

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

My Hat

"I recently saw a cartoon depicting a World War II soldier dragging a wounded comrade by his shirt collar while returning fire with his Colt 45. The caption read "Next time you see a stooped over old veteran wearing his military service cap, he might just be the bravest person you will ever meet!"

The Veterans' Corner
 Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



I wear my service cap most days almost every place I go... not for personal recognition but in memory of my fallen brothers and sisters in arms, those missing in action, and all those that have served our great country and are serving today. I wear it so fellow veterans will instantly recognize me as one of their own and invite a brief exchange of information. I wear my hat because I'm proud to have served and done my part when called upon.

I wear my service hat so it is a constant reminder to all that "Freedom isn't Free!" Those that served sacrificed daily. By being away from family and friends they missed holidays, their children growing up, professional opportunities, their mothers or wives home cooking and any peace of mind. They wake every morning wondering if this is the day they make a fatal mistake or are in the wrong place at the wrong time. They wonder if they will have the courage to run toward the fight and not away from it. In the end they all do what they are trained to do! All gave some, some gave all!

As a Vietnam Vet I returned in 1968 to a country I hardly recognized with soldiers being spat upon, cursed and demonized for doing their patriotic duty. My father served in World War II and I grew up around people that respected those that served. Today I appreciate those folks who daily thank me for my service when I'm wearing my hat. It makes me proud when teenagers and young children have been taught by their parents to show respect to our veterans.

Maybe someday there will be no more wars or conflicts, our young will no longer have to fight and die to protect the peace and preserve our way of life. Until then, I'll wear my hat!"

Mike Roberts

I too experienced what Mike speaks of, at the airports back in the late 60s. It mattered not to the "protestors" which branch of the armed services you were in or where you served. Those misguided souls needed to address their grievances to the establishment of political class who always create these wars. (Not those of us who served! I too wear my cap and my American Legion clothing to honor God, Country, my fellow brothers and sisters, and above all those who never came home. Veterans who have "seen the beast" have earned and paid for a little extra respect.

Mike and his charming wife Pat are great Americans, usually quiet, similar to our old pal Vince Miller, and like Vince when they speak they are thoughtful, meaningful, and deserving of merit.

Semper Paratus

The Worrier Code

Our intention this week is that we should expand our comfort zones and step outside the boxes we draw around our thinking. Laugh, if you can, whenever you can. Not the derisive laughter of the playground, but with humility. Laughter is good for the circulation, and it diminishes self-importance.

If you can't laugh, then we hope that you get mad. Anger is caused by self-importance, but it is also good for the circulation. Circulation delivers oxygen to the brain, which enhances thinking – and diminishes self-importance.

Bushido is a Japanese term which describes the warrior code of the samurai. It allowed the violence inherent in the samurai lifestyle to be mitigated by wisdom. Bushido was characterized by values that were also once embraced by the west, such as integrity, honor, respect, courage, compassion – and self control.

Comedians have often used a caricature of the samurai and his Bushido code. Picture the John Belushi version of the samurai: self righteous, easily offended and given to dramatic demonstrations.

Which brings us to the present day, where we seem to have forgotten that Belushi's character was meant to be a farce. Move aside Bushido, the warrior code of the samurai. Enter Bullshido, the worrier code of the snowflake.

Did I hear a few snickers (mainly from the right side of the aisle)? Not so fast! The right is growing its own snowflakes these days. Not only are we offended by the improper use of pronouns (he, she...they?), we are now offended by improper body posture (as in standing or kneeling). Social justice worriers who can't change a tire (but who have memorized the entire menu at Starbucks) are ready to wear masks and attack people at rallies. Armchair quarterbacks who have never served anything but another helping at the buffet table now sit in judgment on ritualized patriotism.

In Bushido, worshipful attention was given to duty and loyalty. In Bullshido, we worship celebrities. From the left, we obsess on the lives and opinions of famous people who pretend to be other people. If they do this well, we call these pretenders "great."

From the right, we obsess on the lives and opinions of people who play games: millionaires who run and throw balls and catch them (or kick them or hit them with sticks). If they are good at playing games, we consider these people to be "great" also, and like the celebrities who act, we believe them to be experts on life itself.

You might think that a culture which values benevolence and compassion would be fully engaged by concern for the thousands made homeless and destitute by the recent hurricanes. Not so. The high priests and priestesses of Bullshido have instead ordained that we focus our offense-ready attention on what happens at our gaming spectacles and whether someone stands or kneels during a song.

Symbols are important; somewhat arbitrary, but important nonetheless. The flag and the national anthem are, for many of us, symbols of sacrifices made in good faith. This is why that, as a former Marine, I choose to stand during the anthem. It is a personal choice.

But for most of us who have served or who do so now, "choice" is at the heart of the reasons for that service. Among the

freedoms we value is freedom of speech and the right to dissent, and a civil society which prides itself on these things has no business dictating what we respect, or disrespect, or how we demonstrate those sentiments. We don't like bowing to royalty in America, yet we insist on compliance to forms and practices in a public ritual? If you don't bow to the Queen you're being disrespectful. If you don't stand for a song, you're also being disrespectful?

On the other hand, the millionaire celebrities who play professional football are heavily subsidized, as is the entire "non profit" NFL, by billions of our tax dollars. (We get to pay for their new stadiums whether we watch football or not.) A football game is not a free speech rally or a demonstration. When the players take the field, they are at work, on the job. When you take a job, some of your rights are naturally constrained by your contractual agreement with your employer. These players are employed by the team owners, by the people who buy tickets, and by the tax payers who subsidize the whole enterprise.

Kneeling is generally considered to be a posture, not of defiance, but of prayerful attention. Kneeling at football games was first done to call attention to a perception by some African Americans that blacks are intentionally victimized by police brutality. The numbers don't support that opinion, but the perception is important and worthy of discussion.

Sadly, that important discussion has now been lost in the babble of Bullshido, the opinions of celebrities and the WWE style tweets of the social media president. The derisive howls of "racist" and "unpatriotic" are tossed from left and right, and we are distracted from historic human suffering and an economy poorly managed for the majority of our people.

Monday morning we woke up to tragic headlines from Las Vegas. Was the world due to end in September or has that now been pushed forward to October? The worrier code does not say. But as the tragic shooting is analyzed and recycled by media, new worries will merge with our ongoing concerns over terrorism, climate change and social injustice; white supremacy, Black Lives Matter, antifa and all the issues guaranteed to generate ad revenue.

Meanwhile, the people will be hungry and homeless in Puerto Rico, and thousands across the nation will attempt to rebuild their lives, but those headlines will be pushed aside as we risk becoming caricatures of ourselves. There is nothing funny about that.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Common Caterpillars

Caterpillars can often be garden pests throughout the summer, but many of the species we see in the fall have no effect on our crops. In fact, some look like they popped right out of a surreal painting and turn into even more beautiful butterflies and moths. Though they may not affect our gardens, some do have the potential to cause harm to curious animals and humans alike that are not careful.

Two of the most striking caterpillars that many people have reported are the Imperial Moth caterpillar and Regal Moth caterpillar. These species are very closely related and look pretty similar, but it is easy to tell the difference. The caterpillar of the Imperial Moth can range from pale orange to bright green depending on the age. It has short yellow spikes on the front of its body that look like horns. It is also covered in long, fine hairs and has fluorescent yellow spots lining its side, and at this time of year, they range from 4 to 5 inches. The Regal Moth caterpillar is similarly striking, so much so that it is called a "Hickory Horn Devil." These caterpillars can grow up to six inches. They are a bright blueish green and have large square spots on the front of their body that look like giant eyes. They also have bright orange horns just above these eyespots, and orange claspers at the back of the body that help them to grab onto branches. Though they may look imposing with their horns, neither of these species is harmful to humans.

Yellow striped oak worms are small black caterpillars with yellow lines down the sides of their bodies. They are covered in black spikes with the two closest to the head elongated like antennae. Oak worms will eventually grow into a small but beautiful pink, yellow and rust colored moth. As their name suggests, they are primarily found in large numbers on oak trees, though they will seldom harm a tree beyond eating some of the leaves. These caterpillars are also harmless to humans.

Two caterpillars are seen this time of year that actually can harm people and animals. The American Dagger Moth adult is a drab, unassuming mottled gray, but the caterpillar is fuzzy and yellow with thin black tufts of hair protruding from the front and back of its body. These hairs are similar to the fibers of a stinging nettle plant because they cause severe irritation when they come into contact with the skin. Some people may have less severe reactions than others, but contact with these caterpillars will likely cause at least a slight rash. Saddleback caterpillars are short, stout caterpillars that are mostly lime green with some brownish gray spots. They get their name from the brown spot on their back that resembles a saddle. This species has venomous spines on the front and back of its body that can pierce the skin, and they often are found on the undersides of leaves. If you come into contact with either of these caterpillars, monitor the rash closely and see a doctor immediately if you begin to have severe reactions such as fever or trouble breathing.

Union and Towns County Extension will be holding a Pesticide Safety Course on Wednesday, October 11th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Union County Extension Office. Private applicators will receive 2 credit hours, and commercial applicators will receive 4 credits in any one category. There will be a \$40 registration fee to cover costs of speakers. RSVP to Union County Extension by 5 p.m. Monday, October 9th.

UGA extension
 From the Ground Up
 Melissa Mattee



Letters to The Editor

Irony Found?

Dear Editor,
 Although I sometimes disagree with him, I acknowledge that Mr. Jobson is an excellent writer who presents his "case" well. However, I have found some irony in two questions in two separate letters to this newspaper, to-wit: (1) Mr. Jobson's July 2, 2014 letter dealing with his opposition to the use of the TCRCC for a community prayer breakfast concluded with a question as follows: "Where does this illegal encroachment end?" and (2) Mr. Jobson's August 30, 2017 letter encroaching Mr. Groza's August 23, 2017 letter for asking a question relative to statue removal, "Where do we stop?" To answer Mr. Jobson's 7-2-14 question: As long as the TCRCC is open to all, there is nothing illegal; if he, as a "non-believer", truly believes otherwise, there is a federal courthouse in Gainesville.

To answer with a question Mr. Groza's 8-23-17 question: although (apology to Mr. Groza in advance) I'm doing so facetiously as well as satirically (no apology to anyone else whomsoever), perhaps when Col. Sanders can no longer be the spokesperson for KFC?

Claudos Spears

Family grateful for support

Dear Editor,
 During the recent passing of our loved one we received amazing support from our community and wish to say "Thank You."

Our grieving hearts were touched by the compassion and love we received from the wonderful people in our community and our county and state emergency networks.

The emergency services to the scene were immediate and extraordinary. He was on a helicopter on his way to NE GA within minutes of the accident as they attempted to save his life. The caring, concerned police, Station 6 emergency unit and transport vehicles arrived immediately. We felt so fortunate that in this small rural area we had such professional emergency facilities.

We would like to thank Banister Funeral Home for their help, the Towns County Herald for their caring assistance, the Hiawassee United Methodist family for all they've provided for us, and the staff and volunteers of the Towns County Food Pantry for their love and support.

Sincerely,
 The Botting Family

Hospital Auxiliary thanks you

Dear Editor,
 On behalf of the Chatuge Regional Hospital and Nursing Home Auxiliary, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the many individuals and organizations who donated books to our very recent Book Sale. Thanks to your generosity, we had a very successful sale, and the proceeds from this sale will help purchase items for residents in the Nursing Home and special needs of our local hospital. The Auxiliary sells books year-round at Chatuge Regional Hospital. We always welcome gently used books, both hardback and paperbacks. If you wish to donate books, please call the Information Desk at 17068962222, extension 7262, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. or 17068961020. A special thank you to the Towns County Herald for allowing us space in the paper for all of Auxiliary activities.

Sincerely,
 Brenda Hitchcock, Booksale Chairperson,
 Chatuge Regional Hospital & Nursing Home Volunteers



Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday:	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Bingo		Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
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.		Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Friday:	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday:	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Mtn. Amat. Radio	First Monday of each month:	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	First Tuesday of each month:	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion		VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council		City Hall	6 pm
Young Harris Council		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
Chamber Board	Second Monday of each month:	1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
Historical Society		Old Rec. Center	5:30 pm
Mtn. Comp. Users		www.mcug.org	6 pm
Planning Comm.		Civic Center	7 pm
School Board		Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic		Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Caregiver support	Second Tuesday of each month:	Brasstown Manor	3 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild		Mtn. Regional Library	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
Board of Elections		67 Lakeview Cir., Ste. A	4 pm

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Towns County Herald

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