

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Context

*Forward: Couth. Some folks have plenty, some have some and I aint got none. I wouldn't have minded being censored in last week's Around Towns, if I hadn't worked so hard wording and rewording to keep from offending some people and being too plebeian for others. Sharpen your pencil, Shawn and get a good eraser.*

### Around Towns

Dale Harmon



The American language, based loosely on English, is a marvel. It is probably one of the most difficult languages to learn for non-natives but within it there/their is most likely a word to/too/two cover every situation. I once asked a friend visiting from Colombia, South America if he'd like to ride to the nursery with me. Always up for adventure, he said sure and hopped into the car. Well, he didn't really hop, which is a method of motivation on one foot, he got into the car. He asked why we were going to see children. He seemed relieved when he learned we were seeking flowers not foundlings. During the ride, he asked "what is a broke arm?" He had learned English in a private school in Colombia, knew no slang and his grammar was perfect. Never did his participles dangle. Not even when he danced the Lam Boda. Those pesky verbs and adjectives were relatively easy to explain. It was a little harder to convey a person being too broke to buy a car and I didn't even delve into the term flat busted.

When I told my son to hurry because we needed to run to the store before dinner he looked stricken. "Can't we take the car?" he asked. He was not being a smarty pants. Children are literal.

My grandmother was always going to fix supper, lunch or breakfast. Sometimes she was even fixing to fix things that were not broke, broken, or flat busted.

To pay homage to my heritage, the 3rd Sunday of each month John and I serve Appalachian fare at breakfast in our inn. Maybe "The Full Monty" or maybe just a dish.

Politics seem to be running completely amok lately. Andrew Johnson felt the bite of impeachment in 1868. It was 1998 when impeachment proceedings were brought against Bill Clinton. Without the requisite number of votes from the Senate, he was acquitted. Sometimes a cigar is just a smoke. POTUS Trump appears sore about his current predicament. The Sweet and Salty Peach Reward with Spiced Gorgonzola Walnuts praise caused my ego to soar. When the government impeaches, not good news. When a guest says "empeaches with that syrup were delish" it is excellent. Keep it in context. See you around Towns!

## Letters to The Editor

### Congratulations, Judge Gunter

Dear Editor,  
The State Bar of Georgia congratulates Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge N. Stanley Gunter on the occasion of his retirement and thanks him for his distinguished service to the people of Lumpkin, Towns, Union and White counties.

When his retirement took effect at the end of September, Judge Gunter had devoted the majority of his 33 years as a member of the State Bar of Georgia to public service, including the past seven years as a Superior Court judge and 11 previous years as district attorney for the Enotah Circuit. He also served his profession as executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia.

Judge Gunter's colleagues in the Georgia legal community appreciate his many contributions during his exemplary service to the public and the justice system. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Sincerely,  
Darrell Sutton  
President, State Bar of Georgia

### Hot Times in September

Dear Editor,  
If you were almost as grumpy as I was about the very hot weather we had throughout September, it turns out that we were quite right about our criticisms of mother nature.

UGA data for the area shows that not only was September 2019 much hotter than previous years, but it was also much hotter than the normally hottest summer months of July and August this year. The UGA website for the area presently shows precise weather stats for every single day starting with January 2003.

Our average maximum temperature for the entire month of September 2019 was 87.57 degrees. The average max temps for August 2019 was 85.4 and July 2019 was 85.31. This September, we had 10 days with temps 90 degrees or more. In August, we had only four 90+ days, and in July, we had none. The September average max temp of 87.57 this year was significantly higher than the September max temp in any year from 2003 through 2018. The average September max temp for the entire '03-'18 period was 79.275. This September, the max average was 8.295 hotter than the past 16-year average. The other weather problem with September '19 was extreme dryness. This year, the total September rainfall amount was a pathetic 0.33 inches. September '19 rainfall amount was less than any individual year in the past 16 years and was nearly four inches less than the average for all the Septembers in that 16-year period.

No wonder we were grumpy. Let's hope we don't see another September like this one.

Jack Glassmyer

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## Partisans

There are some days we just don't like democrats and republicans, and today is one of those days. That doesn't mean that we don't vote like they do from time to time. We even agree with them on occasion. Most of the time we genuinely like the folks who wear the hats or put the stickers on their bumpers.

Pressed for an opinion, we might say that what we really despise is the national organizations that claim to lead the two parties which have come to dominate the country's narratives. (When do we ever have to press anyone for an opinion these days?) Apparently a lot of people feel the same way, because the single largest group of voters in America identify as independents.

Just shy of a quarter of eligible voters say that they are republicans, and a bit less than a third say they are democrats. These numbers have been in decline over the last 15 years as the level of disgust with politics and politicians has steadily increased. It's no coincidence that trust in media has fallen in an even steeper trajectory than trust in politicians.

If you really wanted to discuss the subject, we might go on to say that Webster defines "partisan" as "a firm adherent to a party, faction, cause, or person, especially one exhibiting blind, prejudiced, and unreasoning allegiance." If you want to get technical about it, that's the real problem with democrats and republicans, or if you prefer, with republicans and democrats. We rarely get that far in the conversation, however. As Steven Covey said, most people don't listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.

The other day we read an article by John Pavlovitz called "Pick a Hill Worth Dying On, America." Apparently a lot of people read it. Many people posted it without reading it, which rarely happens, of course. Some of our friends gushed about it. It made us kind of ill. Wikipedia told us that John is a pastor who writes from a "liberal Christian perspective." If you love irony as much as we do, your spider sense is tingling right now. When there were just a few Christians in the world, they were considered the most radical of all the liberal groups that the Romans had ever seen, but like Hannah Arendt said, "The most radical revolutionary will become a conservative the day after the revolution."

Back to the article in question. It does have some positive things to say about good people crossing the lines of politics, faith and race in order to do good things. However, the primary "good thing" we're encouraged to die on the hill for, is to do whatever is necessary to avert the disaster currently being visited upon us.

You might not be aware of the disaster to which the author refers, and be advised: If you're not currently experiencing a "paralyzing funk of grief and sadness and disbelief," then chances are you're complicit in the litany of evils the article mentions. Or so the author would have us believe.

It's not our intention to single out this article in an effort to call out liberals or democrats. There are many examples of similar articles written from a conservative or republican perspective (though we stopped reading Fox News when they started reporting Miley Cyrus' latest fling right below their own righteous indignation section). Such offerings follow a similar pattern that aligns almost perfectly with the Karpman Drama Triangle of victim, rescuer, and persecutor.

Let's take a short trip around the triangle. The "nazis" are marching in the streets again. We're tired of being victimized by the nazis and we're not going to take it anymore, so we're going to pick a hill to die on to save humanity. Everyone wants to be either a victim or a rescuer, but nobody wants to be a persecutor. Too bad. The triangle is always on the move. The only way to rescue the victims is to persecute the persecutor, which makes us the persecutor and the persecutor becomes the victim. Around and around we go, from democrat to republican governments and back again. Meanwhile the apolitical types are laughing at us, all the way to the bank, which, after all, is a very, very short trip indeed.

The good pastor's article was not remarkable in its sanctimony. Not remarkable at all. Conpublicans and reservatives should not feel victimized by it, unless they have forgotten their own insufferable righteousness in their past treatment of Libocrats and Democrats, and by "past" we mean yesterday, though their own pharisaical attitude reached a crescendo when the "Moral Majority" set the agenda in Washington. What goes around has a strong tendency to come around.

We're waiting, ever waiting, for someone to rediscover a more humble path for the redemption of whatever ills are considered to be plaguing the nation. We might begin with a deep breath of gratitude for the luxury of being able to consider such questions from the air conditioned comfort of our living rooms, minus the distraction of exploding American made munitions around us, or the necessity of carrying a bucket of water on our heads for a few miles so our children can have a drink.

From gratitude we might move on to empathy for our fellow citizens and the admission, as much as it galls us, that they also have a right to their opinions; that those opinions are just as carefully considered as our own, and that they are just as sincere in their efforts to affect change as we are in ours. It would serve us well not to linger on our disagreements. We have mapped those out quite clearly. Let's focus instead on our common ground and see if we can expand that. In the meantime, whenever we encounter a voice reminiscent of a Civil War preacher from either side of the War Between the States, a voice that encourages us to partisanship, a voice that extols us to die on a hill in service of a Great Cause, a voice that opens a broad, indiscriminate, vilifying umbrella over a group of voters or a political party or a way of thinking, a voice that raises straw men and invites us to knock them down, we should ignore that voice.

Better still, we should laugh at it. "There is no compromise with evil," say the voices of those people standing in the "light." (Or at least the spotlight.) We think they doth protest too much. Maybe they are closer to true evil than they would care to admit. So go ahead and laugh. It relieves the stress, and it's also an ancient "litmus test" of sorts. The devil, said our ancestors, relishes anger, fear, and conflict, but he can't stand to be laughed at.

Judge for yourself. Here's the article that provided the helium for my balloon this week (I'm hearing "chipmunk" voices vis-à-vis helium ingestion). Cheer, snarl, or have a good chuckle.

### The Middle Path

By: Don Perry  
onthemiddlepath.com

## Deer Health and CWD

I'm sure that everyone knows that we have a lot of deer in Towns and Union counties. With the amount of deer that we have there are going to be some unhealthy deer out there. Let's talk about how to keep deer diseases from passing to you, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), and bovine tuberculosis.



There are some common sense guidelines when it comes to deer health. If you're a hunter it's always best to wear gloves when field-dressing wild fowl or game. Don't eat game that looks ill or is acting abnormally before you take it. Deer carry ticks and hunters in the woods are vulnerable to ticks because of the time spent in the woods. Using tick repellent is always a good idea. Always wash your hands with an alcohol-based sanitizer after handling deer tissues or meat. If you see old wounds on the carcass, the area around that spot should be discarded. Be careful about intestinal contents contacting meat, because they will contaminate it.

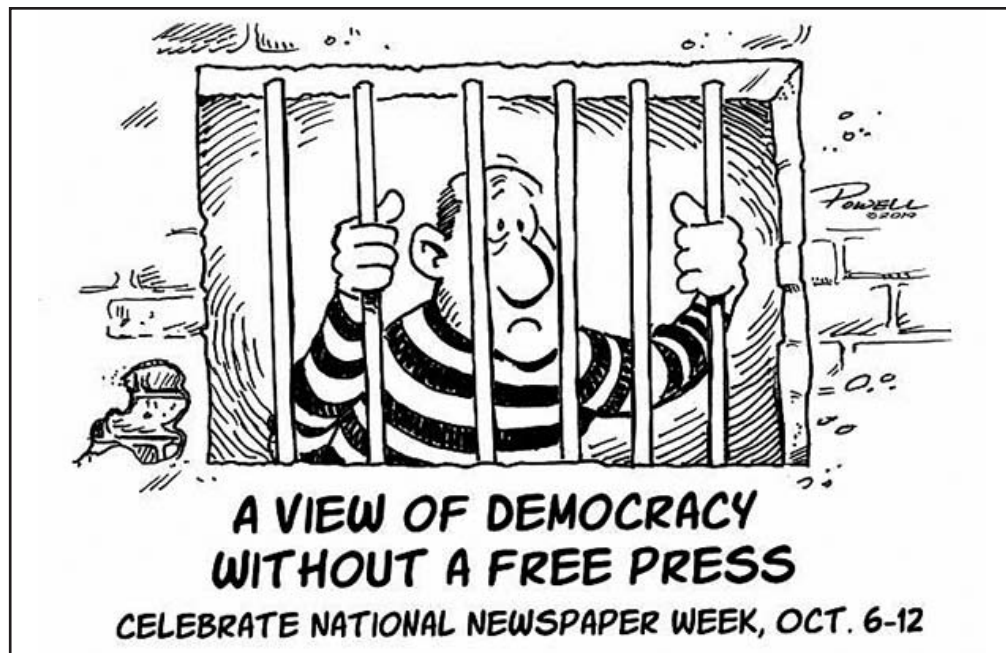
Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is causing a lot of concern in the U.S. right now. It affects deer, elk, reindeer, sika deer, and moose. The main concern in the Southeast with CWD is whitetail deer. To this point there has NOT been any CWD reported in Georgia. It has been reported in three counties in west Tennessee, and six counties in Northwest Mississippi. Unfortunately, wildlife experts believe it is just a matter of time before it arrives in Georgia, which is why DNR is being vigilant in monitoring for it.

It is believed that CWD is spread between animals through contact with contaminated body fluids, tissue, or indirectly by exposure to CWD in drinking water or food. It's thought that baiting deer could increase the spread of CWD. Deer coming to bait stations will most likely exchange saliva or contaminate the food. CWD has an incubation period of over a year before the neurological symptoms begin to develop. The symptoms of CWD are drastic weight loss, stumbling, lack of coordination, listlessness, drooling, excessive thirst or urination, drooping ears, lack of fear of people. An easier way to remember the symptoms is the deer look as if they are drunk. These symptoms also happen because of other diseases and malnutrition.

CWD is always fatal for deer. There has not been any strong evidence of it transmitting to domesticated animals or humans. If it were to spread to people, it would most likely happen because of eating infected meat. Therefore, if you take a deer that is expressing symptoms it's best to not eat the deer and report it to DNR.

Deer can also carry bovine tuberculosis (TB). Bovine TB can be transmitted to humans but it is rare. Less than 2% of TB cases in the U.S. are bovine TB. Bovine TB can be contracted by someone when field dressing a deer and inhaling the pathogen. Bovine TB is also transmitted by eating or drinking unpasteurized dairy products.

If you see a deer that you believe has CWD report it to DNR. If you have questions about CWD or deer health contact your county Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.



## 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
	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
	Second Tuesday of each month:	
Conv./Vis. Bureau	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
	Second Wednesday of each month:	
Basket Weavers	SC Fire Hall	10 am
USCG Aux.	Senior Center	7 pm
	Second Thursday of each month:	
Hiaw Writers	Hiaw Pk. Comm. Rm.	10:30
Awake America Prayer	Civic Center	Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	6 pm
	Third Monday of each month:	
Hospital Auxiliary	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Planning Comm.	Civic Center	6 pm
MOAA	Michael email mva62sgn@brmemc.net	

## 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 Hiawasee, 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, Hiawasee, GA 30546.

Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawasee  
Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: tcherald@windstream.net  
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