

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Vets serve Towns County

In spite of the various lockdowns, slowdowns, and mischief caused by this year's problems created by the CCP flu, our Veterans, volunteers, and friends have accomplished several goals.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



I do not have all the names of those wonderful men and women associated with our VFW Post #7807, however they know who they are. Behind the scenes they frequently volunteer, give of their time and personal money for many community projects. Please bear in mind many of these projects are annual events.

Those members of our post consist of VFW members; VFW Auxiliary; American Legion; American Legion Auxiliary; American Legion Riders; Sons of American Legion (SAL); Marine Corps League.

If you are reading this you probably qualify to join in with one or more of these organizations, commonly known as VSOs, Veterans Service Organizations. Our American Legion is the largest of these wonderful, patriotic groups and often serve as the "glue" which binds us all. The ladies of the AL Aux are world class.

All, each and every one of these groups has contributed to the following, just this past year:

Towns County Elementary School starting back in August needed back to school supplies as in , paper, pencils,crayons,glue sticks,folders,binders,back packs, Lysol wipes, clothes,shoes,coats,face masks,Dixie cups,etc. In November our members delivered FIVE \$100.00 Ingles' gift cards. December found various volunteers from our post fulfilling Christmas wish lists for 10 students! In March our steadfast volunteers delivered more school supplies. And as schools comes to and end in May Scholarships will be awarded to deserving seniors.

Valentine's Day and Easter , volunteers purchased, wrapped and delivered gifts to the residents of Brasstown Manor as well as Union County Nursing Home. I personally witnessed our members who delivered small Easter packages for those who work in our Hiwassee City Hall. A large portion of the funding comes right out of our members pockets. And as always in our various meetings held monthly our Veterans and family VSOs vote to give funding to projects from each group's separate account. And being a small Veterans post we certainly don't have money to waste. These projects and more are taken seriously by our members and those who work tirelessly in our VFW Thrift store.

May 28th is National Poppy Day and you'll see members of all our VSOs in parking lots and entry ways into various businesses around Towns county and Hiwassee, distributing Poppies. Donations accepted!

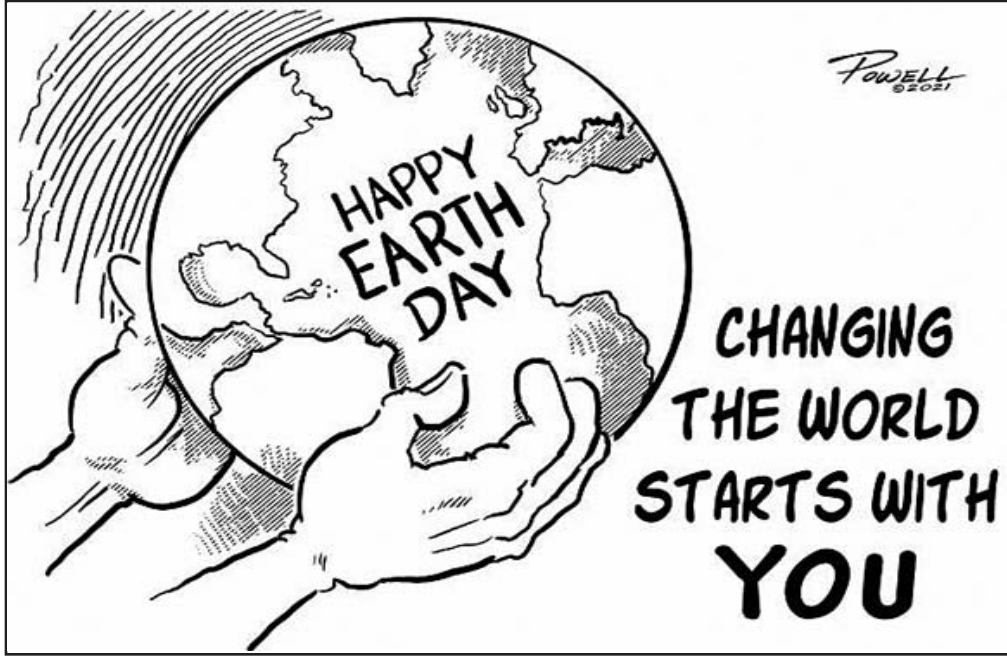
Let's not forget accolades and hearty cheers for our Towns County Basketball Team for winning the Georgia State Championship! Go Blue! Who said it couldn't be done? No one here!

All of our VSOs, listed in the opening paragraph participate in these projects ,a very abbreviated list herein. THANKS to each and every one of our members who give of their time, efforts and money to contribute to our North Georgia Mountain home.

This past year has been tough on America and our community, however our VSOs stood the challenges and will even do more in the forthcoming months and years.

Come join us if you like!

Semper Paratus



Content to be Nourished

"This tuber is insipid and mealy. It cannot be classed among the agreeable foodstuffs. But it furnishes abundant and rather wholesome nutrition to men who are content to be nourished. It is justly regarded as flutulent, but what are winds to the vigorous organs of peasants and laborers?"

So wrote Denis Diderot of the humble potato in the 18th century French Encyclopédie, one of the principal works of The Enlightenment.

Diderot was a philosopher and man of letters, a prolific writer whose bohemian and disordered life led him from Catholicism to atheism. He was a frequenter of coffee houses, and in the opinion of this erstwhile peasant and author, would be quite content in the bohemian and disordered culture of today.

He would not, however, be content in our garden this week. Plain black coffee is served in a stainless steel thermos, and it's time to plant potatoes again.

The lucky spuds chosen to fulfill their nutritious destiny have been hardening off in the sun for a week now, the tractor is running again, and the tiller is ready. The spirit is willing and the flesh, though weak in the biblical sense, is sturdy enough to plant another garden.

Though I mention the tractor in passing, some of you will understand the significance of the phrase, "running again," because when your tractor is not running, your life is out of balance.

While we don't encourage attachment to material objects, a tractor is something more. It is a relationship. Your tractor will hurt you, skin you, bruise you and blacken you from fingertip to armpit.

It has bolts you don't need in places you can't get to. It is cursed with cruel innovations such as a fuel cutoff valve directly over the exhaust manifold so that you can immediately know when it leaks and if your fire extinguisher works. When it runs, nothing runs better, and on the very rare occasion when it betrays you, you'll never see it coming.

While we're in the garden, you've probably realized by now that I wasn't joking about saving your seeds. Have you ordered seeds lately?

They arrive in a big envelope the size of a sheet of paper. Inside there is a smaller envelope about half the size of a post card.

Inside that is a little plastic bag slightly larger than a postage stamp.

Get out your tiger hunting tweezers, because you're going to need them to extract the half dozen or so tomato seeds, and pray that you don't sneeze.

The winds of coffee house economists tell us to disregard this type of stealth inflation. They assure us that we are actually more prosperous than we think.

Our everyday life is full of unnoticed items that would have been considered luxuries by Denis Diderot and the other editors at the Encyclopédie. The common smart phone has more computing power than the first Apollo missions, and televisions have never been cheaper.

But a potato is still a potato, and when history cuts down orchards, destroys vineyards and burns wheat fields, the humble potato, like the peasant who planted it, survives underground to feed another family content to be nourished.

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, Hiwassee, 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.

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Outside The Box
 By: Don Perry
worldoutsidethebox.com

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Have you seen small white cottony balls on hemlock trees? If you have then that means those trees are infested with Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). Let's look at why it's important to preserve hemlocks, what is the pest that is killing them, and what you can do to save them. We are getting to the time of year when they really start to come out.

UGA
 extension
Watching and Working
 Jacob Williams



Hemlocks are a native species that ranges from Maine to Northern Alabama. They are a keystone species that provides habitat for about 120 species of vertebrates and over 90 species of birds. Hemlocks are unique in their ability to thrive in shade. This attribute makes them common in ravines and along rivers and streams. Their proximity to streams and rivers means that they are crucial in reducing erosion and watershed protection. Hemlocks can be identified by their needles. They have short flat needles with two distinctive pale white stripes on the underside. The needles are wider at the base and taper to a rounded tip, unlike firs that have parallel sides the whole way down.

HWA is a very small insect. The white cottony sacks on the hemlock trees are egg sacks of HWA. They are an invasive species from Asia that doesn't have a natural predator here. HWA feeds on the sap inside of hemlock trees. Wind, birds, deer, or humans can spread the HWA. Once a tree has become infected, it will die within four to 10 years. Therefore, it is important to treat trees as soon as possible after finding that they have been infested.

It is important to treat your own trees with cultural and chemical controls. Cultural controls include keeping hemlocks well mulched and watered. Hemlock trees don't have very deep roots and droughts can make them more susceptible to infection. Don't place any bird feeders or deer feeders near your trees. Birds and deer can carry the eggs for long distances. If you are hiking in an area that has HWA wash your clothes afterward because you may be carrying eggs. Be careful to not over-fertilize your trees as that could make them more enticing to HWA. Cultural controls may keep your trees healthy, but when they become infested, chemical controls are the only option. Chemical controls involves treating your tree with either Imidacloprid or Dinotefuran, and is the most common and effective method of control. An imidacloprid treatment will last four or five years. However, it may take one year before it is effective. Dinotefuran will last for two years in the tree and will take about four to six weeks to take effect. The ideal way to apply either of these insecticides is by soil injection or soil drench. Putting the insecticide in the soil will mean quicker uptake by the plant and reduce the chance of off target drift. If the trees are near open water, a trunk injection of insecticide is necessary, which will require a professional. Whenever applying a pesticide it is important to familiarize yourself with the label before using the product.

The Union and Towns County Extension Offices each have a soil injector that is available to be checked out. Checking it out requires a \$250 dollar deposit that will be returned when the injector is brought back. I also have a soil drench kit in each office, which are simpler to use, especially if you don't have many trees. You must provide your own insecticide. The organization Save Georgia's Hemlocks have a website that has lots of information too.

Contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu if you have any questions about HWA.

Stop the Presses

She's known as my neighbor, my friend and aka, The Honorable Mayor of Hiwassee. In my exalted opinion she's super in all three.

Like John and me, she and Lea are implants on the Appalachian journey. Being interlopers, so to speak, requires a bit of proving one's self.

The natives and long time residents in these ancient mountains remind me of the Shakespearean quote, "Love all, trust few, and do wrong to none".

The proving ground for me was Ingles grocery store. It being the only game in Towns and my being a hefty consumer of food, placed me there often.

Very often I was met, not exactly greeted, in the checkout line with stoic efficiency. This was almost 12 years ago and employee turnover was considerably less than it is now.

I was elated when I was granted a Mona Lisa half smile at the transaction counter. In due time, I learned the miracle of accurately performing duties and amicable chat are not exclusive. I was accepted.

Before Liz was elected into service for our city, she and I lamented how everyone we know has had their picture printed in The Towns County Herald. Everyone except the two of us.

John served on the Chamber of Commerce Board so he was often seen in print with a jackass eating briars grin. Lea, recognizable even in an M&M costume, and Lea's mother, in her late eighties at the time, having just won a virtual bowling contest, graced the pages of a weekly issue. It would take an entire issue to name all the others.

Liz and I knew how Doctor Hook and the Medicine Show must have felt seeing the dismay of not getting their picture on the cover of the Rolling Stone magazine. I can't recall which of us said that about the only way we'd get our pictures in the paper would be to rob a bank I really can recall and it wasn't Liz.

John and I visited family in Atlanta for a few days and upon returning I learned that The Bank of Hiwassee had been robbed. Talk about timing. To my knowledge, there had been no bank robberies before and for sure none since. The picture captured on the bank's closed circuit TV and printed in The Herald, showed the thief in a baseball cap, the only distinctive feature. I called Liz promptly. Of course I knew she had not "pulled the caper", I demanded to know why she had not waited for me. Although the robbery was not at all funny, we chuckled at the irony.

The Towns County Herald rarely prints an issue these days without a picture of Mayor Liz. Her civic responsibilities are numerous, important, and legal. On occasion my picture appears with a column in the TCH. Some consider this a crime.

See You Around Towns!

Around Towns

Dale Harmon



Letters to The Editor

Challenge

Dear Editor,

To the past and future graduating classes of TCHS:

In 2020 the TCHS Class of 1957 gave two \$500 scholarships in honor of and in memory of the Class of '57.

We challenge the past and future classes of TCHS to help our youth to further their education.

Lois Hamilton Nicholson
 Class of '57

Rigged Tax System

Dear Editor,

Corporate America has never had it so good. A new report from our friends at the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy shows that 55 of the largest U.S. corporations paid \$0 in federal income taxes in 2020 on more than \$40 billion in profits.

Had they paid the current corporate tax rate of just 21%, they would have paid \$8.5 billion in taxes. Instead, they received \$3.5 billion in rebates!

President Biden has proposed a corporate tax reform plan that would begin to fix our rigged tax system — increasing the corporate tax rate to 28% while adding a 15% minimum rate so none of these corporate tax dodgers can get away with paying nothing in federal income taxes.

What a country...

Jim Morris

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!

Contact us at
 706-896-4454



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