

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## One Percenters

Today is one week out from the 242nd birthday of our precious United Sovereign Republic. On the Fourth of July, I came home and started working on this column due to the extreme importance of this day. Today's paper is July 11th, but let us not lose the importance of what our July Fourth is really about, not today, not ever; never forget!

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



The cost of our great Republic was extreme in risk, blood and treasure. Not any different than the maintenance of our wonderful America ever since. That brings us to the one percent. Regardless of the political blunders of the political class, as I heard a serving four star Admiral US Navy giving a short speech early today; "Our country has only less than one percent of our population who volunteer to sacrifice and serve." He explicitly was referring to why we celebrate our America's birth.

One percent maintains our America! What a miniscule number and we certainly do not do enough for those few who risked everything at very young ages for America. So many were taken home to rest beside our Supreme Commander. Good Grief! We wouldn't have a Fourth of July without those who served and do so today. There would be no America.

The words of many elders are of extreme importance to keep the Fourth alive and well in our hearts, minds and spirits.

Thomas Jefferson: "When forced, therefore, to resort to arms for redress, an appeal to the tribunal of the world was deemed proper for our justification. This was the object of the Declaration of Independence."

John Adams on the new Declaration of Independence: "I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure that it will cost us to maintain this Declaration and support and defend these states. Yet through all the gloom, I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory--I can see that the end is more than worth all the means and that posterity will triumph in that day's transaction."

Ulysses S. Grant: "In all these marked stages of national progress, from the Declaration of Independence to the recent amendments of the Constitution, it is impossible not to perceive a providential series and succession of events."

John F. Kennedy, assassinated for his love of country, by those who hate America: "[The] Declaration unleashed not merely a revolution against the British but a revolution in human affairs. Its authors were highly conscious of its worldwide implications. And George Washington declared that liberty and self-government everywhere were, in his words, "finally staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people."

Again, John Adams: "It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

Who will safeguard our America minus our outstanding one percent?!

*Semper Paratus*

## Letters to The Editor

### A Small Town is Like a Big Family

Dear Editor,  
 Ordinarily I wouldn't bare my soul to confess lame-brainedness, but it is necessary to recognize a local employee. When I visited my hospice patient in Blairsville, I found that she had been in bed for three days and hadn't eaten. I knew the CNA was coming to give her a bath, so I told her I had something to make her smile.

I raced home and got my frilly bedjacket, and saw my gas gauge was low, and stopped at a local gas station. In my haste, my credit card wouldn't work, so I asked the cashier, Heidi, for help. She put \$15 on my card and I dashed back outside and drove away.

Ten minutes later I noticed the gauge indicated I had NO gas; I limped into another station for a few gallons and raced to Blairsville. It lifted my patient's spirits; she smiled, looked lovely.

Enroute home I stopped at the gas station and asked Heidi if she knew I hadn't gotten the gas; she said she realized that, and was worried I'd run out of gas before I got to Blairsville. I said, "And I bet someone else pulled up to the pump and got my gas." Yes, that's what happened, but Heidi explained, and the woman paid \$15 in cash, and Heidi said I could have the cash or get more gas. Some employees might have pocketed the money, and I would never have known.

Heidi is kind, caring and conscientious and Towns County is lucky to have her here.

**Arlene M. Gray**

### Ours is a Dying Language

Dear Editor,  
 Ours is a dying language, like, you know, lost. We use expressions that are supposed to convey our thoughts or needs but are really words that have recently been invented. Slang. These words are understood by only a few select groups. Teenage slang is used to the extent that it is carried over into adulthood and therefore creates an entirely new language.

The language that has been taught to the elderly is no longer understood by the younger generation, and vice versa. I listen, inadvertently, to conversations conducted by some of our younger "dudes", and though I can understand the words and get the gist of the conversation, meaning escapes.

Regional dialect also creeps into our local way of expression and sometimes causes confusion and misunderstanding. Years from now, and not too long in the future, stodgy old professors will teach English as a dead language.

Archaeologists will study the remains of our written words to try to explain the meanings and try to find our roots by interpolating the strange scratchings. This may be the grumbings of a grumpy old man, but is this situation progression or regression? Time will tell.

**Charlie Sowers**

## Plant Diseases

We've been getting lots of rain this year. According to U.S. Climate Data, we average 4.8 inches of rainfall for the month of June. However, according to U.S. Geological survey we received 7 inches of rainfall in June 2018. Additional rainfall can be beneficial for recharging underground water aquifers after periods of drought.

**Watching and Working**  
**Jacob Williams**



Unfortunately, high amounts of rainfall can lead to problems with disease. Let's talk about why diseases occur, what are some general disease types to look out for, and methods of control.

A useful tool for understanding why plant diseases occur is the plant disease triangle. In one corner is plant susceptibility. Susceptibility is predetermined by the plant's physiology. The second corner of the triangle is the pathogen. It may seem like a no-brainer, but the disease causing pathogen must be present for plants to get sick. The third corner is a favorable environment for the disease to occur. Most diseases like wet conditions, which is why all the rain we've been getting can be problematic. If any one of the corners is missing from the disease triangle then disease will not be present in your plants.

Root rots are a problematic disease in Georgia. They love humid, wet conditions, with poorly drained soils. Root rots do most of their damage below the soil line so they may not be obvious at first. Some symptoms to look out for are wilting leaves, yellowing leaves, and poor growth. Root rots attack the roots, decreasing the plant's ability to uptake water and nutrients. Incorporating organic matter into your soil and reducing plant stress will make a less favorable environment for root rots.

Fungal leaf spots covers a wide range of plant diseases that are often specific to certain plants. Symptoms are small spots on leaves that have tan or gray centers, and dark brown to purple margins. Fungal leaf spots survive on fallen plant debris, so it's important to remove debris after it's fallen to keep your area sanitary. Leaf spots also like high humidity. Pruning your plants to increase air flow can help reduce the risk of disease. If you are irrigating your plants try to do it in the morning so that the foliage has time to dry off by the nighttime. Wet, cool leaves is a like an all you can eat buffet to fungal leaf spots.

Rusts are easily identified by the raised pustules on the undersides of the leaves. The pustules will break open and release an orange powder. Keeping leaves dry and removing infected leaves will help keep disease pressure down.

Finally, Botrytis is a specific disease that loves wet, dead plant material. Quick removal of dead flowers or leaves will keep Botrytis in check. Botrytis will usually only be a problem if a plant is wounded or if air flow is poor.

There are many more types of plants diseases out there, and a variety of different pathogens within the diseases that I've described. Removing infected leaves and branches, increasing air circulation, and well drained soils are the best tools against fungal diseases.

There are many fungicides that can be used to control fungal diseases.

However, proper identification of the fungus so that the correct fungicide is used is highly important. The Extension office can help with identification and fungicide recommendations.

Photo submissions are free. Sometimes it's not possible to tell what disease is present from a picture and a sample is required which costs \$15 if submitted through the local county Extension office. Samples not submitted through the Extension office will incur additional fees.

## 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.**

## Have something to sell?

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



## No Finance, No Romance

Straight out of the chute, let it be known, I do not equate money with love or character. Bernie Madoff and many drug lords have or have had tons of money. Mother Teresa had none. Love can't be bought or sold. Just rented by the hour.

**Dishin' Dirt**  
**Dale Harmon**

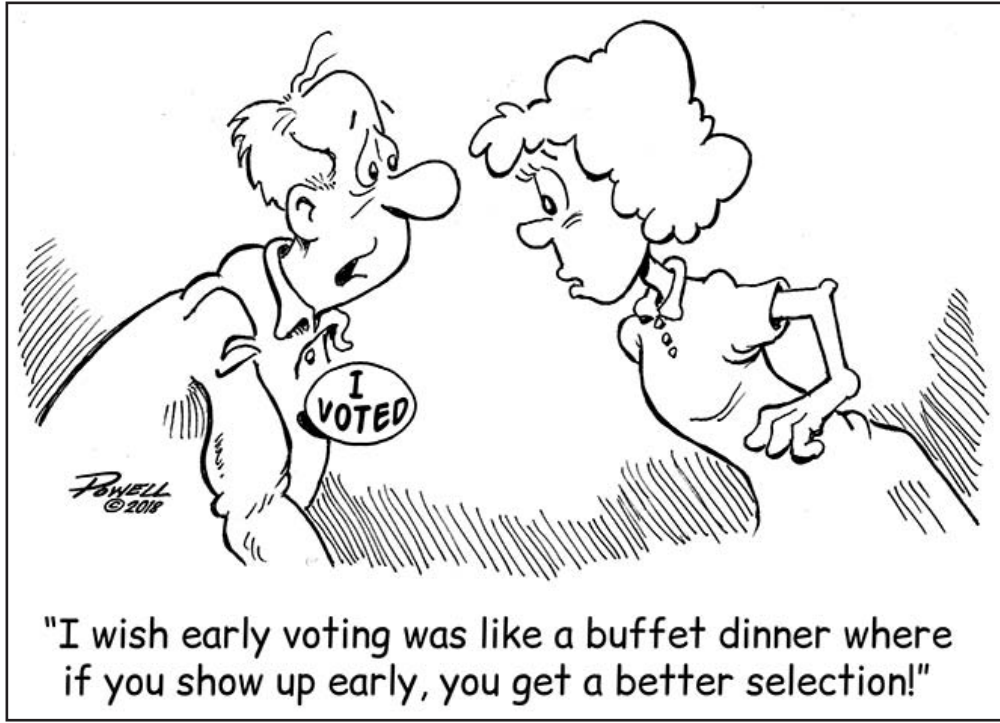


A can of worms is about to be opened here but that's fine. Worms are great for gardens. The southeastern United States of America is rich with botanical gardens that are visited by throngs of people. Most all of the senses are engaged in pleasing ways in a garden. People gladly pay for the privilege to experience them. If these people had driven, oh let's say an hour and a half or two hours from home, lunch and or dinner may be purchased in the county which houses that wonderful garden. "Boy, Mama. That sure was fun. Let's find a place to spend the night and explore this neat area. Maybe we can look at real estate while we're here. This could be the place to settle down and just think, we could add to this county's coffers without taxes being raised. Oh, Daddy. You're so smart. I'm ultra glad I married you, but first let's rent a boat and enjoy the lake". Who knows? It could happen.

Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge is A Lady In Waiting. The question has been asked, how can a small garden compete with The Atlanta Botanical Garden or Gibbs Garden, etc. Well, in truth, it can't. How can a Greyhound bus compete with an Alfa Romeo 1600 Duetto Spider driven by Dustin Hoffman in The Graduate? Size does not mean everything. Being a non-profit does not mean being a charity. Generating revenue is vital to make "our" garden a destination garden. Please know that this in no way means changing The Gardens from the laid-back, gracious place we love. It means enhancement, expansion and creativity. Commissioner Bradshaw loves Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge and has been generous in his use of resources when they are available. However, as much as I love The Gardens, I realize that many things, such as clearing storm drains, are more important. I appreciate that Sole Commissioner Bradshaw realizes that too. Gardens need what they need when they need it.

"Just write a grant or an endowment", I've heard it a thousand times. There's much criteria that must be met before being given the opportunity to apply for these funds. A bit of a Catch 22. Money is needed to meet requirements to meet requirements for needing money. Donations are appreciated and gratefully accepted. Everything hosted in the beautiful setting of The Gardens is worth something. Paid admission to events, including lectures and concerts, would be a value. Attendees and host would be mutually gratified. It would, perhaps, give credence to applicants for grants and endowments that the entity was using itself to help sustain itself and that the citizens of the region were behind it.

The opinions given here are my own.



## Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
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Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Movers & Shakers	Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
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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	SC Fire Hall	10 am
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
Hospital Auxiliary	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Planning Comm.	Civic Center	6 pm
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
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Joff @ 386-530-0904	
Book Bunch & Lunch	Daniels Steakhouse	11:30 am
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party	Civic Center	5:30 pm
Goldwing Riders	Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
Red Cross DAT	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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## Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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