

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Too Homogenized?

The Columbia School of Broadcasting has blessed/cursed us (you decide), the American public, with talking heads that have mastered the ability to bury their roots. They come from Any City, USA, with nary a trace of their birth region

Around Towns
Dale Harmon



dialect or accent. Speech is communication. It has to be understood so that we will know there is no reason for cracked heels, bad breath, and enlarged prostates, lack of bling, and stubby eye lashes. "If you or a loved one has been the victim of (insert malady or injustice here), call Dewy Cheatem and Howe. We'll get you the settlement you deserve." Reading is also a tool of communication but it's usually finely printed.

A friend from the hills of Tennessee called to tell me she had married. Congrats. She tried three times to tell me her new last name. "Spell it Martella", I said. "Oh, White" said I. I feel sure the word which came from her mouth was White, but had it not been spelled, I'd have never known.

Before any of you from the other side of The Mason Dixon Line get smug, allow me to tell you the trouble I encountered when introduced to a new baby cousin. "She's beautiful. What's her name?" Her proud mother, from Detroit, MI, said "Don". Sounds like a boy name to me, but with Dale for a handle, I pitched no stones here. I called the kid Don and her mom said, "Not Don, Don." "That's what I said", I said. "No you didn't. You said Don. It's Don, like sunrise." "Oh, Dawn".

Pronunciation isn't the only defining quality of speech. Accepted norms vary from place to place. While in culinary school, I worked with people from everywhere. Many from New York used the f-bomb in almost every sentence. They meant no offence and some were unaware that the word could even be offensive. It was one of those workhorses used for everything. Sort of like the phrase "far out" for hippies and John Denver back in the day.

The clipped "y'all" is the equivalent of the slow drawled y'all. A New York minute = fast. Like molasses in August = slow. A fast car in the south runs like a scalded hound. It would be hard to ask people on TV to spell. OK, it would be impossible. Call me dumb as a post, but I enjoy accents and colloquialisms (us'ns and yur'ns) Tell it like it is so it's understood but don't be reluctant to share those quaint, charming, and often barbed idiomatics of your heritage. A bit of distinction is not a division. Can you fathom the south without the versatile "Bless your heart"? It aint fittin' It just aint fittin'. See y'all and youse guys around Towns.

What is Important?

Last week there was tragedy in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio. Our hearts go out to the families of the victims and the communities shaken by senseless acts of violence. There are patterns we follow in our response to tragedy. I'm speaking now about the vast majority of people who are not directly involved, whose experience is vicarious, secondhand or derivative.

First, there is empathy. Many of us, and an optimist would say most, are sincerely moved by human suffering, and we reach out in thought and in prayer where our hands cannot reach. Some of us upgrade those efforts with something more tangible. We volunteer our time or donate to a cause. But for an ever growing number of us engaged in the pixel matrix, there are patterns of behavior of questionable benefit to our peace of mind and, in the long term, to our freedom itself. We have grown accustomed now to the entities which seek to monetize tragedy. News talkers, celebrities, bloggers, and "influencers" posture sympathy and outrage. A news talker tears up while reading a politically charged presentation and it becomes a headline. Politicians seek to bend events to political advantage. There are accusations and recriminations and more headlines.

Meanwhile on social media a similar process unfolds, though our efforts are geared more toward signalling our virtue. Look how upset I am. I changed my profile picture because I care so much. We tweet and post other tweets and posts of outrage, accusation and recrimination. Social media encourages our participation, and profits from it.

The process echoes throughout our various forms of communication until we are distracted by the next event or the next tragedy, or until we are told that it's time to care about something else.

We assume so readily now that what is presented to us for our consumption is the most important thing there is, simply because it is presented to us. Let's take a look at some of the "side items," not considered important enough to be on the main menu: As Neal de Grasse Tyson pointed out recently, in any given 48 hour period there are 500 deaths due to medical errors. Three hundred people die from the flu; 250 from suicide; 200 from car accidents and 40 from homicide by hand gun.

Between February and March this year, 280 Christians were killed in targeted attacks in Nigeria. Last year, 87,000 women were killed by domestic violence, which remains the number one killer of women around the world. This year 36 million people will starve to death.

We can't change our profile pictures fast enough to keep up.

There is no fault to be found in empathy, or in any of the emotions we feel in response to a tragedy. However, it would benefit us to remember how much more easily we respond to emotion than to fact, and what a small percentage of fact there is in the information presented to us for our consumption. When we become habituated to a handful of companies and a roomful of politicians deciding for us what is important, we give up a power that we may find difficult to retrieve.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Guess Who's Back?

Have you seen webs spreading throughout your trees? They can be unsightly and leave brown patches where the webs are. Those are webworms. They are very common so they talk about these little guys that are spreading from tree to tree.

UGA extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



We have two types of caterpillars that make webs in trees in North Georgia. Eastern tent caterpillars will make webs in the spring. Fall webworms will make webs in the late summer or fall, hence their very original name. Webworms will have one to four generations each year. There are many different tree species that they will use to make their nest. They generally prefer to make their nests on deciduous trees over evergreens.

Webworms grow into a moth that has a one and a half inch wingspan. The wings are white and sometimes have black spots on them. The female moths will lay egg masses of up to 600 eggs. The egg masses are covered in hairs, which protects them from predators. When the caterpillars emerge from the eggs, they begin constructing nests on the ends of tree branches. The webworms will begin eating the new growth at the end of the branch. The webs that they construct protect them from predators and some insecticides. As the weather gets cooler, the caterpillars will burrow into the ground where they will pupate, the cocoon stage, and emerge as moths when the weather warms up again.

Webworms can heavily infest some trees. If a tree is heavily infested the webworms can completely defoliate the tree. Complete defoliation is not a common occurrence, but it is a possibility. Completely defoliating a tree leaves the tree bare and less attractive. However, deciduous trees are able to handle losing their leaves, because they will grow new ones back the next year.

In most situations, it isn't necessary to remove the webworms from trees. The damage that they do is largely aesthetic. If there are some webs on lower branches that are easy to prune then physical removal of the branches is an option. If the branches are out of reach, it is possible to use a long pole or rake to knock the webs out of the tree. A pressure washer is also an option to remove webs from hard to reach places. Opening up webworm nests will expose them to the elements and enable predators such as birds, assassin bugs, and parasitic wasps to get inside and control the webworms too.

It is possible to use insecticides to control webworms, but I usually don't recommend them because webworms rarely cause significant damage to the tree. If you decide to apply an insecticide one containing Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) or spinosad will kill the webworms and not beneficial insects that are also nearby. Broad-spectrum insecticides like pyrethroids, which are any insecticide with an active ingredient ending with -thrin, will kill any insects it meets. You will have to open the nest first so that you get the insecticide inside the web. As always, read the label before applying a pesticide so that you know how to properly handle and apply the pesticide.

If you have questions about webworms contact your county Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Letters to The Editor

Kudos to Representative Collins

Dear Editor,
Hats off to Congressman Doug Collins of Georgia's 9th Congressional District for his grilling of Special Counsel Robert Mueller. He made the 9th District proud indeed. In one of the most dramatic exchanges Mueller was asked by Collins if collusion and conspiracy were synonymous. In other words, to most people, they are essentially the same. Mueller stated "no." Yet, as Collins pointed out, in Mueller's 5/29 press conference he said the exact opposite. Collins caught him off guard and Mueller finally gave up trying and told Collins that he would leave it up to his report—a weak answer indeed. Collins was key in raising questions with respect to Mueller actually knowing what was in his own report. Collins ability to get Mueller to be so inconsistent at the beginning of the hearings caught Democrats off guard for the rest of the day. As a result, Mueller self imploded in the end. I see a big RED wave coming in 2020.

Tim Groza

Seaplane on Lake Chatuge

Dear Editor,
WOW! I just have to write to tell you how impressed I am that this area has a SEAPLANE operating on the lake!
I have traveled the world but it took coming back to North Georgia to actually fly in a seaplane! I am a pilot so I did my homework on Wing N It Seaplane before I headed into their floatplane. I am impressed with their safety record, skilled pilots and very well maintained aircraft. Sunday was the first time my sister had ever been in a single engine plane and what an experience that we got to share it together. It was a joy to see the lake, Brasstown Bald and Bell Mountain from above plus see boaters, paddle boarder, folks in canoes and jet skiers easily working together as they shared the lake with the seaplane!
Because of Wing N It Seaplane Adventures, tourists are eating in your restaurants, shopping in gift stores, purchasing fuel and more! This company is bringing such joy, having a positive economic impact and getting positive recognition worldwide... all with little cost or perhaps no cost to the county! Not many regions have this unique opportunity available. Well played Towns County and congratulations!

Respectfully,
Patsy M. Buchwald
Colorado Springs, CO

Response to Seaplane Pays No TC Taxes

Dear Editor,
In reference to the July 31st Letter to the Editor (Seaplane Pays no Towns County Taxes) the big issues with Wing N It Seaplane Adventures seem to be taxes, noise and safety. However...
If unpaid taxes are really an issue (and they are), concerned citizens should be asking about the loss of revenue for Towns County due to property and business owners who have not paid taxes for many years. As with the seaplane business, this is also public information.
If noise is really an issue, concerned citizens should not forget that military aircraft fly low and loud through this area almost every day, year round, day and night. This is not a complaint. I worked for the military my entire career and understand the need, but if you are concerned about the noise... this blows the noise study out of the water.
If safety is really an issue, concerned citizens should worry more about unlicensed and inexperienced boaters at the helm of powerful fast boats and jet skis racing across Lake Chatuge. Add in some alcoholic beverages... well, you get the point.
Of all the tax issues, noise issues and safety issues that Towns County currently faces, a licensed experienced pilot operating a small seaplane on Lake Chatuge should not be our greatest concern. A "good neighbor" policy is a great idea, but should apply to all, not just some.

Scott and Sheree Davis

Their safety starts behind your wheel.

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 EMAILED 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.

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
	First Tuesday of each month:	
Alzheimer's Supp.	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	6 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
	First Wednesday of each month:	
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
	First Thursday of each month:	
Stephens Lodge	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
	Second Monday of each month:	
Chamber Board	1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
VFW	VFW Post	5 pm
Historical Society	Hist. Soc. Bldg.	5:30 pm
School Board	Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm

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Towns County Herald

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