

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Honoring America

There are various and asunder ways and means to honor our Sovereign Republic, our United States of America. Of those there is nothing of more importance and honoring those men and women who have volunteered and are actively on duty 24/7/365, serving all of us in one of our six military services.



The Veterans' Corner Scott Drummond USCG Veteran

Most of them, no doubt had other "job" choices to pursue, however recognizing that there exists unique opportunities far greater than self and a duty to God and Country prompted the majority of these fine upstanding Americans to enlist. That being said, there are many

Veterans amongst us who never volunteered, they were drafted into military service, many sent into combat. This practice came to an end in 1973. Many of my personal friends and associates were drafted, and of them, some were left with a bad taste in their mouths.

However, God Bless their souls, they served with honor, doing was ordered for our nation, certainly NOT for the political class, which create problems leading us into dire straits often into war, needlessly at times in our history. All our Veterans who served our great nation, honorably need to be respected and honored.

Personally I know some Veterans that I may disagree with on a personal basis for whatever the reason may be. Nevertheless those often petty reasons pale in comparison to my respect and honor for those individuals. This is as it should be for each and every American.

Here, in our North Georgia mountain region we are blessed to have a preponderance of Veterans living with us as friends, neighbors and working in various locations we do business with.

Also in Towns County we have VFW Post 7807 and several outstanding VSOs therein, such as VFW, VFW Auxiliary, American Legion Post 23, American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion Riders, Sons of American Legion and many friends, associates and visitors.

Of those in our VSOs, who work and plan many events and provide volunteers, plus others along with citizens of our North Georgia region will have the annual, nationally recognized opportunity to show respect, honor and love of, not only our Veterans but America the Beautiful this forthcoming Veterans Day, at our Towns County Veterans Memorial Park. As always November 11, the Eleventh hour.

Please set aside that day to honor America. I plan on writing more specifics for that worthwhile event in the Towns County Herald of November 9, 2022, as another reminder to NEVER FORGET! - Semper Paratus

Letters To The Editor

Death Wish III

Dear Editor,

Humans have a psychopathic death wish when the only effective reduction in greenhouse gases is by COVID-19 pandemic deaths, as when China treats the virus by a total shutdown. And the U.S. "solution" is to hold the world's record in deaths by the virus.

Meanwhile, oil wars are endless, militarism keeps spreading and the MADness problem threatens human extinction.

Lance Jobson

Straight to the Heart of the Matter

Dear Editor,

As Joe Biden approaches his 80th birthday next month, it is quite evident that Biden's lack of cognitive functions are apparent even to the casual observer. Ever since he became president we have seen him falling upstairs trying to board Air Force One, falling off a stationary bike at his home retreat in Delaware, shouting obscenities at reporters or whispering to the microphone during a speech while hugging his cheat sheet. He rambles on about climate change as a threat to the world, but Biden's cognitive decline is far more dangerous to the safety of the world.

Whether he has dementia or not, a majority of the American people thinks he does, and that weakens the United States among our international allies and enemies alike.

Clearly Biden has several of the common symptoms of dementia: memory loss, changes in planning and problem-solving abilities, difficulty completing everyday tasks, and confusion about time or place.

How much longer must we watch him wandering around lost on stage after giving a speech? It's shocking that the Democratic Party has placed America in such a dangerous position with a feckless part-time president who appears not to be all there most of the time. As destructive as Biden has been with respect to the economy, inflation, gas prices and a wide-open southern border, the White House continues to pretend there is nothing to see, and the mainstream media pretends he is running for reelection in 2024.

And to add insult to injury, his affirmative action Cabinet has been derelict in their duty as well. The Constitution designates them as the ones who must begin the process of utilizing the 25th Amendment.

Come on man, Biden can't even remember their names. It was apparent from the get-go that Biden has never been up to the world's most difficult job. His behavior has already cost lives. Remember Afghanistan!

The people that pushed Biden to run for President should be charged with elder abuse.

Tim Groza

Classifieds SELL! 706-896-4454



Another Trip Around the Sun

As I neared the completion of another trip around the sun, Tracey asked me where I wanted to go on my birthday this year. "Home," I replied.

We exited the house early that morning and walked in the forest that surrounds us.

Endless blue sky and crystalline air framed the prismatic proof of the Creator's handiwork. Trees which knew nothing of this year's predictions of peak color slowed our pace in frequent pauses to admire. In the perfect stillness of an exquisite fall day, in the crunch of leaves, the loquacious chattering of the creek, every breath was a prayer of gratitude.

Deep in the woods there is a moss-covered old stack of rocks, all that remains of a homestead. A family was born here. Children played, laughed and cried, and dreamed of what might be outside their isolated little cove hidden away beneath the tall hickories. Sometimes, when it is very quiet, you can still hear their voices in the babble of the creek and the rustle of the leaves.

Every one of those children has passed on now, and their grandchildren are starting families of their own. Few will ever return to the mouldering pile of rocks where their family took root, or even think of it amidst the worries and distractions of the Pixel Age. But for a brief time, it was the most important place on earth for those to whom it was home and hearth.

To the mountain, we ephemerals pass by like the breeze, almost unnoticeable were it not for the scars we leave behind. The mountain remembers other generations that hoped and dreamed on its shoulders. If you dig beneath the rocks of the old chimney, you might find an arrowhead, or a bit of soapstone shaped by a hand lost in the dreamtime of eons past. It was a hand identical to ours, moved by a spirit that hoped and feared and struggled as we do. It reached out to caress, or to strike a blow in anger. It wondered, as we do, "Why am I here," and "What else is there?" The answers to those questions, and every other concern of that forgotten soul, gone like the mist that disappears in the morning sun.

There are many places on earth where the collective ambitions of people long gone have left more noticeable evidence of their concerns. Pyramids and tombs and things carved in stone, things quarried and smelted and shaped have stood the test of time to pass along their stories. There are hints in language and untold stories in our genes. But for most of humanity, our stories are lost, absorbed into the compost of the ages.

And what of our civilization? What will survive of our preoccupation and pride? We have forgotten how to shape stone. We ended the age of the printing press by making books that dissolved into pulp. No rolled parchments will be found in clay jars to tell future generations our story. Our sheet metal buildings will rust into the ground, but not before our particle board walls have turned to dust. Every pixel of the virtual world into which we pour out the essence of our beings can disappear with one mad finger on the button of destruction, and into the mist of electrons will go all our politics, every one-name celebrity, every "influencer," fad and fashion. Gone forever.

If we do survive to pass on our genes, what will future archaeologists find? In all likelihood the forensic investigation of thick, widely scattered layers of garbage, plastic bottles and toxic chemicals will tell our story. What name will be given to the layer of pollution and radiation future geologists will find between layers of ash?

Questions to ponder but fading quickly in the warm sunshine. A better question is what to do with the time that is given us, as we mark our next personal journeys around the sun. I'm tempted to make a pile of rocks somewhere deep in the woods, learn to carve an arrowhead, or scratch my name on a stone, but that would be vanity and vexation. Better to enjoy the beauty of the day and attend to the soul to which this beauty has been given.

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 P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546 Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net

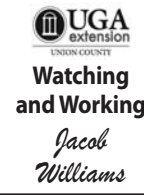
Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste.

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.

Composting

Compost is a welcome addition to any garden. It's a popular and effective method to improve the quality of your soil. It can also help you get rid of lawn debris such as grass clippings or leaves as they are beginning to fall. Composting is not difficult to do, but here are some tips so that you can start your own compost pile.



Watching and Working Jacob Williams

Compost is rich, dark humus that is the end product of the natural decomposition of plants or plant products. Using a compost pile will speed up the natural decomposition of plant material. Compost can improve soil drainage, structure, and help hold water and nutrients. The nutrients in compost will not be enough to replace fertilizing, but they can reduce fertilizing.

You can use just about any organic material for composting. Leaves, grass clippings, twigs, old annual or perennial flowers, old vegetable plants, straw, and sawdust can all be thrown into the compost pile. Try to avoid using insect or disease infested plants to reduce the spread of those plants the following season. You can put things like kitchen peelings and coffee grounds into the compost pile too. Kitchen scraps should be buried into existing compost so that they don't attract too many wild animals. Covering your compost pile will help keep animals out too. Avoid using highly processed foods because these will take longer to break down.

When making a compost pile, it's helpful to have something to contain it. A lot of different materials can be used from wire, fencing, wood pallets or concrete blocks. Leave some open spaces on the sides for ventilation. Good air circulation is important for successful compost. The bottom of the pile needs to be open to the soil to allow good drainage. Construct your pile in an out of the way place in your yard, in full sun.

Once you've constructed your container for the compost pile, start adding organic matter. Smaller pieces will decompose more quickly than large pieces of organic matter. Once you have a layer of organic matter in there add in some garden soil or animal manure. These will add fungi, bacteria, insects, and worms to the pile. They're the critters responsible for breaking down the plant material into the humus that you add to your garden. You'll want to keep the pile moist, but not soggy.

Sometimes a concern with compost piles is that there might be an odor. If you turn the pile with a shovel at least once a month this will reduce the smell. A good functioning compost pile will heat up from the activity of the microbes decomposing organic matter. The heat produced will kill off the odor causing bacteria. If you add manure to your pile there will be some initial odor, but as the pile matures the smell will go away. A well maintained compost pile should not have a strong odor.

Once the compost has a crumbly earth look and you can no longer recognize the plant material it's ready to be added to the garden. If you add the organic material over time the compost will become ready a little at a time. If you have questions about creating or maintaining your compost pile contact your county Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Habitat for Humanity

The importance of financial literacy is an undervalued skill set that creates a foundation for individuals and families and determines the economic wellbeing of generations. According to possiblefinance.com, 4 out of 7 Americans are financially illiterate and report an inability to manage finances. Only 24% of millennials understand basic finance concepts. Due to an ever changing economy and technological advances within our society, financial literacy should be a lifelong continued education in order to break the cycles of economic discrepancies. Between 2019 and 2020, there was a 47% increase in identity theft and fraud. Every year, senior citizens lose \$3 billion dollars to financial scams and frauds.



Habitat Happenings Executive Director Charlotte Randall

Financial education provides the ability to cope with financial crises and promotes economic wellbeing, and an increase in financial responsibility. Standardized financial education is now required in 24 states, however the need for continued financial education throughout a lifetime is crucial to economic stability. Providing basic financial concepts and tools to individuals will facilitate a stronger community and pave the way for the ability to become a homeowner.

Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties will be partnering with Southstate bank to host a financial literacy course on December 10. Stop by our Restore at 225 Wellborn Street in Blairsville to RSVP for the event, or visit our Facebook page to RSVP. The USDA Rural Development coordinator from Clarkesville, GA office will also be in attendance to answer any questions on first time homebuyer loans. Chick-fil-A breakfast will also be provided.

Tony Dyer, Senior Vice President of Southstate bank in Blue Ridge, states, "We are honored to partner with Habitat for Humanity as it relates to the Financial Literacy curriculum for our community. Simply, it is a privilege, and more importantly, the right thing to do as we continue to build upon the investments we make in our local communities. Our team is very excited about the partnership."

HFHTUC is dedicated into strengthening individuals and families in the community. The first step in homeownership is to become aware of the credit requirements involved in a home loan. We encourage everyone in our community to attend and participate. The investment in the betterment of our community is the way forward to grow and support our society as a whole.

The Towns County Herald is an independent and non-partisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Kenneth West Owner/Publisher Shawn Jarrard General Manager/Editor

Derek Richards Advertising Director Jordan Hyatt Office Manager

Todd Forrest Staff Writer Lowell Nicholson Photographer

Publication No: 635540

Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.

Towns County (1 Year) \$30. Out of County (1 Year) \$40. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, 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, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawassee Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: tcherald@windstream.net Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546