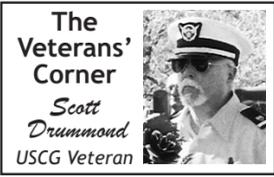


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Open House for Bill Kendall

Come one, come all, but say casual, shake hands and come farewell to Bill as his final days as our Towns County Commissioner come to a close, with his retirement at the end of December 2016. This event will be a simple "meet and greet". Very informal, so come share your "Bill Kendall stories" with all, and enjoy the fellowship of our wonderful Towns County community. Even if you can spare only a few minutes, come on in for this fun time. As you may know our Veterans organizations decreed Bill as an Honorary Veteran for his lifelong appreciation of our military men and women and his dedication to acquiring and building our Towns County Veterans Park. We are also indebted to Mr. Kendall for our unique Iwo Jima Memorial. It is unarguable this man has been a positive influence for Towns County, even during some financially hard times for many.



The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran

Mr. Bill Kendall has always been an ambassador of education and history, of and for Veterans for his entire professional life. No matter your political viewpoint, he has been about as good of a county leader as possible in the last several tumultuous years and an absolutely wonderful supporter of each and every Veteran and our projects, going above and beyond inasmuch as possible. Without him, much of what has transpired for Veterans within Towns County could've easily fallen by the wayside. In that respect our Veterans honored Mr. Kendall as an "Honorary Veteran" a couple of years back. The Pickleball games have his fingerprints all over, as well as him being a supporter of all things athletic for our schools and county.

I am not a democrat, nor is this political, but if he was running again, standing beside all our Veterans we would all vote for him. In his own words to me one Sunday morning, "It's all about right versus wrong, regardless of politics." Bill is an honest hard working leader, having accomplished a balancing act for the betterment of our Mountain Community. Whether you are serving our nation in our armed services or as a community leader, that's a hard line to follow at times, as demanding circumstances sometimes muddies the water but right is always best, even if unpopular. Our nation's leaders would benefit from Bill Kendall's example, as would all Americans.

Thank you, God bless you, Mr. Kendall and Jean, from all our Veterans and citizens of Towns County, GA. We will miss you in office, but hope to see you around town. Don't forget, this forthcoming Saturday, October 15, 2016, at the Towns County Recreation and Convention Center at Foster Park, Hiawassee, GA. Time: 4 PM until 6 PM. Snacks and refreshments will be provided by several of our Veterans organizations plus other community groups including our Pickleball Association. If you'd like, or are a member of any of our civic associations you may bring a dessert.

More information is available by calling John Richards, VFW Commander at 706-896-7985 OR Mel Halfon at 404-295-6462. - *Semper Paratus*

Critical elections and false dilemmas

Every four years we are told that "this" election is "critical," that we are at a "turning point," and that what we do must shape the direction the country will take for generations to come. Perhaps this is true. We don't know for sure.

We hope that this is not true. So much power should never be concentrated into one place or contained within the walls of one office, oval, square or otherwise. If the system of checks and balances given to us by the founders of the American Republic worked as it was designed, it would not matter so much who sat in the Oval Office. But then, not much of that Republic is still standing, is it?

On the other hand, when the nation is voting to legitimize a monarch selected by the world's most powerful "nobles," or "CEO's," as we prefer to call them, can we find any solace in the fact that the hard choices have already been made for us? Should we adopt a fatalistic view and relax into our acquired helplessness?

Millions of Trump supporters would answer that with a resounding "no!" This is something that many democrats fail to understand: Much of Trump's support does not depend on a desire to vote for Trump, but on a desire to vote against the establishment and the unelected few who have orchestrated the steady decline of the fortunes of the broad middle of America.

We know quite a few intelligent people who care deeply about social justice, the environment and the other fine ideals put forward by those who usually vote for democrats. They are mystified, even horrified by what they have been told must surely motivate a Trump supporter. Surely that support must be based on bigotry, sexism, racism and a host of other "deplorable" qualities.

But should they take the trouble to actually talk to a Trump supporter, they will very likely find a person who is struggling to make ends meet, who has seen their hope for a better life outsourced to another country and the cost of most of what they must have to be safe and comfortable continually rising, along with the fortunes of that few who shape the fate of the nation.

If we take a step back from the drama, we might see that many of the people voting for Trump have quite a lot in common with the poor huddled masses so dear to the hearts of many democrats, though in truth, we find that most of the people we know who preach to us about the plight of minorities and immigrants - do not actually know any.

The point is, an outgoing tide lowers all boats, though this is not immediately clear to those who have risen above the fray, lifted by the very economic bubbles they helped to create. We have two very large sections of the population, those in the middle and those at the bottom of the economic ladder, who are struggling, fearful and angry.

This situation is not unique, even in the relatively short history of the United States. When the bad decisions of the few (bad for the country, good for the few) create hardship for the many, our real choice as to what we should do about the problem becomes less about liberal versus conservative and more about those who look to more centralized power for a help versus those who seek a more localized, evenly distributed solution.

There are some very interesting parallels between the election of 1800, sometimes known as the "Revolution of 1800," and our situation today. Thomas Jefferson, representing a more decentralized approach to government, defeated John Adams and the Federalists, who preferred power to be concentrated into fewer hands. Ironically, Jefferson's electoral victory depended upon slaves being counted as 3/5 of a human being. Had they been fully counted Adams would have won, even though Jefferson received more of the popular vote. Keep in mind that slaves and women were not allowed to vote.

Despite the obvious blindness of the age they lived in, history has shown the quality of the characters of Jefferson and Adams to have been of the highest caliber, though you would not have thought so reading the headlines and the political ads of the day. The election of 1800 was an ugly, bitterly contested struggle.

There is little chance at this point in time that history will look kindly upon the characters of Clinton and Trump. Many of us see them as representative of the general decline in the moral character of the nation as a whole. This may be true, but there is another factor to consider. A student of history knows that human nature has not changed for at least as long as humans have been recording history. Sex scandals are nothing new. Every moral, law, rule and code of ethics ever written has been broken by someone in a position of power.

Shine a slightly different light on our long line of presidents and you will see a generous supply of liars, thieves, adulterers and perhaps even a mass murderer or two. Do not worry that the reprehensible characters competing for the presidency today represent a fall from grace or the end of civilization. We have always been this way. But we have not always had the technology to shine a light into every corner and reveal every secret.

What we can see in this badly written reality show of an election is a cautionary tale. Donald Trump, if we consider his arrogance, his objectification of women, and his narcissism, represents the worst our culture has to offer. Hillary Clinton, if we consider her arrogance, her dishonesty and her long history of practicing crony capitalism, represents the worst that our ruling class has to offer.

Yet in spite of it all, we still believe the false dilemma that we must choose the lesser of the evils.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs

The cooler weather is going to send insects scrambling for warm, safe places to spend the winter. Unfortunately for us, our houses are exactly what these bugs are looking for. One of the peskiest invaders is the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB). This bug was introduced from Asia most likely in shipping crates. The first recorded sighting was in Allentown, Pennsylvania in 1998, but it probably arrived even before that. It has subsequently spread throughout much of the east coast feeding on crops and becoming a nuisance in winter.

The adult BMSB is about 17 mm long and has a mottled brown pattern. It has light colored bands on its antenna and alternating light and dark brown bands on the edge of its body. Like many other stink bugs, it is shaped like a shield and as its name suggests, it has glands that produce an unpleasant odor when it is agitated. There are usually only one or two generations in Georgia, depending on how warm the weather is and the location. Adults emerge in May, mate and deposit eggs throughout the summer. The nymphs emerge from the eggs and go through five growth stages before finally developing wings and becoming adults. By this time, temperatures start to cool off, and the bugs search for places to overwinter until October.

In its native range in Asia, the BMSB feeds on a wide variety of fruit including apples, pears, peaches, figs, citrus, and many others. It can also be a pest of ornamental plants and important crops such as soybeans. In the Northeastern United States, this bug has caused massive damage to apple and berry orchards. In the Southeast, it can be a major pest of cotton and blueberries, two very important crops to Georgia.

Though you may find several of these insects in your house over the winter, they do not infest houses like cockroaches. You will typically find them squeezing through door jams and window frames as they follow the light they see coming from your house, and then sense the warm temperatures. The best way to make sure these smelly pests don't completely take over in the winter is to take action before they look for warm spaces. This means making sure all outdoor vents are covered with a fine mesh, adding weather stripping to door and window frames, and sealing up any other points of entry. Though you may still see some bugs in late fall and winter, having your house sealed up well will decrease the number of BMSB that make it in.

You may be tempted to spray insecticide if you see BSMB in your home, but once they make it inside, your best bet would be to try to locate where they came in. If you have a lot of bugs in walls or attic spaces, spraying insecticides will indeed kill many of them, but it won't prevent more from moving in. Also, having a large amount of dead stink bugs in your home will promote carpet beetle infestations, as they feed on dead insects. Carpet beetles also feed on wool clothing and other animal products, so it is best to try to prevent stink bugs from entering in the first place.

Though these pesky critters can be annoying and give off a bad smell, they are not harmful. They may startle you as they fly around your house, but they won't bite, sting, or infest your home, so don't worry too much. Just seal up your house to try to avoid the problem next year!



UGA extension
From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

What is wrong with clean energy?

I would like to thank Jim Soltys for his comments about solar and wind energy. At least I know that someone reads my letters to the editor! In response to his comments, yes, I have solar cells and a solar hot water heater in my house. They are making money, and I would recommend others consider doing likewise. Consumer Reports just did a review of solar cells, and they said they pay for themselves in 5-7 years, and then you have another 20-30 years of free electricity. Now that is a good investment! And yes, I have considerable money invested in solar stocks. Clean energy investment broke all previous records last year, and is now seeing twice as much global funding as fossil fuels. That is where the money is to be made.

I cannot understand what bothers people about clean energy. Investing in clean energy will be the thing that keeps America great, for the Green Energy revolution is now unstoppable. We can jump on and lead the world, or be left behind. I personally do not think we can afford to be left behind. Now over 97% of experts in climate change agree that climate change is real, caused by humans, and very dangerous. What if they are all wrong, and we still make the conversion to clean energy? We will be stuck with a healthier, more prosperous America. Can that be bad?

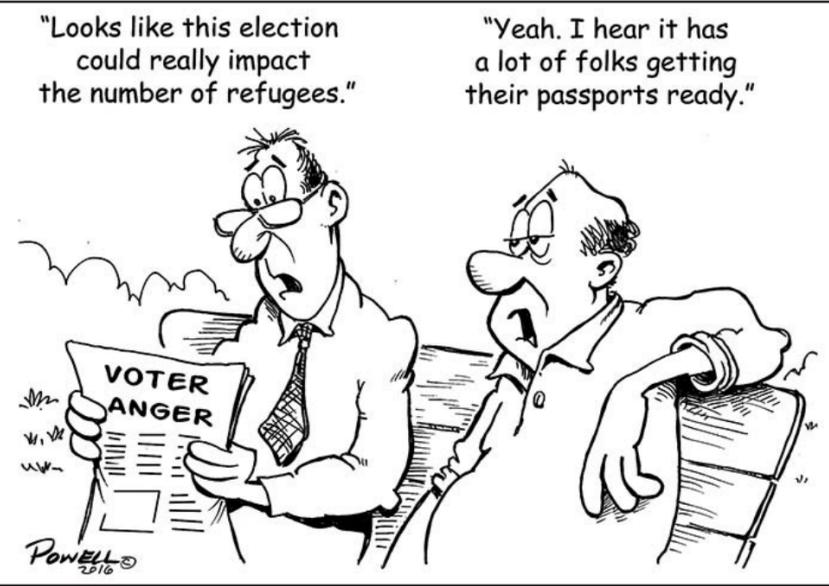
Vernon Dixon, MD

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 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.



Towns County Community Calendar

Bingo	Every Monday: Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Thursday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Bridge Players	Every Friday: Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Caregiver support	Second Tuesday of each month: Brasstown Manor	3 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild	Calvary Alliance Chapel	6 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	Old Rock Jail	4 pm
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Second Thursday of each month: Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	5 pm
Square Dance Club	Second Friday of each month: Rec. Center	7 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Third Monday of each month: Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Water Board	Water Office	6 pm
YH Plan Comm.	Third Tuesday of each month: YH City Hall	5 pm
Quilting Bee	Third Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Jack @ 828-321-2896	
Co. Comm. Mtg	Third Thursday of each month: Courthouse	5:30 pm
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 pm
Goldwing Riders	Third Saturday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	11 am

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Towns County Herald
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Towns County Herald

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Lily Avery Staff Writer

Lowell Nicholson Photographer
Website: townscountyherald.net

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.
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