

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Did You Remember?

Today's edition of our TCH is September 12, 2018. Did you take time out yesterday, September 11, to remember? Reflect back to those days when all America came together and flew THE FLAG from their homes and cars. Didn't last long did it!

The Veterans' Corner
 Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



Only seventeen very short years ago our nation was viciously attacked by those of an extreme Fascist Theocracy who have been venting their hatred upon the civilized world for over fourteen hundred years, with no change in sight. Not a smidgen of difference in those agendas of our similar enemies in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Therefore, as Americans it is incumbent upon us to never forget.

Upon that same premise we need never, ever to forget those, like our young men and women who went forth to defend our America and our world in other conflicts, both here and abroad.

Immediately in the confusing aftermath of 9-11-2001 all those who lay their lives on the line for you and I scrambled to do whatever was necessary to protect the most precious Sovereign Republic in the history of mankind, our "shining beacon of freedom" our America!

Amongst those who without hesitation came forth to do the "dirty work" are our nation's men and women in blue, the police, firefighters, EMTs, our volunteers in our Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and US Coast Guard. They all go into harm's way, "so that others may live". Did you remember them?

Do you have any inkling of how their missions have been the past several years? And yet, as always they adapt, overcome and succeed as no other forces have done in world history. Those valiant men and women who stepped up to save lives and what could be saved in New York City that day are suffering and dying from the toxins they inhaled then. No doubt that they would do it all over again if needed. They are our nation's very best, a very small percentage amongst us, yes. But always the best. Unlike our politicians who very often fumble the ball and make the wrong calls for various and sundry reasons. Never forget!

So the point being is this right here: Never forget, not just upon that most horrible date recognizing seven years ago. Which was used to destroy our economy, our way of life and to savagely destroy good, decent, innocent civilians just like you and I. And was only superseded by the date of December 7, 1941 with the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Let us always remember those who gave their lives and let us always remember those who have always served America as mentioned above and who always must confront the never ending evils of the world by placing their lives before ours.

We have been gifted with a unique magnificent Sovereign Republic, even with historical blemishes as occur in all civilizations. We must use our hearts, souls and minds to never forget, thus learn from all history, good, bad and ugly so we may perpetually honor all that is good. Never forget!

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

We Must Learn to Work Together

Dear Editor,
 I would like to thank the writer of last week's letter to the editor "In Response to: What Will Hiawassee's Legacy Be?" He is obviously very passionate about our environment, and that is a good thing. I believe we all want to pass on a better, cleaner, healthier earth to our children. I hope that we, as a country and as a world, can make the right choices that assures that this will happen. To do that, we must make good decisions based on the best of scientific data. That scientific data tells us very clearly that the earth is warming-by about 1.9 degrees over the last century-most of it within the last 20 years- a fact documented by NOAA, NASA, and every other major source that tracks such data. The last 3 years have been the 3 hottest in recorded history. The question is, what is causing this, and what can we do? Greenhouse gases-carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, water vapor, and others-trap heat from leaving our atmosphere-a fact almost universally agreed upon. Every day they trap enough extra heat now, as compared to 100 years ago, as is given off by 400,000 Hiroshima-type bombs. That is gradually warming our earth. Can there be other causes? Yes, climate has changed in the past-due to changes in sun activity, changes in the earth's tilt and distance from the sun-which caused the ice ages-, volcanic activity, and greenhouse gases. However, over the last 50 years, the first 3 above have been stable or actually should have lowered temperatures slightly. The only explanation for the continuing increase in temperatures is the increase in greenhouse gases, which is human caused. We now emit 100 million tons of carbon dioxide DAILY from the burning of fossil fuels. If we continue with our present pace of emitting greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels, our earth will get hotter and hotter, with very dire consequences. The good news is that it is entirely within our control. The actual facts are that the US ranks second behind China in carbon emissions, but per person, we emit 2.2 times as much as China. Regardless of that, we must all begin to work together to solve this monumental problem. The leveled cost of energy from wind and solar now is much lower than coal and even slightly lower than natural gas. There are solutions. Climate change is not a political problem, but rather a scientific and moral problem. However, we must overcome our political differences to solve it, and I firmly believe that we can, because WE MUST!

Vernon Dixon, MD

Respect Lake Chatuge

Dear Editor,
 Many Towns County residents have noticed the seaplane on Lake Chatuge on weekends. The southwest corner of the lake sightseeing has become an airport runway where a commercial sightseeing service takes off and lands all day long most Saturdays and Sundays. Hiawassee is promoted online as a "seaplane base," so more seaplanes may come. The Gainesville seaplane company says that its pilots are licensed and follow boating rules while on the water. That is not enough. The commercial flights take off and land at the busiest times for boat traffic on a narrow inlet where there are many vulnerable users such as kayakers, paddleboarders, fishermen/women, and swimmers, including children swimming from docks. Multiple seaplane flights are also a sound nuisance. The drone of the plane's engine echoes off the mountains and sounds much louder than boats. Seaplanes are not allowed on some lakes, and common-sense restrictions apply on others to respect boaters and residents. Indeed, even seaplane advocates seeking access on Lake Lanier support reasonable guidelines. If you are interested in urging seaplanes to respect Lake Chatuge, please write to respectlakechatuge@gmail.com.

Christina and Douglas Nelson
 Vicki and Charles Butler

The Intelligence Test

A useful definition of intelligence is the ability to adapt to and thrive in one's environment. Multiple studies have shown that intelligence is declining worldwide. Multiple studies have also shown that humans are getting smarter.

The question of intelligence is a good example of the challenge in finding truth in the age of information. If you're not too concerned about truth, just pick a study that agrees with what you want to believe.

On the subject of intelligence, I'm undecided.

I do believe, however, that the researchers who decided humans are getting smarter never tried to assemble a metal building using the instructions provided in the box, and the humans who wrote and illustrated those instructions were not included in that study.

After some time, days, actually, the number of which I prefer not to mention, we are the proud parents of a fully assembled metal building. It is dry and secure and pleasing to the eye. We put it together with no loss of life and very little loss of blood. We did it in spite of the instructions.

Thank goodness for those classes in logic and statistics I took in college. Who says you never use anything that you learn in school?

Without those classes I might not be able to recognize a situation where two or more conditions are "mutually exclusive." I'm thankful also for classical mechanics, which holds that two objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time.

All of these concepts came into play during the assembly of our structure.

First, the mutually exclusive. The framing square and the tape measure said that the building frame was on the square. The spirit level said the floor was level.

The marketing company for the metal building said the parts were manufactured to strict tolerances. But the holes in the decking did not line up with the holes in the frame. Or they did, until they didn't, and when they didn't they were not even close.

Somebody was lying, and I don't think it was the framing square.

In physics, Pauli's exclusion principle states that two electrons cannot occupy the same quantum state simultaneously. Classical mechanics and common sense teach us that if two vehicles try to occupy the same parking space at the same time, there will be a collision.

The instructions said to put bolt X into hole Y, but I couldn't do it. There already was a bolt in that hole, because three pages ago, the instruction manual most assuredly said to put a bolt there.

Perhaps what we needed for our metal building was an archaeologist rather than a physicist. An archaeologist can find a bone chip in a hole and somehow reconstruct a skeleton. They can translate dead languages, and from the faintest scratchings on stone, tell the history of a nation.

Our instruction manual did resemble hieroglyphics in places. The spidery illustrations were almost ephemeral, and ready to dissolve in a drop of perspiration. The grammar and sentence structure of the book did not match any language known to us.

It reminded me of the classic tome, "English As She Is Spoke," which is a Portuguese-English phrase book written by a man who did not speak English, using a French to English dictionary as a reference. "He burns one's self the brains. You hear the bird's gurgling? The field has by me a thousand charms!"

Yes, intelligence may in fact be the ability to adapt to one's environment. At least, the longer you can stay in your environment, the better the chance that you might learn something.

I didn't have a set of reasonable instructions.

The parts and the guide holes did not all adhere to Euclidean geometry.

But I had a drill, and a set of high speed bits, and I improvised, adapted and overcame.

I didn't walk away from that building feeling any smarter, but after several days of bending and twisting and lifting and drilling and squinting, and climbing and wrenching and cussing, I walked away feeling stronger.

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.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Backtracking

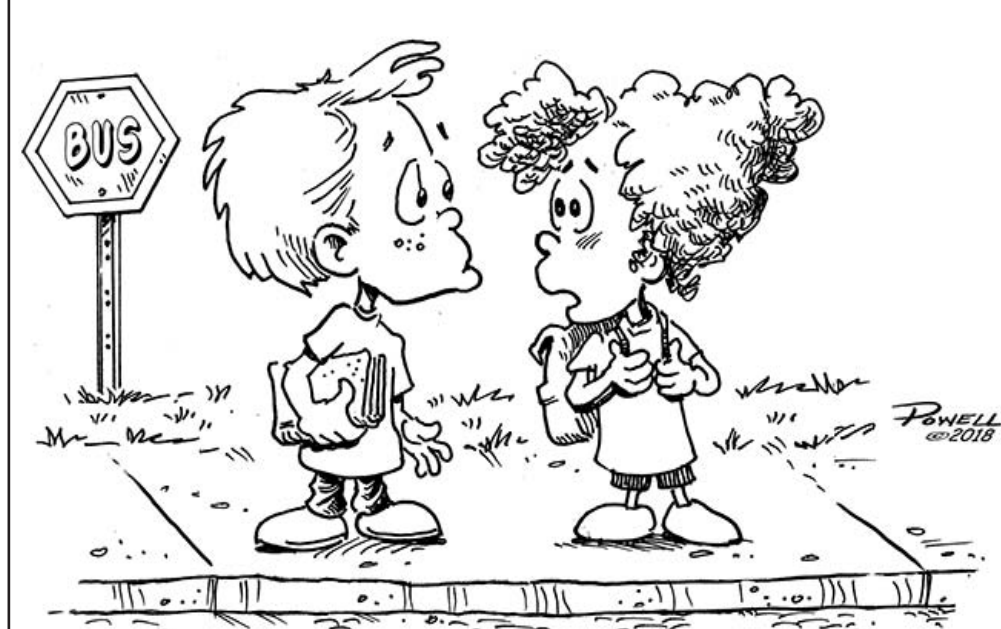
In the ten years since John and I opened our bed and breakfast in Hiawassee and began our mountain life, much has changed. Coming from a large city we had brought large city impatience and mistrust with us. Smiling and waving at friends and strangers is a different practice in the mountains from scowling and waving with the middle digit of the hand extended, a common practice in many big cities, generally done while in automobiles. Becoming involved with the preservation and enhancement of Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge has given me pause to think about our evolutions.

The first Georgia Mountain Fair was held in 1950 and was moved to the current site, The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in 1978. In 1981 Fred and Hazel Hamilton donated their garden to the public. (Thank you Fred and Hazel). The site on the shores of Lake Chatuge is perfect for The Gardens. Who knows what would have happened to the glorious rhododendrons and azaleas had they not been under the auspice of The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds? The specimen plants have always been cherished. In 2016, a GA non-profit "adopted", if you will, The Gardens and is now responsible for its care. Operating and maintaining The Fairgrounds is a vast and on-going endeavor. Operating The Gardens is its own vast and on-going endeavor. A thanks should be given to the Board of The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and its General Manager, Hilda Thomason, for "fostering" our beloved gift until suitable parents were found.

Now for an example of my own evolution taken from a July 01, 2013 web site blog:

Pig Skin Shoes

Life as innkeepers in the north Georgia mountains continues to be a pleasure for John and me. After four years I am evolving into a Mountain Woman. (Had a bit of a leg up as my grandmother was a beautiful Cherokee woman from Dahlonega). There's a definite learning curve, however. When John and I went to get our Georgia drivers licenses after moving here from Charlotte we were delighted at the short line at the DMV. We sat down and waited our turns. The room was small so we could, without trying, hear the conversation of the two people next to us. "Jack needs new shoes to show his pig", I heard a woman say to the man beside her. After the two left I asked John, "Why do you think a pig cares about a kid's shoes?" My small town education began as a smiling (okay, she was laughing at me) photographer explained that Jack was a member of the Future Farmers of America and the pig, his project, would be shown in a porcine competition on Saturday evening. I replied "oh", or something equally dorky. I believe my face is a little red on my Georgia drivers license.



"Why should lawmakers be talking about when the school year starts? Right now we've got bigger issues ... like when it ends!"

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 Thursday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Movers & Shakers	Every Friday: Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Friday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday: Red Cross Building	7 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	Second Thursday of each month: Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Second Thursday of each month: Civic Center	6 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Third Monday of each month: Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Planning Comm.	Third Monday of each month: Civic Center	6 pm
YH Plan Comm.	Third Tuesday of each month: YH City Hall	5 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg.	Third Tuesday of each month: Courthouse	5:30 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Third Tuesday of each month: Blairsville store	5:30 pm
Water Board	Third Tuesday of each month: Water Office	6 pm
Quilting Bee	Third Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Third Wednesday of each month: Call Joff @ 386-530-0904	
Book Bunch & Lunch	Third Wednesday of each month: Daniels Steakhouse	11:30 am
Friendship Comm.	Third Thursday of each month: Clubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party	Third Thursday of each month: 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
Humane Shelter Bd.	Last Thursday of each month: Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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Towns County Herald

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