

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

It's That Time Again

Yes! As only one facet of what our American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary offers to our community, the first meetings between our members and Towns County HS occurred in February. Boys State and Girls State are projects dedicated to 11th graders who accomplish good grades and wish to attend a unique two week real world educational course at the end of the school year. No cost to the student! These leadership classes are paid for by American Legion donations and local community businesses and enterprises.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



February 13, 2019 Legionnaire Lloyd McBride along with Coach Floyd and last year's Boys State attendee, Kendall Floyd presented an overview to a fully packed school room of eleventh grade boys. Coach Floyd has been a tremendous asset in this project since it has been undertaken by our local Legion Post #23.

Also on Friday, February 15, Auxiliary Legion President Robin Halfon, Coach Floyd and Counselor Lana Parker met with the young ladies of eleventh grade for this year's overview of Girls State. The purpose of both these meetings was to advise and introduce these forthcoming young men and women of American society of an outstanding opportunity for their future and America's future.

The creation of the Boys State program in 1935 is credited to Hayes Kennedy, who was an instructor at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law and Americanism Chairman of the Illinois Department of The American Legion, and Harold Card, the Department Boy Scout Chairman and junior high school instructor. Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card became concerned about the youth attending political indoctrination camps in the late 1930s.

Documentation provided by various Boys State programs across the country refer to these as "Young Pioneer Camps" and alternately describe them as either fascist- or communist-inspired. Since the Young Pioneer Camps was the name of a youth program based in the Soviet Union that made inroads in the U.S. in the early 20th Century, it is likely that these left-wing movements are what Kennedy was responding to, and not the growth of the radical left. Kennedy felt that a counter movement must be started among the ranks of the nation's youth to stress the importance and value of a democratic form of government and maintain an effort to preserve and perpetuate it.

The Illinois Department of The American Legion approved Hayes Kennedy's and Harold Card's project and in June 1935, the very first Boys State in the nation was held on the grounds of the Illinois State Fair.

As this program succeeded and spread throughout the United States, the American Legion Auxiliary began providing similar opportunities for girls of high school age. Thus Girls State was founded. The first Girls State was conducted in 1938 and since 1948 has been a regular part of the Auxiliary's better citizenship programs. In Arkansas, the Girls State program began in 1942 under the leadership of Maud Crawford, the first woman to practice law in Camden, AR. By 1984, Girls State sessions were held in all fifty states.

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

Critical Times

Dear Editor,

Never in the history of our nation have we experienced such hatred, bigotry and disrespect for our president who is doing the best job at striving to keep his promises to the American people that voted him in. There has always been division among the Democratic and Republican parties on different issues of life, but I have never seen such behavior from grown men and women who are like playing in a sandbox and because they can't have their own shovel and bucket, they start screaming and kicking, until there is no more sand to play in. I have lived long enough to know that evildoers are in the midst of our gov't, and they have an agenda to bring our nation under their leadership, a leadership of tyranny where they call the shots. Where our freedoms and liberties would be restricted to their laws, not to our Constitution, even our traveling places would be limited. A dictatorship which would allow abortions in or out of the womb to be mandatory and even limit elderly people from living to long, so to decrease the population. Socialism, Communism, Nazism or any other form of total control over the American people cannot be allowed, no matter the cost.

We have to stand strong against the evilness in our country and not cower down when someone is offended for what is right for our God given rights. Those who died in wars over the past 200 years must not be in vain, but must be preserved by our allegiance to stand up against any other party that wants to destroy our way of life, a life worth fighting for and even dying for. Cowards run from the enemy, but true blooded American people stand their ground and dig their heels in for the fight of freedoms and the liberties we hold dear to us.

Retreat is not an option. We will fight not only for our rights as American citizens, but for the rights of our children and grandchildren and the next generation to come. In God We Trust.

Frank F. Combs

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 edit 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.

North Georgia Technical College

The origins of Georgia's Technical College System of Georgia date back to 1917, when federal legislation provided funds to support vocational education in agriculture. The Smith-Hughes Act was cosponsored by Hoke Smith, U.S. senator and future Georgia governor, who recognized the need for modern training, especially in the wake of the cotton economy's decline.

RC&D
Frank Riley
 Executive Director



Under the Smith-Hughes Act, each state was required to create a state board for vocational education. In the early twentieth century the primary purpose of vocational education was to prepare students to enter the workforce, and this is still the case today. More than 7 million workers were trained vocationally for defense and war production employment during World War II (1941-45). As early as 1943, the Georgia state director of vocational education, M. D. Mobley, lobbied for a system of area trade schools. In 1944 the North Georgia Trade and Vocational School, the first vocational school in Georgia, opened in Clarksville. The South Georgia Trade and Vocational School opened four years later in Americus.

In 1958 State Supervisor of Trade and Industrial Education W. M. Hicks developed a set of policies for area vocational-technical schools, thus paving the way for a unified system of vocational training in Georgia. By the late 1960s nineteen vocational-technical schools had opened in the state, and in 1967 Quick Start, today a nationally recognized program, was established to develop training for new and expanding industries in Georgia. 1986 marked the beginning of more than twenty area technical schools converting from local to state governance. The school was complete in 2002, when Gwinnett Technical College, one of the largest technical colleges in the state, turned over control to the DTAE. In 2007 the DTAE created the Technical College System of Georgia, an entity comprising the technical colleges under its administration, and in 2008 the DTAE's name officially changed to TCSG.

Today TCSG consists of 22 colleges offering technical education, custom business and industry training, and adult education programs for the Citizens of Georgia and surrounding areas. Our North Georgia Technical College has campuses in Blairsville, Clarksville, and Toccoa. The TCSG serves the people and the state by creating a system of technical education whose purpose is to use the latest Technology and easy access for all adult Georgians and corporate citizens. The Technical College System and the University System of Georgia (USG) are completely separate agencies and work entirely independently of each other.

The TCSG's mission regarding technical education is to boost the economic development of the state by providing quality technical training through its network of technical colleges. To carry out its mission, the TCSG assigns each college a service delivery area, which covers a certain number of counties or portions thereof. NGTC has 8. In 2000, NGTC formed the Foundation Board of Trustees to "enhance educational opportunities for students enrolled at the college and to make education possible for many who could not afford to attend otherwise" said Cynthia Brown, Foundation Director. The Board is governed by volunteer board members from NGTC's eight-county service area and includes alumni and local community business leaders (2 from Towns County). Since 2009, the Foundation has provided resources for 3,691 students to cover tuition, fees and required equipment at a cost of \$1,001,232.

"The North Georgia Technical College Foundation gratefully accepts gifts of support from alumni, businesses and friends of the college. Each gift does its part to make a significant impact in the lives of our students and enhances the overall well-being of the college."

As a 501(c)(3) entity, gifts to the North Georgia Technical College Foundation are tax deductible and are classified into two broad categories: Present Giving and Planned Giving. For a present gift, the donor makes an outright gift with an immediate transfer of assets to the college. For a planned gift, the donor gives a future interest in property, with actual transfer of the property deferred to some future time. This giving is an investment in the future of Northeast Georgia.

The North Georgia Technical College Foundation Board of Trustees was recently recognized as a role model board by the Technical College Foundation Association (TCFA). In order to be recognized as a role model board, you must meet criteria set by the TCFA. This includes, engaging in the best practices in nonprofit governance, board management and operations, having policies in place to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations, being led by a board of trustees whose members are actively engaged in development activities and who support the professional development and state-level participation of their trustees. NGTC's main campus is in Clarksville, with additional campuses in Toccoa and Blairsville. Check them out, there might be a new career waiting for you there.

For more information, visit www.northgatech.edu or call 706-754-7700 or Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council: www.chestchattrecd.org or info.cccrd@gmail.com or call our Demorest office: 706-894-1591.

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!

Contact us at 706-896-4454

Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM

Planting Well

As we get ever closer to spring, I know that some people are starting to get itchy fingers in eager anticipation of getting out into the garden to begin planting again. As we get closer to spring and further away from winter I'd like to take a minute and talk about how to make a proper site selection and planting in a way to get the most life out of your plants.

UGA extension
Watching and Working
 Jacob Williams



Deciding where and what you plant are probably the most important decisions that you can make regarding plant health. Planting the right plants, in the right place, with the right soil conditions can solve a host of other problems. These are especially important considerations when planting perennial plants because they will probably be around for five years or more.

Planting the right plant in the right place means choosing plants that are adapted to the microclimate where you are planting them. Try to think about varieties of plants that are resistant to diseases. There are many new hybrids available that have disease resistance. If deer nibbling on your plants is a concern for you then look for plants that deer dislike to discourage them from browsing your yard. For example, this could mean planting peonies instead of hosta.

It's also important to think of spacing when planting. Putting many plants in a small space may give you lots of color at first, but down the road, you'll run into issues with disease. Plants cramped into a tight space means that there isn't room for airflow. Decreased airflow is going to increase humidity, leading to more disease taking place. Planting without working the soil to improve drainage can also lead to root rot diseases. We have here with hot summers with high rainfall and humidity make disease a constant battle. Make that battle a little easier on yourself and space plants to allow more airflow. Pruning perennials is also important because it increases airflow too.

With perennials think about how the plant is going to grow. A Leyland Cypress may be small when you plant it but they'll grow to be 120 feet tall. A tree that grows to be that size is going to need to have some space between the trees, or else the roots and leaves begin competing for space leaving the plant stressed and susceptible to disease.

The right soil conditions are also very important. Knowing which nutrients are in your soil and what your soil pH is, through a soil test, will help you grow healthy plants. Our heavy clay soil can be amended so that it is productive. It may take perseverance and time, but it can happen. Improving organic matter by using mulches, fertilizers, and reducing tillage will improve soil health. Knowing how much fertilizer to apply will help you grow more beautiful and more fruitful plants.

There are no guarantees when it comes to gardening. However, using some forethought will give you a better chance of success in the end. If you have questions about plant selection, planting, soil health, or taking a soil test contact your local Extension office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

We are hosting a free Radon Awareness seminar March 13 at the Union County Civic Center. It will be from 1 pm - 2 pm and we would love for you to join us in learning more about radon.



Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Movers & Shakers	Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
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Alzheimer's Supp.	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	7 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Chamber Board	1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
VFW	VFW Post	5:30 pm
Historical Society	Hist. Soc. Bldg.	5:30 pm
School Board	Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Conv./Vis. Bureau	Civic Center	8 am
Gem & Mineral Club	Senior Center	1:30 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	SC Fire Hall	10 am
USCG Aux.	Senior Center	7 pm

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 Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: tcherald@windstream.net
 Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546

Towns County Herald

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