

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

God Bless Those Who Serve Others

May 19, 2018 I experienced a misadventure of my own making. Already partially dehydrated, I went to help some fellow Veterans unload a partially full rental cube van, sitting precariously on a very steep driveway. Hot day, inside

The Veterans' Corner
 Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



of truck was extremely slick and bracing oneself from sliding and falling down while unloading furniture and other items made the task at hand many times more strenuous than normal. The heat inside the truck wasn't any fun either.

Long story short, due to my own stupidity and not drinking any water I got very sick, almost passed out, was so weak I had to lie down on cool concrete in shade.

My friends, veterans, recognized the symptoms of a heart attack and called 911 here in Towns County. This is not about me, as you just read how dumb I was! I wish to convey my experience with others who serve others outside of our military forces.

The response time for Towns County EMTs and arrival on scene time was only minutes from the time Dick Metzler placed the call. They started in immediately asking medical questions, and other important questions as to why I was so terribly weak and couldn't sit up.

I was sweating profusely, even though I was extremely dehydrated and my electrolytes were depleted. These men, medical experts in their own field were compassionate, dedicated, very professional and applied humor as needed.

They recognized I couldn't function in almost any physical capacity, loaded me onto gurney and placed me in ambulance with AC on high to help cool me down. Started an IV to replace lost fluids, kept me awake and talking as is required in these situations. They attached electronic monitors and convinced me that due to other unseen or perhaps hidden physical conditions and age that transport to hospital was necessary. I reluctantly agreed.

I wish to state that these men and one Sheriff's Deputy are world class!

At Towns County's Chatuge Regional Hospital I was met by a plethora of excellent nurses, technicians and attending physician Dr. "Rocking Rodney" Moore who repeated many of those steps taken by the EMTs and many more questions. I was placed on monitor, blood was taken and more fluids were administered via IV. Urinalysis, BP, Heart rate, Blood gas levels, and EKG and X-ray exams were all completed to make darn sure there was no ancillary damage which could have killed or crippled me if left undetected.

Many kudos to all of Towns County's emergency responders who, just as our military folks do, under stress, and in much the same fashion give it their all to assist any of our residents of this fine community who may fall into harm's way. I do not know the names of all involved, but we need to recognize what our first responders do for others, rain or shine, heat or freezing cold, every day of the year. They all deserve our respect and thanks just as we give our Veterans community.

Semper Paratus

More Needed on Memorial Day

Another Memorial Day is behind us, and as the memory of the long weekend is carried away with the recycle bin full of beer cans, we hope, as we always hope, that we carry with us something of the occasion besides a few extra pounds.

It is not enough. It is not nearly enough to pause for a few moments once a year to remember sacrifice, to click on a poppy or put plastic flowers on a grave, even when we do so in all sincerity.

My father served in the South Pacific in 1944 and '45 and saw action at Luzon, the Solomon Islands and Leyte. He survived torpedoes, Kamikaze pilots and Halsey's Typhoon, and then came home to take his place with the strongest and most productive generation of Americans to date.

Like many of his peers he carried his ghosts close to his chest, and never spoke of the horrors of war until much later in life. Many sacrificed all, but the ones who made it home sacrificed youth and innocence. They carried the burden of memory quietly and without complaint for the rest of their lives, because they knew what it had purchased, and they would do it all again.

How many more have sacrificed since that greatest of all conflicts? How many still carry the ghosts of Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan? But what comfort do they have in knowing what was purchased by their own sacrifice? It's not so clear, is it? Since WWII we have had no clear victories, no great uniting causes.

Soldiers have fought and died bravely. Millions have served honorably and given their own youth and innocence. We tell them they are defending freedom, and we try to believe that ourselves. But believing that requires an ever lengthening leap of faith, and there is a nagging suspicion that sometimes our belief requires the suspension of reason itself.

Our better angels tell us that all humans are fundamentally the same. That idea is at the root of all that we believe as Americans. Conservative Christians tell us that the soul has no color. Spiritually minded liberals celebrate diversity and inclusion. So on this seminal issue we are all in agreement.

Building on that, we must assume that the vast majority of humanity wants the same thing that we want: A roof over our heads, a modicum of comfort, and a safe and peaceful life for our family and friends. We want the freedom to choose our path as we see fit, with the caveat that we may do as we please as long as we harm no one.

Which brings us back to the question of defending freedom. If we bother to think about it at all, it's quite a puzzle to understand why someone halfway around the globe would want to abandon the struggle to survive and provide for their own family in order to come here and steal our barbecue grill.

But it's not that simple, is it? We are not the only ones being told that we are defending our way of life from hostile enemies. In fact, for much of the world, we are the enemy.

Millions of people have been convinced by their own leaders that Americans wish to leave our own shores in order to travel halfway around the world and steal someone else's livelihood.

Of course we know that we, as Americans hold the moral high ground. It's just that it's difficult to make our case when there are no, for example, Libyan soldiers stationed at the edge of town, but there are, in fact, over 1000 American military bases scattered around the world, particularly in areas rich in natural resources and fossil fuels.

In just a few paragraphs here, we have outlined the history of the world from the very first empire to our own. Average people who want nothing more than to live out their lives in peace are frightened, cajoled, threatened, or inspired by patriotic fervor to take up arms against strangers far away from home.

Congress just authorized the spending of almost \$800 billion in American treasure to continue defending our freedom. For 60 years, since nuclear weapons were developed, the government has made plans for its own survival in the event of a nuclear holocaust. But we never seem to get it.

War is easy when the leaders who send young people to die do not suffer from the consequences of their decisions. War is easy when there is profit for the people who rule the leadership.

Less than 20% of the members of the US Congress are veterans. Or if you want to look on the other side of the world, when was the last time a mullah blew himself up rather than sending some hopeless and deluded youth to do it?

Perhaps on Memorial Day, we need to do more than honor the sacrifice of those who served. Perhaps we need to keep in mind those who, without honor, caused the sacrifice to be made.

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, 1 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

Scared Tickless

Way back in 1954 when *The Creature From The Black Lagoon* was released, my entire family piled into Kelvin, the 1951 Studebaker, which was our only car, and away we went to the movie theater.

The dripping, reptilian-looking being that climbed onto the land to terrorize the countryside, put my mother to sleep. If Clark Gable or Robert Mitchum were not on the screen, she went to sleep.

Thinking back, the movie house was dark, cool, (we had no air conditioning at home) and it was the first time she'd been able to sit for more than 20 minutes all day. My father, just a tall boy that shaved, loved the movie. My sister ate Raisinets and planned her wardrobe for the upcoming week. Always *The Princess*.

Filmed in black and white and as fake-looking as Tammy Faye's eyelashes, that Lagoon Dude is laughable today. On that evening long ago, he traumatized me. In bed that night the hour and a half of agony I'd spent at his webbed hands kept me awake. I just knew he was coming for me. I crept down the hall that was about three times as long in the dark as it was in the daylight, to my parents' room. My mother never, ever sent me back to my own bed to quake in fear on these frequent night time visits. She turned down the cover and snuggled me into the double bed that was hardly big enough for my dad and her. My father never even missed a nocturnal note and knew nothing of my waiting-for-death-to-take-me night.

Fast forward several decades to having watched and lived to tell about it, movies in which bats were dapper dressers and could speak proper English with a fancy foreign accent, and all sorts of dead things returned with ravenous appetites. I hardly flinch.

The tick, tick, ticking of a clock in an otherwise dark, silent house doesn't bother me at all.

Did I just say that ticks don't bother me? What a whopper! When the warm weather finally settled into our portion of the Appalachian Mountains, the blood sucking, disease spreading, and generally disgusting, arachnid relatives (TICKS) showed up in droves. These terrorists are bearers of Lyme's Disease from tick bites suffer long term. Some, a lifetime.

I am not ashamed to say that I am afraid of ticks. Make that terrified.

Staying inside is not, for me, an option. Insect repellents containing Deet are recommended by many. I prefer a natural product. Please, no arguments on the chemical versus natural approach. You stay in your lane and I'll stay in mine. Tucking pants legs into socks, head cover, and tight-fitting shirt cuffs (I tape mine) can benefit all.

In trying to keep this from being a sermon, it may seem I'm making light of a serious issue. Not so. Protect yourselves, your kids, and pets. That way we protect all.

Letters to The Editor

Government is Out of the Way

Dear Editor,
 In regards to Mr. Di Chiara's recent letter, I have to disagree with his idea that the government offers bad solutions to climate change. Government intends to work in our best interest and intervene or guide when the governed cannot see the big picture or refute it—from seat belts to air bags, clean air and water. All had to be legislated to decrease the perils of disaster.

Every day there are more and more examples of the negative effects of climate change. Watch the national and international weather reports, for daily proof. Check NOAA, NASA and the Japanese Meteorological Society, who all agree that temperatures have risen about 1.8 F degrees and the hundreds of countries around our world who are signatories to the Paris Climate Accord.

Recently Shell Oil has joined the growing number of international fossil fuel providers to modify their company's approach to production. Are they bowing to their board and stockholder demands or know what's up?

In the US, a strong attempt to combat the rise in carbon production has been promoted by the Citizens' Climate Lobby that recommends legislation that will fine carbon polluters at the source and distribute those fines in the form of a monthly "dividend" check to individuals. It is a free market plan.

It is not intended to make government bigger, tax people or take away any rights. It is pretty clever and elegant attempt to cut down carbon emissions. It simply has the polluters pay for the damage they cause—which is fair—and then leave the free market to take over.

It is an approach that actually attempts to get the government out of the way. Read more about it on the Citizens' Climate Lobby web site.

While we cannot control Mother Nature we do have control and choices to reduce the amount of carbon that's contributing to these gradual climate changes.

There is no left or right, only the right thing to do. Help. Make some changes or watch many species in the circle of life disappear faster than expected.

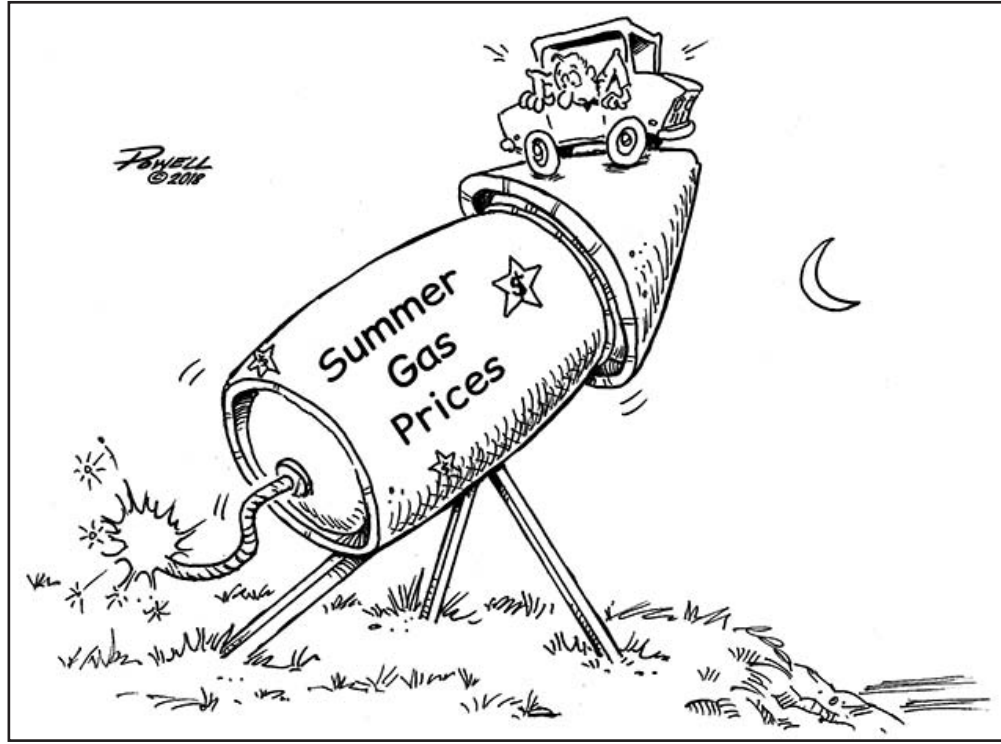
The sooner the deniers realize this isn't a political contest but a real threat to our entire planet, the sooner we start to reverse the damage.

Bonny L. Herman

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



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



Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
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
Movers & Shakers	Every Friday: Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Mtn. Amat. Radio	First Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	First Tuesday of each month: McConnell Church	1:30 pm
Huaw. City Council	McConnell Church	4 pm
Young Harris Coun.	VFW Post 7807	6 pm
Quilting Bee	City Hall	7 pm
Stephens Lodge	First Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
YH Plan Comm.	First Thursday of each month: Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg	Third Tuesday of each month: YH City Hall	5 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Water Board	Blairsville store	5:30 pm
Quilting Bee	Water Office	6 pm
MOAA	Third Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
Friendship Comm.	Call Joff @ 386-530-0904	
Republican Party	Third Thursday of each month: Clubhouse	6 pm
Goldwing Riders	Civic Center	5:30 pm
Red Cross DAT	Third Saturday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
Lions Club	Fourth Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Fourth Tuesday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
	Last Thursday of each month: Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

Towns County Herald

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 Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: tcherald@windstream.net
 Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546