

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Remember Them!

And be thankful for what they gave us. They paid the ultimate price. Our nation's real heroes sit at the Right hand of our Supreme Commander awaiting our reunion with them one day. Many people especially the young ones have no idea what it cost to save the world back then. It's not only "back then"; it is each and every day of the year that our men and women in uniform maintain our nation's security from global bad actors, of which there are many! They, just like the rest of us hope and pray for no more violent conflict. Those young men and women who serve our great nation hope and pray that they won't have to die, as did those who paid for what we have today. However they are well aware of the risks they took to volunteer to serve and grow with something far greater than themselves.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



The last Monday of this month is Memorial Day. For many of us, it's just a holiday we celebrate by getting the day off from work. For department stores, it's a day to have a sale so all the people getting the day off will come in and buy their goods. But, the truth is, it's a day we need set aside to remember the men and women that have fought and died so we can have the few freedoms we have left. They deserve so much more than just one day of remembrance, but let's give them at least that much.

Let's honor them this year and ALWAYS by being thankful for what they gave for us.

There are well over 104,000 brave Americans buried in Europe who didn't want to die, but were willing to in order to save America, their brothers in uniform, and our entire world from tyranny. That would include you and me!

On Okinawa alone, during 82 days of fighting, 12,510 Americans were killed. During the battle for Iwo Jima we Americans suffered 26,000 casualties, including 6,800 dead, during that 6 week long battle. During the course of America's history there have been over 2,852,901 Americans killed; over 40,031 missing or unaccounted for. Furthermore in order to keep this short and salient, we don't know how many Americans who died while serving during wartime are buried on foreign soil. Why? For one, there isn't a single organization that tracks the burials. There is no database of every American service member buried overseas. And the reason why there is no database is because finding all of America's war dead is a complicated process. We have many who are Missing In Action and estimated numbers of Prisoners of War, still unaccounted for. Let us always honor those who honored others with their very lives.

Point being, this Memorial Day and henceforth keep them all in our hearts, minds and prayers for those are true heroes, who although we may not know them, they, now being living souls within God's Arms, know each and everyone of us!

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

Why So Many?

Dear Editor,

An article in the May 2 edition of the Towns County Herald entitled "Volunteers gather to package meals for kids, families" written by Mark Novak stated that, "We are targeting the 500 kids in Towns County Schools that are on the free school lunch program and the 150 kids that are part of the backpack program."

It was nice that so many people gathered together to package 50,420 meals and the Rotary Club and Meals of Hope to provide the food, but my question is: Why are there so many parents in this small county who are not able to financially and physically feed their children? Are we an impoverished county? Are these people local or just arriving? Our county used to be a very poor county in the early 1900's. It seems to me, it has improved since my first visit in 1976 and my moving here in 1991.

Why are there so many working-age families in our county unable or disable to feed their own children during the summer?

Ed Jones

Lead, or be Left Behind

Dear Editor,

America, wake up! The handwriting is on the wall. The times they are a changing. We no more can cling to the use of fossil fuels than past generations could cling to oil and kerosene over electricity or horse and buggy over automobiles. The future of energy is in renewables like wind and solar. If America is to remain competitive in the world, we have to be the leaders, not the laggards, in the Green Energy Revolution. China is spending \$360 billion by 2020 on renewable energy which will result in 13 million new Chinese jobs, and they installed more solar last year than has the US to its history. China is leaving us behind. We cannot allow that to happen! It is time for the US to put its differences aside and take its rightful place as the world leader in clean energy.

A carbon fee and dividend plan as proposed by Citizens Climate Lobby is a conservative, market driven plan that can accomplish that purpose. Simply place a fair price on the production of carbon from fossil fuels to account for their external damage and return that money to all US citizens in a monthly dividend check. That would rapidly cause fossil fuels to be more expensive than solar and wind which would in turn fuel American ingenuity and investment in clean energy and rapidly convert us away from fossil fuels and into the use of solar and wind. Simple, fair, effective, market driven. Even if people do not believe in climate change, it would grow our economy, add millions of new American jobs, and put more money back into the average American's pocketbook, even after accounting for the increase in energy costs. So, what are we waiting for? It is time to act.

Vernon Dixon, MD

Sentinel Landscape Partnership

The Departments of Agriculture (USDA), Defense (DoD) and Interior (DoI) have designated parts of southern Georgia as the newest Sentinel Landscape designed to protect natural resources, enhance habitat for several key species and maintain military readiness. Through this partnership, more than 20 federal, state, and local partners with similar goals work together to sustain working farms and forests, protect vital habitat for several important species and enhance military readiness.

RC&D
Frank Riley
 Executive Director



Building on a legacy of successful, collaborative land protection in Georgia, a diverse group of partners have identified about 1.3 million acres as critical to helping the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. The Georgia Sentinel Landscape includes nine important military installations and ranges, including Fort Stewart, Fort Benning, and Townsend Bombing Range. "It is critical to protect agricultural lands and wildlife habitat for current and future generations," said Acting Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Robert Johansson. "This unique partnership can achieve greater gains by protecting private working and natural lands that are compatible with the military's need for open space to conduct sensitive missions. Together we will keep our nation strong militarily, while also continuing to ensure it provides food and fiber to the world." The military network stretching over portions of southern Georgia offers diverse testing, training, and operational resources, and capabilities to service men and women from each military branch. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA), as part of the new USDA Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) mission area, which also includes the Risk Management Agency (RMA), will be working with the other Georgia Sentinel Landscape partners to identify and help private landowners and agricultural producers voluntarily protect and improve working agricultural lands to sustain Georgia's food and fiber production. This partnership leverages technical and financial assistance available through Farm Bill programs and other resources. "It's critical, now more than ever, that we all work together" said Terrance O. Rudolph, USDA NRCS state conservationist. "Our FPAC agencies are poised to assist other project partners, to help our customers improve their land's productivity and impacts on the environment and community." Together, the FPAC agencies will ensure that landowners and producers within Sentinel Landscapes have access to the tools and resources they need to keep their land in agriculture and to support the next generation of farmers and private forest landowners. Offering several farm safety net programs, credit and voluntary conservation programs, FSA, NRCS and RMA programs address a variety of farming needs and related conservation issues. This new partnership in Georgia will help the federal and state government agencies involved to work closer together with the private organizations to meet the three primary goals of protecting natural resources, creating, or maintaining habitat for diverse species and enhancing military readiness. Through programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program, NRCS helps producers develop a conservation plan and funding to implement conservation practices. Meanwhile, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program enables landowners to protect agricultural lands and wetlands for the long term, which offers an income source while helping them to improve the quality of their land. The Georgia Sentinel Landscape partners seek to leverage broad goals and shared priorities to ensure the continued viability of important military installations and support the protection of habitat corridors for diverse important species such as the gopher tortoise, red-cockaded woodpecker, and eastern indigo snake. The partnership seeks to protect a core of at least 5,000 acres of important farmlands within the next five years. Another goal calls for the protection of more than 136,000 acres in the Savannah River watershed over the next 20 years. Partners also hope to protect more than 20 additional viable gopher tortoise populations over five years to make it unnecessary to list this species under the Endangered Species Act. Additional partnership goals include increasing public access to outdoor recreational opportunities, improving management practices on private lands, and expanding outreach activities to private landowners within the landscape.

Learn more about this partnership by visiting the Sentinel Landscapes website. For more information on conservation programs available through NRCS and FSA, contact your local USDA service center in Blairsville or Chest/Chatt RC&D at info.ccrd@gmail.com.

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.

What's Love Got To Do With It?

"Love is Oceans of Emotions Surrounded by Expanses of Expenses". At least that's what I learned sneak-reading my older sister's American Girl Magazine, one of the first publications aimed at proper young ladies.

Dishin' Dirt
Dale Harmon



The publication I was receiving at that time was Humpty Dumpty. It was a much better read. My sister learned to cross her ankles and keep her knees together when wearing a dress or skirt. I learned how to make a dancing puppet with Coke bottle caps and shirt card board from the laundry. My family was tormented by that puppet with caps for taps. He was my best friend.

Tina Turner declared in song that love is physical; only logical and a sweet old-fashioned notion. Elizabeth Barrett Browning wanted to count love's ways. In my exalted opinion, Lizzie could have benefited from a sheet of card board and a couple of soft drinks.

When the subject of love arises most people think of romantic love. You know what I'm talking about. Grab some candles, flowers, and some good (not the cheap artificially-flavored stuff) chocolate, throw in The Best Of Barry White and you're good to go. If you know who Barry White was, enough said. If you've never heard of him, ask your parents or maybe even your grandparents about Big Barry. You could be in his debt.

You may want to learn of some acts of love that have taken place in Hamilton Gardens. First there's the Garden itself. It's a gift from Fred Hamilton, who, along with his wife, Hazel, amassed a vast and irreplaceable collection of specimen plants. The Hamiltons loved each other, rhodies, azaleas, and the people of this area.

Another unabashed demonstration of love was perpetrated when Gordy Jones walked in boldfaced with lunch to share with his wife, Linda, who was putting in a full day of work at the Gardens. My own two eyes have witnessed a clandestine smooch along the mulched trails near the lake. Sweet and brief. It made me smile. Rest for the living and memories of the dead are placed where they are most needed in the form of benches. Love times two. The Botting Overlook is a human-made work in honor of a God-made relationship among three siblings. Two brothers goe and a sister who misses them.

The singer Billy Joel said of love, "I have been a fool for lesser things." So have I, Billy. So have I.

A correction of last week's column; Irma, not Emma. Hurricane not tornado.

Thank you A.M. and M.O. Tomato/tornado. Let's call the whole thing off. Please.

"The kids messed up the kitchen making you breakfast, took you for a long walk in the park, and gave you an iron for a present. So how do you feel?"



"Like a Mom... tired, but loved!"

Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
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
Chamber Board	Second Monday of each month: 1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
VFW	VFW Post	5 pm
Historical Society	Old Rec. Center	5:30 pm
Planning Comm.	Civic Center	7 pm
School Board	Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Gem & Mineral Club	Second Tuesday of each month: Senior Center	1:30 pm
Caregiver support	Brasstown Manor	3 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
Board of Elections	67 Lakeview Cir., Ste. A	4 pm
CVB Board	Second Thursday of each month: Rec Center	9 am
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
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	
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

Towns County Herald

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