

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Then Why Do It?

CALL THE POLICE! A slow moving crime has been perpetrated. The word profit, meaning to be of service, advantage, or derive benefit has been hi-jacked.

If everything is nonprofit why do so many dedicated, hard workers spend so much time, energy, and effort on it? I'll tell you why.

Over the years the word profit has morphed to almost exclusively mean monetary profit. I'm certainly not against a little jingle in pockets, but profit encompasses more than money.

Designating an organization as nonprofit is misleading. It indicates that the entity is of no benefit. Poppcock.

Palm greasing denotes the underhanded and/or criminal transaction involving money. Wheel greasing connotes smooth running possibility or easing of any type of connection. Both "lube jobs" most likely require legal tender, legally acquired or not.

I fully understand that labeling an association as nonprofit means money generated is NOT deposited in off shore bank accounts of board members or used for 3 martini lunches for volunteers.

That would be far too long to print on pamphlets. It does, however, printed here, beef up a 500 word column.

The government-subsidized Towns County Food Pantry profits our citizens with one of the most basic needs for life. The Pantry can use and accepts donations of money and commodities which help to stock the larder shelves. That must make it a partial nonprofit, profit.

The Humane Society of Towns County Thrift Shop profits the nonhuman Earthlings who share our planet, with spaying and neutering programs for population control and nurturing with food and shelter. You call that nonprofit?

Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge is a slide show of profit.

Click. Spring comes from winter with growing pains winds to help birds scatter seeds and blooms set to beautify and provide nectar rich flowers that pollinating insects can broadcast county wide and beyond so we can enjoy those 'mater sandwiches.

Click. Summer arrives to deliver the warm and hot weather produce that please our tastes and protect our bodies.

Click. Autumn slips in to pick up the mantel to ease into the required dormant season.

Before I wax sappy beyond the point of return the waning drama of reality smacks.

Every time a Garden visitor avails themselves of the relieving stations, water fountain or lights, it costs money. This is not a bad fact.

The EMC, the Water Department and other local businesses employ citizens who pay taxes, shop, dine and raise their families in Towns County. Their salaries are used wherever they choose and wheel greasing at its finest happens.

To shake the status quo, not for profit sometimes replaces the word nonprofit. A skunk by any other name can spray.

I prefer to think of profit as the opposite of loss. That came from an accountant.

See you around Towns.

Around Towns

Dale Harmon



When Celebrities Attack

Back in the mid 90's there was a brief but tacky series of television shows called "When Animals Attack." It was produced by Fox, the network that serves up conservative values with a side order of scandal, and celebrities in bikinis. The series depicted graphic animal attacks on humans for an audience unlikely to ever be close enough to a wild animal to risk an attack, but there is no limit to the dangers we armchair warriors are willing to face in the virtual world.

Recently, the virtual world erupted (steady, no need to duct tape the virtual windows just yet) when some images circulated of Celebrity, Ellen DeGeneres watching a football game in the company of Celebrity, Former President George W. Bush.

The two appeared to be quite comfortable with each other. In fact, they actually seemed to be enjoying themselves. Ellen later revealed that she even considers Mr. Bush to be a friend.

The virtual world is particularly dangerous when celebrities attack. A sampling of the headlines, the tweets and posts would have you shivering in your virtual shoes. There was outrage, firestorm, ripping, lash and backlash (presumably you can't have one without the other). Celebrities were divided. Ellen was forced to push back.

The "push" that preceded the push back was the accusation that she, as an individual admired by the left, should not be seen to be "rehabilitating the image" of someone like the former president, accused of being responsible for much death and destruction during his administration. (Apparently champion weapons dealer, Mr. Obama, and Hillary "We Came, We Saw, He Died" Clinton are in no need of rehabilitation, but that's a discussion for another day.)

It's likely that quite a large portion of the country was unaware that the former president's image was in need of rehabilitation.

That, too, is a discussion for another day.

But putting politics and the history of warfare aside for a moment, Ms. DeGeneres in one of her backlash push backs spoke truth when she said, "Just because I don't agree with someone on everything doesn't mean I'm not going to be friends with them. When I say, 'Be kind to one another,' I don't mean only the people that think the same way that you do." Ellen went on to say, "We're all different, and I think we've forgotten that that's OK that we're all different."

Simple truth, and utterly devastating to the virtual world that profits from our addiction to drama.

Humanity has a long history of fawning over celebrities and allowing ourselves to be influenced, led, dominated by the famous and the infamous. We often remind ourselves of sheep in our blind allegiance, or cattle in our tendency to stampe.

But goats gather here, my friends. We are independent, cantankerous and often contrary.

However, the times we live in now call upon us to be shepherds. This is the relative lull before the storm as desperate partisan parties ramp up their efforts to capture the White House, dragging us all into the conflict with no concern for the collateral damage to the country.

We will begin to see it again soon, as bad as it was in 2016 or worse. The celebrities will step up their attacks online and over the air, and our friends and neighbors will parrot their words and respond to their entreaties.

At family and social gatherings, at work, or even at church, we will begin to see the stampeding of emotions. Did we lose any friends in the last election? It can happen again.

When the herd begins to get restless, like the singing cowboy out on the range, perhaps a word of calm might ward off the stampede.

Keep in mind, however, that the herd does not listen to reason. You can argue until you are red or blue in the face.

The herd no longer responds to the great minds, to scholars, philosophers and poets. The western herd does not even hearken to the divine.

Our ability to recognize truth has been degraded, lost in the virtual world of shiny waxed apples and artificial coloring, makeup artists and sound bytes and computer generated graphics.

They're not going to listen to truth unless it's delivered on the narrow band that spans our collective attention.

But they might listen to their celebrities. "Be kind to one another." "We're all different, and that's OK."

They've heard it a thousand times, from countless sources. They've even read it in the Bible and heard it in church. But if Ellen said it, they might actually listen.

The Middle Path
By: Don Perry
onthemiddlepath.com

Controlling Invasive Plants

Last week I talked about the Georgia Forestry Commission's dirty dozen and gave a brief overview of each one. This week I'm going to go more in depth and talk about some ways to identify and control some of these that are problematic in the mountains. I'll cover Nepalese browntop (Japanese stiltgrass), privet, kudzu, and autumn olive.

UGA extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



Let's start with the Japanese stiltgrass. This is on the only annual that I chose, so its control will be a bit different. Japanese stiltgrass looks like a miniature bamboo. It has alternate leaves. It can grow up to 2 feet tall. It likes to grow in shaded areas, so it can grow in shaded lawns and in forests. Japanese stiltgrass will put on seedheads during the fall. The seeds are small, light colored, and sticky. Controlling it can be very challenging. In lawns, herbicides or hand pulling can be done. A pre-emergent herbicide that is also effective against crabgrass will prevent it from germinating. A product with the active ingredient proflumicarb will work. Japanese stiltgrass germinates earlier than crabgrass so the application would need to be done in early march. In forested areas there are no herbicides labelled for use. That means that you will have to either hand pull or cut it back in the fall before it goes to seed. Most likely, there is already seed stored in the soil; therefore, you will need to cut it back several years in a row to deplete the soil seed bank.

Chinese privet can be identified at this time of year because it has BB sized fruits hanging on it. Chinese privet starts out as a bush that can grow to be over 20 feet tall, if left unchecked. The leaves on it are glossy, oval shaped, and a little bigger than a quarter.

Most people know what kudzu looks like. It is a vine that is capable of covering entire trees. Kudzu leaves are trifoliate which means they come in threes. They also have purple flowers, but can be hard to find because they're hidden behind the leaves. As members of the legume family they have hairy pods.

Autumn olive is a bush that that can get up to about 15 feet high. Their leaves are a silvery white color on the bottom. They put on a red fruit that has gray specks on it. The fruit is edible and is spread by birds and other wildlife.

Tactics for controlling invasive plants are different from annuals. Cutting them back is an option, but these plants will keep growing back from their roots. It would take several years of cutting back regrowth to eliminate invasive perennials. Hand pulling can be done while the plants are still small, but you need to remove the entire root system.

Herbicides are usually the most effective way of controlling perennial invasive plants. Even with herbicides, it will take a couple of seasons to get full control. For perennials, you should apply herbicides in the fall. During the fall perennials are moving as many carbohydrates and energy down into their roots as possible. Therefore, if you apply a systemic herbicide the plant will also move the herbicide down into the roots, making the herbicide more effective. As always, whenever you use an herbicide read and follow the label.

If you have questions about identifying or controlling invasive weeds contact your county Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Letters to The Editor

Growing Bipartisan Support For Action On Climate Change

Dear Editor,

Despite tensions in many areas between the two parties, it appears Republicans and Democrats are coming together on one issue that seemed intractable not long ago: climate change.

Republicans and Democrats are seeking common ground on climate change because public opinion has reached a tipping point that cannot be ignored.

A CBS News poll last month found two-thirds of Americans view climate change as a crisis or serious problem, and a majority want immediate action.

Both the Senate and the House now have a bipartisan climate solutions caucus.

Putting a price on carbon offers promising common ground. Thousands of U.S. economists and 95% of 300 multinational corporations surveyed support carbon pricing as an effective tool to reduce emissions quickly.

And according to Luntz Global, carbon pricing that includes a revenue return to Americans, has four to one support among all voters.

The Bipartisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763) would decrease emissions by 90% by 2050, grow our economy, and put more real spendable income into most American's pocketbook. We are America, and this is a problem that we can, and must, conquer!

Vernon Dixon, MD

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 addressed to 200 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.



"If they really want to scare people, why don't they put up a billboard about the national debt?"

Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Sharp UMC (Men)	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Wednesday: Hiawassee UMC	Noon
SMART Recovery	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 Saturday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Friendship Comm.	Third Thursday of each month: Clubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party	Civic Center	5:30 pm
Goldwing Riders	Third Saturday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
Red Cross DAT	Fourth Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Fourth Tuesday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Hiaw. Writers	Fourth Thursday: Hiaw. Pk. Comm. Rm.	10:30
Hiaw. Garden Club	Clubhouse	12:45 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Last Thursday of each month: Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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



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Towns County Herald

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Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawassee
Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: tcherald@windstream.net
Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546