

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

We Can't Forget

As much as we'd like to, we simply cannot forget, even the horrible tasks our nation has had to endure. Our youngest Marine who gave his life in Vietnam is one of those heroes so many never knew of and many would like to forget, along with the entire Vietnam era. It is incumbent upon us to not let that happen!

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



Fifteen years, five months and seven days young, a poor kid from Brooklyn gave his life heroically running ammo to resupply his leatherneck brothers who were being over run at the base perimeter during a firefight with the Viet Cong. This was on June 7, 1969. Today, the very few that may've heard of this young hero may have picked it up in a trivia game. His name, along with all of those who gave all for America is worth a lot more than that. He could be an icon for all those we don't know.

Dan was born in Goldsboro, NC and lived there until he was twelve, upon the death of his mother moved to Brooklyn. With no skills and wishing to help out his family, Dan dreamed of becoming a pilot, a police officer or a Marine. He was big for his age, five foot nine and 160 pounds, at time of enlistment at Albee Square Marine Recruiting station in Brooklyn. He never told anyone of his underage status, keeping that a secret until the very end in order to be what he wanted to be.

Bullock's commander, unaware of the dead Marine's tender age, provided the details in a June 11 letter to his parents on Lee Ave. in Brooklyn.

"He constantly exposed himself to the enemy fire in order to keep the company supplied with the ammunition needed to hold off the attack," wrote Capt. R.H. Kingrey.

"As the attack pressed on, Dan again went to get more ammunition when he was mortally wounded by a burst of enemy small arms and died instantly."

How did this happen?
 Dan Bullock at age fourteen altered his birth certificate so he could enlist and become a Marine. His actual birthday, unknown by those he trained with and served with was December 21, 1953. His altered birth certificate was dated December 21, 1949.

Dan struggled to make it through boot camp. It was only with the assistance of his buddy, Franklin McArthur that he made it through basic training and became a rifleman with the Second Platoon of Company F at the An Hoa Combat Base in Quang Nam Province. There the firefight that took his life began about 1 AM on 7 June, 1969. McArthur is haunted by the events which led to tragic end of his young friend's life.

This young boy learned to live his life as a man, and certainly died as one. More so of a man than many will ever be. Dan Bullock is truly a hero who gave his life for all of us who never knew him.

Semper Paratus

A Manicured Life

The government is closed this week, and since nothing important can happen in its absence, we are taking a break. In the meantime we're delighted to bring you some of the work of our friend, Marty Levine. Marty is a native of Gainesville, GA who has spent most of his adult life living and working in Texas. His long career with a major petrochemical company has afforded him the ability to travel extensively. He is an accomplished photographer and enjoys writing short opinion pieces and essays which he shares primarily on social media.

A Manicured Life

A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines. -R. W. Emerson

I spent a few hours last night cutting my grass. We have a large, complex yard with lots of trees and landscaping, so no marching to and fro in straight lines for me. Actually, I think I am the only guy on my street who cuts his own grass due to a sort of silly vow I took when we bought this place. While I was pushing, pulling and pirouetting about the lawn I pondered how utterly pointless lawns are. I suspect they were originally conceived to provide fields of fire for the protection of medieval estates. Given the absence of marauding bands of peasants in my Houston suburb, this is at best a vestigial feature. Furthermore, I have found that having a Jewish sounding surname keeps the nice ladies in their flowery dresses from the Jehovah's Witnesses off my front porch.

Certainly the unobstructed view of our front yard allows our pack of dogs to spot and bark at with extreme prejudice every jogger and baby stroller that happens by. Alas, these are the same mutts who slept through a thief breaking into my car few months back. Thus, aside from providing a job for our dogs, our forward field of fire serves little purpose. Our back yard perhaps serves a more practical purpose for our dogs - one of which we have determined is a new breed - a "poopsalot". My mulching mower does an effective job at turning their little gifts into a sort of aerosol fertilizer that necessitates my showering after mowing.

I have on occasion encountered guys who are truly obsessed with their lawns. They spend most of their free time mowing, fertilizing, aerating, trimming, researching grubs and the like. Stand with them in their lawn and make one comment about its grand appearance and they will gleefully give you a full report on their recent battle with crab grass and dollar spots. "Hey Jim, your daughter got a scholarship to Princeton - right?" "Yep, she is greater - let me show you where I thatched and plugged last weekend."

In my area of Texas, lawns consist primarily of two turf grasses - Bermuda and St. Augustine. While my yard was originally sodded with St. Augustine, I have an area where Bermuda has invaded. The struggle for dominance is mighty, with the Bermuda advancing during dry - hot weather and the St. Augustine making progress in wet - hot weather. It is only a matter of time before the neighborhood neat police notice this lawn dichotomy and send me a letter demanding that I bring my yard back to the neighborhood standard by eradicating the Bermuda.

I suspect the admiration we have for a well-manicured lawn is very much a Western society thing. It is conditioned rather than instinctive. Show an Inuit an expanse of manicured grass and a rock strewn beach, and he will prefer the later. Westerners, and in particular Americans, have been conditioned to esteem manicured lawns, not so much by the purveyors of mowers and fertilizer but by our need to demonstrate our station in life.

Which brings me to the point of this piece, which is to remind us of those things in our lives that are unnecessary that we have nevertheless ascribed as societal necessities, and in extreme cases as almost holy. For a country founded on the notion of individual liberty and expression, we take great pains to drive in conformity and consistency. We spend vast amounts of treasure on clothing, cars, houses and the like to conform to the expectation of our station in life. Millions of Americans spend hours in exercise programs, not so much to improve their health but obsessed to chisel their bodies into a physical ideal. In the business world, we focus on conforming to standards of etiquette and personal presentation that do nothing to improve the bottom line. Those who present creative ideas which could disrupt the smooth progress of well-manicured plans are invariably rooted out like my Bermuda grass. While a civil society must have laws to discourage truly egregious acts such as murder and theft to ensure freedom for all, we have elevated matters of taste and expression to such a level that individual expression and thus freedom has been diminished.

So think a bit about those matters in your life where you spend your time and treasure that really don't matter at all. Are you truly free and living the life of your choosing, or are you merely manicuring your life to conform to the expectations of others? *M. Levine, May 2016*

GUEST COLUMNIST

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

Herb Gardening

Herbs have been grown since ancient times and used as both flavorful food additions and medicines. They are hardy plants that can thrive in a variety of conditions, making them an excellent choice for beginning gardeners and experienced green thumbs alike.

UGA extension
From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee



Herb garden establishment and maintenance is similar to vegetable gardens. Most herbs do well in average, well-drained soil with a pH of 6.5-7.0, and flourish with at least 6 hours of sunlight. Planning what herbs you want in your garden is important because though most are hardy, some require different conditions than most. Rosemary and lavender prefer a soil pH of 7.5, and basil, chives and parsley require more fertilizer to replenish their leaves because they are harvested so often. Once you have established which herbs you want to plant and have tested your soil, it is important to till well and make the required amendments (lime, fertilizer, etc). After planting, mulching is highly recommended to control weeds and keep diseases at bay.

You can propagate herbs in a variety of ways. Seeding is one of the most common methods. Seeds should be planted in late winter or very early spring and kept indoors so they will be ready to transplant after the frost-free date. In our mountain climate, there is a possibility of frost up until May 15th, so keep immature and delicate plants indoors until mid-May. Seeds should be planted only half the depth of their diameter, so simply pushing them into the soil and lightly covering them is sufficient. Once the seedlings have 2-4 leaves, they can be transplanted into a larger container or the garden. Make sure to water the transplants well.

Herbs can also be propagated by cuttings. To do this, cut about 4 inches of new growth from a mature plant containing 3 nodes or more. This cut should be made just below the node (where a leaf joins the stem). Remove the bottom leaves, and insert the cutting into potting medium up to the lowest node. Keep the soil warm and consistently moist until the cutting has taken root, or after about 6 weeks. At this point, your new herb plant can be added to the garden.

Container gardening is another option for planting your herbs and works well both indoors and outdoors. Make sure they are in a place where they can get the required 6 hours of sunlight and are potted with potting soil for adequate drainage, not garden soil. Water your container herbs only when dry to prevent the roots from rotting. Keeping outdoor herbs in containers is also a good solution for frost prevention. On cold days, plants can be brought indoors to protect them from freezing damage.

Once your herb plants are matured, you can use them in a variety of ways. You can pluck leaves directly off the plant and use them immediately in cooking. Bunches of cut herbs can be dried by tying them together and hanging them in a dark, dry, well-ventilated area such as an attic or garage for later use. Cut herbs can be frozen after they are rinsed and patted dry.

Whether you want a fragrant flowering herb for your garden or a savory plant that you can cook with, herbs offer a variety of uses that can be appreciated by any gardener. If you'd like more information on starting your own herb garden or are interested in learning about different herbs to add to one you already have, contact our office to receive our herb gardening publication.

Letters to The Editor

Is Rome Burning?

Dear Editor,
 Regarding Mr. Miret's recent "On the bandwagon" complaint in this paper about Mr. Dixon's persistency about climate change. I'm wondering why he's so annoyed. If thousands of scientists the world over cannot convince him of the recent and more frequent effects of global warming and man's role in it, then perhaps one needs to look to General Motors, Volvo, Range Rover, Volkswagen and even high-end Aston Martin, who are all preparing their fleets to be electric within next 20+ years. O' yes, and in China too. What do they know that climate change deniers don't? That it's in their best economic interest to produce carbon reducing vehicles just because it's government mandated? Or are they taking global warming seriously? Or both? It won't be the first time corporations played to both sides. I'd hedge the bet too rather than waiting to see more devastation from extreme weather occurrences like more severe hurricanes, wild fires, flooding, and continued loss of animal habitat. Yes, weather is cyclical over the centuries but presently mankind is adding to its present chaotic behavior by our carbon emissions.

What if the "mad" scientists are right? Will there be time to save the polar bears, the gorillas, the forests, ice caps from melting, elephants, pandas and yes, eventually us? What if the science is wrong? What would be the worst outcome? Cleaner air? Cleaner water? More forests? Fewer endangered species due to loss of habitat? I can't stand seeing any more "National Geographic" stories on the plight of the polar bears loss of habitat. It's real and tragic.

To see your carbon footprint, go to Google and type in "carbon footprint calculator". Try anyone that's there and see what you are contributing and what you can do to lessen the impact. Thank you.

If Rome is burning, are we all playing the fiddle?

Bonny L. Herman

Fanning The Flames

Dear Editor,
 Some politicians claim to be very concerned for the welfare of illegal immigrants. They call them Dreamers. They say America should keep providing for them because they dream of college and good jobs and a good future here in America.

These politicians and their families live very well thanks to American taxpayers and any money deals they can make from their positions of power.

Do they not care that America has Dreamers too? Red, Yellow, Black and White Dreamers are living in our ghettos where very poor parents work long hours to feed them and try to protect them from criminal gangs.

They live on our farms and work after school, many leave school early to work full time. They live on America's streets, homeless and hungry where they are used and abused by evil that preys on them.

Yes, America has Dreamers, thousands of them. Some dream of a college education and what they would like to be when they grown up.

Some dream of a loving family, a safe home. Some dream of new shoes or a warm coat, some just dream of mom's chicken dinner. America, these are your children, these are America's Dreamers but to our shame they have been forgotten.

America first.
 Just a Gramma's opinion.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Wimsett

What do you think about this political fuss shutting down the government?

I got news for you, pal. It's kept the government shut down for years.



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
Democratic Party	Civic Center	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

Publication No: 635540

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

Towns County (1 Year) \$20. Out of County (1 Year) \$30. 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 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
 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

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