

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Important Communicable Alert

There is something contagious in the air and it is rapidly spreading. Some people are more susceptible than others.

The slick, bright yellow tri-fold titled Antiquing Road Trip riveted my eyes the moment I walked into the shop.

Black, easy-to-read lettering and a picture of an engaging, tree-lined mountain road on the cover were appealing. What really got me going was, "Your Guide to Discovering the Best Antiques and Collectibles in the North Georgia and Western North Carolina Mountains." An area was being designated and presented. It intrigued me and instantly brought to my mind the quote of Ben Franklin, "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately." Now before you tell me that the American Revolutionary War was much direr than the prosperity of our little piece of the Appalachian Mountain Chain, principles are adaptable to situations. Lives can be altered with the thriving or closing of one business. The collaboration of different owners in the same business, in different counties and even different states, struck a sweet note for me.

I wanted to learn more.

I could tell that the people responsible were smart and business minded. Via the included phone number for Hiawassee Antique Mall, a call was placed to Emily, the Mall's Director of Marketing. The gentleman who answered said, "Emily, it's for you. Somebody from the IRS." At that, I knew they also had a sense of humor. Emily graciously allowed my questions about the conception of such a grand and useful idea.

Dale: What sparked the multi-business advertising?

Emily: We had so many visitors who were at the antiques and collectibles shops are in the area, and we realized no dedicated information existed.

D: But how did you come to include competition, let alone in other cities and states?

E: If we're strong and support each other, it can only help us all.

D: So you consider each other as colleagues, not adversaries?

E: Correct. We may not carry sought after items but if we know who does and direct shoppers to them, other merchants will return the favor. Our reputation as an antiques and collectibles area will grow and flourish.

D: Did everyone you approached participate?

E: No Most, but not all. For various reasons.

As Emily and I talked, several merchants called inquiring about the new upcoming campaign with an updated map. By pooling resources, both monetary and mental, these people in the same business promote each other and represent a friendly, united industry. Enthusiastic cooperation is contagious. Maybe we'll have an outbreak!

See you around Towns and Surround.

Letters to The Editor

Phony Polls

Dear Editor,

I find it amusing that those with an agenda can always find a poll to support their position. You can pretty much obtain any result you wish simply by how you phrase your question. Does anyone here in the mountains really believe that over two thirds of the people in our country consider that "climate change" is at crisis levels? Does anyone here in the mountains really believe that taxing carbon will not result in a substantial increase in the price of electricity, natural gas (propane), gasoline, jet fuel, plastics, & everyday items that contain or are hydrocarbon based? Do you think the citizenry here really want the government to impose an arbitrary tax on carbon & redistribute a portion of those funds to a favored class of individuals?

So let me get this straight; the tax payers of our region are being asked to allow the "ruling class" in government (and its crony-capitalist affiliated partners) to control our energy sources, our methods of transportation, our freedom to purchase the products we choose..... our free market economy, all in the name of the "man-made climate change" hoax!..... Wonder how the poll would turn out if we phrased the question that way?

Kevin P. Cannon

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.

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!
Contact us at 706-896-4454
Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM



Only the Shadow Knows

We can't see truth in politics, but we can see its shadow.

The formal definition of politics is the "art or science of government," which seems like a worthy, almost noble pursuit. When we watch politics play out in the real world it comes across like the label on a sausage wrapper with the comforting voice of Jimmy Dean talking about "that good mornin' feelin'." But when we peek into the back door at the sausage factory, what we see is not very appetizing at all.

We've grown weary of being shocked and offended by daily revelations of shocking and offensive behavior in the political realm, but we just can't seem to look away. That's on us. However, we could choose to see the humor in the spectacle instead. There is plenty to laugh at. Granted, some of our apparent mirth is bound to be nervous laughter. People get hurt in the political process. We forget sometimes that public figures are human beings with families. We forget that here at home more often than a good and kind community of people should.

The one unforgivable sin in Towns County is the sin of winning an election, and with some elected offices in particular, public service apparently includes subjecting your family to the worst kind of rumor and false witness. False witness, by the way, has been considered sin for a lot longer than social media and public forum websites have been around. If your ears are burning, good. It's easier to laugh at the actors on the national stage, much farther removed and unlikely to be seen at the local market, though some of those national actors are rumored to be human beings with families as well. But in order to enjoy the spectacle, we have to learn not to take things so personally, and to accomplish that we have to divest ourselves of the notion that politicians behaving badly is a new and unusual occurrence.

Campaigning for the office of president in 1800, Vice President Thomas Jefferson said that President Adams was a "hideous hermaphroditical character, which has neither the force and firmness of a man, nor the gentleness and sensibility of a woman." Adams said that Vice President Jefferson was "a mean-spirited, low-lived fellow, the son of a half-breed Indian squaw, sired by a Virginia mulatto father." And we thought Hillary calling Tulsi Gabbard a "Russian asset" was bad. Or funny. Did you see the interview that started the word war? While affecting a false modesty reminiscent of Uriah Heep (the fictional character, not the band) Hillary suggested that Representative Gabbard, a Major in the Army National Guard, was being groomed by the Russians. Major Gabbard was quick to reply, saying, "You, the queen of warmongers, embodiment of corruption, and personification of the rot that has sickened the Democratic Party for so long, have finally come out from behind the curtain." Incidentally, Gabbard is the only candidate, aside from the President himself, who has consistently talked about disengaging the American military industrial complex for ever war. Chances are she means it, which makes her the natural enemy of CNN and the New York Times, among others. But don't hold your breath. The Representative is polling below 2% in most polls and recruits are training right now who were not born when our engagement in Afghanistan began. Let's take a step back and look at this exchange from a different angle. Did you see the shadow? Was that truth moving behind the scenes, casting a shadow that is the political process? Was Hillary attempting to clear the field for herself or for another candidate more supportive of business as usual? Who will the next "Russian asset" be? Bernie Sanders? Elizabeth Warren, perhaps?

Are you laughing yet, or were you offended that someone dared to criticize your favorite celebrity/candidate?

Don't take it so personally. If it helps, we'll make a few observations about the president. We like to be equal opportunity offenders. "Removing troops from Syria" apparently means moving them next door to Iraq, but leaving enough behind to protect "the oil." President Trump, it has been observed, is one of the most honest presidents in history. Now you're laughing. Or choking. We'll wait while you get a drink of water. Full disclosure, we laughed when wrote that. But seriously folks, if we disregard his almost habitual statements of untruth, exaggeration and hyperbole, Trump may be the most "honest" president since Eisenhower, if you listen to what he's actually saying: We sent the troops. We paid for the bombs. We're keeping the oil. Maybe we'll send in one of our big oil companies to do it right. We don't really need the oil ourselves, but we're not going to let anyone else have it.

There are times when President Trump opens the doors to the sausage factory, turns up the lights and conducts guided tours. This makes him the natural enemy of several established interests that prefer to remain out of sight, though they do cast big shadows. Some of you will vehemently disagree, but as we count down another year of bad actors auditioning for a poorly written soap opera, some relief may be found in the notion that it really doesn't matter who gets to be president. Think about it. Look at the situation like a comptroller or an accountant instead of a social justice warrior or a disgruntled audience member who can't get a refund for the ticket. We'll argue about this later.

But for now, let's agree that there are undoubtedly as many laudable motives behind the desire to be President of the United States as there are candidates. The same is true for every elected office right down to the local level. But the ultimate prize is the chance to play a role on the stage, maybe even do a bit of directing. And hardly anyone ever left public office poorer than when they entered it. So the competition will continue to be fierce. The democrats started with over 20 candidates hoping to act on that stage, but like politicians everywhere and as far back in time as we care to look, they have acted more like crabs in a bucket than statesmen. There is nothing unusual here. They are no different than republicans or any other party's candidates in this respect. If you've ever caught crabs and put them in a bucket, you'll know that it's not necessary to put a lid on that bucket if you have more than one crab. One by itself might easily climb out of the bucket, but any more than that and they will pull down any individual that looks like it might make it to the top.

There are better things to do this time of year than worry about politics. The weather is changing. The days are crisp and the nights are cool. The leaves are taking on color, and the holidays are just around the corner. But if politics is your thing, do remember not to take it so personally, and enjoy the spectacle as much as you can. Halloween is almost here, and who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?

The Middle Path
By: Don Perry
onthemiddlepath.com

Bats

In the vein of talking about spooky creatures around Halloween, I'm going to talk about bats! Bats usually creep us out. They can be a pest if they get into your attic. However, they are also good at mosquito control, and mosquitoes are the real bloodsuckers that I don't want to have. Let's talk about bats, how to keep them out of your attic, the services they provide, and how to build a bat nest.

In Georgia we have 16 different species of bats. The gray myotis and Indiana myotis are both endangered. Several of the others are species of concern, due to low population. A single bat can eat hundreds of mosquitoes in one hour. They will also eat moths and beetles that cause damage to crops and trees. A couple of bat species have specific requirements for humidity and temperature. Those will reside in caves. Otherwise, bats are opportunistic in finding lodging. These bats may roost in dead trees, old barns, or in your attic.

Bats don't cause problems in the house by gnawing or chewing. Their droppings do cause an odor. If you have bats in your house, avoid using exclusion practices from April 1st through July 31st. This is the maternity season for bats. If you put up a one-way door to keep them out during that time you will likely trap flightless pups inside your house. Openings that bats have used for a long time will usually have brown discoloration along the sides. There are a couple of different types of one-way doors that you can use. The first one is a mesh covering. Secure the top and sides of the mesh, but leave the bottom open. This way bats exiting will be able to squirm out through the bottom, but not be able to get back in. If you have openings in tight spaces outside you can use pipe (PVC, flexible, caulking tube) that is 2 inches in diameter and 10 inches long. Insert the pipe about a 1/4 inch into the opening and secure it with caulking, staple, nails, or screws. Bats will be able to exit through the pipes, but not fly back into them.

Sometimes it can be difficult to completely bat proof your home. Bats can enter through holes that are as small as half an inch. If you are continuously going through the process of excluding bats and then finding new ones, you may want to buy a bat box to house those bats outside your home. Or you may want to buy a bat box so that you can have bats to eat the mosquitoes around your home. Bat boxes are placed about 15-20 feet off the ground in a spot that gets lots of sunlight. Make sure that the box stays wasp free, because they are a nuisance to bats. It can take a couple of years for bats to move into a bat box. Also, use a bat box that is a dark color because it will absorb more sunlight and be warmer. Bats like it to be 80-100 degrees inside the house. Bat boxes are fairly easy to build. <http://free.woodworking-plans.org/bat-house-plans.html> has plans if you'd like to build one.

If you have questions about bats in your home contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

UGA extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



"I told you not to go as Uncle Sam. Folks think they've given him enough already!"

Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Sharp UMC (Men)	7 pm
	Every Wednesday	
Alcoholics Anon.	Hiawassee UMC	Noon
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
	Third Tuesday of each month:	
YH Plan Comm.	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
	Third Wednesday of each month:	
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
Book Bunch & Lunch	Daniels Steakhouse	11:30 am
	Third Thursday of each month:	
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party	Civic Center	5:30 pm
	Third Saturday of each month:	
Goldwing Riders	Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
	Fourth Monday of each month:	
Red Cross DAT	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
	Fourth Tuesday of each month:	
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
	Fourth Thursday	
Hiaw. Writers	Hiaw. Pk. Comm. Rm.	10:30
Hiaw. Garden Club	Clubhouse	12:45 pm
	Last Thursday of each month:	
Humane Shelter Bd.	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

Towns County Herald

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