

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

### Challenge

Dear Editor,  
I have been involved with both the Towns County Lions Club, Georgia Mountain Fair Board and Hamilton Gardens, Inc. I support the previous letters to the Editor by Doug Canup and Herb Bruce. The fact that Towns County's main source of income is from tourism it is a crime that our community is not supporting what the Hamilton Gardens, Inc. has done over the past 5 years.

With no cost to the county, they have spent well over 5000 volunteer hours annually making the Hamilton Gardens a destination for visitors to the county. These volunteers made many improvements that GMF had no interest in doing.

Since last October I have been in discussions with the Hamilton Gardens Board to set up an endowment fund which would give them income they could count on and grow. For that to occur, donors look at the ability for the gardens to continue to operate. The current agreement does not give such donors any assurance that the gardens have long term viabilities.

The County Commissioner assigned the County Attorney to draw up a new agreement. While I never saw it, I was told it would not do what is needed for the Hamilton Gardens, Inc. to be able to get grants.

The County Attorney not only didn't understand the needs and he told the Hamilton Gardens, Inc. board to take it or leave it. After reviewing the document given the Hamilton Gardens Board determined it did not give the Garden the ability to get grants needed.

The Georgia Mountain Fair's history with the gardens; they treated it as a stepchild and let it deteriorate. I believe this will occur again.

In a letter that Terry Taylor wrote to the Towns County Civic Association December 8, 2020 he states "After 4 years of partnership the GMF envisioned has not been fulfilled." Hamilton Gardens, Inc. has made more improvements in 5 years than the GMF made in 34 years while it was under their control.

I challenge the community to go to the Hamilton Gardens and view for themselves what Hamilton Gardens, Inc. has done with the Paris Pavilion, the quality of the trails, memorial fountain, entry signs and buildings, new planning, bridges, clearing all the weeds, etc.

**Gerry Gutenstein**  
Towns County Resident for 21 years Supporter of the Hamilton Gardens

## Recognizing our Amazing Community

Dear Editor,  
I would like to recognize our amazing community. Recently, the Towns County Sheriff's Office hosted a Benefit to raise money for Investigator Bill Conway and his family after they suffered a devastating house fire. I am humbled by the support we received. From those who donated items for our silent auction, to those who donated food and their time, to our citizens who came out in support, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

It is wonderful to live in a community that still pulls together in a time of need.

I would also like to proudly state, with everyone's help, we more than doubled our anticipated goal.

I want to specifically recognize the following for their contributions: Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Osborn Farms, Correllions Resource Group, Ingles Market, Hometown Photography, Eller Electronics, Towns County Sheriff's Office Auxiliary, Hen's Nest, Red Barn Log Furniture, C&J Outfitters, Eagle Mountain Archery, Hiawasse Hardware, Moose Creek, Main Street Grill, Hob Nob, Wood Mania, The Home Depot, Mike Herms Woodworking, Sheri Spradlin, Anna Denton and Marcia Barnes.

Also, a special thank you to Gwinnett Retired Firefighters for traveling with their mobile kitchen and retiree volunteers to prepare the food.

**Jill Moss Gittens**  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Towns County Sheriff's Office

## Comprehensive Survey??

Dear Editor,  
This is in response to the "Comprehensive Survey" sent out via email to local residents of Towns County; Hiawasse and Young Harris.

This has to be the biggest joke of the year. The "survey" wants a one (as in the number one) word reply to what residents do and don't like about our community.

Several intelligent friends, well educated, of sound judgement and of good opinion all agree: "No single word reply to any question can be "comprehensive". "How do these single word replies translate into any form of viable results?" What was the original goal?

Surveys are aimed at particular areas of interest in order to discover facts or trends. This "survey" is not comprehensive. Fill it out and see what you think.

On another subject: Low income housing keeps coming up as a subject at City Council Meetings. That subject was discussed several times in the past and the following was determined: There are VACANT units available. There are dedicated unfinished units available; There are basic utilities in place for unfinished units available. There are not enough low income jobs to support an influx of low income personnel in our area. Non - working low income people would over load our welfare system.

Build more low income housing? Not a good idea with the recent increase in the cost of building materials and what is available.

**John L. Holmes**

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## Strange Days Part I

"Judge a man, not by the color of his skin, but by the content of his character." -Martin Luther King, Jr.

The words reflect the core values of American society. The wisdom they contain is much older - at least as old as the Bible, for Judaeo-Christianity has long held that the heart steers the path of the immortal soul.

In these strange times, however, some would reject the statement from the offset because the pronoun it contains is not inclusive enough. Strange indeed are the times when a director of "diversity and inclusivity" at a major university would reprimand a medical lecturer for discussing male and female anatomy using gender specific pronouns.

Others would reject the statement because they think that race is the primary factor in the content of a person's character, that the 72.4% of Americans with European ancestry are now and forever racist, that they must be vigilant in repenting of the sins of their ancestors, re-educated and reconditioned to overcome the flaws that attach to them at birth. This belief, however, is and cannot be racist by decree.

The scolding of medical science is just one of the many stories cherry picked by disaster media to feed our addiction to that which frightens and angers us. The same sources remind us daily that there really are people who believe in Critical Race Theory and support the deeply flawed "1619 Project" which demonizes the founding of the United States of America and rejects many of our founding principles. No less august entity than the (erstwhile) venerable New York Times sponsored the project, and what is worse, the rejection of our founding principles has made its way into classrooms and boardrooms.

One side of the great divide is the majority of corporate media which impersonates the voice and values of American culture. Their influence is pervasive, yet all of their CEO's, their board members, and their paid contributors represent a tiny fraction of a percentage of 330 million Americans. Add to that the handful of billionaire celebrity activists, movie and television celebrities, online "influencers" and all the media elites selling their soap, and you still haven't made a scratch in the total number of people who live in this country. But they choose the narrative. They frame the conversation. They choose the voices that will be heard and the ones that will be censored. And the voices to the contrary?

"Alternative media," for example, sifts through the events and voices of the nation with a fine toothed comb looking for the worst examples of "wokeness," the most outrageous statements, the most egregious acts, and they serve that to the people who prefer their product. Heavy smokers of cigarettes are addicted to nicotine, but everyone prefers their own brand, and many to the extent of that long running cigarette ad for Tareyton cigarettes which said, "I'd rather fight than switch." As nicotine was the drug for Tareyton smokers, fear and anger addicts can't stay away from Fox News, MSNBC and all the other information outlets that harp at each other from across the divide.

What results is vast numbers of people who begin to believe in a version of reality served up by 5 corporate entities, even when that version is in stark contrast to what they see with their own eyes and experience in their own lives. Ultimately, however, what we believe affects what we see, which reinforces what we believe, which affects what we do.

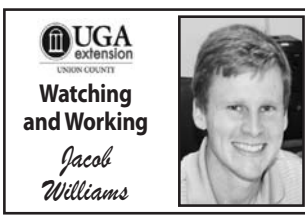
A prime example of the disconnect between narrative and reality can be found in the gulf of understanding between the idea that the lives of Black people matter, that there is room for improvement in the way we understand racial issues - and the organization known as BLM, or "Black Lives Matter." The former is a statement of truth. It stands on its own. It doesn't need to be moderated or justified by saying "all lives matter" or "blue lives matter," which are separate truths.

The latter is a corporate entity which was started by three self avowed Marxists. Among its stated goals is the upending of traditional American values and the disintegration of the traditional family model. It seeks to end capitalism, although its proponents grow rich from contributions, speaking engagements and seminars. It avoids public scrutiny by hiding in the shadows of misunderstanding between those who sincerely want to help the disadvantaged but don't know that BLM is Marxist, and those who assume that anyone who supports the improvement of the lives of Black people must be a Marxist. Corporate media has helped BLM hide in that shadow.

**Outside The Box**  
By: Don Perry  
[worldoutsidethebox.com](http://worldoutsidethebox.com)

## Pollinator Census

2021 is the third annual Great Georgia Pollinator Census. Year after year the pollinator census is a huge success.



It is the first of its kind and has really generated some great data on pollinators. It's also a great way for citizens to become involved, learn about, and protect pollinators. This year's census will be held on August 20th and 21st. Let's talk about how you can be involved this year.

The pollinator census comes together because of the hard work of Becky Griffin. Becky works at GMREC just south of Blairsville. With concerns about pollinator decline, the census allows us to capture critical data that can be used year after year to track the health and wellbeing of pollinators.

Some locations will have guided counts. If you're unsure of how to participate, joining a guided count is a great way to be a part of the census. Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge will be holding a guided count on Friday August 20 at 11:00 pm. If you would like to participate from home that is also possible.

If you want to join the pollinator census at home it's very simple. Go to the [ggapc.org](http://ggapc.org) website. There you will find the different categories of pollinators. Each census count will be done by observing a flowering plant for 15 minutes.

For the census, there are eight categories that you count insects. They are: carpenter bee, bumblebee, honeybee, small bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, and other insects. Let's go through how to identify each of the insects in these categories.

Carpenter bees are going to be the largest of the bees that we see. They look very similar to bumble bees. The major difference is that carpenter bees have no hair on their abdomens (also known as their hind end). Carpenter and bumble bees have yellow and black hair. Bumblebees will have all black hair on their abdomens.

Honeybees are smaller than bumblebees and will have brown or blackish stripes mixed with golden-brown. They have hair down their whole body. Small bees are any bee smaller than a honeybee. We have many different species of small bees out there that are native pollinators. These native pollinators are very important for pollinating native plants. Small bees can be down to the length of a staple.

Wasps include paper wasps and potter wasps. They are important pollinators for certain plants like rattlesnake master. Flies are pollinators too. They will only have two wings and large eyes. Some flies have coloring to make them look like a bee or wasp to avoid predators. In nature, this is called mimicry.

Butterflies are usually pretty easy to identify because of their wings and variation of colors. The other category includes all other insects that may land on the plant while you're watching it. This could be beetles, dragonflies, lacewings, or ants.

After you've done your count for 15 minutes go to [ggapc.org](http://ggapc.org) to enter your results. You can do the census as many times as you'd like on the 20th and 21st. If you see an insect leave your plant and come back count that as a new visitor.

If you have questions about the pollinator census contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## A Tale of Two Pots

As this column bubbled in my brain, the title simmered to the surface. Of course it is borrowed from that high school staple by Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities.

It occurred to me that cities are cities and although many exist, the meaning need not be explained. Pots on the other hand could stand a bit of clarification. There are pots that provide accolades or disdain for culinary concoctions and there are pots that can cause massive victual cravings or arrest.

Sometimes both. The pots here are Luck and Jack. They're half brothers spawned from the cook-pot side of the family.

One keeps you wondering, revealing intentions only when the lid is removed. The other indicates, even though still hidden, something nifty.

Years ago people held pot luck suppers, and yes they were called suppers, not dinners. Churches held them often to feed bodies and souls. There was no real menu and who cared if 4 squash casseroles, some tasty, some not, showed up? Hey, that's pot luck for you. The dessert table groaned with coconut and chocolate cakes and cookies galore. That, my friend, was the jackpot.

For the most part neighbors are pot luck. Before moving into into a different area, you can research schools for the kiddies, city and county governments, and houses that appeal to you but the residents of your newly chosen 'hood are not really known to you.

Fortune has smiled on John and me through all our residential moves. When we landed here in Towns County we hit the neighbor jackpot. We like all and love some.

To quote from Robert Frost's poem, Mending Wall, "Good neighbors make good fences". My own quote, "Good neighbors make super friends".

It is said if we don't take care of ourselves, we'll go to pot. I need to ponder that awhile. It is sure to be profound in origin.

See You Around Towns!

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Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: [t Herald@windstream.net](mailto:t Herald@windstream.net)

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