

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Memorial Day in Towns County

Please feel free to attend with open hearts! Monday, May 28, 2018, 11 AM. Towns County Veterans Memorial Park. This year's remembrance planned and organized by Bart Rodgers, VFW Post 7807 Commander and many others who volunteer their time today

**The Veterans' Corner**  
**Scott Drummond**  
 USCG Veteran



just as they did when serving all of America. Our Chaplain Dwight Moss will give our opening prayer. Pam Leslie with her beautiful voice will lead us in the National Anthem. Bart will make introductions. This year our keynote speaker will be Al Lipphardt.

A little bit about Al: He was a platoon leader in Vietnam, 1967-68. Awards include combat infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star with V-device and Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Medal with Palm Device and Vietnamese Staff Service Medal 1st Class.

Al is now a candidate for the high office of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Commander-in-chief. He supports our true mission, of the VFW and all our Veterans, "SERVICE NOT SELF". Please come listen to this unique individual speak and honor him for his leadership capabilities.

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 by being thankful for what they gave for us.

We, those of us who have been blessed to live here in Towns County and our wonderful North Georgia Mountains, also live amongst a large percentage of Veterans, many of whom have moved here for the obvious reasons, as well as to live the remainder of their lives in the peace, harmony and our relatively quiet, safe lifestyles provided by this small region of our America. However, many of our Veterans, families and friends still work, volunteer their time, efforts and money, not just for community service, but to continue the pursuit and support of honoring and respecting those fallen Veterans and all Veterans who have served as best they can for you and I.

In our hearts, and our minds, these tributes should stand strong each and every day of the year.

*Semper Paratus*

## Dilute, Divide and Divert

The dew is heavy on the grass this morning and the creek is swollen from recent rain as the sun begins to peek over the mountain. The bees are already busy carrying nectar from the poplars in full bloom. There is a sprayer full of a special mixture of neem oil and peppermint soap waiting by the shop door, and some young fruit trees waiting to be relieved of hungry aphids.

But that can wait until this coffee cup is emptied of its most excellent contents. Life is too short to drink bad coffee, or to drink any coffee in a hurry. We're about to venture forth, briefly, into the surreal domain of politics this morning, and before doing so we like to fortify our spirit with reminders of what is real and what is important.

What is important to us this morning is the sanctity and safety of this little mountain cove, the clean water in the stream rushing by the garden, the bees, able to gather their nectar and pollen without being poisoned and most of all, the ability of the beloved woman still sleeping soundly in bed to go forth into the world without being sickened by the pollutants and contaminants of "better living through chemistry."

Our best protection from the toxic byproducts of the ongoing monetization of the human condition is in the choices we make. We don't eat processed food. We don't buy plastic that smells like burnt motor oil. And to pay it forward we don't throw batteries into the trash can or flush paint thinner down the toilet. There are so many choices we make on a daily basis that can improve our chances in a toxic world.

But many people have considerably fewer choices than we do. In the monetized world, good health often depends on being able to afford it. Quality and the lack of contamination costs more. Many people drink tap water because they can't afford expensive water filters. They eat processed food because organic produce is too expensive.

If you haven't detected any politics yet in this conversation, you're about to. One of the primary (and one of the few legitimate) purposes of government is to provide for the common defense. We have, as a people, argued for generations about what that means. We continue to argue about it.

Since the Environmental Protection Agency was established by executive order of Richard Nixon in 1970, the EPA has endeavored to defend Americans from unsafe and unscrupulous practices that poison and degrade the environment. It has both succeeded and failed in that effort. As an expansion of executive power, its failures have arguably been directly attributable to politics. Like all of the agencies that have come under the control of burgeoning executive power, the EPA can be and it has been wielded as a political tool.

President Trump campaigned on the goal of releasing American business from the shackles of over-regulation. The EPA is, of all the agencies that exist in our behemoth bureaucracy, the one most despised by business. Either from lack of science or lack of ingenuity, a paradigm has long existed in many businesses that manufacturing healthy and safe products must be governed by profitability. This paradigm assumes that profitability depends on expediting the manufacture of products as quickly and as cheaply as possible, and therefore any rules and regulations which interfere with that are costly and to be avoided.

But Americans are more health conscious than they were when the EPA was established. It would be politically unwise to simply dismantle the organization. So what the Trump Administration is doing is instead dismantling the science which is at the root of the rules and regulations issued by the EPA.

The back story is long and involved and quite the story of political cunning. If you are interested, search the publications of the Union of Concerned Scientists regarding the EPA's new "transparency" policy. In short, the "science" that will support the agency charged with protecting the environment will now be more like "tobacco science."

The story of this maneuver is an opportunity for outrage. But here is where politics becomes most useful. We have already heard the condemnation from the left. "Those republicans are at it again!" (We have forgotten that the EPA, itself, was created by a republican.) "Trump is no friend of the environment!" This is quite possibly true, but neither was President Obama a steadfast friend of the environment. Have we forgotten the 1500 offshore drilling permits issued by his administration, or the over 300 fracking plans excluded from environmental review? There are many more such examples if we look at the record through the lens of science instead of the political lens. But herein lies the problem. Our objectivity has been so warped by the logical fallacies of political thinking that we can't even agree on the weather without consulting our party's talking points. Truth is now subject to political philosophy, and as far as the environment is concerned, when the latest degradation is revealed, we get trapped by attempting to understand the issue in political terms, diluting, dividing and diverting our outrage. Long time readers, or anyone who remembers the republican/democrat bailout of the big banks, will remind us that "dilute, divide and divert" works for economic as well as environmental degradation.

## The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

## Bird Brain

Birdie, birdie in the sky. Why'd you do that in my eye? Gosh, I'm glad that cows can't fly. I have been called a bird brain. More than once. There are oh so many birds in the world. The world's largest living bird is the Dalmatian Ostrich. The world's smallest is the Bee Humming Bird. You know why birds hum, don't you? Because they don't know the words (sorry, I had to).

The references to birds in literature and the arts is legion. The Rime of the Ancient Mariner explains how not to behave if you don't want an albatross necktie. All I know of the 1959 play by Tennessee Williams is that my Sweet Bird of Youth has long since flown the coop. Mr. Hitchcock taught us not to mess with a flock and Maya Angelou knows why the caged bird sings. If you spot the Bird of Paradise flying your way, it would be best to hold your nose. Walt Disney seemed fond of birds but we'll have to wait until he thaws to find out why Donald Duck wore a shirt but no pants. I have a nephew who did that as a toddler. He outgrew it. We can also find out why the two singing crows in the Dumbo movie were portrayed as they were. Speaking of crows. They are loud, quarrelsome and grade A thieves. A group of them is called a murder. They are also smart. The Aesop's Fable in which a bird unable to reach water in a pitcher, raised the water level by dropping pebbles into the pitcher and was therefore able to drink, was a crow.

Doves make a sweet little cooing sound, and when not flying, move with a graceful shuffle which is endearing. For Christians doves are a promise from God after the flood. Doves are a universal symbol of peace.

Healthy bird populations are essential to human welfare. Birds protect our drinking water by preventing erosion. They slow the spread of disease, help with pest control, and clean up road kill. Birds keep the furniture industry supplied with timber both with insect control and seed broadcasting. As the wine industry began growing in Napa Valley, the habitat of the Western Blue Bird was disrupted and organic wineries experienced a deadly grape blight known as Pierce Disease. Concerted efforts were made to reinstate the blue bird population. The blue birds devoured the suckers that were desecrating the grapes and balance was back.

I believe we have an ethical obligation to conserve and nurture the birds in Hamilton Gardens and everywhere. Birds and other animals improving human life is called ecosystem service.

I happened to hear an avian conversation from some lovesick hens to the cockadoodledoo from some neighboring roosters. The "girls" replied, Anydoodledoo. Before members of the Hen Defamation League got their feathers ruffled, when asked if they were offended, the hens didn't make a peep. In fact they just cackled.

Bird Brain. I've been called worse.

## Letters to The Editor

### What Are We Doing To Our Earth?

Dear Editor,

I write in defense of fossil fuels in response to a recent letter decrying "climate change" and sounding the familiar alarm that mankind can only be saved by drastic government intervention. The government must force a conversion to renewable energy at all cost, including the imposition of punitive carbon taxes. Never mind that the industrial revolution and our entire advanced civilization was built on cheap, abundant, energy-dense fossil fuels. And ignore studies that show there's been no long-term increase in either the frequency or severity of hurricanes, tornadoes or droughts. And forget the inconvenient truth that solar and wind energy is far more expensive and less efficient than coal, oil or natural gas. The alarmists have conjured up a fictitious "climate crisis" which can only be solved by giving the government yet more power so it can save the planet.

While everyone agrees that the climate changes (in 4.5 billion years of history the earth has seen constant climate change, including 6 major ice ages), there is no scientific proof that man's CO2 emissions have any measurable effect on the climate. Computer models attempting to do so have proven dramatically wrong and utterly deficient as a basis for such a cataclysmic shift in our national power grid.

Yet, despite a lack of validation, climate alarmism has become an almost religious orthodoxy for the political progressive left. For them the prescription for all of society's ills, whether real or imaginary, is always the same: bigger and more powerful government, higher taxes and less individual freedom.

John Di Chiara

### 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.*

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



This Memorial Day, remember those who paid the price.

## Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	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:	
Free GED prep.	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Movers & Shakers	Every Friday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Sundance Grill	8 am
	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday:	
	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Mtn. Amat. Radio	First Monday of each month:	
	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	First Tuesday of each month:	
American Legion	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
Hiaw. City Council	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Young Harris Coun.	City Hall	6 pm
	YH City Hall	7 pm
Quilting Bee	First Wednesday of each month:	
	McConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge	First Thursday of each month:	
	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Third Monday of each month:	
	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
YH Plan Comm.	Third Tuesday of each month:	
Co. Comm. Mtg	YH City Hall	5 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Water Board	Blairsville store	5:30 pm
	Water Office	6 pm
Quilting Bee	Third Wednesday of each month:	
MOAA	McConnell Church	10 am
	Call Joff @ 386-530-0904	
Friendship Comm.	Third Thursday of each month:	
Republican Party	Clubhouse	6 pm
	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
Lions Club	Fourth Tuesday of each month:	
	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Last Thursday of each month:	
	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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## Towns County Herald

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