

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Free Flights to DC for Veterans

Well, not exactly free, as to be qualified, the candidates have already paid the price via their committed service to America, usually during the best years of their lives! Once again as a reminder our real heroes, those who made the ultimate sacrifice for you and I are already Home with our Supreme Commander, resting at ease for eternity.

**The Veterans' Corner**  
**Scott Drummond**  
 USCG Veteran



Blue Ridge Honor Flight is dedicated to transporting, caretaking, feeding and escorting our Veterans to and from Washington, DC. Medical aides will be there through the entire event. An absolutely wonderful group of dedicated volunteers have assembled a network of fine folks who administer and put in alot of hours in order that this wonderful event can continue to happen, again and again.

As per Lyn Lazar, who gave a tremendous presentation at our "open to all" American Legion Post #23 meeting of 08/01/2017, BRHF needs three things from all of us!

- 1- Qualified Veterans to be nominated by friends, families or themselves.
- 2 - Volunteers to be "escorts" (guardians) and caretakers of our beloved Veterans. (You must be willing to pay your way for this.) And public notification for this once in a lifetime experience.
- 3 - Contributions and Donations! These Flights are not cheap!

This was started as a dream in 2005, HonorAir and the National Honor Flight programs have been responsible for flying over 150,000 WWII Veterans to our nation's capital to experience their memorials.

In the spring of 2011, the last Western NC HonorAir flight returned home to Asheville Airport. Since then, we have continued to advocate for Veterans and work with other states in developing their own Honor Flight programs in conjunction with the Honor Flight Network. On September 24, 2016, HonorAir became Blue Ridge Honor Flight and begins the next phase of its mission to bring all Veterans to their memorials in Washington, DC.

BRHF is now in the process of "aging down" our Veterans from the WWII generation to Korean War and Vietnam Veterans, depending upon individual circumstances.

Please go here: [www.blueRidgeHonorFlight.com](http://www.blueRidgeHonorFlight.com) in order to make donations online or you may send to Blue Ridge Honor Flight; 423 N. King Street; Hendersonville, NC 28792. Or please call Lyn Lazar at 864-630-5544. Lyn's email is: [lyn-lazar@gmail.com](mailto:lyn-lazar@gmail.com). For mailing in applications: Blue Ridge Honor Flight; PO Box 18057; Asheville, NC 28057. Or call 828-776-0650 and speak to JoAnn.

Online applications are available to be printed out from here: [www.blueridgehonorflight.com](http://www.blueridgehonorflight.com). Also view the many photographs here of the May 2017 Honor Flight when our own Todd Kimsey, Martha Warth and Shirley Sonnenfeld were treated to this, their own very special event for their services to America during WWII.

Please don't let this tremendous opportunity for you to help repay older Veterans with an unequalled life altering experience for those who have "been there" where so many of us never have. And never will have to go. All thanks to them! We owe this much to them! And this program must continue to be supported by our communities at large.

*Semper Paratus*

## Changing Tides

Fortune is a tide that rises and falls, and while we never fully understand the laws that govern its movement, we know beyond doubt that it always moves.

By most of the metrics commonly used to measure economic activity, our younger generations are less fortunate today than their elders were at the same age. There are a few dissidents who disagree. They point out that our parents did not have iPhones and flat screen televisions, and that technology has brought to the commoner many luxuries that would have been reserved for royalty in times past.

But prosperity in the minds of most people is something relative to their neighbors. In any event, young Americans today will work longer for a dollar which has significantly less buying power than the one their parents spent. They will retire at an older age, if they have not already been replaced by a robot.

Like most questions of significance, there is not a simple answer for what appears to be a lowering tide of fortune for successive generations of Americans. A partial explanation can be found in the nature of water itself, which always seeks its own level. Some of the affluence that was concentrated between American shores during the last several generations is beginning to seep into the economies of other nations. We are, after all, a closed system with finite resources.

Another part of the answer may be found in the cultural differences between generations. Older Americans had a world view which included experience of depression, war and hardship. They were willing to sacrifice short term gratification to achieve long term goals.

Younger Americans, while just as intelligent and resourceful as any generation, have been "better fed" by parents who wanted to give them everything. They are immersed in constant connectivity to media which exists for the singular purpose of creating desire in the minds of its consumers. We have grown up expecting a constant progression of "new and improved," faster, better. As a society, we are addicted to instant gratification, and as they say here in the mountains, a fat dog won't hunt.

Science, technology and innovation continue to resist the tide. But we are cursed with another problem that our parents did not have. We have a bloated and parasitic government, a hyper-intrusive oligarchy which has matched our advancing technical innovation with ever more sophisticated methods of manipulation, control and theft.

With a sophistication which rivals that of Joseph Goebbels, our current "two party" political system has artfully deceived us away from any awareness of truth and divided us from any possible consensus. We see our fellow Americans through arbitrary and distorted filters of red and blue while we are encouraged to hold in contempt anyone who might think or vote differently.

Water seeks its own level. Distracted for at least 30 years, we have allowed prosperity in the United States to be channeled into government/corporate reservoirs like water behind a dam. Meanwhile around the world, the tide has turned in favor of people who are hungrier than we are, and willing to sacrifice to be better fed. We don't know when the dam will break. We don't know when the next high or low tide will occur. We do need to be equally prepared for drought and flood.

## The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

## Ticks

Though finding insects on your ornamental plants and vegetables is certainly frustrating, there are few things more unsettling than finding a tick feeding on your body! Because they feed on animals multiple times throughout their lives, they are also dangerous vectors of disease as they transfer parasites from one animal to another. In these hot and humid summer months, it is important to protect yourself and your animals against tick bites and prevent the spread of disease.

Each stage during a tick's development needs to have a blood meal in order to mature. Adult males mate with females while the females engorge on a blood meal. Shortly after, females drop off the host, and then they will lay a clutch of about 6000 eggs a week later. Depending on the weather, the eggs will hatch within several weeks, releasing six legged larvae known as "seed ticks." Seed ticks will climb up a blade of grass and wait for their first host to walk through the area. They can sense the presence of animals they feed on by smelling the carbon dioxide the animals exhale. Once a host passes through, the tick will latch on and begin gorging itself on the animal's blood. When its stomach is fully extended, the tick will drop off, digest its meal, and shed its skin to become an eight legged nymph that more closely resembles the adults. Seed ticks typically prefer to feed on small hosts such as rodents, but adult ticks will feed on larger animals such as deer and humans.

The three main ticks in Georgia have distinctive appearances that can help distinguish them from each other. The Lone Star tick got its name from the white spot found on the back of the females. Their mouthparts are also much longer than those of other ticks. Lone Stars feed on a wide variety of animals such as humans, horses, deer, dogs, birds and rodents. The American dog tick has short mouthparts that are barely visible. Both males and females have a white mottled pattern on their backs. Though they prefer to feed on dogs, dog ticks will feed on larger animals. However, the ticks only feed on humans once they become adults. The black-legged tick is smaller than the other ticks and has no white markings. Like the Lone Star tick, the black-legged takes a wide variety of hosts as it develops.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) and Lyme Disease are the two most dangerous diseases transmitted by ticks in Georgia. RMSF is caused by infectious bacteria and the symptoms include sudden chills, fever, headache, and bloodshot eyes. This disease gets its name from the spotted rash it causes, which starts at the hands and feet and spreads throughout the body. Lyme Disease is also caused by bacteria the tick transfers from host to host through its mouthparts. This disease sometimes causes a rash made up of several rings that looks like a target. Other symptoms include joint pain and flu like symptoms. Both RMSF and Lyme disease can be effectively managed using antibiotics.

The best way to prevent tick bites and tick-borne diseases is to avoid the places they live: tall, grassy areas with plenty of humidity. However, if you need to enter these areas, make sure to tuck your pants into your socks and cover as much skin as possible. Also, spray yourself with DEET and your clothes with permethrin. Finally, check yourself for ticks as often as possible and remove any that have attached immediately, because the longer the tick stays attached, the greater the chance of disease transmission.

**UGA extension**  
**From the Ground Up**  
**Melissa Mattee**



## Letters to The Editor

**Editor:**  
 Please allow me to echo the kind comments about Dylan Roberts and Eryn Cochran in your August 2 edition. I think it's high time that fine young people like them are appropriately recognized.

I've known Dylan for over 10 years and have first-hand knowledge about the significant progress he has made via hard work and determination, academically and athletically. He has other very positive personal attributes as well and has become a good example to others. I am honored that he has in the past sought my counsel regarding a possible military and his academics and baseball skills.

As for Eryn, I've only known her for a little over a year and I was privileged to be in her cheering section at the recent Fair. I count her as a close friend and she exudes poise, kindness, class and elegance from every pore. If there's a finer or more deserving young woman around here, I haven't met her yet.

*Claude Spears*

**HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?**  
 Let the Herald work for you!  
 706-896-4454

**20# COPY PAPER now available at The Herald**

500 Sheets	\$3.80
5000 Sheets	\$36



**RC&D**  
**Frank Riley**  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

are family-owned. (with small farms representing 90 percent of those), not to mention that the bulk of our food comes from family-owned farms and, as a recent Growing America article pointed out, even the small ones make important contributions, accounting for about 57 percent of poultry and egg production. Then there's the myth that farming is still mostly a low-tech business. Farmers and ranchers these days are outfitted with GPS in their machinery, and using GPS, machines drive themselves to make field work more precise (saving inches) which saves fuel, chemicals, seed, and time. Farmers collect geospatial data to help with soil typing, water and nutrient use, and use computer analytics to gauge yield.

The industry is deeply connected to the world of science; involved in genetic research for crop breeding, genetic engineering to turn off and turn on gene characteristics and artificial intelligence for field mapping. As for the myths about pesticide use and GMOs, farmers are some of the best environmental stewards out there. They have to be. The land is their bread and butter. If they screw it up, they've got nothing. They understand and respect the concept of toxicity. They follow usage instructions

and regulations, and they don't hesitate to call in experts to help diagnose problems in a field and prescribe the proper treatment. Farmers know that the term "GMO" is a good thing. They wish someone would come up with a different term, a more consumer-friendly term. The WaPo article does a nice job of allaying consumer fears by explaining that genetic engineering is a tool that helps produce, for example, virus-resistant and insect-resistant that crops that actually help farmers use less herbicides and pesticides. WaPo also tackled the myth of hormone free and antibiotic free labeling. They explain that no meat is hormone-free—animals and plants naturally produce the stuff. They also point out that the use of added hormones is prohibited in all pork and chicken operations. And though hormones like estrogen are used to help cows reach market weight, the fact is that the average man produces tens of thousands of times more estrogen every day than the amount found in a serving of beef from a hormone-treated cow. For a pregnant woman, that figure is in the millions. As for antibiotics, all the meat at the grocery store is antibiotic-free because animals treated with antibiotics cannot be slaughtered until the drugs have cleared its system. Then

there's the one about food is too expensive and farmers are making too much off the sale of food? Talk about a giant myth. Fortunately, the WaPo piece provides proof that Americans spend a considerably smaller percentage of their income on food than they did in the 1960s. It also points out that, farmers are hardly getting rich off food sales; in fact only 10 to 20 percent of the cost of food actually reaches farmers. That means when commodity prices rise or fall, food costs remain relatively constant, buffering consumers from spikes in their grocery bills.

WaPo also refuted a few other myths on their behalf, including organic farmers and conventional farmers don't get along, foods labeled "natural" are produced differently, and chemicals are the biggest threat to food safety. So, what can we learn from this? A farmer's work is never done when it comes to spreading the truth. They need to speak up and often, whenever, and wherever the opportunity is presented to them. They are their own best advocates because no one knows better what they do and how they do it."

For more information on farmers and agriculture contact Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D. [info.crcd@gmail.com](mailto:info.crcd@gmail.com).

## Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
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
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	McCConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	6 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
Chamber Board	1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
Historical Society	Old Rec. Center	5:30 pm
Mtn. Comp. Users	<a href="http://www.mcug.org">www.mcug.org</a>	6 pm
Planning Comm.	Civic Center	7 pm
School Board	Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Caregiver support	Brasstown Manor	3 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild	Mtn. Regional Library	4 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
Basket Weavers	SC Fire Hall	10 am
Board of Elections	67 Lakeview Cir., Ste. A	4 pm
CVB Board	Rec Center	9 am
Awake America Prayer	Civic Center	Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	6 pm

**Towns County Herald**  
 Legal Organ of Towns County

<b>Kenneth West</b> Owner/Publisher	<b>Charles Duncan</b> Editor	<b>Shawn Henrikson</b> Copy Editor	<b>Lowell Nicholson</b> Photographer
<b>Derek Richards</b> Advertising Director	<b>Shawn Jarrard</b> Staff Writer	<b>Lily Avery</b> Staff Writer	<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://townscountyherald.net">townscountyherald.net</a>

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.  
 Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawassee  
**Phone:** (706) 896-4454 **Fax:** (706) 896-1745 **Email:** [tcherald@windstream.net](mailto:tcherald@windstream.net)  
**Or mail to:** PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546