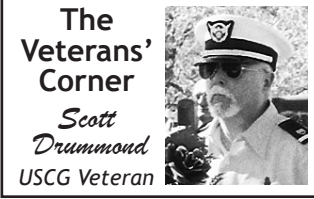


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Riley Roach, another Towns County All-American

20,000 young men, 49 Boys State participants from each state selected to attend Boys State in Washington, D.C. July 22-29. Riley, nominated and sponsored, our first from TCHS, American Legion Post 23.



The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran

My name is Riley Roach, I am a Georgia native, originally from Holly Springs until moving here in 2008. My family has a diverse military background, most heavily in the Navy with my great-grandfather serving in the Pacific theatre during World War II, my grandfather serving in Vietnam, and most recently my mom, Sharon Roach, serving as a yeoman from 1994 to 1997. I believe this rich family background, coupled with my interest in political events and processes helped with my selection to be the first ever participant from American Legion Post 23 in Hiawassee to be a part of Georgia Boys State. Georgia Boys State is a program that was originally started in the summer of 1940 that brought together young community leaders to not only help envision the future of the state, but the future of America as well. The program focuses on teaching these young men not only the intricacies of running a government, but also how to apply them. With notable members including NBA legend Michael Jordan and former U.S. President Bill Clinton, the prestigious organization is not only an amazing opportunity, but also a great way for up and coming high school seniors to meet new friends who also share their interest in government.

My personal experience with Boys State was absolutely amazing. I was able to meet new friends, learn critical things about government that I never thought would be so integral to everyday life as they are, and best of all I learned how to not only be a leader but an effective one, which is undoubtedly one of the most important things you can learn from this program. To any up and rising junior boy in high-school who is wondering "why in the world would I give up one week of my summer to go and learn stuff when I just got out of school?" It's a lot more than that. I assure you, and this program not only looks great for your community, but it also looks highly attractive on college applications, but the program is not meant for just anyone. It is meant for individuals who see themselves as leaders in their community, and people who stand out with great visionary talents that will help shape their community in the near future.

I would like to thank Jim Hoyt, commander of American Legion post 23 for selecting me to be the first ever participant of this program for their post for Boys State. The dean and director, Bob Beauchamp and Phil Youngblood for heading such an amazing program, and my counselor at Boys State, Harold Watkins of American Legion post 160 for providing me with the guidance and information towards my own career. www.legion.org/youth/233137/51st-state-gives-oregon-youth-taste-real-world/.
Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

State of the City Report

According to the Mayor, The State of the City is good. Here is a point by point review. Substantial progress with the infrastructure? We still have: my favorite 17 year old pot hole ...and it has visiting relatives; broken sidewalks... which don't matter as there is little business to walk to; fire hydrants that don't work, because they are not hooked up or broken; faulty water meters throughout the community; inadequate water pressure and undersized lines to City water customers; and a neglected City Square. It has been years since any streets have been improved or repaved. These are just a few of the still existing problems.

A raise in the tax millage is not needed if you can raise the water and sewer rates to the highest in the state. Look at the proposed budget and add up the water and sewer related items and do the math. Maybe that \$500,000 cut from the budget would have been better as money spent.

The three new Council Members demanded the 3% salary increase be placed in the budget and it has been 8 years since City employees have had a raise. By contrast, County Employees have received raises in each of those same years.

The "new" City Hall is impressive, in a good location, debt free is good and lends to the City - Government complex with the County Court House, City Library, City Hall, Police Department all in a central location. It's almost like it was planned that way. The "side door" entrance and limited parking in front is a little odd.

The proposed Mayors Park is not in the City. It is 6 acres small and day use only. By the time the parking lot, boat launch and dock are in place about half of the area (3 acres) will be left for the walking trail, pavilion, picnic tables, sitting benches, playground area, bathrooms and poodle poo trail. That will be 6 lbs of potatoes in 3 lb sack. The first time 30 or so bass boats show up for a tournament local residents will not be able to get in the park. No use fee is being planned so the maintenance will be on the taxpayers, not on the non-resident using public. Towns County is not participating in the park even though it is in the County. TVA/DNR is contributing approximately \$150,00 for the dock and boat ramp and the original \$100,000 being raised is now \$200,000 + and still growing. Big sums for a very small day use park. The money and effort for the Mayors Park may have been better spent on refurbishing the 50 acre NFS Park on 288 with more camping sites, upgrading the parking lot, upgrading the boat launch and adding a new larger swim beach. The immediate neighbors would be the current swim beach and the current GMF campgrounds. No complaints from those folks and more accessibility for everyone. Due to the overflow of the current facilities, there is a ready market for "more of the same" as additional attractions.

The water tank, water lines and sewer lines to the school were in crisis mode and a critical project. Good job. It could have been done sooner with proper planning and avoided the crisis. Additional water and sewer problems deserve a separate discussion and will be addressed at a later date.

Crosswalks at McDonald's? Are you kidding me!? That is the most dangerous intersection in town and the City Executives want to add pedestrians to all the fender benders that occur there. If you doubt the danger, check with the local wrecker services or the Chief of Police. The City Executives point with lust to the crosswalks in Helen and want them here. If they are installed here, they need to have a stop and go light for the pedestrians so the car traffic will get a chance to flow through town. Try driving through Helen any summer day and you will see what I mean. The pedestrians need a stop light to control the flow and allow cars to pass through.

Additional note: An inventory of what we have is revealing. GMF campgrounds are fully booked all summer and provide long term stay for tourists. The GMF facilities are very well designed, in the shade (a very large plus), handicap accessible, a beautiful setting in the mountains and on the lake. The GMF is underutilized with only a few events and some of those could be improved. There is a really nice swim beach but it is filled to overflow on any warm to hot day. Close in is the new sports complex with multiple uses available to the public. The Anderson Music Hall, while on the small side, is an excellent facility and comfortably air-conditioned. Do we have problems? Yes. Let's fix them. Don't be a monitor. Please attend your City Council Meetings.
John L. Holmes, Taxpayer, Property owner, Resident

Mainstream Media

We left you last week in a discussion of the apolitical and amoral agendas that shape the national narrative. A very small group of corporate entities, seamlessly welded to government, owns the infrastructure of all our communications and seeks to guide our thoughts and discussions from social media all the way to the national news.

If you are a long time reader of this column, you know that we view mainstream media with only slightly less disdain than we have for the robo-callers. MSM is the propaganda arm of the oligarchy, and behind its immediate and tactical goals for separating you from the money in your wallet, are long term strategic goals for expansion and control.

Less than two weeks ago, mainstream media was losing control of the narrative. Brexit voters in the UK gave lie to the polls and ignored the threats and warnings of world leaders intent on propping up the ailing European Union.

Here in the US, Trump, a symptom of the country's anger and frustration, was gaining in the polls. Bipartisan anger was focused on Washington when the FBI reminded us that there are different standards of justice for the global elite than there are for average citizens. When FBI Director, James Comey announced that no charges would be brought against Hillary Clinton for doing exactly the same thing that others have been tried and convicted of doing, the national disgust was palpable.

Some Clinton apologists attempted to claim victory in the FBI's announcement, but most were silent or subdued in the defense of their standard bearer. Guilty of a crime or not, Clinton lied, and lied repeatedly about classified emails on her private server. She lied to the American people, and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has now sent a referral to the FBI to investigate whether Clinton lied under oath to Congress last October.

We are quick to anger when we see injustice, and there is a long simmering anger all over the western world for the draconian methods of the "one world" visionaries, and a deep mistrust of their motives. That anger, at least in the US, is now refocused on race.

There is no doubt that racism exists in this country and elsewhere. Racism is deeply embedded in the human animal, which was wired since our hunter-gatherer days to mistrust "the other." Where we are all the same color, we emphasize other differences to separate "us" from "them."

There is no doubt that there are some police officers who are racist, since at the time of this writing those ranks are populated by human beings rather than robots. There is also no doubt, as is clearly indicated by the numbers, that the vast majority of law enforcement personnel do their jobs with a remarkable level of professionalism, and as many of us know from personal experience, with devotion and self sacrifice.

Sixty two percent of Americans are white; 13% are black. In 2015, half of fatal police shootings were white, while 26% were black. Some argue that blacks dying in police shootings at twice their percentage of the population is evidence of racism, though digging deeper into the numbers reveals that almost two thirds of robberies, over half of all murders and almost half of all assaults in the most populated counties in the US, were committed by blacks. Are blacks committing crimes at up to three times their percentage of the population because they are black? Certainly not. Scratch those numbers and you will see that these crimes are more likely to be committed by people who are unemployed and desperately poor, regardless of the color of their skin. If we wish to ferret out racism, we should look to the factors that contribute to blacks being disproportionately poor and unemployed.

Unfortunately, corporate media wants us to think instead about civil unrest and looming race war as they magnify the influence of the very small minority of people involved in hate groups. We are supposed to argue about gun laws as the manufactured narrative pits gun owners fearful of losing their rights against those who fear all guns.

Meanwhile gun sales continue to increase, along with the profits of gun manufacturers. The manipulated narrative of so called civil unrest, just as it has done with the issue of terrorism, conditions us to accept more government oversight, more laws, more control.

As we consider all these issues, attempting to separate fact from propaganda in an ever increasing onslaught of "bad" news, keep this one fact in mind. Despite all the headlines and hyperbole, according to the FBI's own numbers, violent crime in the United States continues its almost ten year decline.

20# COPY PAPER now available at The Herald
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The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Japanese Beetles

Once again, the hot summer months have brought those pesky brown and green Japanese beetles that devastate our foliage. These beetles first appeared in the United States in 1916. Like most introduced species, it is not a pest in its native country of Japan, where natural predators keep beetle populations at bay. However, since its first appearance here, populations have continued to skyrocket and devour flowers and leaves.

Japanese beetles are about half an inch in length and have coppery backs. Their heads and shoulders are a deep green color, and they have tufts of white hair covering their bodies. Adults emerge from the soil and begin aggressively feeding in June. They typically live for thirty to forty-five days, but populations can continue to cause damage for up to six weeks as young adults continue to emerge. These beetles feed on over 300 species of plants and will eat almost every part of a plant except the stem. Though a single beetle does not eat very much at all, when they swarm, they can easily defoliate entire ornamental plants and vegetables as they feed on the plant tissue between the veins. As the beetles continue to feast, the vegetation they damage release odors that draw even more beetles leading to an infestation.

Japanese beetles are strong flyers and can often travel for miles. Because of this, it is difficult to tell the source of the infestation. Once they have found a suitable area to establish, the females will mate and burrow about two to three inches into the soil to lay their eggs. A single female can lay up to sixty eggs in her lifetime. The larvae (grubs) hatch soon after and grow rapidly throughout the summer months, feeding on turfgrass roots.

Beetles overwinter deep in the soil in the grub phase. They can dig as deep as six inches during the coldest months, and once the soil reaches fifty degrees, they become inactive. In the spring, once soil temperatures climb again, the grubs move back into the root zone. After feeding for another four to six weeks, the grubs go through a transition stage (pupa) and become adults which emerge in June to begin the cycle again.

The Japanese beetle is particularly devastating to landscapes because both the grubs and the adults feed excessively on plants. However, there are a few control methods that can be taken to decrease beetle populations around your home. If you have several bare spots in your turf that you suspect may be from beetle larvae feeding on grass roots, peel back a single square foot section of turf and count the number of grubs present. If you have more than five grubs in a square foot, you should treat your lawn with appropriate insecticides to prevent the larvae from doing any more damage. If adult beetles are infesting only a small area of your property, physical removal may be most economical and effective. However, in cases where a large percentage of property is affected, chemical control with insecticides may be required. Planting ornamentals that are unappealing to Japanese beetles can also help prevent large populations from establishing. However, never place beetle traps because they can actually end up attracting even more beetles to your property!

If you are interested in the various treatment options for Japanese beetle infestations, or would like a list of beetle-resistant ornamental varieties, contact the extension office for a publication.



UGA extension
From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee



"Selfies? Are you kidding? I don't even want an 'I VOTED' sticker this year!"

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
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

Towns County Herald

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Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546