nervous and fearful. It makes us sick.

The effect is cumulative. Think of a traffic jam, where the combined impulses of a self absorbed herd can immobilize a highway for miles. Each little selfish act combines with others in a cascading sequence of events. Social media can have a very similar effect on a civil society.

The asphalt highway suggests a relative anonymity which can defer the social consequences of an ill considered action. (A person's true character is often revealed in the way they drive.) The rude and aggressive driver is, and should be, reluctant to act in person the way she does on the road. On the information highway, the rude and aggressive participant in social media assumes he is immune to any consequences of ill considered or hateful speech.

But there are consequences, and we see them in the divisiveness and ill will which now characterize our political process. We see them in the Balkanization of life in America, less "a people" as time goes by as a collection of identities who believe that an opinion is an entitlement.

It isn't. We have a right to form an opinion, but it is our due diligence and the work involved in forming an opinion that entitles us to have it. Every day we experience the consequences of opinions formed (and shared) with no diligence or discretion at all.

It isn't entirely our fault. We are enticed to participate in the drama, rewarded with little injections of serotonin when we are liked or followed, or dosed with adrenaline when we have an angry exchange or reaction. It's easy, and it's addictive.

Take a step back and consider the sum total of all that we can see and hear at any hour of the day or night, the continuous noise of opinions and arguments, daily disasters, never ending scandals and controversies and investigations, and it's all repeated over and over in a never ending showing and sharing of everything that happens and everything that is said, and everything that is said about what happens and everything that is said about what is said.

It's the ultimate inclusion when we join in the fray with our comments and replies to comments. Forget the thing. The comment is the thing, and the story is the tweet and all the reactions to the tweet are the story. And we're all included. We're all entitled and we're all here together on the information superhighway. So why are we so angry with each other?

Because we have created a big angry traffic jam in our national discourse, and the sound of everyone blowing their horn at once does not improve our attitudes or our impulse control, and yet we are shocked and offended when someone succumbs to road rage.

The solution is ridiculously simple. Just turn it off. Close the laptop. Turn the phone face down. But if the addiction is too strong and we find ourselves back in the fray, all is not lost. Those three simple questions can serve to improve the traffic wherever we are:

- Is it true?
- Is it kind?
- Does it improve the silence?

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.

The Middle Path
By: Don Perry

Pesticide Resistance

Pesticides are an integral part of agriculture. They play an important role in making sure that we have enough food. Resistance to those pesticides is becoming a growing issue too. Let's talk about what pesticide resistance is, how it occurs and what can be done to slow down resistance.

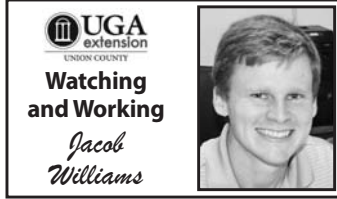
Pests are pretty smart and capable of adapting so that they continue to survive. Many different types of pests from diseases to insects to weeds are capable of becoming resistant to pesticides that are used to control them. When a pest is resistant that means the pesticide, whether it's an herbicide, fungicide, or insecticide is no longer effective at controlling that pest population. Spraying a resistant pest is like spraying it with water. If a single pesticide is used repeatedly then you are creating a scenario where pesticide resistance is very likely to occur.

Let's use aphids as an example for how resistance can occur. Aphids are a very common insect that is very small. They are capable of reproducing very quickly, which means they can become resistant to pesticides very easily. If you have an aphid problem and you decide to spray, that spray probably won't be 100% effective at controlling the population. It's somewhat similar to people in that not all medication is going to be equally effective for everybody. Those aphids that survived the application will continue to reproduce, passing the genes that gave them resistance down to their children. Before too long you may have an entire population that is resistant to that particular pesticide. Pests that reproduce quickly are more adept at developing pesticide resistance.

There are a few ways that pests can become resistant. The first is metabolic resistance. Some pests develop the ability to break down the pesticide once it's been applied and they have taken it in. Again, this is similar to people who have a very fast metabolism so they never gain weight. These pests are able to take the pesticide and break it down so that it's deemed ineffective before it can take effect. Another way that it can happen is that the target site of the pesticide in the pest is altered so that the pesticide is not able to take effect. Some insects develop thicker shells so that an insecticide can't be absorbed. Simply altering behavior because pests are smart enough to avoid the pesticide can take place too. That is similar to when deer hunters remark that all the deer disappear when deer season opens.

Pesticide resistance can lead to a lot of problems for producers. That's why it's important to remember to rotate modes of action. All labelled pesticides have a mode of action. The mode of action is the specific way that a pest is killed by the pesticide. If you use the same mode of action over and over, eventually you will have resistance to it. Rotating modes of action means that you keep switching things up on the pest, and so they will be less likely to become resistant. Pesticides have made it simple to tell which mode of action you're using by creating a number system. Each mode of action has its own number associated with it. If you rotate the numbers, you'll rotate the modes of action.

Pesticide resistance is something that anyone who uses pesticides needs to be aware of. Some pesticides are going to be more susceptible to resistance than others are. Some pests are going to be more susceptible to resistance. If you have any questions about pesticide resistance, contact your local Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.



Letters to The Editor

Climate Change - Another Proposed Solution

Dear Editor,
Amid more and more reports coming out of our government about the growing dangers from climate change, Republican lawmakers are now looking at solutions that will not hurt our economy. Recently, we looked at the Green New Deal, which offered sweeping changes in all areas of our economy to counter climate change. This week we will look at another idea.

The other proposal is a bill recently introduced into Congress, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Bill, HR 763. It would place a progressively increasing price on the production of greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels to account for their external damage and return all the income to all US citizens in the form of a monthly dividend check. Environmental and economic studies show that it would decrease greenhouse gases by 90% by 2050 while at the same time grow the economy and add 2.1 million new American jobs during the first 10 years as well as put more real spendable income into almost 2/3 of American's pocketbooks. Its advocates claim it would be a free market alternative to the Green New Deal and would not require new additional federal spending.

Which is better, and could the Carbon Dividend bill be a part of a New Green Deal? Certainly these are important questions, and I would ask that our readers study these proposals thoroughly and come to their own conclusions.

Vernon Dixon, MD

Animal Rescuers at Movers and Shakers

Dear Editor,
A few additions to the Movers & Shakers article in a recent edition of the newspaper: The purpose that animal rescuers spoke at Movers & Shakers on March 22 was first to explain what we do behind the scenes to control the stray population of dogs and cats in Towns County. The second purpose was to ask for help to do this. Animal rescue is huge, but there are so few volunteers. Without more help, animal rescuers burn out. We need volunteers who love animals and want to help the homeless ones. I personally need volunteers who can feed 8 cat colonies in Hiawassee and Towns County just off of a 2-mile stretch of Route 76. Cat feeding only takes about 1 hour in the morning and another hour in the late afternoon or early evening. Volunteers can choose either morning or afternoon, or both. And they can choose the day(s) they want to volunteer. If you have a heart for underprivileged and disadvantaged cats, please e-mail me at slaraines@outlook.com. We also need donations of both food and money to continue to do what we do. Donations of canned and dry cat food can be dropped off at Hiawassee Animal Hospital, Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital, and the library in Hiawassee. Cats are picky eaters, even stray cats. So to prevent wasted food, please purchase Kit 'n Kaboodle dry food and Friskies canned food. Food can also be purchased at Fred's and left there for us to pick up. Monetary donations can be made to Operation P.U.P., a 501(c)3 organization. If such donations are for the purchase of cat food, please mark your check with my name.

Sue Scott
Animal Rescuer

Have something to sell?
Let the Herald work for you!



Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM • 706-896-4454



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
Conv./Vis. Bureau	Second Tuesday of each month: Civic Center	8 am
Gem & Mineral Club	Senior Center	1:30 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild	Calvary Church	4 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
Basket Weavers	Second Wednesday of each month: SC Fire Hall	10 am
USCG Aux.	Senior Center	7 pm
Hiaw Writers	Second Thursday of each month: Hiaw Pk. Comm. Rm.	10:30
Awake America Prayer	Civic Center	Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	6 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Third Monday of each month: Cafeteria	1:30 pm
MOAA	Civic Center	6 pm
	Michael email mva62sgn@brmcmc.net	
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

Towns County Herald

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