

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Veterans Notes

Sunday, June 3, 2018 was an exquisite day over at VFW Post 7807. This was the Second Pancake Breakfast with an earlier and very inspirational religious service. Dwight Moss, Chaplain for VFW is an exceptional, practical, down to earth speaker. Having suffered much during his service as a combat Marine in Vietnam and through a circuitous path, became a Methodist minister, trading in his weapons for the Armor of God along that pathway. Now preferring to be non-denominational and passing along his hard earned knowledge and love of our Lord and fellow mankind. This upstanding Veteran provides a tremendous amount of energy, inspiration, love and fellowship for our post. His special message for our pancake breakfast focused upon unity of the several VSOs under the single roof of Post 7807. Dwight has a special way of combining his personal life's experiences with his expert knowledge of our Bible and love of his fellow man.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



Many thanks to our VFW Auxiliary ladies and men from each of our VSOs, who put in hours of hard work and planning to make this event possible. As always, the efforts of Brandy, Ash, Dwight, Kim, Mel and Suzanne White and their retired USCG son, Monte, all worked tirelessly. Plus, so many others created a special and very tasty breakfast and this public event was posted in our *Towns County Herald*. If you ever see an announcement for our next one, do not fail to attend. It'll be the best five dollar breakfast and fellowship you'll ever have! I simply cannot list all the names of those from our post who very often volunteer to serve others as they did while in uniform.

As a reminder, the members of these Veteran Service Organizations always volunteer their time and certain finances to make these things happen. VFW Post 7807 includes VFW#7807; American Legion Post #23; VFW #7807 Auxiliary; American Legion Auxiliary #23; Sons of American Legion #23; Marine Corps League. This being an understatement, we have many fine ladies in our VSOs without which we simply could not function or stage our events. Not to denigrate the excellent culinary skills of our men, as these affairs represent the very best of "all hands on deck."

As I type this, it's already June 6, 2018. Wow! How many of us failed to remember that this date is the 74th anniversary of "D" Day? Whereas our tineted and terrified young men of that era, ventured ashore on the five beaches of Normandy, France into an almost certain hail of death, horror and unspeakable terror in order to free our entire globe from the National Socialist threat of Hitler's Nazi empire. Their mission combined with air assaults and other measures was the last ditch effort to establish a front for America and our Allied forces to overcome evil. Those many who died gave their lives for all that we enjoy today. Please, never forget that our American forces, polar opposites of global evil as in WWII (and today) fought for liberation and freedom, not conquest!

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

No Snake Oil Today, Thanks

Dear Editor,

In response to Bonny Herman's recent article on climate change: this almost sounds like "I'm from the Government and I'm here to help".

Climate Change seems to have become an industry with many in Government and Academia that have a vested interest in selling it. Just follow the grant money. I'm sure there a lot of well meaning people who are believers, however.

Just do a little research and you'll find many examples of selective data inclusion and outright data suppression in support of their theories. Any time free and open discussion is suppressed, then you know that it's no longer science.

Also the idea of turning over our energy sector for the Federal Government to run is about as scary as having the Government run our health care and our retirement savings.

No thanks, Ms. Herman, I won't be buying any snake oil today.

Jim Soltys

It's Not a Conspiracy

Dear Editor,

I read with great interest the well-written letter-to-the-editor regarding climate change in the May 6 edition of the *Towns County Herald*. The writer states that climate change is a natural event, not a crisis that mankind should worry about, and that carbon dioxide levels have no bearing on what is happening to the earth's climate.

About 97 percent of the scientists familiar with the scientific evidence regarding this issue are united in the belief that mankind does influence the climate and that it is imperative we must reduce our carbon footprint. Failure to acknowledge the problem will have catastrophic results leading to starvation, mass migrations, the spread of tropical diseases, more violent weather, and more.

This is not a conspiracy cooked up by liberals. This is an acknowledgement that species, including humans, are in danger.

Neil deGrasse Tyson ponders why there are those who reject the evidence that human activity is affecting climate. He states that "our educational system fails us when it produces adults who when presented with scientific information cherry pick only the parts that serve their own philosophical agenda."

I suggest that he follow the money.

James Bentley

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



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

Doomed

"We're doomed," said my wife, looking at the much discussed photo of Kim Kardashian standing next to the president in the Oval Office.

"Is there something worse than 'doomed?'" I asked, pointing to an image of Dennis Rodman with Kim Jong Un over an article speculating about Rodman's possible role in the upcoming summit in Singapore.

Perhaps there is some consolation in the fact that the reality TV star in the first photo (not the president, but the one standing next to him) was actually at the White House to promote a worthy cause. As for the second picture, maybe it takes a madman to understand a madman. But in a running mudslinging contest like the one that so often engages the public discourse in our time, we all too rarely slow down long enough to consider what we're actually slinging or if it lands anywhere near the target. Everything becomes a weapon in the primitive, tribal conflict which we attempt to rationalize as a political contest.

In an argumentum ad hominem, a fallacious attack is made on the character or motives of an individual rather than the point that person is trying to make. This type of fallacy, like so many others, is ridiculously easy to launch in our matrix of constant connectivity. Fallacious arguments begin with childhood taunts on the playground when we don't know any better, but they persist well past the time when we should, often for the rest of our lives, and now leveraged by technology.

In practice, since our illogical fantasies are more or less equally arrayed under diametrically opposed political banners, things tended to work themselves out over time, as the pendulum of public opinion swings back and forth from one turning to the next. But not all fantasies are harmless.

If you watch corporate news or visit any number of websites, it's hard to avoid an impending sense of doom. The competition for our attention is ruthless. We are presented with crime and misfortune, morning, noon and night. Breaking news is always urgent. There is little escape in alternative news, which peddles conspiracy and apocalypse while thousands of people prep for the end of civilization itself.

Meanwhile, and contrary to the most popular narratives, across the globe life continues to improve for humanity according to just about every metric that we use to measure human progress. Yet in America, suicide rates have increased an average of 30% over the last two decades, and some sources say that depression and anxiety are at epidemic levels among teenagers.

There is nothing more profitable, or more useful for expediting control, than fear. It has always been so. When the Nazis burned the Reichstag in 1933, they blamed it on a Dutch communist. Adolf Hitler claimed that the fire was a "sign from God," and this event allowed the Nazis to assume emergency powers to defend the nation against...whomever the Nazis said were enemies of the state.

It's not hard to find parallels in history, before and after the events that led to WWII. Pick any part of the world at any time when despotism and the totalitarian state has grown to dominate people's lives. For decades North Koreans have lived in constant fear that an American attack was imminent. Americans have feared unemployed young Muslims willing to blow themselves up in our midst for going on 17 years now.

But let's consider a more recent example of the use of fear to further a goal. Just about every day now, corporate news and scores of websites remind us that there is a movement in America to, depending on who you ask, either disarm Americans or demand common sense gun laws.

The issue is immediately polarizing, and the political paradigm you follow is a good predictor of what your opinion is going to be on this, like so many other subjects. In the echo chambers of our two dominant tribes the right parrots the notion that the left wants to disarm Americans in order to expand the coercive power of government. The left repeats the mantra that peace loving Americans will no longer tolerate the brutality of deplorable clingers to a Constitutional right that has no place in the modern world.

A common denominator for both sides of the gun debate is the doom that awaits at the bottom of the slippery slope of their fallacious arguments. Both sides use fear to motivate support. But there is little truth to be found at the extremes of either left or right thinking on this subject, especially when a tragedy occurs such as the school shootings which have been so much in the news recently. In the face of horror the limbic system often takes over from the more rational parts of the brain.

Sadly, the issue has become another political football with both tribes seeking to use it to galvanize support in the upcoming elections.

Darkness can be banished by lighting a candle, and fear can be banished by fact. At least in the case of school violence, the facts, if they were widely known, might just serve to deflate this one political football.

In February of this year, Northeastern University released a study after crunching the numbers on school violence. The verdict: Schools are significantly safer now than they were in the 90's. According to James Alan Fox, one of the authors of the study, "Four times the number of children were killed in schools in the early 1990s than today."

No amount of school violence is acceptable, but what we have today is hardly the epidemic being presented. It is just the opposite - an outlier in a continuing trend toward decreasing violence. If we truly intend to continue that trend, rather than making this issue about politics, let's look at what we have done to facilitate this improvement, and let that inform our future decisions.

There are many other areas where life is improving, contrary to popular opinion. In the coming weeks we will discuss more of them. So, despite the Drudge/Huffington title of this piece, we are not doomed. Not at all. But we got your attention, didn't we? And attention elects celebrities to high office, and makes diplomats out of basketball players.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

I've Got Friends in Low Places

"Mom, you're texting like an old woman," my son said to me. "No son, I'm texting AS an old woman," was my reply. I was using my fingers and not the generally preferred thumb method. Changes occur. Some are good and some are bad.

Without changes, life expectancy would still be about 45 years and I certainly wouldn't be writing this. Most of you would not be reading it.

On the flip side, changes in fashion gave us *The Thong Song*. If you've never heard it, thank your lucky stars. What consider good changes don't bother me. The 15-year adjustment period is a little rough.

I worked for many years with a man whose name was Carl when we met. About 10 years into our working relationship, he changed his name to Paige. Now Paige is a perfectly fine name and had that been his name when we met, no prob. I kept forgetting to address the man formerly known as Carl, as Paige. He understood that I was not being obstinate and with his gentle reminders I learned to call him Paige. I still do. That working relationship developed into a lasting friendship.

Changes in technology have been difficult for me. I tried that social media stuff but do not care for it. Many people do. Lucky us. We live in a country that allows us to choose.

The one thing I am compelled to say to Facebook users is when you post pictures of food it may be more appealing if the food is on a plate or some other dish so it doesn't look like a skin disease. I'm just saying.

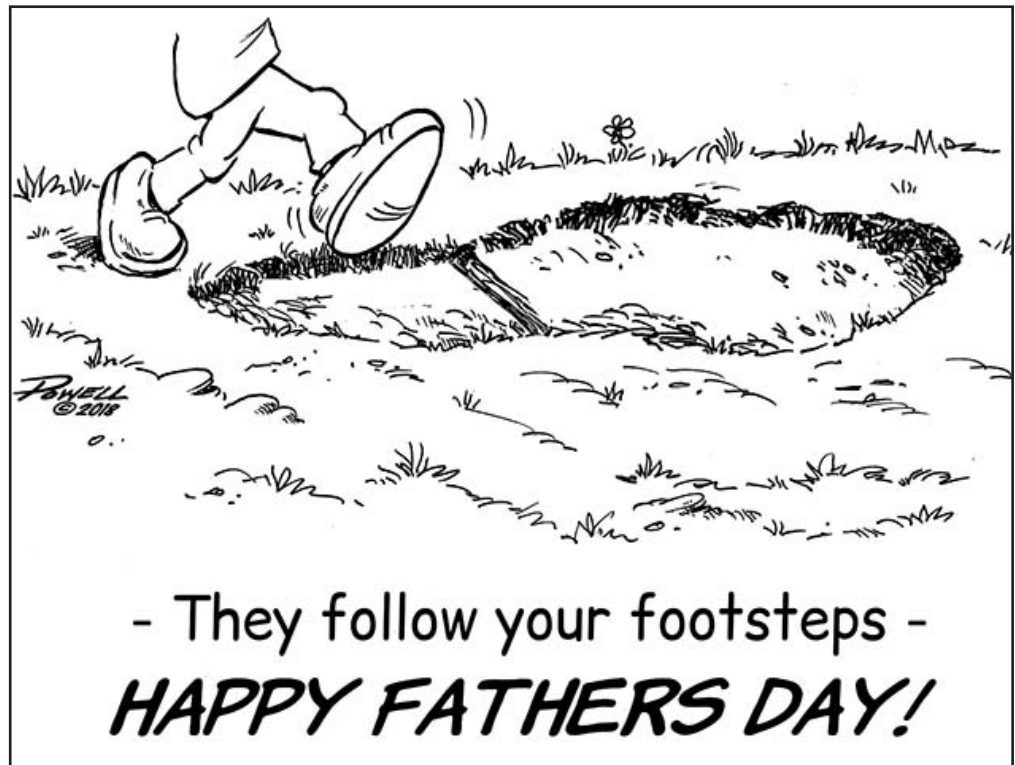
Being old and slow to adjust to change, I just can't call someone I've never met, friend. My friendship with Paige developed. All my friendships have. Working with people on a common goal has given me some good friends and weeded out a few.

When you're down in the trenches, so to speak, with a person who is just as muddy, sweaty, and tired as you and you are enjoying that person's company, a friendship may be sprouting. When a person, with little care how messy her hair, or how the smudged mascara renders her raccoon-looking, slithers under a shrub that needs attention, cultivating her as a friend may spring to mind. Spending hours engaged in physical labor with someone gives opportunity to get to know each other.

There are no "Sunday Faces" raking, weeding, mulching, and hauling in any garden. There are grubby, wet, much less than fresh dedicated workers who find satisfaction and joy in work.

Whoever coined the saying "Women Don't Sweat, They Glow" sure didn't know my friends. My friends are often in low places but they are always high class.

They clean up very nicely too.



Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
	Every Tuesday:	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Wednesday	
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	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
	Second Monday of each month:	
Chamber Board	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
	Second Tuesday of each month:	
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
	Second Wednesday of each month:	
Basket Weavers	SC Fire Hall	10 am
Board of Elections	67 Lakeview Cir., Ste. A	4 pm
	Second Thursday of each month:	
CVB Board	Rec Center	9 am
Awake America Prayer	Civic Center	Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	6 pm
	Third Monday of each month:	
Hospital Auxiliary	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
	Third Tuesday of each month:	
YH Plan Comm.	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
	Third Wednesday of each month:	
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Joff @ 386-530-0904	
	Third Thursday of each month:	
Friendship Comm.	Cubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party	Civic Center	5:30 pm

Publication No: 635540

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

Towns County (1 Year) \$25. Out of County (1 Year) \$30. 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

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Kenneth West Owner/Publisher	Shawn Jarrard Editor	Mark Novak Staff Writer	Lowell Nicholson Photographer
Derek Richards Advertising Director	Shawn Henrikson Copy Editor	Mark Smith Staff Writer	Todd Forrest Sports
Website: townscountyherald.net			