

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

We've Enjoyed a Great Life

William "Bill" Albert Jones was born 7 July 1934 and grew up right here in Towns County. Shortly after HS in 1952 Bill, J L Foster and Douglas Arrendale (rip, friend) decided it was time to go down to Gainesville, GA and enlist in our US Navy. Because the manpower quota was fulfilled, Doug had to postpone his enlistment for a couple of weeks, but Bill and J L went into the Navy at the same time; then he and his pal, JL went to San Diego BC together, same company, consecutive Serial numbers (500 00 00 and 499 99 99); then on to New Orleans Naval Station together for a stint. They finally parted company when Bill went back to San Diego Naval Base for FCT advanced schooling and J L went to Rhode Island and then was assigned to mine sweeper duty. Only after being discharged 15 August 1956 did Bill and J L get back together again after coming home to Hiawassee. Pretty amazing series of coincidences for a couple of good old mountain boys, serving America and traveling our globe, isn't it?

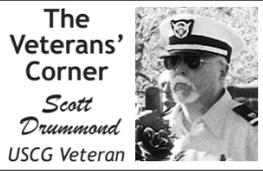
Bill left Hiawassee again, back to San Diego working for General Dynamics Missile Division helping to build the Atlas missiles for seven and a half years. This is the same missile that put John Glenn in orbit and he visited these guys and requested that they do a good job because; "I have to ride that thing!" Bill later went into Field and Service, all over the Midwest and at the request from a friend who was to be assigned to go to Plattsburg, NY, Bill swapped his pending assignment in Roswell, NM, went to NY, instead. Right across the lake was the Vermont portion of their missile plant and Bill was there during the Cuban missile crisis and after a tense meeting his team had 24 hours to mount the nuclear warheads on the missiles and then they were replaced by armed SAC guards and locked down to the heavily guarded premises for the duration of that dangerous, almost devastating event.

Bill went on to work at Lockheed in Marietta, GA on the C-141, C-5A and C-130s in the calibration lab. One of those frequent layoffs led Bill to IBM in Raleigh, NC, then to Vermont and Tuscan, Arizona where he met and married Emma in 1999. They moved back to our beloved Hiawassee for six years then back to Arizona for a while, and in 2011 finally came back here, home to stay.

Bill accredits his great life, having traveled and worked all over our USA, and all his experiences to his time serving and training in our US Navy. He has never ceased to love Towns County, GA. And he states that he and Emma have lived a "great life".

Bill wants it known that "I loved my time in the Navy and wouldn't have missed it for anything else!"

Semper Paratus



The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran

Common Courtesies in a Nutshell

This time of year is, in my estimation, one of those "sweet spots" in the year. Spring has a firm grasp on the weather. It's not too hot or too cold. The bugs have not yet descended upon us in ever increasing hordes. The garden, the yard, and the outside projects we've been waiting all winter to begin, all exist in a perfect state of completion in our imaginations as we frequent the hardware stores and garden centers. This is one of those times that, barring some unforeseen calamity that puts us all on edge, we are for the most part generally in a good mood.

This is also the time when many who reside elsewhere during the colder months begin to return to our area, and after the relative quiet of the winter, things can get a little busy around town. For any newcomers out there, for those of us who have been away for a while and may have forgotten, and for the old timers among us who might benefit from a refresher course, I offer free of charge my short list of common sense standards and practices for getting along with our neighbors and optimizing the good will that naturally exists here.

The inspiration for this little course in manners occurred last Saturday when my wife and I were sitting in line at the local landfill. We call these bi-monthly excursions our "dump dates," during which we put on our work clothes, load up the pickup with trash and head to town. The trip to the dump is only the opening act of a production which includes a trip to the hardware store and the post office and a sit down meal at one of our fine local establishments that are more than happy to serve someone wearing work boots.

In any event, as we were sitting in line waiting to be weighed on the scales, our delightful morning chat about the possibilities of the planting season was rudely interrupted by someone blowing their horn.

It is unfortunate that car and truck horns do not come with some kind of amazing software that edits out those expressions of butt-headedness so common to our species so that the use of the horn can be reserved for safety concerns. I don't know what that honker hoped to gain by amplifying his expression of discontent. Perhaps it did not occur to him that the guy at the weigh station only lets as many cars go up the hill as there are spaces available at the transfer station (and it was a very busy day at the dump). Perhaps, and this is only a guess, he was letting us all know that his time was more valuable than everyone else waiting patiently.

Take note, those of you who frequent areas where horns are a normal part of the daily give and take. In peaceful small towns such as ours, a car horn used for anything other than safety does nothing but broadcast your personal assessment of your own self-importance, and you will be hard pressed to find anyone who agrees with that assessment.

I couldn't swear that it was the same little horn-blowing red sports car later that morning which blew through the crosswalk in front of the post office, but I'm fairly certain it was. There was a pedestrian in that crosswalk at the time, and this is an issue where common sense and the law of the land are in perfect agreement: We do not drive over a crosswalk when it is occupied. This is something that should "go without saying," but for the fact that the law is broken on a regular basis right there on Main Street.

While we're in the neighborhood, there is something else about this high traffic area that if we keep it in mind will support, first of all our safety, but also our continued good mood during this beautiful spring weather. Here it is in a nutshell (for any of you impatient, horn honking, crosswalk-crossing nuts out there).

The Post Office parking lot is NOT the entrance to, nor is it the exit from, Ingles. The gas pumps are also not designed for Ingles ingress and egress. There is a perfectly adequate entrance by the main store sign and another fine entrance from Franks Street via Bell Street, and neither of those involve dodging Post office patrons or people pumping gas.

Common sense and common courtesies are too often overcome by the sense of self-importance which accompanies the man or woman in a hurry. If you do not have time to wait in line at the landfill, or choose a safe route to the grocery store, or allow someone to safely cross the street, you may not be living in the right place.

The vast majority of us choose to live here because we do have time, time to wait when we need to, and time to be considerate, always.

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 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.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Beef Cattle Body Condition

Beef cattle are an important part of our North Georgia agriculture, but sometimes with all of the other happenings on the farm, producers can lose track of the true condition of their cattle. However, the easiest way to ensure that your herd is in good condition for breeding and calving and getting adequate nutrition is by using a body conditioning score (BCS). The BCS is a scale ranging from 1-9, and values are assigned to cattle based on various aspects of their appearance. This scale is closely linked to percent body fat, is easily done in the field, and is one of the most useful tools in determining breeding success.

In the most commonly used BCS scale, 1 is considered emaciated, and 9 indicates obesity. Scores 1-3 are considered thin and marked by an easily defined spine and visible ribs and shoulder blades. A score of 4 is considered borderline, and 5-7 are considered optimal for cows and heifers, and fat accumulates at the base of the tail, over the ribs, and the skeletal features are not as prominent. Scores of 8-9 are considered obese and bone structure is incredibly difficult to identify in these cows.

Neither extreme of this scale is a good place for cows to be. A BCS of 5 is usually the goal for most herds, especially those containing cows that will be bred. In fact, research has shown that moving from a BCS of 5 down to 4 can decrease pregnancy rates within a herd by 30%, and if dropped to a BCS of 3, rates drop an additional 30%. While it's important to not let your cattle get too thin, it's just as important to not let them become overweight as moving to a BCS of 8 or 9 can also decrease pregnancy rates.

BCS should be measured at least three times a year: at weaning, 90 days pre-calving, and breeding. It's important to check the condition of cows at weaning because it can help to determine which cows and heifers need to gain the most before calving. Also, not paying attention to the nutritional needs of cows after weaning may lead to difficulties adding weight later in the cycle. Checking BCS 90 days prior to calving has proven to be helpful in preventing periods of anestrus (a halt in the reproductive cycle). During this time, cows should be fed to a BCS of 5 and heifers to a BCS of 6 to ensure optimum pregnancy rates. Finally, checking the body condition at breeding helps to shed light on any reduced pregnancy rates or issues.

If your cows are not in a condition that you would like them to be, it's important to choose the correct supplement to get them to an optimum BCS. There are a wide range of supplements to choose from which can help cows and heifers to gain the weight needed for successful pregnancies. Because minerals and vitamins play little role in BCS, protein and energy need to be the top considerations in choosing nutritional supplements. Testing forage quality to determine any nutrient deficiencies will help you decide which supplements to feed your herd to keep your animals in the best possible condition.

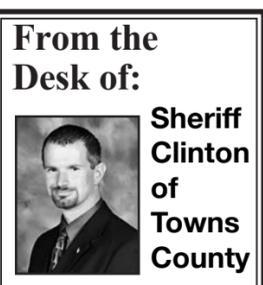
If you would like literature that includes examples of the different BCS and suggestions for supplements, please contact the extension office and we'll be happy to provide it!



From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee

Summer Travel Safety Tips

Americans travel during the warm summer months more than any other time of year. Criminals often take advantage of this busy season, preying upon weary travelers or watching for unattended homes or vehicles. With that in mind, the Georgia Sheriff's Association offers the following travel tips for a safe and happy summer:



From the Desk of:

Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

Before you leave: When you leave your residence, try to make your home look as occupied as possible. Ask a trusted neighbor or friend to pick up mail and newspaper or package deliveries daily.

Invest in a few electrical timers to activate lights at the same time you normally do when you are at home. Set your radio on a talk station so anyone listening at a door or window will hear conversation. (Keep the radio on a timer, too.)

Notify your sheriff's office that you will be away and ask them to check your residence.

Let them know of light timers, alarm systems, and vehicles left visible in the driveway.

If you're going to be gone for an extended period of time, consider arranging for a housesitter to stay in your residence. House sitters water plants, take care of pets, and can also be called upon to keep the lawn mowed so it doesn't advertise your absence.

Cancel regular deliveries, such as food, pharmacy prescriptions, or pet supplies.

Before you leave, take a final walk through your home to make sure appliances are turned off and windows and doors are secure.

Since summer storms can come up suddenly, you may want to unplug electronic equipment such as computers, televisions, or fax machines.

While you're traveling:

Remember to remain alert and watchful, especially in crowds. Many travelers have invested in small, flat bags that hang from neck cords to store money, credit cards, passports, and other important identification. Avoid carrying wallets in a rear pocket that could be easily "picked."

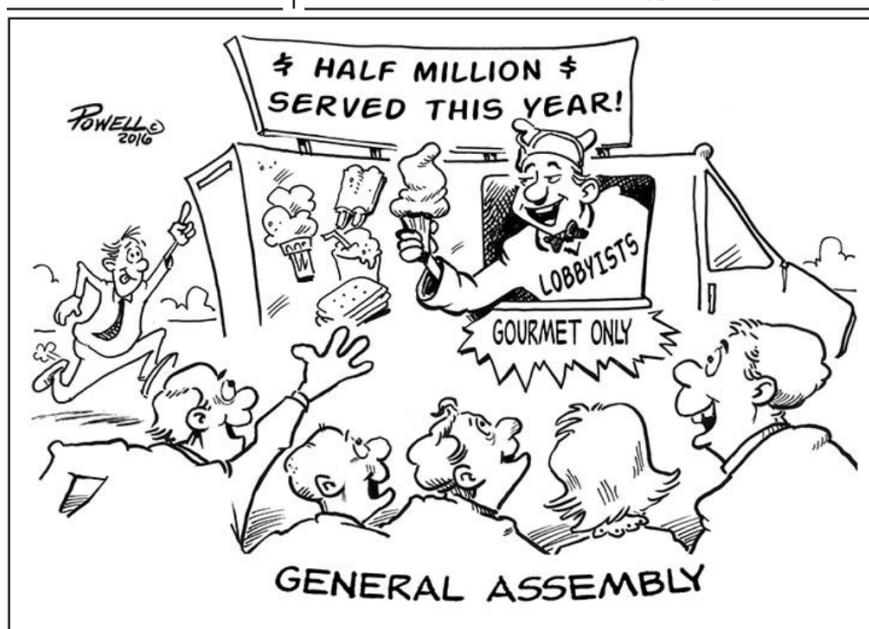
At hotels, avoid hanging the "housekeeping" sign on your doorknob. That alerts the observer to your absence from the room.

Avoid discussing your travel plans where strangers may overhear you.

If you are the victim of a theft or any other crime, contact the local law enforcement agency and file a report immediately. Provide contact information so they may keep you updated on any developments in your case.

Remember to lock doors and windows securely. Always lock the doors in your vehicle.

As your sheriff, it is my hope that if you travel during the warm weather season that you will remain safe. I would encourage anyone traveling to take advantage of our extra patrol for your home or business while you are away. Towns County has enjoyed a decrease in crime over the last 8+ years, with burglaries down over 65%. The biggest part of that success is the community's involvement in initiatives such as our Extra Patrol and Neighborhood Watch programs. To take advantage of our Extra Patrol service, simply contact the Towns County Sheriff's Office at 706-896-4444 and ask to be placed on extra patrol while you are away. We will keep an eye on your home and let you know if anything is amiss, hopefully adding peace of mind to your time away.



Towns County Community Calendar

Every Monday:		
Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Every Tuesday:		
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Every Wednesday		
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Every Thursday:		
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Every Friday:		
Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Every Sunday:		
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Third Monday of each month:		
Hospital Auxiliary	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Water Board	Water Office	6 pm
Third Wednesday of each month:		
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Jack @ 828-321-2896	
Third Thursday of each month:		
Co. Comm. Mtg	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 pm
Third Saturday of each month:		
Goldwing Riders	Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
Fourth Monday of each month:		
Red Cross DAT	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Fourth Tuesday of each month:		
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Fourth Thursday of each month:		
Republican Party	New Senior Ctr.	6:30 pm
Fourth Friday of each month:		
Square Dance Club	Rec. Center	7 pm
Last Thursday of each month:		
Humane Shelter Bd.	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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