

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Time to Break for Christmas

Christmas Eve, December 1914 WWI on the Western Front of one of the bloodiest wars ever up through the time; if they could do it, why can't we all? And if it can be done for a day, why not all year round?

The Veterans' Corner Scott Drummond USCG Veteran



What am I rambling about? The historic "Christmas Truce" of WWI. A British machine gunner, Bruce Bairnfather told the world about it from his memoirs of that brutal time. Those muddy miserable trenches were unfortunately the tortured homes of soldiers on both sides of this conflict.

At about 10 PM Christmas EVE all this changed when voices were heard all across the killing fields singing songs and Christmas carols. Then German soldiers were calling out for British and allies to meet them and rejoice.

Of course all this was unauthorized by high command, not to be excluded from this criticism, was one German soldier of hate, named Adolph Hitler who severely scolded his fellow soldiers with, "Such a thing should not happen in wartime. Have you no German sense of honor left?"

Please take note there were over fifteen million lives lost in that war, "The Great War to end all Wars", which of course it didn't.

Blessings to ALL in our wonderful North Georgia Mountain community who sent prayers up for my wonderful wife, Sherry and her battle against the brutish killer we all rightfully hate, cancer. It's been a tough year. I'm afraid there will never be a "Christmas Break" in that war which inadvertently affects so many of us.

Semper Paratus

'Tis the Season, Again...

We gather often this time of year. We visit our friends and families. We go to office parties. We attend more church services. We go to stores and shopping malls and we make twice as many trips to the grocery store as usual.

The Middle Path By: Don Perry onthemiddlepath.com

The spread of cold and flu viruses is a natural consequence of the season. But there are two factors which contribute heavily to the spread of disease, and both of them are avoidable. The two things we're going to talk about this week are: Stupidity and selfishness.

"But you have to understand, some people can't afford to miss work, and they might not get paid for being home sick!"

I understand. I also understand that for the elderly and people with compromised immune systems, getting the flu is far more than an inconvenience. I understand that some people who do get paid sick days at work use them for paid mini vacations, and when they really do get sick, they show up for work.

Exposure to cold and flu viruses is unavoidable. Being selfish and stupid is entirely avoidable. If you're sick, STAY HOME. It doesn't matter how bored you get or how bad your cabin fever becomes.

Probably the best we can hope for, however, is to better manage our own behavior during flu season, and common sense is a good guide. We can shop during hours when there are fewer people in the stores (and most of us could shop less this time of year).

Today the flu season is an inconvenience for most of us. It will be a death sentence for some. Some day the stakes may be higher when a pandemic stalks the public spaces.

Dogwoods

This week I am going to talk about dogwoods. Dogwoods are always a favorite of mine in the spring. They also have great fall color in their deep red leaves.

UGA extension Watching and Working Jacob Williams



The showy flowers on dogwoods are actually not flowers. They are bracts that turn white. Bracts are usually there to support the flower. The actual flower is in the center of the four white, showy bracts.

Dogwood varieties are split into white bracts and red/pink bracts. Some white bracted varieties are Barton, Cherokee Princess, Bay Beauty, and Welchii. Some red/pink bracted varieties are American Beauty Red, Cherokee Sunset, and Junior Miss.

Since they are native, dogwoods are well adapted to the soils that we have in the mountains. However, there are a couple of things to keep in mind if you are selecting a site to plant them. They do like well-drained soils, so planting them in a place with some slope will help.

The most common insect pest dogwoods have is the dogwood borer. It's a moth that in the caterpillar stage will bore into trees. The best prevention is to make sure you don't damage the bark of the tree with lawn mowers or weed eaters.

Kousa dogwoods have become popular because of their brilliant blooms in the spring. They will put on a ton of large flowers. Our native dogwoods are Cornus florida and the kousa dogwood is Cornus kousa.

If you are ever in Chattanooga on the Incline Railway there are some beautiful dogwoods planted along the ascent. Dogwoods are beneficial to wildlife and well adapted to our environment, so they are a great choice for planting.

Letters to The Editor

Response to Two Letters

Dear Editor,

Two letters in last week's paper entitled "Carbon Tax Scam" and "I'm from the Government" are very disheartening since they do not take seriously the grave, observable threat of climate change as reported recently by several international, national and state scientific organizations.

While many cities, towns, states, private companies and our military are already making plans to counter the effects of climate change, the current administration refuses to admit its existence and has withdrawn the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accords - the only country of the of the United Nations to do so. The only way to effectively combat climate change is by all of us: private citizens and companies as well as local, state and federal governments, working together.

Bob Dalsemer

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.

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.

Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridiculed previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*

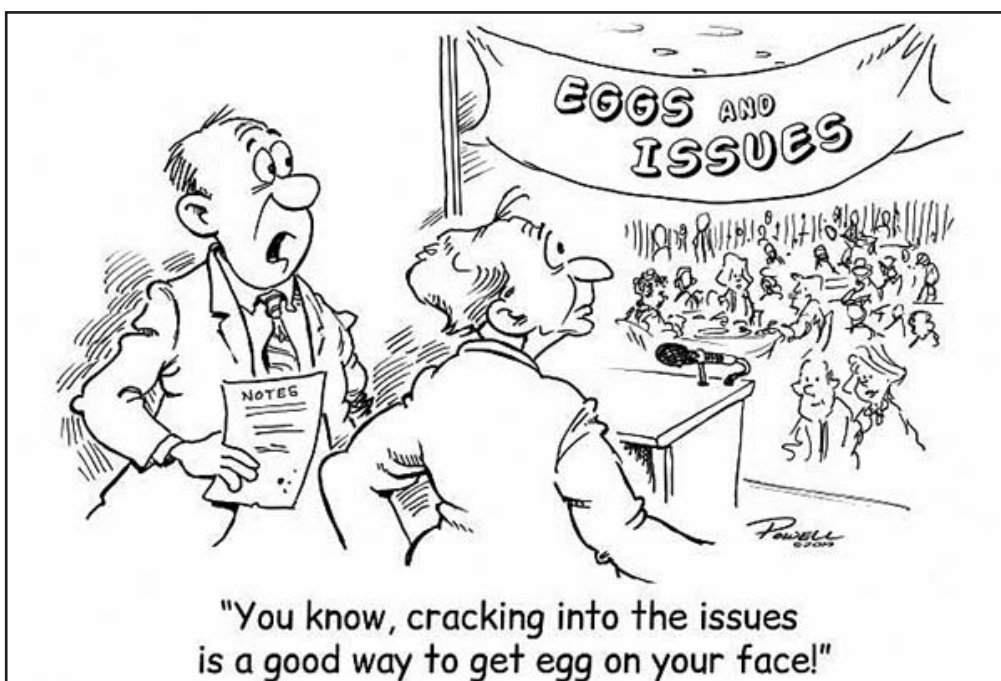
Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

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Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM



Towns County Community Calendar

Table with 3 columns: Activity, Day/Time, and Location. Includes events like Bridge Players, Free GED prep, Alcoholics Anon., Hiaw Writers, etc.

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Towns County Herald

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Table listing staff members: Kenneth West (Owner/Publisher), Shawn Jarrard (Editor), Mark Smith (Staff Writer), Chad Stack (Sports), Derek Richards (Advertising Director), Shawn Henrikson (Copy Editor), Todd Forrest (Sports), Lowell Nicholson (Photographer).