

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Our Veterans

Thanks to a great guy and Brother Veteran, Ash! We only get one chance at this life. Our brothers and sisters in uniform have ensured, with their duty and sacrifices, that we all have had that chance. See if you can slowly read this through a couple of times without getting a little misty:

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



*He was getting old and paunchy
 And his hair was falling fast,
 And he sat around the Legion, Telling stories of the past.
 Of a war that he once fought in and the deeds that he had done,
 In his exploits with his buddies; They were heroes, every one.
 And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors His tales became a joke,
 All his buddies listened quietly for they knew whereof he spoke.
 But we'll hear his tales no longer, For ol' Joe has passed away,
 And the world's a little poorer For a Veteran died today.
 He won't be mourned by many, Just his children and his wife.
 For he lived an ordinary, Very quiet sort of life.
 He held a job and raised a family, Going quietly on his way;
 And the world won't note his passing, tho a Veteran died today.
 When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
 While thousands note their passing, and proclaim they were great.
 Papers tell of their life stories from the time that they were young,
 But the passing of a Veteran Goes unnoticed, and unsung.
 Is the greatest contribution To the welfare of our land,
 Some jerk who breaks his promise And cons his fellow man?
 Or the ordinary fellow Who in times of war and strife,
 Goes off to serve his country And offers up his life?
 The politician's stipend And the style in which he lives,
 Are often disproportionate, To the service that he gives.
 While the ordinary Veteran, Who offered up his all,
 Is paid off with a medal And perhaps a pension, small.
 It is not the politicians With their compromise and ploys,
 Who won for us the freedom That our country now enjoys.
 Should you find yourself in danger, With your enemies at hand,
 Would you really want some cop-out, with his ever-waffling stand?
 Or would you want a Veteran His home, his country, his kin,
 Just a common Veteran, Who would fight until the end.
 He was just a common Veteran, and his ranks are growing thin,
 But his presence should remind us we may need his likes again.
 For when countries are in conflict, we find the Veteran's part,
 Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start
 If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,
 Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.
 Perhaps just a simple headline in the paper that might say:
 "Our Country Is In Mourning, A Veteran Died Today."
 Semper Paratus*

RC&D Seasonal High Tunnels

It's that time of year when our thoughts turn to spring with flowers blooming, grass growing and garden planting. Traditional gardens are at the mercy of the sun, rain, wind, and sudden drops in temperature when the plants have started to bloom.

RC&D
Frank Riley
 Executive Director



A seasonal high tunnel is basically a covered garden that can protect our plants from nature's destructive forces and extend the growing season on both ends by at least a month. In 2017 Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D, along with the other 11 RC&D councils in Georgia, was the recipient of a \$15,000 grant from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority due to efforts of our Senator John Wilkinson and others in the State Capitol.

The guidelines for how to use these funds were somewhat loose and RC&D Councils could use the funds for most anything that would enhance their mission in the counties they serve. Chest/Chatt RC&D's mission is to "Assist local people in planning and carrying out activities that conserve natural resources, support economic development, enhance the environment, and improve the standard of living for all citizens in the 13 counties of Northeast Georgia".

Our goal is not only to help people improve their way of life in these counties but to help teach our young people how to provide for themselves in the real world. Chest/Chatt wanted to make use of these funds to make a difference in people's lives so we decided to donate one 20'x16' Seasonal High Tunnel, or hoop house, to each of the 13 counties in our work area, plus The Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation District that covers Union, Fannin, Towns, and Rabun Counties kicked in some of their funds to double the size of the donated tunnel house up to 20'x32'. Upper Chatt Soil & Water Conservation District also kicked in funds to increase the 5 tunnel houses in their area, as did Broad River and Stephens County S&WCD.

A High Tunnel or hoop house is an unheated greenhouse with sides and doors that roll up for ventilation during the warm months and roll down when the temperatures drop. These structures maximize vegetable, fruit, or flower output from a small area since the plants are protected from winds, rain, sun, and animals. A high tunnel can extend the growing season by a month on each end of the season. These growing houses are placed in public places and schools where they can be a benefit to the community by demonstrating to people how they can produce their own locally grown food, flowers, or fruits. We think this is a worthwhile use of your hard earned tax money as it circles back into the community thru the RC&D from the Gold Dome, even though a lot of it was filtered out before it came back but we'll take what we can get.

The Counties are putting these tunnel houses at Senior Centers, local colleges, elementary, middle, and high schools and with other groups that will use the houses to teach people how to provide for themselves. Forsyth County and Cumming Rotary Clubs have purchased 6 high tunnels and placed them at middle and elementary schools and they have become very popular with teachers and students alike.

These tunnels are easily installed in a couple of days and our goal is to include the people using it to be involved in the construction process. The tunnels are delivered as a complete kit to the site with an experienced crew to install the structure. These projects will provide citizens who don't have a garden spot a controlled environment where they can have a garden and grow fresh food for their families or to sell.

With each Seasonal High Tunnel House, Chest/Chatt RC&D also provides training to demonstrate how to operate them. The training is by experts on tunnel houses so the citizens who use the structure can maximize their yields with minimal cost and produce vegetables with the most nutrition for their families.

The goal of this project is to show people where food comes from, how it is grown, and to encourage citizens to get back to the basics and grow some of their food for a healthier lifestyle. These Tunnel houses have been approved by the USDA NRCS for the EQUIP program in Georgia and Alabama, so the design and quality meets the standards set by the USDA NRCS. The Seasonal High Tunnels also require an irrigation system since it is covered from rain and most growers use drip tape to effectively keep the plants moist and watered.

I have 2 of the 30' x 75' metal houses where we grow vegetables and cut flowers in the controlled environment. We collect rain water from gutters on our house and barn and pipe it into an underground storage tank where it is then pumped up to a holding tank and fed into the drip tape by gravity. This natural watering process works very well, and the operating costs are practically zero.

There are 2 of our high tunnels in Union county, one at the Union Agricultural center and one at Woody Gap School, and one at the Towns County Senior Center in Hiawassee. For more information on Seasonal High Tunnels or the Chest/Chatt project, contact Frank Riley, Executive Director, and Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D council at info.ccred@gmail.com.

Restraint

The latest mass shooting once again has us debating, "How do we restrain such behavior?" Fueled by the emotion of the moment, the political posturing may answer the question with new laws.

All Things New
Wayne Fowler



It's sort of a domino question, as some wonder how to restrain the lawmakers. Sir William Blackstone influenced early American legal theory, arguing that eternal, immutable laws of good and evil, i.e. natural law, govern lawmaking. In the early 20th C., Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote Supreme Court opinions based more on "the felt necessities of the times," unrestrained by the original text of the U.S. Constitution.

Regardless of the theory of jurisprudence, godlessness leads to chaos, which leads to more laws which cannot fix the original problem. Prisons are full of people who were not restrained by the most cleverly crafted laws. More to the point, the shooter at Douglas High in Parkland Florida broke numerous laws.

Even the law of God did not restrain him. "You shall not murder" (Ex. 20:13). Everyone has a God-given awareness of morality, a conscience that will be friend or foe "on the day when God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus" (Rom. 2:14-16). Self-interest does not always restrain either. British psychiatrist Theodore Dalrymple said, "How many people does each of us know who claim to seek happiness but freely choose paths inevitably leading to misery?"

The solution is "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:2). It resides inside the believer and effects a cognitive change. "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, and on their mind I will write them" (Heb. 10:16). John Piper explains it this way: "Real obedience to God is made possible through the work of Christ for all who believe in Him. God does the decisive work of taking out the heart of rebellion and putting in the heart that loves the commandments of God."

Same idea: "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh" (Gal. 6:16). "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal. 5:24). "You may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust" (2 Pet. 1:4).

People who belong to and walk with Christ Jesus inherit a certain restraint, evidence of God's grace. This is the Kingdom of God coming, His rule in your life. Even if you don't believe it, you should hope that a disturbed, angry loner with access to a gun does. Better to be confronted by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, which is the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). Against such there is no law.

Letters to The Editor

Forefathers Got It Right

Dear Editor,
 This letter is submitted to the community in the hope of preventing the violence that took place recently in Florida. We really are our brother's keepers whether we like it or not. It is vitally important that; "If you see something... say something" and then do something. That "Do Something" did not happen in Florida. The phrase "Gun Violence" is an incorrect term used to describe the tragic events in Florida. Guns are inherently benign and do not seek out anyone of their own volition. How the gun is used is totally dependent on the operator. The gun becomes an extension of the operator's personality, good, bad or disturbed. The "cause" is not the gun. Therefore, the term "Gun Violence" is incorrect.

A disturbed person or terrorist bent on destruction is free to choose any instrument such as a knife, ball bat, crow bar, chainsaw, pipe bomb, airliner, pressure cooker/ bomb, truck/ bomb or even a rock. That leaves the operator responsible for the violence, not the instrument. New and more restrictive gun laws are not the answer. As a "civilized society", we would like to believe we have services and agencies that benefit our fellow citizens. In the case of the recent Florida violence, all of those systems failed, not just once but many times over. That person could have received help and not become violent, or at least been prevented from committing those terrible destructive acts. The paths to becoming a violent person are many. Broken families, fatherless children, misguided ideology, mental illness, physical illness, disability, lack of discipline, lack of religion and the social environment all contribute to the development of a personality.

Video games are setting a new normal for behavior in the minds of game players, especially young impressionable minds. Some parents use computer games as a "surrogate baby sitter" and let young children play computer games, often without supervision. People of all ages are addicted to their electronic devices. Just try and take a device away from someone to prove that. Violent video games offer adversaries with a variety of weapons used by the players. Players are rewarded with high scores and promotion to even higher levels of combat with more horrific opponents and even more powerful weapons. At the end of the game, there are no adverse consequences to the violence the player experienced during the game.

In the Florida case, the ultimate consequence, the death penalty, has been eliminated for a plea of guilty by the perpetrator. The identity of the person responsible was never in doubt. That means the State, including those families that lost loved ones, will pay to maintain this person in prison for the rest of his life. That is not a choice he gave his victims. That person deserved the absolute maximum sentence. The name and the details of the event should never see the light of day ever again. This incident should not serve as an inspiration to others. The name of this person was not used in this letter for that reason.

The Second Amendment is a valuable part of our Constitution. The Constitution of The United States of America is the most important Governmental document in the history of the world. "We the people" are extremely fortunate that our forefathers got it right.

John Holmes

No Debates Needed

Dear Editor,
 I agree with the Parkland, FL students begging their elected leaders to "Do Something" so no student has to face another mass shooting. But the chances of our electeds to do anything is doubtful. Frankly I don't care about their pathetic political excuses, ambitions or contributors; now is the moment — but it will be squandered. So in the vacuum of inaction, retail gun sellers, internet sellers and private sellers can just stop selling AK-15 rifles and bump stocks. There are no 2nd amendment debates needed. Is it necessary to protect your family from an intruder with a semiautomatic? Seriously? No self respecting hunter is going to shoot Bambi with a semi so let's get real and protect our precious youth. Let's be proactive and take care of this here, now, in every community. There is no need to wait.

Bonny Herman

"Sometimes I worry about the sanity of anyone crazy enough to run for office!"

"Sometimes I worry about the sanity of anyone crazy enough to vote for them!"



Towns County Community Calendar

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Bridge Players | Every Monday: | All Saints Lutheran | 12:30 pm |
| Bingo | | Brasstown Manor | 9:30 am |
| Free GED prep. | Every Tuesday: | Old Rec. Center | 4 pm |
| SMART Recovery | Every Wednesday | Red Cross Building | 7 pm |
| Bridge Players | Every Thursday: | All Saints Lutheran | 12:30 pm |
| Free GED prep. | | Old Rec. Center | 4 pm |
| Alcoholics Anon. | Every Friday: | Red Cross Building | 7 pm |
| Alcoholics Anon. | Every Sunday: | Red Cross Building | 7 pm |
| Chamber Board | Second Monday of each month: | 1411 Jack Dayton Cir. | 8 am |
| Historical Society | | Old Rec. Center | 5:30 pm |
| Planning Comm. | | Civic Center | 7 pm |
| School Board | | Auditorium | 7 pm |
| Unicoy Masonic | | Lodge Hall | 7:30 pm |
| Gem & Mineral Club | Second Tuesday of each month: | Senior Center | 1:30 pm |
| Caregiver support | | Brasstown Manor | 3 pm |
| Arts & Crafts Guild | | Calvary Church | 4 pm |
| Lions Club | | Daniel's Restaurant | 6 pm |
| Mtn. Coin Club | | N. GA Tech | 6 pm |
| Basket Weavers | Second Wednesday of each month: | SC Fire Hall | 10 am |
| Board of Elections | | 67 Lakeview Cir., Ste. A | 4 pm |
| CVB Board | Second Thursday of each month: | Rec Center | 9 am |
| Awake America Prayer | | Civic Center | Noon |
| Mtn. Comm. Seniors | | Senior Center | 1 pm |
| Democratic Party | | Civic Center | 6 pm |
| Hospital Auxiliary | Third Monday of each month: | Cafeteria | 1:30 pm |
| YH Plan Comm. | Third Tuesday of each month: | YH City Hall | 5 pm |
| Co. Comm. Mtg | | Courthouse | 5:30 pm |
| Humane Shelter Bd. | | Blairsville store | 5:30 pm |
| Water Board | | Water Office | 6 pm |
| Quilting Bee | Third Wednesday of each month: | McConnell Church | 10 am |
| MOAA | | Call Jack @ 828-321-2896 | |
| 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 |

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