

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

So Sue Me

Recently I was asked by a surly someone, "Just what makes you think you're qualified to write a column for the Towns County Herald? Well, I've earned two degrees from each of two different institutes with two illustrious alumni. The first is Bullwinkle the Moose from Wossamotta U, which he attended on a football scholarship and the second is Samuel Clemens, a.k.a. Mark Twain from The School of Hard Knocks.

Around Towns

Dale Harmon



If you've read Around Towns, even once, you know that I am guilty of run-on sentencing, comma splicing, and I don't know what all. So go ahead and sue me. If I have to be incarcerated for sentencing and splicing infractions, I let to be served in the Old Hiwassee Jail. And please don't give me one of those day-glow orange jumpsuits to wear. Retro is more my style. You know what I'm talking about. The two-piece black and white ensemble with stripes. Who cares how fat I look while I'm paying my dues to the Literary Society at large? (small pun intended)

Spelling is another of my short suits but so what? Nobody uses full words anymore. International House of Pancakes is now IHOP. Kentucky Fried Chicken? Life is just too short to waste time using all those words. Just say KFC. Be careful when calling Grub Hub that somebody doesn't confuse that with Kidney Foundation Crispiers, or that the f-bomb isn't hidden in there somewhere. Was that TMI? I believe it was back in the Reagan Era when Intercontinental Ballistic Missile was bantered around daily. The acronym ICBM could really be a pile of trouble if misconstrued. I could be making a snafu on the era. Ann Landers (Dear Ann) who dispensed sage advice on every subject, had her signature Kiss. Keep it simple Sweetie. In culinary school I learned fifo. First in First out.

The truth about my qualification to pen a column for the Towns County Herald is that I have more nerve than sense. Oh, and a secret weapon. Shawn H. whom I love and admire, knew from the get go that I'm a poor speller and keeps me from appearing to be a 4th grade dropout. Thank you, Shawn. Ask if you can get my pay rate doubled. I'll be your best friend. See you around Towns.

Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy

This is a follow-up of the Cohesive Wildland Management Strategy workshop I attended a couple of weeks ago in Massachusetts. California is on fire as usual with no end in sight, but they chose not to take preventive measures such as prescribed fire and defensible space ahead of time, so when a spark and a 100 mile an hour wind get together, lots of things burn: houses, vehicles, stores, and anything else in the path of a roaring wildfire. Cohesive Strategy is a national plan put in place to help better manage these fires. In the past two decades, a rapid escalation of extreme wildfire behavior, accompanied by significant increases in risk to responders and citizens, home and property losses, costs, and threats to communities and landscapes have been observed.

RC&D Frank Riley Executive Director



In the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act of 2009 (FLAME Act), Congress mandated the development of a national cohesive wildland fire management strategy to comprehensively address wildland fire management across all lands in the United States. Shortly after enactment of the FLAME Act, a three-phased, intergovernmental planning and analysis process involving stakeholders and the public was initiated and is commonly referred to as the Cohesive Strategy effort. The culmination of three-phases of planning and analysis is this National Strategy and a companion National Action Plan. Achieving the national goals requires that the Nation address the broad challenges of managing vegetation and fuels; protecting homes, communities, and other values at risk; managing human-caused ignitions; and effectively and efficiently responding to wildfire.

The National Strategy describes how the Nation can focus future efforts in making strategic investments to reduce the severe effects of wildfire on areas of high risk. Multiple opportunities are available to meet today's wildland fire challenges. No one-size-fits-all approach exists to address the challenges facing the Nation. Adopting any option involves spatial and temporal tradeoffs. Reducing long-term risk requires prioritization of investment and use of resources, acceptance of increased short-term risk, and greater collective investment. The National Strategy includes a set of guidelines intended to provide basic direction when planning activities. Broadly defined to address national challenges, these guidelines can be tailored to meet local and regional needs. Meeting the challenges requires priorities. Safe and effective response to wildfires is the highest priority of the National Strategy and includes enhancing wildfire response preparedness with an emphasis on both structural protection and wildfire prevention to maximize the effectiveness of initial response.

The second priority is vegetation and fuels management and is perhaps the most challenging issue. General guidance in this area includes designing and prioritizing fuel treatments; strategically placing fuel treatments; increasing use of wildland fire for meeting resource objectives; and continuing and expanding the use of all methods to improve the resiliency of our forests and rangelands. The third priority involves engaging homeowners and communities in taking proactive action prior to wildfires. The fourth priority includes emphasizing programs and activities, tailored to meet identified local needs, which seek to prevent human-caused ignitions. Cohesive Strategy vision for the next century: To safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a Nation, live with wildland fire.

The National Strategy sets broad, strategic, and national-level direction as a foundation for implementing actions and activities across the Nation. Three components, intended to be conducted concurrently, are necessary for implementing the National Strategy: strategic alignment, where all parties agree to the same goals, principles, and strategic course of action; collaborative engagement, which includes governance, shared information and resources, communications, and monitoring and accountability; and programmatic alignment, where individual agency or organization objectives are explicitly supportive of the national cohesive strategy goals.

The Cohesive Strategy effort, including this National Strategy and the many other milestones achieved over the last 3 years, collectively establishes a national vision for wildland fire management, defines three national goals, describes the wildland fire challenges, identifies opportunities to reduce wildfire risks, and establishes national priorities focused on achieving the national goals. These achievements form the foundation for achieving the vision for the future of wildland fire management. For more info go to: www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy.

Gentlemen

We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honour and are shocked to find traitors in our midst. C.S. Lewis

With the waning of interest in professional football it has been suggested that the oddsmakers could recoup their losses by taking bets on who the next celebrity will be to stand accused of sexual misconduct.

For two or three generations the word, "celebrity" brought to mind an actor or filmmaker, but we use it today to include the continuous parade of politicians and pundits and the entire menagerie of personalities and stars to which we have ceded the national will and consciousness.

Wave after wave of headlines shout out new accusations, revelations or condemnations, as more and more women, and men, are emboldened, might we say, empowered, to speak up.

Unfortunately, our attention span has become such an ephemeral thing. When we are flooded with information, as we are now, with one scandal stacked on top of another, we quickly lose track of fact and interpretation. We lose interest, and we seek distraction. At this time in our history we run the risk of losing the narrative entirely, and it is a vitally important narrative.

It's as if two alternative timelines for the future of our culture are forming. On the path that we hope we'll take, we will have evolved to the point where people are less afraid to speak truth to power, where truth and reason and the rule of law prevail over brute force, not just in the courtroom, but in our homes and businesses as well.

And brute force is exactly what we are talking about. All along the continuum between the brutal insensitivity of rape and the hypersensitivity of micro-aggression lies the intention to exercise power over another human being. A civil society keeps that intention in check.

If we are lucky, the ongoing revelations represent a leveling up of our collective consciousness and our rejection of brutality. The effect will be systemic and far reaching, and our grandchildren will live in a better world because of it.

If we are not so lucky, the pendulum of public anger and opinion will swing so widely that it damages the clockworks. It's happened many times before. We are quite capable of going from the roaring 20s to prohibition in less than one generation.

Without a thoughtful read of history, it's easy to forget how that clock does actually work. The reason which designed the elaborate gear mechanism and the laws that define the escapement of the complicated clockworks of our society are useless without the pull of a weight or the tension of a spring, or one might also say, the brute force, which makes the clock run.

In other words, in our zeal to signal our collective virtue, let's stop well short of an outright neutering of what is masculine in our culture. We may think that we've outgrown the alpha male, but without him our species would have died out long ago in the days of the megafauna. Without him we would soon discover that all of the noblest ideals of our better natures would be little defense against a planet which has demonstrated over and over again the power of brute force.

Once again we strive for a middle path where strength and compassion are not mutually exclusive. Men used to have an unofficial code for navigating that path. We once referred to those who followed such a code as "gentlemen," and we need them now more than ever.

The concept of the gentleman will be foreign to some, and others may confuse the term with one of the caricatures offered by the theater, but should you find it necessary to explain the word to someone, a gentleman gives all women equally the same respect that he would ideally give to his mother, sister or daughter. It really is that simple.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry
onthemiddlepath.com

Ladybugs

Ladybugs are coming moving inside and invading people's homes. Let's talk about where they came from and what you can do to try and get rid of them.

Most of the time the ladybugs that move inside to hibernate through the winter are Asian ladybugs. I often am asked if the government is releasing Asian ladybugs and that's why they are in their house. The government does not currently release Asian ladybugs. The US Department of Agriculture did release Asian ladybugs during the 1960s to the 1990s. Ladybugs are beneficial insects because they eat many soft-bodied insects that are pests. They were released so that apple and pecan growers would not need to use as many insecticides. Georgia is one of the states where they were released. However, now Asian ladybugs are found in states that did not have releases. Researchers believe that the ladybugs that find their way into homes now are most likely not from the intentional releases, but from a freighter that accidentally brought them to New Orleans from Japan.

Asian Ladybugs look very similar to our native ladybugs. Females usually have several multiple spots, while the males have fewer spots. Their color can range from tan to orange to red. The best way to tell them about from our natives is that they have a dark M or W (depending on which side you look at them) on the back of their head. Asian ladybugs don't have very many natural predators in the US. That means they can spread very easily. It makes them good at controlling aphids on plants outdoors, but makes them a nuisance in the fall and early spring.

In the fall, many of them will try to make their way inside. Once a couple get in, it's hard to keep more out. Ladybugs will use pheromones to let other ladybugs know that they've found a good spot to overwinter. Therefore, you usually won't see just a couple, but dozens or even hundreds. They usually will congregate on the sunny side of a building. Buildings that have light and dark contrasting colors on the outside will be more attractive to them. Older buildings are more attractive too because they will leak more heat out.

Ladybugs don't injure people. They also don't reproduce indoors. They won't attack wood, food, or clothing. They can secrete a yellow substance when disturbed. The yellow secretion smells bad and can stain. They use the yellow stuff as a defense mechanism against predators.

So the big question is, how do you get rid of them? If they are inside a simple method is to just vacuum them up and then throw them in the trash. Sealing cracks around doors or windows is a good way to keep them from entering in the first place. Ladybugs are small, so they can use a crack that's 1/8th of an inch. There are ladybug traps that use black light to attract them. These can be effective at capturing ones that have already entered, especially if you use it in a dark space, like a closet or attic. If you have a serious infestation, it's best to call a pest control company.

Ladybugs can be a nuisance inside the house, but remember that they are beneficial to farmers and gardeners. If you have questions about ladybugs contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

UGA extension Watching and Working Jacob Williams



"He may forget our anniversary but I know he loves me. He never fails to change the batteries in the smoke alarm."

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 EMAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiwassee, 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.

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Contact us at 706-896-4454
Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM

Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
	Every Tuesday:	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Sharp UMC (Men)	7 pm
	Every Wednesday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Hiwassee UMC	Noon
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:	
Movers & Shakers	Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Sunday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	First Tuesday of each month:	
Alzheimer's Supp.	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	6 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
	First Wednesday of each month:	
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
	First Thursday of each month:	
Stephens Lodge	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
	Second Monday of each month:	
Chamber Board	1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
VFW	VFW Post	5 pm
Historical Society	Hist. Soc. Bldg.	5:30 pm
School Board	Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall	7:30 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
Mtn. Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
	Second Wednesday of each month:	
Basket Weavers	SC Fire Hall	10 am
USCG Aux.	Senior Center	7 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, Hiwassee, GA 30546