

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Worth Repeating

As I type this, yesterday January 15th was Todd Kimsey's 93rd birthday. Is there anyone in Towns County that doesn't know and love Todd and Hellen? While visiting him with a fellow Veteran he and Hellen brought out his WWII scrapbook. The joy and surprise on our fellow Veteran's face when he read this well worn copy of poetry for the first time, written by Todd's dear friend aboard the USS Pasadena (CL-65), Acree E. Brown, told me that this was well worth sharing again for those that may have missed it in 2015. If need be, forgive me for repeating this worthwhile poem to honor our dear friend Todd Kimsey (FC-3), his friend Acree Brown who resides with our Supreme Commander forevermore and of course our Greatest Generation our men and women of WWII. Granted this a rare piece of literature. This is first person history not found in conventional museums or schools. Some things just cannot be repeated often enough. None of us would be here if it wasn't for those who came before us doing their best for America.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



Every Veteran can relate to what this represents:
 To the Fire-control men
 When the final trumpet sounds
 And the people start to praying;
 When the oceans engulf the land,
 And the world is rocking and swaying---
 When God opens wide the Pearly Gates
 And St. Peter reads the roll;
 There'll be a special Heaven
 For the fellows in Fire Control.
 A Heaven where all the directors
 Always work just right;
 Where the Indicator Regulators
 Have valves all snug and tight.
 Where the seas are always calm,
 No roll, nor pitch nor dip;
 No matching pointers in local,
 No watching the radar pip.
 A Heaven where I'll never stand a watch,
 But spend all our time in our sacks,
 And never have to worry at all
 About the parallax.
 And when the wacky power drives
 Begin to whine, and wail, and screech,
 All we'll have to do
 Is leave it to the Chief.
 A Heaven where the WAVES will do the mess-cooking
 And everyone will have their rates,
 And the scrubbing of the decks
 Will be done by Bosun mates.
 Where we'll always hit the target
 With the first salvo we fire---
 And get a month's leave
 And spend it at a bar.
 A Heaven where the chow will resemble food,
 And we can sleep in late,
 And never have to show a card
 Each time we leave a gate.
 Where they'll never have inspection,
 Gunnery practice, or G.Q. ---
 And whether you go to sea or not
 Will be entirely up to you.
 Yes, we'll have a Special Heaven
 Where the music will rise and swell,
 And God will say to us, "Welcome Fire-controlmen,
 How are things down there in Hell?"
 So weep, ye saints and sinners,
 When this old world starts to dying;
 For we'll be doing the laughing,
 And you can do the crying!

Acree E. Brown
Semper Paratus

The Greatest Show on Earth

At the time of this writing, parts of the federal government have been shut down for almost a month.

Perhaps we'll all get a refund on our taxes, though it's more likely this time without government will cost us more in the same way that food without additives or preservatives costs more at the grocery.

Last year, "Tax Freedom Day," the day when all of our tax obligations to federal, state and local authorities were met, was 19 April. Government spending in the US then, consumes about a third of the productivity of its citizens.

Very little of that money, however, goes to compensate federal workers. Though the federal government is the nation's single largest employer, excluding soldiers and postal workers, only 2 million Americans work for the government, or approximately .6% of our population.

During the partial shutdown, about 420,000 federal workers will work without pay, and approximately 380,000 will be furloughed. We grieve for those workers and their families. They do not deserve to be political pawns in this current contest of egos.

Perhaps Congress can tell us why, given that the salaries of government workers are such a small fraction of the federal budget, the choice was made to withhold their pay but still meet other obligations.

Speaking of Congress, members will receive their paychecks on time (though Congressional staff members will not). About 100 of the 535 members of Congress have elected not to be paid during the shutdown, but fear not; about half of the members of Congress are millionaires, so they'll be just fine.

Every day now, someone from mass media predicts impending doom should the shutdown continue. Government, it would seem, has become essential to our survival. Apparently we are in a codependent relationship with our own government.

How and why this happened is a long story with numerous points of contention, but as for the "who," that much is clear. Democrats and Republicans did it.

Every successive administration along with every Congress in living memory has managed to increase the size and coercive power of government, speeches and campaign promises aside. Quite recently that trend has begun to reverse. Partial credit for the slight reduction in the size of government can be given to the current Administration, but the reasons are more complicated and that is a story for another time.

If we are indeed at risk because of the sudden inactivity of our dysfunctional government, common sense would suggest that we need to return that portion of the economy appropriated by government back to the free market. However, if one should refer to that process as "privatization," an adverse reaction would be triggered in those who prefer to socialize the economy.

The irony and the hypocrisy are palpable. Some of the same democrats who vilified President George Bush for his overreach when Homeland Security and the TSA were created are now predicting doom unless these very same agencies are restored to their full might. Some of the same republicans that helped orchestrate that huge increase in the size of government are pointing fingers at "tax and spend" democrats. Partisan politics trumps common sense as well as our national interest.

Ostensibly, this clash of egos is about border security, and again, the stink of hypocrisy is enough to peel back your lips. Just a few years ago, Senators Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Chuck Schumer and a number of Democrats who now appear to oppose President Trump's initiatives, all voted for the Secure Fence Act of 2006. The bill passed with bipartisan support.

Now some of the same democrats who voted for the act have referred to any effort to impose a physical barrier at the border as "immoral."

As for the Republicans, the US Chamber of Commerce, a conservative leaning organization which has historically supported Republicans and conservative Democrats, has lobbied repeatedly to block restrictions on immigration in order to maintain a continuous supply of cheap labor.

Very little support or acknowledgment could be found among the Republicans for President Obama's record deportation of our unwanted guests, or his expansion of detention facilities to hold them.

The point is, our elected leaders have been too busy spinning, posturing and seeking political advantage to make any real effort to solve the immigration problem.

Republicans want to appear tough on securing the borders to play to their base, but without doing anything that would jeopardize the flow of cheap labor desired by their corporate masters.

Democrats want to appear compassionate and avoid offending potential voters, but when they hold the reins of power they discover, like President Obama, the harsh realities of waves of human migration.

At the extremes we have at one end a President who, in order to fulfill his campaign promises, is threatening to declare a national emergency, seize private property and invoke military powers in order to bypass our system of government.

This is a solution which may appeal to the extreme right today, but wait until a Democrat president does the same thing or worse in turn.

At the other end of the spectrum are the young liberals calling for open borders and evoking discredited theories of socialism to solve the nation's problems, all to be paid for under "modern economic theory," which holds that sovereign governments have an unlimited ability to pay their bills simply by creating money.

It's a circus, but the entertainment value diminishes in direct proportion to the human suffering it causes, not the least of which is the fear and anger driven like a wedge between partisan factions.

If it isn't the greatest show on earth, it certainly is the most expensive.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Working With Wildlife

Wildlife can be part of what makes living in the mountains so beautiful. When you see deer serenely grazing in a nearby field they look very peaceful. However, if those same deer are eating the plants around your house or garden they can seem like a menace. Let's talk about wildlife and some steps that you can take to protect your property from wildlife.

To start off I want to say that to have success in managing wildlife can take a lot of hard work and perseverance. There is no magic bullet. These are living creatures with a mind of their own. You may end up having to redefine what success is for you. For example, having healthy soil means that you will have more earthworms and grubs in the soil. Those earthworms will attract moles. So sometimes we have to re-evaluate what success is going to be realistically.

The best action model to use when trying to manage wildlife is H.E.R.L. H.E.R.L. stands for Habitat modification, Exclusion, Removal or Repellent, and Lethal control. Habitat modification means making your space less attractive to wildlife. This can include things like mowing the grass and removing brush or debris piles. Tall grass and piles gives cover to mice and mice are a food source for snakes. Therefore, removing those habitats will make your space less welcoming to snakes. Cutting dead limbs and removing trees eliminates habitat for bats, flying squirrels, and woodpeckers.

The next step is exclusion. Exclusion is using fences or other barriers to keep wildlife out. When using a fence make sure that it works for the specific wildlife that you're trying to exclude. A fence for deer will need to be eight to ten feet tall. A fence for hogs may only need to be three to four feet tall, but very sturdy. A fence to keep rabbits out may only need to be two feet high, but should also be buried at least six inches so that they can't dig under it. If you are working with wildlife that burrow the fence will need to be buried to be effective. Around your house make sure that doors, windows, pipes, wires, and cables are well sealed to keep wildlife from coming indoors.

Removal involves trapping the animal and moving to another location. The issue with removal is that it only treats the symptom and not the problem. Safety is a concern whenever you are moving a wild animal. Another concern is legality. There are laws regarding the transportation of wildlife. For example, it is illegal to transport wild hogs in Georgia. Repellents are products that you can use to scare or discourage wildlife. Snake repellents that work by smell or sound are ineffective because snakes can't hear or smell. These products are only short term solutions so you will need to reapply them. How effective they are can also be impacted by how hungry the wildlife is. If you are using repellents on your garden check the label first because some are only intended to be used on plants that you don't eat. Milorganite can be an effective repellent for deer. It's an organic fertilizer.

Lethal control is the last step when managing wildlife. It's best to work with a professional Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator. Make sure that you are aware of the laws regarding lethal control because some wildlife is protected, or lethal control is only allowed in season.

If you have questions about managing wildlife contact your local Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.



Letters to The Editor

Social Security and Medicare

Dear Editor,
 Incredibly, the U.S. national debt is now \$2 trillion higher than the day President Trump took office.
 This is in large part due to his reckless tax policies that benefit mainly wealthy Americans and multinational corporations - and have done little to boost workers' wages or positively impact retirees.
 Despite promises that his law would pay for itself and give a tremendous boost to our economy, it's actually reduced national income because a third of the tax cut went to foreign nationals. What's worse, it's now putting massive pressure on lawmakers to rein in soaring budget deficits. And Social Security and Medicare are always the first targets for deficit hawks.

Bottom line: the Trump-GOP tax cuts have ballooned our national debt and now threaten the future of Social Security and Medicare. The tax law has been a big bust for everyone but corporate executives.

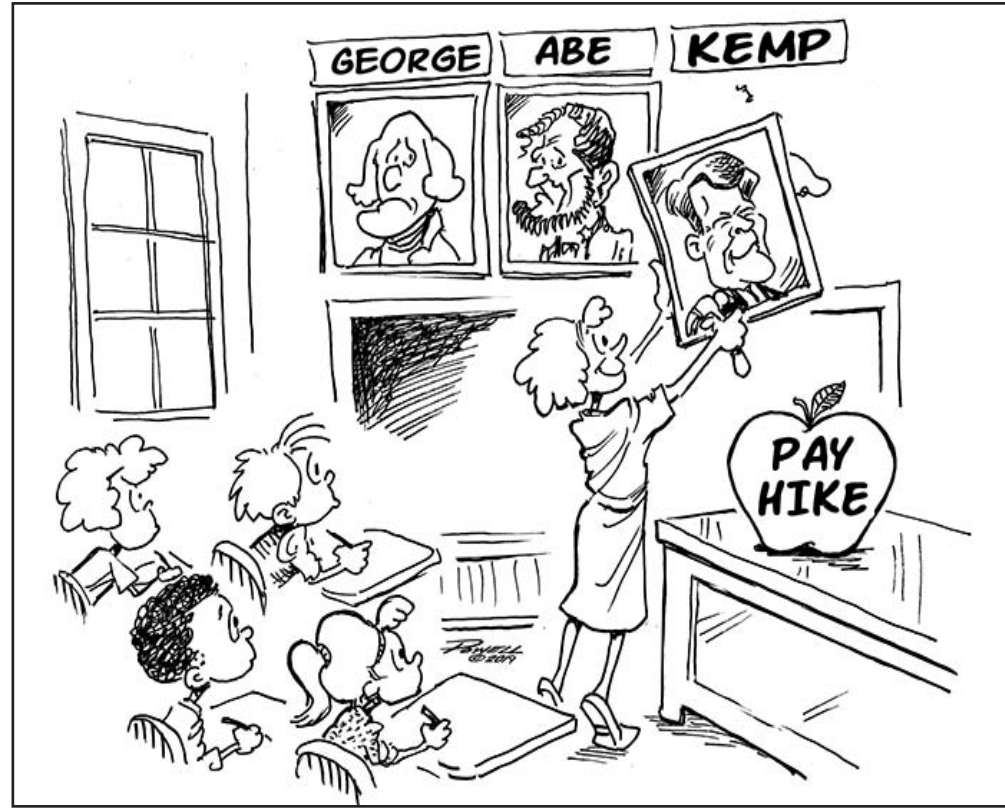
And so any move by President Trump or his allies in Congress to slash earned benefits to pay down soaring budget deficits must be met with stiff resistance by American workers and retirees - those who have paid into these programs their entire working lives and who deserve to have their benefits paid in full in their retirement.

Just saying,
Jim Morris

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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

Bridge Players	Every Monday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Bridge Players	Every Thursday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Movers & Shakers	Every Friday: Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Quilting Bee	Third Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Joff @ 386-530-0904	
Book Bunch & Lunch	Daniels Steakhouse	11:30 am
Friendship Comm.	Third Thursday of each month: Clubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party	Civic Center	5:30 pm
Goldwing Riders	Third Saturday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
Red Cross DAT	Fourth Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Fourth Tuesday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Hiaw. Writers	Fourth Thursday: Hiaw. Pk. Comm. Rm.	10:30
Hiaw. Garden Club	Clubhouse	12:45 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Last Thursday of each month: Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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