

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Long Overdue

Once again as a member of our American Legion Post #23 under the auspices of VFW Post 7807 here in Towns County, I received another blessing. We were notified by our commanders of the homecoming for the remains of Corporal Terrell J. Fuller for his memorial and funeral service to be held on Saturday, August 11, 2018 which would have been his 88th birthday. Brings tears of mixed emotions just to try and write this.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



I immediately thought of and called our good friend, and American Patriot, one of the most honest, decent, gentle man I know. Mr. Cecil Sanders, Jr. who many, readers of our newspaper know as "Junior". He has shared with me of much of his history serving in the horrific battles and deathly freezing environment of the Chosen Reservoir North Korea while serving in our USMC. He witnessed the many frozen bodies of our fine young military men who had to be mass buried in unmarked graves in that frozen ground and left behind. Like Cecil they were fighting against the onslaught of Communism which still to this day threatens our global security. It then became a privilege and duty to drive us over to Toccoa where we were told that since he was a Korean War Veteran that we could take special seating in the private family area designated to receive the funeral procession. There we met and shook hands with seven other Korean War Veterans and many other VFW and American Legion Veterans and officials from other locales. Without going into many details it was an emotional, bittersweet and extremely Patriotic American event attended by many Veterans and civilians alike who never knew Corporal Fuller or his family who no doubt suffered not knowing and no closure for far too many years. We have a lot of good people in our nation. Amongst those are the owners and operators of Acree-Davis Funeral home in Toccoa, GA. A Boy Scout troop also marched in the homecoming event as did hundreds of Patriotic biker escorts, flying our beautiful America Flag high in many ways. Georgia State Patrol served as law enforcement with many other agencies, and firefighters probably giving of their own free time.

Many thanks to our own VFW Post #7807 and those from American Legion, Legion Riders, SAL, VFW Auxiliaries, Legion Auxiliaries and Marine Corps League who may have attended this momentous event by lining the streets of Toccoa, Georgia, thus representing Towns County. This event represents the unfaltering love and respect of our America and way of life which is so very costly to maintain in a hostile world. Undoubtedly freedom and liberty is never free and never will be.

Corporal Terrell Fuller, resting peacefully at the right hand of our God is like all those who were taken too early from us, one of thousands of true American heroes. Please go here: www.acree-davisfh.com/obituaries/Corporal-Terrell-J-Fuller-?obId=3184221#/obituaryInfo for historical details.

Semper Paratus

Tate City, Georgia

Tate City is an unincorporated community in the extreme northeast corner of Towns County. The city sign says population 32 and many of these folks have other homes in other places. It was founded as a mining and logging community.

RC&D
Frank Riley
 Executive Director



Tate City sits in a scenic valley along the upper Tallulah River, just south of the Georgia-North Carolina border. The community is flanked by various peaks of the Blue Ridge and Nantahala Mountains, including 4568-foot Hightower Bald, 4640-ft. Dicks Knob, and 5499-ft. Standing Indian Mountain.

The town sprang up around a ruby mine that once attracted more than 1000 residents, and later switched to logging. (A man named Tate owned the biggest logging camp, hence the name.) After the loggers stripped Tate City of its forests, they moved on and left little behind. The sleepy town didn't get electricity until the early 1970s. There was no easy way for the early settlers to reach the remote valley called Tate City, a pastoral setting rimmed by a great northward flex of the Blue Ridge.

Tate City was once a busy corundum mining community and later a logging town with stores and churches. Now only two churches and a handful of homes remain. Most of the original mountain people who lived by subsistence agriculture are gone. To get to Tate City in Towns County you first have to go into Rabun County (you can't get there from here) and turn North off Hwy 76 onto Persimmon Rd and then turn west on Tallulah Rd which is paved at first and then turns to a one lane dirt and gravel Forest Service Road that follows the River all the way to Tate City and beyond where it ends in North Carolina.

The drive up the Tallulah's upper gorge is spectacular. It begins at the bridge over the Coleman River. FS 70 dead-ends in the heart of the Southern Nantahala Wilderness. The major access point for the Tallulah River basin, FS 70 follows beside the Tallulah through the 3-mile-long Rock Mountain Gorge on the old railroad bed, which was blasted out of solid rock by the lumber company logging the valley in virgin timber days. This lovely road crosses the Tallulah four times. One can picnic on the rocks or fish the pools stocked weekly with eating-size rainbow trout. At Line Branch, one can look back, high up at the Flat Branch Falls Just below the Tate Branch Campground. When this road emerges on a flat near the AT, a north-turning fork leads one to the main Charlie's Creek. Across the creek and up the road a few hundred yards, there is a trail up to an amethyst mine that has produced some of the finest gem amethysts in the United States.

The old Tate corundum mine is high in the cliffs and the remains of the old oxen haul road (made of dead-packed, or mortar less, rock) up to the mine. There is a lot of history in Tate City and we probably can't imagine what it was like to live in such a remote community where the only work was for subsistence for the families who lived in the valley.

Tate City is one of our latest Firewise USA Communities and if a community ever needed to be Firewise, Tate City would be the poster child. It is remote and completely surrounded by national forest. During the extreme drought in 2016 Tate City was the epicenter of a raging wildfire on the surrounding national forest. Only due to the hard work and dedication of the 600 or so wildland firefighters, Tate City was spared from becoming a pile of ashes in the middle of this fire. The fire swept over the only road into the community so anyone who did not evacuate in time was trapped inside until it passed.

No damage to life and property occurred and now the residents have decided to become a Firewise Community where more emphasis will be on defensible space so when the next wildfire approaches the residents will be better prepared to withstand the ember showers, flames, and smoke than they were in 2016. They dodged a big bullet that time and might not be so lucky again.

Fall Gardening

Do you usually have a fall garden? If not then now is the time to start thinking about one. There are some benefits to having a fall garden that we will get in to. Let's talk about what vegetable crops and cover crops are an option for a fall garden and how the Extension office can educate you to keep your garden green year round, unless it's buried in snow!

UGA Extension
Watching and Working
 Jacob Williams



Cover crops are planted in the fall and grow throughout the winter into early spring. Cover crops are beneficial to soil health and are often used in organic production. I like to think of the soil as a muscle in the body. If you work a muscle too hard or with only one exercise then you may injure the muscle by straining it or even tearing it. However, by diversifying your exercises and making sure that you're eating properly for muscle growth you can grow stronger. Soil also requires development over time, and cover crops can help with that. Common crops are clovers and cereal crops like cereal rye, black oats, and wheat. Come springtime they can be tilled into the soil or laid down so that you can plant into them. Planting cover crops can help to develop organic matter in the soil, reduce erosion, suppress weeds, and conserve soil moisture. Given enough care your soil could look like Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson!

If you want to plant crops that you can harvest and eat, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, collards, lettuce, mustard, onions, radishes, spinach, or turnips are all options. For fall gardens it is important to use mulch to protect the plants from the frost. You may need to get another soil test done on your garden to see if you need to add any fertilizer for the coming crop.

There are a couple of benefits to planting in the fall that you don't see in the summer. One of these is there are fewer insect pests around. That means you won't need to spray as many insecticides. If you are trying to grow your garden organically that is a very good thing! There will also be fewer diseases that you have to contend with in the fall. Diseases like hot, humid conditions. As the temperature drops in the coming month diseases will become less and less of a problem. Winter weeds can still be a problem but they are not as much as summertime weeds. Use mulch to suppress weeds.

Pansies and violas are an option for flowering plants that will last through the winter and keep their flowers. Plant them mid-September once the temperatures have cooled down.

Gardening in the spring means working through diseases and insects. In the fall, the biggest challenge will be from the temperature. As the temperature drops rapidly, selecting varieties of crops that can stand the cold will be important. It can be extremely rewarding to see green growing around your house after everything else has turned brown.

If you have any questions about growing your fall garden, contact your local Extension office. I'd be happy to answer questions regarding crops, soil, fertilizer recommendations, or other questions about your fall garden. If you have any questions in Union county call 706-439-6030; Towns county call 706-896-2024. No matter where you are you can send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu. Happy gardening.

Unsung

Greetings good people. It takes more than soil, seed, and spade to create and maintain what is becoming the dynamic Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge. The toil in the soil by the super-hero Hammies has been extolled en masse and individually but the Ham Backbone has been kept a secret. Well, gird your loins. I have no idea what that means but have always wanted to use that phrase. Presented here and sung to the tune of The Beach Boys' hit Help Me Rhonda, I give you,

Dishin' Dirt
 Dale Harmon



Help Us Gordy
 Now since we got this plot we've been weeding just as fast as we can. From dawn until dusk it's been going according to plan. But that bridge was in such a mess and who'd repair it was anyone's guess. You've got to help us Gordy. Help us before we distress.

Chorus
 Help us Gordy, Help, help us Gordy. Help us Gordy. Help, help us Gordy. Help us Gordy yeah, have safe access. There are many, many more verses but I'll spare you. Gordy Jones. He comes riding up on this hulking, all tricked out in orange, motor bike, dismounts and pulls off his helmet. It too, is orange. It seems a very fitting way for a hero to arrive. He's a man of few words, not because he doesn't know many or is unfriendly, but because there is work to be done. Always work to be done.

The dedication of The Children's Holocaust Garden was held on a cool, rainy day It was somber and touching. The marble monument to honor the garden needed to be set in stone. The task came with a hefty price. And then along came Jones. (Why yes. That is another song reference.) Gordy was asked if he could do it. "Don't know. Never tried." he replied. After researching method Gordy set the marble in the stone, giving the homage that was deserved and saving The Gardens \$400. When donation tubes were needed throughout The Gardens, Mr. Jones again came to the rescue. The last time I saw Gordy, he was mending fences. Thank you, Gordy. Thank, thank you Gordy. What would we do without you?

Now a note to my selected sisters J.A. J.G. and F.M. If y'all tick me off, I'm going to sing every verse along with chorus of Help Us Gordy to you. It's about twice as long as The Twelve Days of Christmas. Consider yourselves warned.

"Have you got your Halloween outfit picked out at the store yet? After all, it's almost Labor Day."

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

Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday: 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: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Friday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Movers & Shakers	Every Sunday: Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Second Monday of each month: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Chamber Board	Second Monday of each month: 1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
VFW	VFW Post	5 pm
Historical Society	Old Rec. Center	5:30 pm
School Board	Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
CVB Board	Second Tuesday of each month: Civic Center	8 am
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	Second Wednesday of each month: SC Fire Hall	10 am
Awake America Prayer	Second Thursday of each month: Civic Center	Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	6 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Third Monday of each month: Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Planning Comm.	Civic Center	6 pm
YH Plan Comm.	Third Tuesday of each month: 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	Third Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Joff @ 386-530-0904	
Book Bunch & Lunch	Daniels Steakhouse	11:30 am
Friendship Comm.	Third Thursday of each month: Clubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party	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

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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