DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Well Fed? Well Maybe

Seems there was a traveling preacher hoping to broadcast the evils of alcohol consumption to as many people as Johnny Appleseed did the virtues of apple consumption. The preacher, who had a flair for drama, set up his thumping stump



with two glasses One contained water. The other contained rot-gut gin. At the fever-pitch of the sermon, he reached into his waistcoat pocket and produced two wriggling worms. The first one was dropped into the water. It survived! The 2nd worm was plunked, with a flourish, into the gin. With one flip and a single flop, the worm died. The preacher asked the amassed congregation, "Now what does this teach us?" A reeling man with kerosene breath replied, If you drink liquor you won'

Some medicos advise a little "partaking" to lower cholesterol. It may be just red wine they're pushing here. This week's ever changing stats have yet to be endorsed or denied.

I was once told by a physician that protein from animal meat is the most easily used protein for humans. I do, occasionally, eat and enjoy red, white, and what ever the color category of meat that pork is. If you won't tell me not to, I promise not to force feed you. Deal?

I do prefer my t-bone without the side dish of Mad Cow Disease or e-coli .Cooking to recommended temperature will combat e-coli but not Mad Cow. E-coli can also contaminate the mainstay of my diet, produce. Washing fruits and veggies like you're Lady MacBeth will help to lesson possible ill ef-Unless we raise our own or have a trusted grower, we

can't be sure good watering, fertilizing, pest control, even harvesting practices are followed. Ground-gathered apples contaminated by animal feces and processed for cider and baby food have sickened and killed the very young, very old and others with compromised immune systems. The Federal Food and Drug Administration and the CDC are bulldogs when alerted to danger in the American food industry. All resources are employed to find and fix. We have responsibilities to ourselves to learn the basics

of processing and growing food, but also in safe consumption. "Oh, give me a diet Coke with that hub cap sized, double bacon, double cheese, two pattie burger. My doctor said I need to watch my caloric intake" Or, "I'm on a seafood diet. I eat everything I see." Listen, I cast no stones here. Just because I know better than the silliness presented here does not mean I

Carbing up used to be a ritual when preparing for a race. Now carbs are on America's Most Unwanted List. The Irish sure wanted them during a rather well known famine, as I recall. Stats can and are skewed to produce whatever result is wanted. Learn what's right for you and do what you will with

What has any or all of this to do with Towns County? Perhaps nothing. Maybe everything.

The Good Lord willing and the food is safe, see you

Letters to The Editor

Deja vu?

Dear Editor,

One councilman decides at the last minute not to file for re-election. And then a former councilman conveniently files at the last minute to run for that same seat. Now we get deja vu all over again with four years of representation from an individual who was voted out of office for prior performance. And who is to blame...we the people for failing to give a darn.

Lunacy Climate Change Solutions

Dear Editor,

The CNN climate propaganda town hall featured last week rightly illustrated the outrageous attempts of the Democrat nominees to convince us that we are at the brink of annihilation if we do not adhere to their utterly preposterous solutions. In a nut shell the the Democratic platform is: \$5 per gallon gas. no reliable power to run your smart phone or electric car, no successful American corporations, and no plastic straws. They also want to close all coal plants. Democrats threatened to stop fracking, force a switch to wind and solar that we're technologically not ready for. And Bernie the Bolshevik pledged to destroy America's newfound energy dominance and also wants to curb population growth through birth control as a key part of his climate plan.. All these green new deal plans are simply a way to engineer a government take over of our entire energy industry. What could go wrong? Worked great in Venezuela. Tim Groza

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

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

Humans Acting

Life always conspires to test and challenge our beliefs. There are several beliefs I hold that are compatible with libertarian philosophy. That's not a political declaration. There's with a platform I agreed with

The Middle Path By: Don Perry never been a political party onthemiddlepath.com

100 percent. Much of what is presented as democrat, republican and libertarian, I find arbitrary and insincere, and socialism is cute and terrifying like the evil doll in a horror movie. Where I think the libertarians get it right, not 100 percent

right, of course, but mostly right, is in their live and let live ap-

proach to government and economic issues. Ludwig von Mises

wrote a book called Human Action in which he makes the case

that human beings, possessed of minds with a logical structure that is similar for everyone, make purposeful decisions to maximize value. Thus, when people are able to exercise free will, over time the aggregate effect tends to produce the greatest value for all. Human Action is a masterful defense of human freedom and free markets, and since its publication in 1942, no nation has fully embraced its principles in practice, possibly because the book is longer than War and Peace and not nearly

as exciting. In the United States, life, liberty and the pursuit of

happiness have always contended with the coercive powers of

government and business in their attempts to maximize their Libertarians and republicans share a fierce attachment to individual property rights. Democrats and socialists are generally more supportive of public lands. It's difficult, not impossible, but difficult, to be both an environmentalist and a republican or a libertarian, although some say that Theodore Roosevelt managed it to some degree.

Even a hard core libertarian, however, would draw the line at dumping toxic waste in the creek that runs through their property on it's way to the lake downstream. Most of us who believe in even the most limited forms of government would acknowledge the legitimate role of a government here in defending the public good, but decades of scientific advancement have not extinguished the conflict between polluters and public health or between property rights and ecological health.

When it comes to property rights, personal choice and

free markets, I'm as libertarian as F. A. Hayek himself, but I'm also an environmentalist because I'm aware that we are all members of the same community. My creek runs downstream The silt from the illegal road on the mountain runs into my creek. The acid rain from the coal plant falls on my timber, and every mountain in the Southern Appalachians.

Nevertheless, there was little conflict between belief and action while I was home on the farm. But when I became a landlord, some of those beliefs were soon to be tested.

'Do what you will but do no harm" was my initial philosophy with our renters in another county. They seemed like

reasonable, hard working people, and I had little concern for how they would care for the house

But the large, wooded back vard was another matter. The neighborhood sits in an area that was formerly known as "Sandy Flats." There are beaches that would feel lucky to have the sand in that yard. The soil does not hold water well, and during the long, hot summers it takes a hardy ground cover to survive.

To complicate matters, my elderly father, during the last years he lived at the house, loved to feed his birds so much that they had stripped away most of the ground cover, and the sand was beginning to erode during heavy rains.

When my dad left the house and we began to care for the yard ourselves, we took an ecological approach to restoring the soil. We encouraged native plants and grasses

to grow, selected for hardiness and drought tolerance. When the leaves fell, we let them remain in place during the winter, which added organic material and improved the tilth of the soil. In just a few years the butterfly population multiplied and we began to see fireflies on the property at night. The heaviest rain had little effect on the stability of the ground. It was a well balanced ecosystem again, and an oasis in a neighborhood of

Last July in the heat of the summer, our tenants enthusiastically removed most of the ground cover in the back yard and spread some grass seed on top of the sand in the hopes of making the yard look like a ChemLawn commercial. They raked all the leaves in the wooded area, exposing the soil to the hot sunshine. Like so many Americans, they were blind to the ecology of the land under their feet, and fixated on the heavily marketed images that we are programmed to recognize as symbols of prosperity and the good life.

Of course every bit of their grass seed died, and the ground began to erode again during the next downpour.

In an instant I felt more like a big government democrat or a law and order republican than I did a libertarian. I had to take a day or two to cool down and consider my response. Was willing to lose good tenants who pay their rent on time and fix things around the house? Did I want to curb their enthusiasm for taking on projects at their own expense? How could I respond in a way that would maximize value for myself, and my tenants?

In the end, like a libertarian, I left them to their own devices. Like a democrat, I explained the science of soil management with a short course on ecology. And like a big government democrat or republican, I reminded myself that I still control their security deposit.

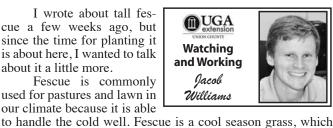
Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you! Contact us at 706-896-4454 Deadline for the T.C. Herald is Friday by 5 PM

Tall Fescue

I wrote about tall fescue a few weeks ago, but since the time for planting it is about here, I wanted to talk about it a little more.

Fescue is commonly used for pastures and lawn in our climate because it is able



means that it does best in the spring and fall once the weather has cooled off. Fescue does not do as well in the summer because it doesn't like the heat. In May this year some of the fescue suffered because we had three weeks with no rain and temperatures in the 90s. Some folks' lawns developed brown patches after that, but I expect that in most of those situations the fescue will be able to grow back out this fall and winter. Because fescue is a perennial cool season grass, it's best to plant it in mid-September. It can be planted from seed, not sod. Fescue also has good drought resistance because it has

most shade tolerant grasses out there. That makes it good for our area because of all the trees. Fescue does best if it's cut at three or more inches. That means that it won't be trim like the Masters in Augusta, but it's best for the plant. The same goes for pasture that's being grazed. There is a saying that, 'Grass grows grass.' Meaning that if you want a hay crop or pasture to grow out, there needs to be some grass left for it to grow from. If the grass is cut or grazed too low, fescue will struggle and not be able to grow

deep roots. The deep roots allow it to pull up nutrients and

moisture from deeper in the soil profile. Fescue is one of the

Low pH is a common challenge when trying to grow grass, especially if it's a space that was recently covered by trees. A soil test will tell you what the pH of your soil is and how much lime is needed to adjust it. An ideal pH for growing grass is 6 - 6.5. It's best to add lime before planting grass because lime can take 3-6 months before it's fully effective.

There are a couple of other grass options for lawns in our area besides fescue, but fescue is often the easiest. Zoysiagrass can be done as well, but it must be grown from sod for most varieties. There is a variety of centipede grass called Tifblair centipedegrass that is also adapted to our climate. Zoysiagrass and centipedegrass would need to be planted in the spring because they are warm season grasses.

If you have questions about tall fescue in pasture or lawn contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

On September 26, Union County Extension is hosting a Radon Education Program at 5:30 in the Union County Civic Center. Call 706-439-6030 or Email me to RSVP.

The Towns-Union Master Gardeners are having their annual Fall Plant Sale on September 28 at the Union County Farmers Market. Stop by to get some perennial plants that are adapted to our climate.



It's not a secret code. Support literacy efforts in your community.

Towns County Community Calendar

Every Monday: Åll Saints Ľutheran Bridge Players 12:30 pm **Every Tuesday:** Öld Rec. Čenter Free GED prep. 4 pm Every Wednesday SMART Recovery Red Cross Building 7 pm Every Thursday: 12:30 pm All Saints Lutheran Bridge Players Free GED prep. Old Rec. Center 4 pm **Every Friday:** Movers & Shakers Sundance Grill 8 am Alcoholics Anon. Red Cross Building 7 pm **Every Sunday:** Red Cross Building 7 pm Second Tuesday of each month: Conv./Vis. Bureau Civic Center 8 am Gem & Mineral Club Senior Center 1:30 pm Arts & Crafts Guild Calvary Church 4 pm Lions Club Daniel's Restaurant 6 pm N. GA Tech Mtn. Coin Club 6 pm Second Wednesday of each month: Basket Weavers SC Fire Hall 10 am USCG Aux. Senior Center 7 pm Second Thursday of each month: 10:30 Hiaw Writers Hiaw Pk. Comm. Rm. Awake America Prayer Civic Center Noon Mtn. Comm. Seniors Senior Center Democratic Party Civic Center 6 pm Third Monday of each month: 1:30 pm Hospital Auxiliary Cafeteria Planning Comm. Civic Center 6 pm MOAA Michael email mva62sgn@brmemc.net

Third Tuesday of each month: YH Plan Comm. YĤ City Hall Co. Comm. Mtg Courthouse

5 pm 5:30 pm

5:30 pm

6 pm

10 am

11:30 am

6 pm 5:30 pm

11 am

Humane Shelter Bd. Blairsville store Water Board Water Office Third Wednesday of each month: Ouilting Bee McConnell Church Book Bunch & Lunch Daniels Steakhouse

Third Thursday of each month: Friendship Comm. Clubhouse Republican Party Civic Center Third Saturday of each month: Goldwing Riders Daniel's Restaurant

Publication No: 635540

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

Towns County (1 Year) \$25. Out of County (1 Year) \$35. 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

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

Towns County Herald Legal Organ of Towns County

Sports

Kenneth West **Shawn Jarrard** Owner/Publisher

Advertising Director Copy Editor

Derek Richards

Shawn Henrikson

Mark Smith Staff Writer **Todd Forrest**

Chad Stack

Lowell Nicholson Photographer

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