

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Perpetual Military History

Events occurring on December 11 are of utmost importance to our nation, men and women who stepped up to sacrifice. Never forget our history, our Veterans, especially those who never came home!

The Veterans' Corner
 Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



1941 – Germany and Italy declare war on the United States. Shortly afterward, the US Congress issues a declaration of war against Germany and Italy.

1941 – A Japanese invasion fleet attacked Wake Island, which was defended by 439 US marines, 75 sailors and 6 soldiers. The defenders sank 4 Japanese ships, damaged 8 and destroyed a submarine.

1941 – Guam was occupied by Japanese troops.
 1941-Adolf Hitler declares war on our USA, which under FDR had mirrored Neville Chamberlain and maintained neutrality to both the NAZI and Japanese threats. Hitler had already made an agreement with Japan in an Axis partnership war against our USA. Hitler was unsure of how that would unveil, but the sneak attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor occurring the morning of December 7, 1941 answered that question. Hitler blamed Roosevelt's failed "New Deal" policy for our entering the war against the NAZI threat to the entire globe. Our US Navy was already actively hunting down German U-boats in the North Atlantic.

1942 – Japanese Admiral Tanaka's "Tokyo Express" attempts the delivery of supplies to the Japanese forces on Guadalcanal. The cargo is dropped over board, only 1/4 of it reaches the troops on shore. Machine gun fire from US PT boats sinks much of it. One of the Japanese destroyers is sunk by the defenders as well.

1943 – The US 5th Army continues its Italian offensive without decisive gains and momentum is wearing down.

1944 – Forces of the US 7th Army enter Haguenau in Alsace and advances southeast of Rohrbach. There are German counterattacks against the US 3rd Army bridgeheads over the Saar River which are repulsed.

1944 – Over 2000 USAAF bombers of the 8th and 15th Air Forces attack various rail targets in Germany as well as an oil plant and ordnance depots near Vienna (annexed Austria).

1950 – The 1st Marine Division completed its breakout from the Chosin/Changjin Reservoir entrapment and began its march to join the rest of X Corps at Hungnam.

1950 – U.S. Navy Air Task Group 1, operating from the USS Valley Forge, flew its first combat mission of the Korean War, striking coastal rail lines and bridges in northeast Korea.

1954 – First super carrier of 59,630 tons, USS Forrestal (CVA-59), launched at Newport News, VA.

1961 – The ferry-carrier USS Core arrives in Saigon with the first US helicopter units, 33 Vertol H-21C Shawnees and 400 air and ground crewmen to operate and maintain them. Their assignment will be airlifting South Vietnamese Army troops into combat.

1969 – Paratroopers from the U.S. Third Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, depart from Vietnam. The unit was sent to Vietnam in February 1968 as an emergency measure in response to the Communist 1968 Tet Offensive.

If you know any Vietnam Vets offer them the thanks, respect and honor they deserve, as many Veterans of that era were terribly disrespected.

Semper Paratus

A Word of Thanks

It's Sunday morning and the power just came back on. It was out for most of the last two days and nights, and while I'm grateful for its return, I'm also somewhat pensive.

We slept well last night. The phone was out and the Internet was down. We spent the evening around the fire talking, reading, and playing dominoes. There was no need to reach for the smartphone. There was nothing to post on facebook.

Did you notice how much quieter the house gets when the power is out? There is nothing to buzz or whir or ping, like the constant sound of the refrigerator running or the heat pump moaning or all those background noises that we don't notice until they're gone.

Did you notice how bright the stars were last night? The ubiquitous flood lights, security lights, street lights and signs were all dark, and the full glory of the skies, absent the pollution of modern distractions, was revealed.

Did you enjoy the brief vacation from hyper-connectivity, or were you too busy calling the power company to complain and fretting about the battery level of your smart phone?

The vast majority of those of us who live in these mountains admire the men and women who keep our lights on and who put themselves into harm's way when the weather darkens our doors. We are concerned for their safety. We know that they work as hard as is humanly possible to restore power during an outage, and they don't just work for us – they are us. Each and every one with family and friends just as inconvenienced as the next person.

Yet every time we have a widespread outage it seems that there is a vocal minority in need of an attitude adjustment, a few self absorbed individuals who would benefit greatly from a widening of their perspectives.

I have several suggestions for this minority, although the newspaper will only print a few of them.

So, if you were one of the folks yelling at the young people on the phone who spent the night at the power company to take your calls, or if you forgot about the linemen who didn't see their families for two or three days, who went out in the snow and sawed limbs, climbed poles or pulled wire 100 feet off the ground in the middle of the night, here is what I suggest:

First of all, I want you to wait until it's about 20 degrees outside. Pull on some heavy boots and put on your overcoat. Now I want you to go outside and stand. We won't even require that you do any work – no sawing, no loading and unloading trucks, no climbing. Just stand there. Ideally there will be some form of frozen precipitation falling, but any frigid night will do.

Stand there for at least four hours. Are you getting hungry yet? Are your feet aching? Don't go back inside. We'll have a cold biscuit for you that you can eat while sitting in your vehicle. Eat every crumb, because you'll need to go right back out into the cold for another six hours or so.

Are you beginning to get a feel for the experience of a lineman? Good, but you're not done yet. You need to spend the night on a cot or a bunk bed, then get up the next morning about 5 AM and repeat what you just did.

"But I pay a lot of money for my power bill, so I have a right to complain." Right. You pay for the electricity you use at the same rate as everyone else.

If you have lived here for 20-30 years, it's just possible that you may have finally paid for your part of the infrastructure, the lines, poles and transformers necessary to bring power to your home. So if the right to complain is based on some kind of dollar parity, and if you have only lived here for a short time, then you need to shut up.

For those of you new to these mountains, and for some longtime residents who may have forgotten, storms and outages like the one we just experienced can happen at any time from now through March.

It might be a good idea to get a little extra firewood. You might want to fill up a few water jugs and buy some fresh batteries.

Have you checked your generator lately? Can you close your eyes and lay your hands on a flashlight?

As for the rest of us, the ones who were born here, the ones who sacrificed to be here, or who came from far away to be part of this mountain life, we'll be shaking the hand of the next person we see wearing that green ball, and thanking them (and the folks in law enforcement, fire and rescue who work the same hours) and wishing them well. It's not even winter yet, and we may need their help again.

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.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Crop Rotation

Though we may not need to plant our gardens for several months, these cold fall and winter days are the perfect time to start planning for next year's crop. Many of us have a few plants that we're particularly fond of and grow every year: tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, corn, and so many more. While it is no problem to plant your favorite vegetables every year, planting them in the same areas can lead to pest and soil issues, so it is important to plan out a rotation strategy well before it is time to plant.

Crop rotation is one of the most important aspects of maintaining good production. Many of the vegetables that do well in our area are closely related, and planting crops from the same family in the same plot every year can lead to a multitude of issues. To design your rotation scheme, you need to first determine what you want to grow, and if any of those plants are in the same family. Peppers, tomatoes, potatoes and eggplants are all "solanaceous" plants belonging to the nightshade family. Cabbage, kale, broccoli and Brussels sprouts are all in the cabbage family. Cucumbers, squash, and pumpkins are all cucurbits, and peas, beans and peanuts are legumes. These are just some of the main groupings that are important to rotate. There are many more depending on how varied you want your garden to be.

Rotating your crops helps immensely with both disease management and soil nutrition. Closely related plants are often susceptible to the same diseases. Even though one year you may plant tomatoes in a row and potatoes in that row the next year, your potatoes will likely have the same diseases and pests your tomatoes had. This is because despite planting a different crop, the plants are still closely related so you did not truly rotate your garden. Plants in the same family also have similar nutrient requirements. Planting different groups of vegetables in different plots every year allows the soil to replenish some nutrients as others are used up. Some crops, such as legumes condition the soil by adding nitrogen. You should always wait at least three years before planting a vegetable family in the same spot.

Your crop rotation plan can be as simple or complex as you want. Many home gardeners divide their gardens into sub-plots that are rotated every three to four years, leave it fallow after harvest, and plant again in spring. However, introducing cover crops such as clover or rye while your plots are unused can prevent erosion and add nutrients back into the soil. In the spring, they can also be crimped down to form a weed barrier for your summer and fall crops, or be added into the soil to increase organic matter. You can also introduce companion plants, such as herbs or flowers. These plants increase beneficial insect presence while protecting your crop at the same time. Tall flowers can attract bees and hoverflies, while at the same time provide some much needed shade for sensitive plants such as lettuce. Marigolds and dahlias help prevent nematode establishment, and yarrow repels insects and makes a great addition to compost.

Keeping these tips in mind while you plan out your gardens now will help prevent a lot of problems next year.

For more information on any of these topics, contact the extension office.



From the Ground Up
 Melissa Mattee

Letters to The Editor

Tax Reform?

Dear Editor,
 Last week the senate voted on their version of tax reform. Now it goes to committee to be reconciled with the House version. Then both the House and the Senate vote again on the final version. They want to have this done by Christmas so they can claim political victory this year. Trump says it is his Christmas gift to America.

The problem is this bill is a total scam that aims to give their Republican wealthy donors a thank you gift for donating millions for their election. This bill will put billions of dollars into the pockets of such men as Sheldon Adelson and Charles Koch who wish to run America as their kingdom.

So what does it do for low and middle income America? Based on their budget Americans will see drastic cuts in Medicare with benefits cut by \$25 billion in 2018 alone. They will also see cuts to Social Security, SNAP, Public Education, Pell Grants, the EPA and much more.

The child tax credit is phased out by 2027 so everyone except the wealthy will see large tax increases. Meanwhile the cut in the tax rate for the top 1%, the elimination AMT, the cut in the inheritance tax, and the corporate tax cut are permanent. In fact from the very beginning the bottom 60 percent of Georgians, or families with incomes of about \$62,000 or less, could wind up with average tax hikes of more than \$200 each.

It slashes the deduction of medical expenses. It treats graduate scholarships as income and taxes them as such.

It has become a means to sabotage the Affordable Care Act and will cause 13 Million Americans to no longer be able to afford health care.

It opens the Arctic to drilling. Increases the deficit by \$1.4 Trillion.

Late-hour negotiations in Capitol Hill are unpredictable so who knows what will be in the final version. They will keep it secret as long as they can. Call Sen. Isakson and Sen. Perdue and Rep. Doug Collins and tell them to stop this scam on the American People!

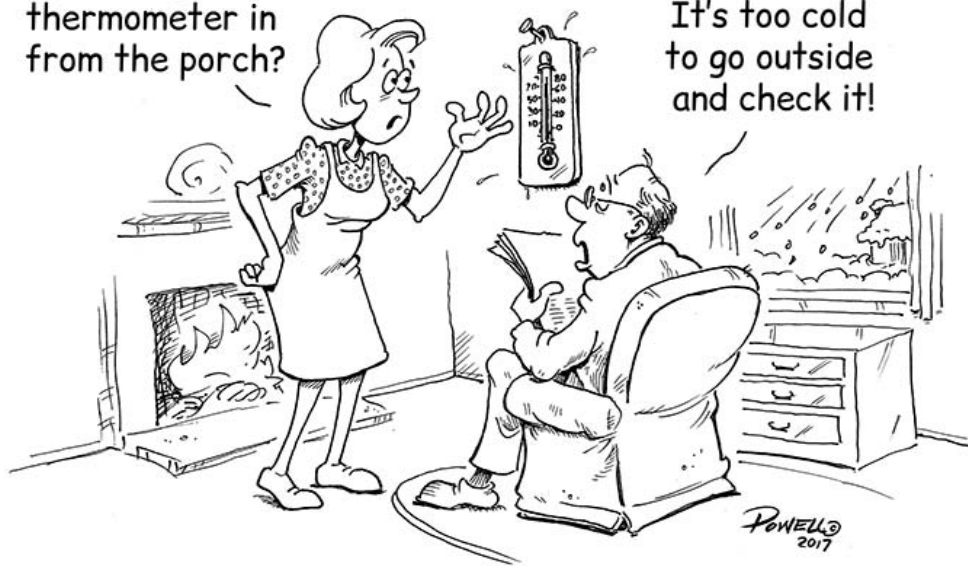
Bette Holland

Have something to sell? Let the Herald work for you!



Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM • 706-896-4454

George, why did you bring the thermometer in from the porch?



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
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
CVB Board	Second Thursday of each month: Rec Center	9 am
Awake America Prayer	Civic Center	Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Third Monday of each month: Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Water Board	Water Office	6 pm
YH Plan Comm.	Third Tuesday of each month: YH City Hall	5 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Blairsville store	5:30 pm
Quilting Bee	Third Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Jack @ 828-321-2896	
Friendship Comm.	Third Thursday of each month: Clubhouse	6 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	6 pm

Publication No: 635540

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

Towns County (1 Year) \$20. Out of County (1 Year) \$30. 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
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Towns County Herald

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