

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Notable August dates

August 1: Quilt of Valor presentation to Veterans hosted by Brasstown Manor and Chatuge NH. There are no words great enough to express the gratitude for Misty Mountain Quilters Guild, Quilts of Valor Foundation, and all those wonderful ladies who spend untold hours "building" these unique works of art for our Veterans. Over 160,000 quilts donated by the volunteers to well deserving Veterans!

The Veterans' Corner
 Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



August 1: American Legion Post #23 hosted Lyn Lazar in an "open to all" meeting for much needed information on Blue Ridge Honor Flights dedicated to sending those Veterans who qualify on a once in a lifetime trip to Washington, DC.

August 4: Happy 227th Birthday USCG! One of the five service branches in the US military, the Coast Guard is responsible for maritime rescue, drug interdiction, smuggling prevention, and humanitarian-aid distribution. Created on August 4, 1790, the Coast Guard operates throughout US internal waterways, the coasts, and all distant international waters. As our former "Coasty" I can attest to the fact there's very little of our Earth's surface land, sea or air, not covered by small units operated by the fine men and women of the United States Coast Guard, and there are many military operations where our USCG is operational in almost any format. The USCG is the smallest of our military armed services, and our enlisted petty officers carry a very large portion of responsibility.

August 6: This date is the 72nd anniversary of our efforts to end WWII, thus saving millions of lives by bombing Hiroshima with a nuclear weapon. Nagasaki had to be bombed several days later in order to put a final end to the aggression of Japan. Japan stands today as one of our finest allies, in spite of the hatred and blood spilled during WWII. Study the need of using horrible brute force to end that war and achieve peace, by purchasing and reading *72 Hours That Changed The World* written by one who was there, USCG WWII Veteran Ken Wiley.

August 7: Purple Heart day was established in 2014 as a special day to honor the lives and sacrifices for those men and women who risked their lives for our America. At first the Purple Heart was only awarded to Army and Army Air Corps personnel, however President Franklin Roosevelt via executive order included Navy Branches. Next President Harry Truman, in November 1952 expanded the posthumous Purple Heart Award to include members of the Navy, Coast Guard or Marine Corps killed on or after April 5, 1917. The Army and USAF were later included in 1962.

August 15: VJ Day of 1945 is a great day when Japan unconditionally accepted terms of surrender. Due to time zone differences both August 15th and 14th are often confused as VJ day. President Harry Truman made a very difficult, but righteous decision to use our newly developed nuclear bomb to put a final end to that horrific war in the Pacific, leading up to VJ Day.

Semper Paratus

When the body attacks itself

Last week, something heinous happened in Charlottesville, Virginia. Media is still replaying the most shocking moments and politicos are busy demonstrating how much they hate hate, and accusing each other of not hating hate enough.

Also last week approximately 192,000 people died of hunger and hunger related disease. About 211,000 children perished during the same period of time, 70 percent from preventable causes.

No one protested, or changed their Facebook profile, or signaled their virtue on social media.

"Who are these people, these protesters?" We ask ourselves. We worked sixty hours last week and barely had time to go to the bank and the drugstore. After the bills are paid there isn't going to be a lot of money left over - certainly not enough to drive to another state and carry a torch, or shout at someone carrying a torch. Protesting must be some kind of privilege that we don't have. We would protest our inability to protest, but again, we don't have the time or the money.

Most of us, privately, when we're not virtue signalling and restating the obvious that racism is bad, hate is bad, and bad is bad, simply wish that the protesters would go away. All of them, the extreme right as well as the extreme left.

But they're not going to go away unless something changes. The extreme right is infected by a disease of the mind that becomes viral under the right conditions. Misery loves company, and people who are miserable and afraid often seek someone to blame for their misfortune. They reinforce each other's fear and prejudice until it becomes hatred.

It is a sad irony that such hatred wrapped in nationalism is simply another form of the very socialism that the extreme right claims to hate, but it wears a brown shirt instead of a red one. We thought we had cured the brown shirt sickness of Nazi Germany, but it never completely went away, just into remission.

On the extreme left another movement rises up to confront the sickness like the body's own immune system responds to a pathogen. Unfortunately the movement's combination of totalitarian political correctness, insufferable arrogance and extreme hatred of its own is not a cure for the ailment.

What we saw in Charlottesville, and what we are seeing in college campuses, in social media and continually aggravated by mainstream media, is an autoimmune disease. The national body is attacking itself, and as the disease spreads, government is ready with its own toxic drugs of control.

"So doctor, just how bad is it?" It's hard to say. If you look at the numbers, we are still well within a decades long trend of decreasing violence, but incidents of violence have ticked up in the last couple of years. The level of pain we perceive may not be a good indicator of how sick we are. For example, a little toe is a very small percentage of total body weight, but it seems to contain an extraordinary number of nerve endings when you bash it into the leg of the coffee table in the middle of the night.

If we run with that metaphor in the dark, our old friend mainstream media seems intent on putting things in our path to trip over, and some of us are inclined to kick the coffee table in pain induced anger and break a foot. This is how little problems become bigger ones.

The best cure for a jammed toe is to leave it alone or put some ice on it. Those who suffer from autoimmune diseases have to be careful not to consume things that aggravate their conditions. An old Hiawassee, Georgia story comes to mind that suggests a possible treatment for our current ailment.

Some years ago a long time Hiawassee resident told me the story of an incident that happened back in the 1970s when the KKK came to town. I asked him how the town responded and he said, "Well, we didn't. Hardly anyone showed up to watch, and the few that did just shook their heads and laughed. After a while they just went away and we forgot all about it."

Some would say that ignoring a disease risks letting it spread. But what we have done so far in the echo chamber of social media and the scab picking of mainstream media has been to aggravate the condition. By confronting racist fear with violence, we feed that fear and strengthen it. Perhaps our response should be more along the lines of benign contempt.

I'll leave you this week with the words of Martin Luther King, who said, "The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy, instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth."

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

Protecting Pollinators

Pollination is one of the most important processes that a plant undergoes. It is what gives us those juicy tomatoes for our sandwiches in the summer and those crisp apples for pies in the fall. Pollination is the movement of pollen produced by the male portion of a flower to the female portion, causing fertilization. It is the main way that plants can reproduce by forming fruit and fertile seeds. Many plants can self-pollinate, but even more need help from animals such as insects, birds, bats and many others. We can promote the presence of pollinators in our garden and amongst our crops by providing food sources and additional shelter for them.

From the Ground Up
 Melissa Mattee



One of the best ways to promote the presence of native bees on your property is to plant native flowers. There are many invasive species that have been introduced to our forest ecosystem over the years, and some of these can out-compete our native flora for resources. However, our native bumblebees, mason bees, sweat bees and other important pollinators rely on these native shrubs and wildflowers for their nectar and pollen. Planting species native to your area not only preserves our ecological history, but also provides shelter and food for bees that have come to rely on them for so long. You can also build mason bee houses out of long tubes all bunched together to provide a living space for their colonies.

Hummingbirds are also important pollinators, and many can be seen overwintering in Georgia or just passing through on their annual migrations. Many people have asked me when they should take their hummingbird feeders in to make sure that the birds don't gorge themselves and miss their chance to migrate. Well, I'm happy to tell you that you can leave your feeders out as long as you want! Hummingbirds do not base their migration on food availability, but rather the length of the day. As long as you see hummers at your feeder, feel free to leave it out because they're getting much needed energy to fly the long distances to their tropical winter homes. Just make sure to clean it every week so the sugar water does not get moldy or ferment. You should also add an ant moat or invest in a yellow-jacket proof feeder to make sure pest insects don't gang up on your precious hummers.

Butterflies are often seen floating through our gardens drinking sweet and fragrant nectar, but they need to survive on more than just sugar. Sometimes, you will see them gathering on the banks of streams or even on piles of animal waste, inserting their proboscis into the soil or feces just as they would a flower. This behavior is called "puddling" and allows butterflies to get the essential minerals and nutrients that they can't obtain from eating nectar alone. Bees and many other insects exhibit this behavior, so to make sure pollinators can get the most of their visit to your garden, consider adding a "puddle." This can be a plate, bird bath or some other container filled with river sand and just enough water to keep the sand loose. You don't want mosquitoes to breed in there, so if there is enough water that you can see your reflection, there's too much. Keep this wet throughout the warm summer months. You can occasionally toss in an overripe banana or some orange slices to give your pollinators a real treat and they'll be sure to come back for more!

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

Those of us who have chosen to live or to remain in our small mountain community have made the choice to live in a secluded place of peaceful beauty. Because of that choice, it takes greater effort to stay involved in the workings of the world outside the borders of Towns County, the workings of our state, of our wonderful country.

So, when I heard in the spring that 9th District Congressman Doug Collins would be holding a town hall meeting during the August recess, I felt it would be important for me make the trip to Gainesville to attend and gather information for myself, with my own eyes and ears.

When June and summer rolled around, I researched that topic. Finding nothing, I called the Congressman's office to inquire. I was told he would be having one, but that the place and time had not been set, that when it was set, it would be posted on his website. I checked his website a couple of times and found nothing.

So, in July I called. Yes, he was having a meeting in August; the date and time had not been set. On July 31 I called Collins's office with the same question. The answer? Yes, he was having a town hall style meeting in August; the date and place had not been decided. When I suggested that August was upon us, they said I should check the website, as I had been doing; it would be posted. It was not.

So, I called the office again on this past Monday. I was told that Congressman Collins would be having a town hall meeting in August but the place and time had not been set.

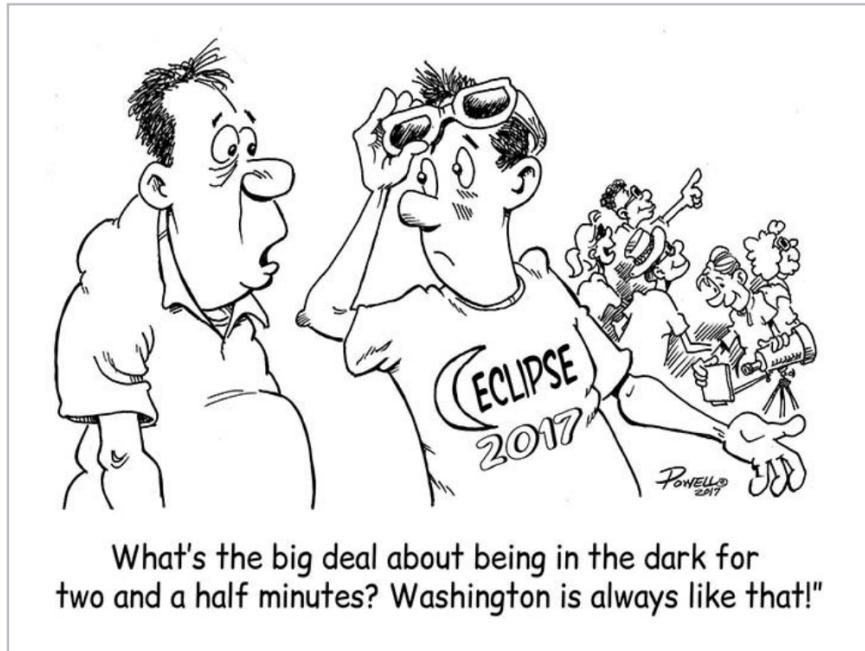
When I pointed out that we were a week into August, the voice assured me that if I checked the website, I would find the information once it had been decided. This past Wednesday evening, I decided, knowing that the meeting would certainly be held in Gainesville, I would check the Gainesville newspaper.

When I did so, I discovered that the meeting, which had not been set on Monday, according to the office, had been held on Wednesday at 5:30.

You can certainly imagine my dismay at this, after I had been so dogged in my research. When I called the office, they assured me that of course Representative Collins cares about this Towns County constituents. Of course they would have told me on Monday about the meeting if only they had known.

Well, this Towns County constituent is not feeling the love. I have suggested to them that if Representative Collins does care, perhaps he can come and tell that to us folks way up here in little Towns County. What do you think will happen?

Cecilia Clarke



What's the big deal about being in the dark for two and a half minutes? Washington is always like that!!

Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
	Every Tuesday:	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Wednesday	
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:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Sunday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Third Monday of each month:	
Hospital Auxiliary	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Water Board	Water Office	6 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
	Third Wednesday of each month:	
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Jack @ 828-321-2896	
	Third Thursday of each month:	
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 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 of each month:	
Republican Party	New Senior Ctr.	6:30 pm
	Last Thursday of each month:	
Humane Shelter Bd.	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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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

Towns County Herald

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Kenneth West Owner/Publisher	Charles Duncan Editor	Shawn Henrikson Copy Editor	Lowell Nicholson Photographer
Derek Richards Advertising Director	Shawn Jarrard Staff Writer	Lily Avery Staff Writer	Website: townscountyherald.net