

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Steel-Toed Boots and a Hard Hat

**Around Towns**  
Dale Harmon



This one is a little tough. I had first thought to "run it by" friends whom I love dearly and who will probably take exception to my opinion of the subject, Brasstown Valley Resort. Then I remembered we don't have to agree to be friends. Only respectful.

In the hospitality industry a resort is a full service lodging facility intended primarily for vacationers and usually located in places frequented for relaxation or recreation. As this is not an ad for Brasstown Valley Resort, there's no need to extol its draws, which include golf, horseback riding, fine dining and spa facilities which are open to the public at resort prices.

The great state of Georgia owns Brasstown Valley Resort and oversees state laws, licensing, and fees, attended by elected officials and hired experts. These elected officials and experts probably don't have the knowledge and certainly not the time, to manage the day to day operation and revenue generation for a hospitality centered business. To achieve the goal, Coral Hospitality was wisely contracted to do what is needed to make Brasstown Valley Resort a desired venue and the funds to keep it so. It has been said, "Build it and they will come." Well, maybe once, but it takes talent and effort to keep them coming back. That task has been assigned to and accepted by Charles Burton.

The caliber of Brasstown Valley Resort affords Northeast Georgia and surrounding areas vast benefits. Guests could stay at the resort and have all needs met without stepping off of the property. Of course most don't. The lure of the resort experience brought them to Towns County, but once here the geographical attractions, such as Brasstown Bald, numerous waterfalls and wineries, pique interest. People visit businesses and eateries in Towns and neighboring counties whose existence they may never have known had they not come to The Resort. Bed taxes collected and remitted to the Convention and Visitors Bureau help promote tourism. Annual memberships to Brasstown Valley are available for purchase. The workforce needed to maintain such a resort, provide employment and livelihoods to scores. BVR is listed on the Official Georgia Tourism & Travel and the Explore Georgia Org. websites.

Here's to my friends. I do agree that the price is steep for a scrambled egg entrée, but I bet tourists smile when they fork over the green for it. One can always go to Mickie Dee's, hurry on over to Hardy's or Huddle at the house. Stepping on toes was not the intent. Thus, your boots. Being hit by slings and arrows was also not the intent. Thus, my hard hat. The intent was to stress the importance of Brasstown Valley Resort to us all. Deal those cards and when you get the urge to splurge, enjoy.

## Back to School

### The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

It appears that our culture, or at least the part of it we have surrendered to a bizarre matrix of electronic communication driven by marketing and politics, has returned to the playground of grammar school days.

That playground could be a cruel place, where facts were irrelevant and bullies sought to gain advantage through taunts and insults. The same is true on our playground today, though the action takes place primarily in the pixel world.

Nevertheless, in our efforts to hurl the most damaging pejoratives, signal the most virtue and collect the most votes, we have lost track of the meaning of several important words. Let's leave the playground for a moment and go back to school.

What follows is a review of the proper definitions of some of those words, as well as a few about which we should be better informed:

Racism: Showing or feeling discrimination or prejudice against people of other races, or believing that a particular race is superior to another. Xenophobia: Having or showing a dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries. Jingoism: Extreme patriotism, especially in the form of aggressive or warlike foreign policy. Dumb: Tweeting live ammunition to political rivals and uniting their squabbling factions in outrage. Ignorant: Believing that the word "racist" is a universal adhesive that will stick to anyone to which it is applied.

When you or I, or a president, tells someone to go back where they came from, at face value this is an example, not of racism, but of xenophobia. However, history always bats last in that determination. For example, no one would accuse the American colonists of being racist because they wanted the British to go back where they came from, but if the British had won, the Rebels would have been labeled xenophobic and the Tories would be the "patriots." This is an example of politics altering language.

There is another definition that is pertinent to our discussion this week: natural. In this case we refer to one of Merriam Webster's alternate definitions of the word, "occurring in conformity with the ordinary course of nature : not marvelous or supernatural." In a healthy society, social trends and cultural changes begin with individuals and propagate outward through families and groups to become regional and national. Business and government accommodate the needs and wants of society. This happens "naturally" over the course of time.

In our own time the process has been largely reversed. Thanks to technology, trends and cultural changes are dictated from the top down, disseminated by marketing and mutated by politics; given to a people who too often set aside the ability to steer their own course in exchange for anything that gratifies the senses. They are the pushers, and we are the junkies. Witness the eager, hungry efforts of media to fan the flames of outrage and then monetize it.

I do not know whether the president is a "racist" or not, and neither do you. For either of us to make that claim about anyone, we would have to be able to discern the contents of their heart and mind. By the time we left the playground we should have learned the difference between judging a persons behavior and judging the person. We can challenge a person's behavior and still have a chance for a dialogue, but when we label that person, communication ceases as all parties become positional.

As for the president's behavior, the view from the cheap seats leads me to believe that the media and the democrats are still playing Trump's game, which remains blunt but effective. All he has to do to be re elected is to goad the mainstream democrats into appearing left of center. They may be temporarily united in outrage, but nothing turns out the republican vote like tossing around the kind of pejoratives that are being directed at the president's supporters with the implication that republicans and conservatives are (insert your insult of choice) because of how they choose to vote. "Basket of deplorables," anyone?

We need to have a conversation in this country about immigration and about race, but "racist" is not a useful description of anyone we don't like. The misuse of the word clouds the issue, and it makes people who might better understand defensive and positional when they feel they are being attacked.

I'll leave you with a couple of "thought experiments" which might be useful for expanding our perspective on the issue. First, let's consider the Native Americans in the early stages of the exploration of North America by Europeans. The Native Americans were possessed of unique, sophisticated cultures and languages with many generations of history and cultural heritage. As the Europeans came in greater numbers over time, and since most of them were "white," the indians wanted very badly for those white folks to go back where they came from, and they were willing to go to war to accomplish that. Were they "racist?" Should they have realized their error and then welcomed the disintegration of their heritage and way of life?

Second, consider the Obama Administration, an accomplishment that many of us celebrate as evidence of how far we have progressed as a nation in overcoming racism and prejudice. The Obama Administration deported far more people over the same period of time than the Trump Administration has been able to accomplish, in spite of Trump's aggressive rhetoric on the subject. Is this evidence that Obama was actually a racist or a xenophobe?

Finally, does the United States, like the Native Americans, have a unique, sophisticated culture and language? Do we have shared values and generations of shared history and cultural heritage? Or are we just an "idea?"

I believe that we are a nation of immigrants, and that is part of our strength. We also have a culture that is uniquely our own, and a right to maintain it and pass it along to our descendants.

We need to find a healthy balance going forward, and that will require a national conversation, understanding, and patience. Conversation is difficult on a playground overrun by bullies.

## Squash Vine Borer

**UGA extension**  
Watching and Working  
Jacob Williams



Squash vine borers are insects that can affect a couple of different members of the curcubit family. They are a huge pest because a single insect can bring down an entire plant. Control of them can be difficult because timing is very important. Let's talk about how to identify them and what you can do to keep them taking out your crops.

Squash vine borers (SVB) can be a very aggravating pest to deal with because, often by the time you realize that you have them, it's too late to do much about it. SVB commonly affect squash and pumpkins. It's less common on cucumbers and melons. SVB emerge from cocoons in the ground as moths in the summer time. The moths have metallic green wings and reddish-orange bodies with black dots on their back. The moths will mate after emergence and lay eggs at the base of squash or pumpkin plants. The eggs will hatch after a week. The caterpillar that emerges is a whitish cream color. It will bore into the stem of the plant and begin feeding. Sometimes they will bore into the fruit itself. They'll feed on the plant for 4-6 weeks before returning to the soil to cocoon, and begin the process over again. In Georgia we can get 1-2 generations per year.

The first symptoms that you will most likely see is wilted plants. The plants will wilt because the SVB is putting the plant under stress, preventing it from getting the water and nutrients that it needs. If you look closely at the plant you'll see small holes with greenish or orange sawdust around it. Eventually SVB will kill the plant.

For small gardens you might be able to carefully remove SVB from the stem if you catch it early enough. You can take a sharp knife and cut up the stem until you find the caterpillar. After removing the caterpillar cover the cut stem with soil. SVB can be controlled by using pesticides, but pesticides are only effective if you apply them while the moths are out. Direct pesticide spray at the base of the plant. You must get good coverage of the vines and stem to have success. Bifenthrin is an effective insecticide against SVB. Please always follow the label when using pesticides.

If you have SVB in your crops one year, it is important to rotate and plant something different in that spot next year, because the SVB will be in the soil. Another strategy if you have a larger garden is to use a trap crop. Trap crops can be used against a number of pests. Basically, the strategy is to plant a crop at least 8-12 feet away from your desired plants. The trap crop will need to be planted earlier than the desired plants. When pests are found on the trap crop you can use a pesticide or mechanically remove the pest. This way you'll reduce the population of pests that you have, and reduce the amount of pesticide that you apply because you're focused on spraying the trap crop. Hubbard squash is an example of a plant that can be used as a trap crop.

If you have questions about SVB contact your county Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu. On July 25, Union County Extension is putting on a Well Water Program. It will be at 5:30 in the Union County Civic Center. If you would like to attend, please RSVP with Union County Extension Office at 706-439-6030 or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

## Letters to The Editor

### Driving Without Laws

Dear Editor,

I see lots of people driving around Blairsville as if there are no rules or laws to abide by. Wouldn't that be a great idea? No turn signals, no stop signs, no traffic lights; funerals and emergency vehicles could just be ignored. I wouldn't want to drive out there without those rules and laws. It is already a traffic jungle out there.

Lots of folks either don't care about their safety or anyone's safety, or they do something against the law just to prove they can do that, or they never learned the laws in the first place. Drivers will drive through the 4-way Stop out of turn, ignore Yield signs, fail to signal a turn or lane change, etc. Never mind the Move Over laws or right lane only except to pass law, or misusing the center turn lanes, traveling too slowly and speeding is something else.

So what do we do, the normal, law-abiding citizens? One thing my grandmother always said, "Watch out for the other driver." Another thing is to pray. Some suggestions would be better education for drivers. Older drivers could take the AARP class for seniors. Retaking the drivers tests at different ages. Mandatory driving schools, etc. I don't think there is a definitive answer.

When I'm older and need to quit driving, I will voluntarily give up my keys. I'll sell my car and use that money to pay for transportation, i.e. taxi, county transport, chauffeur, shuttle, family member, neighbor or whatever works. I don't want to put myself and other drivers in danger.

Iris Fox

### We the Veterans

Dear Editor,

You have heard those most famous words "We the People", well this letter will be called "We the Veterans" of Towns and Union Counties of these North Georgia mountains.

On Saturday, July 13, the Towns County Convention/Recreation Center at Foster Park was the setting of a program to give honor and recognition to the men and women in uniform past, present and future - God bless you and thank you.

Townscountytimescapsules.com committee members did an excellent job and service presenting this program to our veterans and this community. We thank all of you and those children and all the participants who gave.

It was my honor to present a donation package to the Towns County Historical Society and I know, by writing this article, it is my privilege to be the spokesperson for every veteran that spoke and was honored.

Let's all look forward to next year's repeat celebration! God bless you and the United States of America.

Clarence (Bud) Johnson

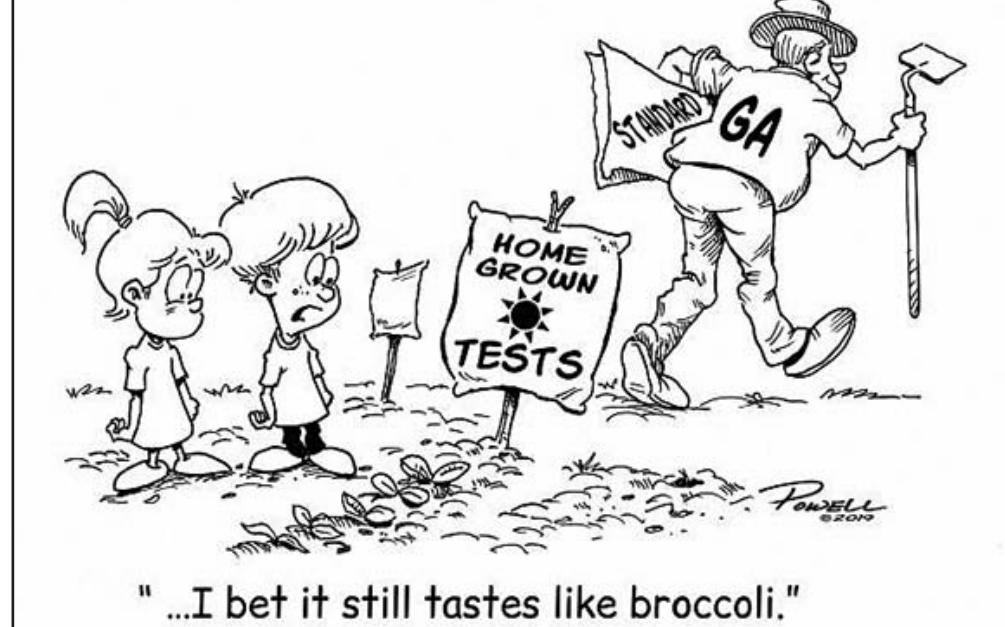
U.S. Navy (Ret.) and WWII Veteran

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Let the Herald work for you!



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



## 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
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
Quilting Bee	Third Wednesday of each month:	
Book Bunch & Lunch	McConnell Church	10 am
	Daniels Steakhouse	11:30 am
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
Hiaw. Writers	Fourth Thursday	
Hiaw. Garden Club	Hiaw. Pk. Comm. Rm.	10:30
	Clubhouse	12:45 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Last Thursday of each month:	
	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

## Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

<b>Kenneth West</b> Owner/Publisher	<b>Shawn Jarrard</b> Editor	<b>Mark Smith</b> Staff Writer	<b>Chad Stack</b> Sports
<b>Derek Richards</b> Advertising Director	<b>Shawn Henrikson</b> Copy Editor	<b>Todd Forrest</b> Sports	<b>Lowell Nicholson</b> Photographer

Publication No: 635540

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

Towns County (1 Year) \$25. Out of County (1 Year) \$35. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawasse, 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, Hiawasse, GA 30546.

Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawasse  
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