

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

### Letter to the Editor:

As I was preparing to write yet another press release for one of the organizations I work with, I recalled a recent conversation with a friend of mine as we talked about the cost of doing business, and the *Towns County Herald's* name came up. The TCH is probably the oldest business operating under the same name, in Towns County. It generates revenue from subscriptions, legal notices, and advertising. And yet, it always publishes press releases and pictures for all kinds of community activities and other items of interest... At no charge. If you take a look at your next issue, you will discover just how many of these articles are published each and every week. And so I say thank you, *Towns County Herald* managers and staff for all you do for the many groups who come to you with these requests. In my years of writing articles for the Master Gardeners Association, Towns County Cleanup, Hamilton Gardens, and several other nonprofit organizations, you have never turned me down. And you have never charged me a dime! You provide an extraordinary service to this entire community free of charge. Thank you for your support.

Grace Howard

### Letter to The Editor

*The City Council has a Winner!*

The Council voted to enter into an agreement with the AirMedCare Network air ambulance membership. As a resident of the City of Hiawassee you now have limited coverage for air ambulance service with no out of pocket expense when the pick up location is in Towns County, Georgia. Negotiations for this program began last summer and the Council voted unanimously to join the plan in the October Council meeting.

Prior to this agreement, this critical helicopter life flight service could cost a resident upwards of \$20,000. The City has paid the \$5,000 premium for all residents. The coverage is 24/7, 365 days a year. Tax money very well spent.

More good news. There are four (4). Yes, four local air ambulance services involved in this program to insure complete coverage to the residents of Hiawassee. There is a renewable full membership upgrade available at a remarkable low cost of \$35 per year. The full coverage membership covers 220 locations in 32 states and many more air ambulance services. The same coverage applies at all locations in the full upgrade program. This is \$35 of your money very well spent, especially if you have to use it. If you don't use it, it still would have been well spent just knowing you had coverage if you needed it.

Do not throw away a mailed out information letter from Airmedcare when it comes in the mail. It could save you a lot of money and provide critical emergency air ambulance transport when you really need it.

The above information is not intended to be all the details you may need to know. It is a full hearted endorsement of a very well thought out benefit to the residents of Hiawassee.

If you need more information call: Jimmy Morse; Membership Sales Manager, Cell: 423-468-0988; Toll free: 877-230-4032. Calls to City Hall concerning this program will be referred to Mr. Jimmy Morse.

There is still a long way to go. Please continue to attend and support the new Council in their efforts. Keep in mind that the Council meetings are conducted under "Robert's Rules of Order" to insure a timely and orderly meeting.

Thank you City Council.

John L. Holmes  
Taxpayer, Property Owner  
Hiawassee Resident

## Mole Control

Few things infuriate a homeowner as much as a mole problem. With their pointed noses, tiny eyes and ears, and rounded front paws perfect for digging, these critters are easily distinguished from other tunneling garden pests (if you ever see them, that is). Moles are almost always underground and rarely surface, making them incredibly hard to eradicate. Because of this, it is important for the mole-plagued homeowner to take a "know thy enemy" approach in order to get rid of these subterranean pests.

The Common Mole is the most likely culprit of those unsightly ridges in your yard or garden, which it creates as it tunnels through the earth looking for worms, grubs (immature beetles), and soil-dwelling insects. Even though moles don't eat plants, their constant digging damages bulbs and roots, and their tunnels can dry out grass roots as excessive air is allowed into the soil. (Since moles are such efficient diggers, the number of tunnels in your yard is not indicative of the number of moles you have in your yard. Just one of these pests can construct an entire maze of tunnels in a very short time as it searches for food, and only a few of these paths are used regularly.)

There are two main options for getting rid of moles once they've settled in your lawn or garden, and both require patience. The first is to get rid of their food source. Treating the infested area with insecticide will kill any grubs and decrease the mole's food source. However, there are two potential issues with this. Since moles also eat earthworms, which aren't affected by insecticides, they could still find food. Also, some of the most effective insecticides are often expensive and can kill pollinators. Because of this, they are strictly regulated and have specific guidelines for application, so be sure to follow the directions and store the chemicals in a safe place. After treating your lawn or garden, water the treated area well so the chemical soaks into the soil and kills as many grubs as possible. After a few weeks, the moles will realize there is not as much food as there once was and move on.

The second way to combat moles is to trap them. This method can be cheaper and quicker, but could take several failed attempts to actually produce results. The first step is to locate the tunnels that are used regularly. Each day, pick a few tunnels and step on them to cave them in, using markers such as flags to keep track of which tunnels you have altered. If a collapsed tunnel is raised the next day, then it is an active tunnel and a prime candidate for a trap location. Before you set the trap, realize that moles can sense an improperly installed harpoon or choker trap very easily and will simply tunnel around or under it. However, they have no problem burrowing through collapsed earth, so step on the active tunnel again to cave it in and obscure the trap before installing it. Check the traps daily and reposition if you don't see results within a few days. Happy hunting!

Last call for the Apple Grafting Workshop Friday, February 26th! 10 a.m. at the GMREC in Blairsville. Registration is \$15. RSVP to GMREC, (706) 745-2655.

Feel free to call the UGA Extension offices in Union or Towns counties with questions about agriculture, natural resources, or anything in between. I am in Towns County every Thursday, and Union County the rest of the week.



## Interesting Politics

National politics has taken an interesting turn this year. Mind you, there is no joy in it, but it is interesting. The mind numbing spell cast by media and reinforced by the perpetual drain of wage slavery has been lifted just enough to allow us to take stock, and what we see is making us angry.

No matter which way our brains are wired, the dominant amygdala of the conservative or the anterior cingulate of the liberal, there is enough anger to go around. We are all beginning to realize that the people we have put in charge, and those who have taken charge behind the scenes, do not have our best interests at heart. We understand that the perpetual war of the last quarter century was brought to us by democrats and republicans alike, and the steady decline of our wealth and purchasing power has occurred under republican and democrat leadership alike. We see that the guiding hand behind the curtain is an extension of a small group of financial and corporate interests.

This awakening makes us angry, and because of that anger the two candidates to beat in the campaign for the presidency are a socialist and a celebrity businessman. The "establishment" is concerned. Sanders does not want their money. Trump does not need it. Either one, or both, could conceivably win the nomination of their respective parties, despite the best efforts of the establishment to prevent this from happening.

"Deep State" is a somewhat ambiguous term which refers to the defacto alliance between corporate and financial interests, lobbyists, bureaucrats and elected officials. It is an alliance of expediency. It is apolitical and it survives from one administration to the next, and one Congress to the next. I find it to be a more useful term than "establishment," as it lacks the historical connotations that have accumulated around the latter phrase.

Hillary Clinton is a "Deep State" candidate. She has accumulated millions of dollars from their interests during her career as a "public servant." Despite the stink of corruption, the strong possibility of criminal behavior and her persistent unlikeability among voters, corporate media and the DNC have kept her candidacy center stage. Jeb Bush was another Deep State candidate, and a "logical" choice to extend the Bush dynasty. Wall Street would have been content with either candidate, and with either in the Oval Office we could look forward to a continuation of perpetual war and the accumulation of wealth out of reach of the majority of Americans.

As the election grows nearer, and if the Sanders and Trump campaigns do not implode, it will be interesting to see how the Deep State responds. Clinton squeaked by in Iowa on a remarkable run of "good luck" in delegates won only by a coin toss (literally). She was beaten badly in New Hampshire, but the democrat (and the republican) establishments have safeguarded the nomination process against the emergence of someone like Bernie Sanders with the use of Superdelegates, which are delegates placed by the respective National Committees who vote independently of the primary results. In case you haven't heard, Clinton could conceivably end up with more New Hampshire delegates than Sanders by the time of the convention, despite being beaten by a landslide. The win in Nevada has calmed some of the panic in the Clinton camp, but the win was not decisive, and Sanders will continue to threaten. With Bush out of the race, look for an increase of Deep State money flowing to the Clinton campaign, and perhaps also to Marco Rubio.

Personally I think that Sanders is sincere in his beliefs, and he has a voting record that is consistent with those ideals. Unfortunately, history is replete with examples of the failure of socialism. If he is elected I think the best that Conservatives can hope for is that he will moderate to an updated version of a "New Deal" Democrat, which, if the Deep State does manage to take the economy over a cliff, would seem like déjà vu to anyone who still remembers the Great Depression. It is unfortunate that most Americans do not

## The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

realize just how much socialism is already embedded within the current system, providing an ever increasing flow of bread and circuses while half of us now support the other half.

Those who focus on money given to the less fortunate seem to miss entirely the astonishing amount of corporate welfare, some would call it "theft," which reaches beyond our own failing finances to tax the prosperity of future generations. Sanders has successfully targeted one of the true enemies of the people of the United States in his attacks on the big banks, and the word "socialist" is not abhorrent to younger generations of Americans who either depend on the government for support or do not understand the history of this nation's struggle against socialist ideology. He will likely continue to be a nemesis to the "inevitability" of a Clinton nomination.

As for Donald Trump, he speaks directly to the anger, the fears and the frustration of millions of Americans. He says things that we wish we could say with impunity, impeded as we are by a political correctness that has become increasingly institutionalized under the current regime. He represents a chance to escape what feels to many people like a tyranny of the minority. I believe that Trump has been unjustly accused of racism and bigotry; (read what he has actually said within the context of his statements, rather than the sound bite analysis of political pundits.) Unfortunately, his loose cannon also seems to appeal to those who are indeed racist and bigoted, and the history of his business dealings raises some legitimate questions about his integrity.

When it comes to integrity, or more to the point, the lack of it, I believe that Trump and Clinton may be well matched. It is a long time until November, but if the current trajectory holds we may very well be faced with a choice between two corrupt, amoral and polarizing candidates, one representing the interests of the Deep State and the other, well, Trump is after all a deal maker. If either gains the presidency, I hope against hope that the old adage "We get the government we deserve" is not actually true.

## Walt and Sharon Scott

14 May 1935 in Saint Francis, WI there was born a high energy individual, Walter Scott who later graduated Pulaski HS in January 1954. Walt couldn't find a job so he enlisted in the USMC in April. Boot camp and AIT led Walt to Korea as a part of Able Company, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division (a 105mm Howitzer artillery company). Returning to Camp Pendleton, CA in April 1955, Walt was promoted to Chief of Section, was on the Company and Regiment fast pitch softball team as well as the football team. He also competed in rifle matches in Southern California and was on a public appearance team for the 105 Howitzer at county fairs and carnivals, also in southern California.

Earning his Honorable discharge in April 1957 led Walt into some "sweet and sour" times. The sweet being that he met his wife, Sharon Marie Hokenson in May and they married in November, 1958. The "sour" was he was hired and laid off by six companies, as a Service Representative in November 1961. Walt (or "Scotty" as he is called) was promoted from Tech 1 to Tech 4; then to Service Manager and by attending Milwaukee Institute of Technology at night, he earned an Electronic Engineering degree, which landed him another promotion, in 1973 to XMS (Xerox Medical Systems). He was transferred to Atlanta, GA as District Service Manager in 1975 living in Lilburn, GA.

The Veterans' Corner  
Scott Drummond  
USCG Veteran



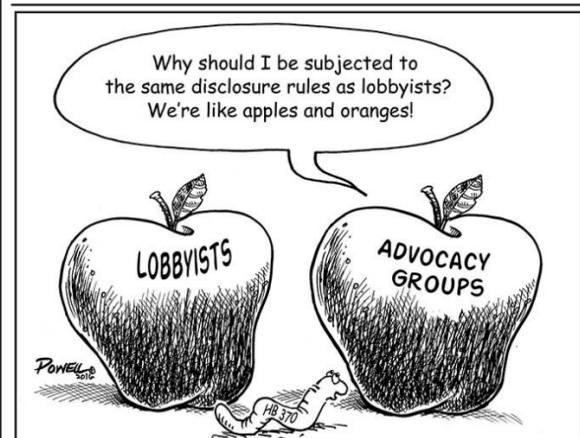
He became Customer Service representative for XMS in 1977, for customer training and service. Anticipating retirement in 1988 and after much looking around, Walt and Sharon bought their dream home in Hiawassee on beautiful Lake Chatuge in 1987. They have three children: Jeffery (Jeff) Scott, Jody Knapp-Federico (Fred), and Jean Martin (Ty); four grandchildren: Tasia Nabors (Dan), William Knapp (Donna), Marissa Martin, Harrison Martin and one great grandchild, Tate Nabors.

Walt never really retired as he is dedicated to serving our community as a member of our VFW, Marine Corps League, North Georgia Honor Guard, and a lector at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church as well as an EM and member of the Knights of Columbus. If you have what it takes, volunteer to serve in our North Georgia Honor Guard, with some of the finest and greatest guys you'll ever know!

Walt still shoots trap and sporting clays, plays golf, and does woodworking but he would not allow this to be written without mentioning his life's passion, spending time with his family. It needs to be mentioned he is very good at woodworking.

Asking Walt if he'd start his life the same way, serving in our Marine Corps, got a real quick answer, "Of course I would!"

Semper Paratus



# Community Calendar

**American Legion Post 23** meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support!

**VFW Fish Fry** April - October on 2nd & 4th Fridays each month from 4:30 - 7. \$10 per plate.

**Towns County Water Board Meeting** 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.

**Towns County Community Seniors** meet the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 1 p.m.

**Towns County Republican Party** meets at 6:30 PM the 4th Thursday of each month at the new Senior Center. For more info call 706-994-3919.

**Democratic Party of Towns County** meets 2nd Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Civic Center. Newcomers welcome. Questions please contact the T.C. Dem's at Townscountydemocrats@gmail.com.

**Towns County Planning Commission** is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse.

**Towns County Commissioners** meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse.

**School Board Meeting**, 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

**Hiawassee City Council** 1st Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall.

**Young Harris City Council**, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 p.m., Young Harris City Hall.

**The Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259** meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

**Stevens Lodge #414 F & AM** meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris. Sat. morning breakfast 2nd Sat. of each month from 8 - 10:30 AM. \$6 adults, \$3 12 & under.

**Towns County Board of Elections** holds its monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Elections Office (Old Rock Jail).

**Towns County Historical Society** meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the old Rec Center in Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m.

**Bridge Players** intermediate level

meets at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Village Condos Clubhouse.

**Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild** meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Calvary Chapel on Hwy. 76 in Hiawassee. All local artists and crafters are welcome, for information call 706-896-0932.

**Mountain Computer User Group** meets the 2nd Monday of each month. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.

**Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter, Trout Unlimited** meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Cadence Bank in Blairsville. 5 p.m. Fly Tying - 7 p.m. General Meeting. Everyone welcome. www.ngatu692.com.

**Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)** meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call Gary at 706-896-4308 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** meets every Friday and Sunday evening at 7 at Red Cross Building at 1293 Jack Dayton Circle. 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.

**Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary** on the 3rd Monday of each month, except the months of July, October and December, in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m.

**The Humane Society Mountain Shelter** Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Cadence Bank in Blairsville.

**The Towns County Alzheimer's Support Group** meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the Family Life Center of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church. For more info call Carol at 706-896-6407.

**GMREC Garden Tours** every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Shooting Creek Basket Weavers** meets 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreekbasketweavers.com.

**Friendship Community Club** meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76,

706-896-3637.

**Goldwing Road Riders** meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12.

**Caregiver support group** meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.

**Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club**, Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch.

**Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC)** meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiawassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.

**The Board of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce** meets the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.

**The Quilting Bee** at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Family Life Center, Room 216. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 AM - 3 PM. Bring a sack lunch. For more information call Kathy at 706-835-6721 or Marilyn at 706-897-4367.

**Mountain Coin Club** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the North Georgia Tech campus in Blairsville. Guests are welcome. For more info, call 706-379-1488.

**Monday morning BINGO** at Brasstown Manor every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Players meet in the Bradford. Questions 706-896-4285.

**Towns County Lions Club** meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, 273 Big Sky Drive, Hiawassee.

**Free GED preparation**, basic skills, and college entrance exam classes are now being held at the Old Recreation Building Tuesday & Thursday from 4 - 8 p.m. Call 706-754-7717 for more information.

**Red Cross DAT** meets 4th Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Red Cross building at 1298 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.

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## Towns County Herald

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