

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Important July History

Here's what started it all, including the formation of what is now our United States Army! May our Lord Bless those that have sacrificed so much and served our nation well, from then until forevermore!

July 4, 1776 - The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress. And, yes, we even had our United States Navy back then.

Likewise, God bless those who have served America in our Navy. July 5 birthday: Civil War Admiral David Farragut (1801-1870) was born near Knoxville, Tennessee. He is best remembered for his yelling "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" during an attack on his fleet by the Confederates.

July 6, Another US Navy hero, entrenched in our rich and wonderful American History: Revolutionary War hero Naval Officer John Paul Jones (1747-1792) was born in Kirkbean, Scotland. He is best remembered for responding "I have not yet begun to fight!" to British opponents seeking his surrender during a naval battle.

The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence occurred as Colonel John Nixon read it to an assembled crowd in Philadelphia. Guess what? It was another "Army guy" that was selected for this public appearance. July 8, 1776.

The Allied invasion of Italy began with an attack on the island of Sicily. The British entry into Syracuse was the first Allied success in Europe. General Dwight D. Eisenhower labeled the invasion "the first page in the liberation of the European Continent." July 10th, 1943.

I simply cannot go forward without once again stating that WWII Veterans have been my mentors ever since I was a small child. I believe the world would be a better place if we all had been blessed with those wonderful folks as mentors!

July 12th, 1943: Again from the huge war that saved the world: During World War II, in the Battle of Kursk, the largest tank battle in history took place outside the small village of Prohorovka, Russia. About nine hundred Russian tanks attacked an equal number of German tanks fighting at close range. When Hitler ordered a cease-fire, 300 German tanks remained strewn over the battlefield.

July 26th, 1945: The U.S. Cruiser Indianapolis arrived at Tinian Island in the Marianas with an unassembled Atomic bomb, met by scientists ready to complete the assembly.

We all know that this unfolding of events led to the end of WWII. However do we all think of and honor all those who sacrificed and gave their lives for our America and indeed the entire civilized world for this, a rebirth of freedom and liberty for all?

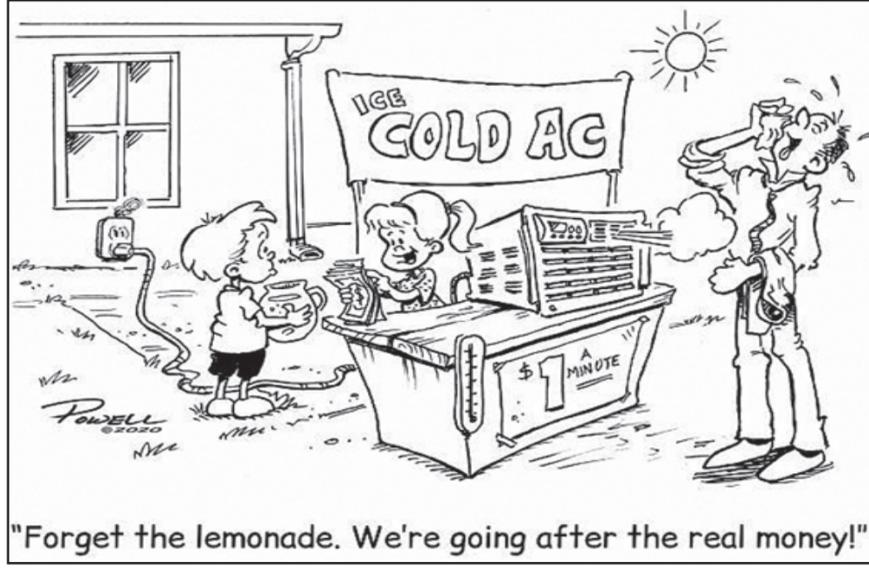
July 8th, 2019- 2020: I cannot go without saying Thank You, for all the prayers sent up one year ago as Sherry went through invasive surgery in order to remove cancer from her body.

Thanks to many wonderful people in and around Towns County and our mountain region. She is a member of our American Legion Auxiliary, Post 23.

And a huge thanks to all the members of all the Veterans organizations under the roof of VFW Post 7807 and American Legion Post 23 who prayed for her.

When the chips are down Veterans still come through!
Semper Paratus

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



"Forget the lemonade. We're going after the real money!"

An Appeal to a Civil Society

New recommendations for world health authorities signed by 239 scientists will soon be published in the journal, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

The guidance is based on overwhelming evidence that a person infected by COVID-19 can spread the virus from 30 feet away, not the 6 feet that currently informs social distancing guidelines.

Today I'm writing to appeal to a specific person, who may be turning the page at this very moment. Please keep reading.

You have decided that it's OK for you not to wear a mask in public places. You think that it's not as bad as they say, and besides, masks aren't that effective. You read something on the internet that suggests this is all a conspiracy to further enslave people. Nobody is going to make you wear a mask. You know your rights.

I have a question for you. If you were caught in a rainstorm and you had an umbrella that blocked 95% of the rain, would you use it?

If you had a teenage son whom you knew was going to do what teenagers are prone to do, would tell him to use protection? Would you smoke a cigarette in an elevator full of people? Do you wear a seatbelt when you're driving?

The world has forgotten, but there were many people who balked at seatbelt laws when they were new. The laws were considered by some to be just another coercive measure by government to control people's lives, but wiser heads prevailed and a civil society decided that while you had a right to kill yourself with your automobile, you did not have the right to drive up hospital and insurance costs for everyone else in the process.

So you've read a lot of opinions to the contrary. Yes, we're all Google scholars today. Why don't you ask your doctor what she thinks, or do you have better information than your doctor? The difference between a scientist and a Google scholar is that scientists try to keep their own cognitive bias in check while they search for the facts. Most of us search for evidence that what we want to believe is true, and the internet makes that almost effortless.

The appeal soon to be published is from a group of scientists that cover a wide range of disciplines, including epidemiology, virology, medicine, aerosol physics, flow dynamics and building engineering. It's part of an effort to provide workable solutions to this ongoing crisis and to answer the question, "How do we keep the economy going while keeping everyone as safe as possible?"

I think we're all in agreement that a crashing economy can potentially hurt us as much or more than a virus, but some of you have rationalized your refusal to wear a mask or take other precautions as some kind of brave stand for normal life and individual rights. How much have you helped the economy if you get sick, or infect someone else?

Maybe you've missed some of the information about how this virus kills and maims, how unpredictable it is, given our current knowledge, how it sickens some people, but others show no symptoms at all.

It's almost like Russian Roulette. Are you willing to play Russian Roulette with your grandmother's life, or your granddaughter's?

I'm not asking you to believe me, but if you are still in doubt, I am asking you to ask your doctor.

In case you haven't noticed, our relatively remote mountain communities are no longer a protection against the spread of the virus.

For most of this year, Towns County had registered about 24 cases. Recently over a period of about 2 weeks that doubled to around 50. It was in the 50's when I looked at the Georgia Department of Health's website last week. This morning it stands at 70.

Sure, the numbers are "small" because we're a small community, but you don't have to be a math major to see the disturbing trend, and you would have to stick your head deeply into the sand to miss the trend nationwide as we continue to set new records for daily infections.

As far as our local communities go, look around next time you're in town. Notice the high number of license plates from other counties or out of state. It's the middle of summer and the vacationers are here, but the virus has inspired a lot more people to seek out places they think are "safe" and out of the way.

That's fine for our local economy as far as it goes, but apparently people on vacation believe they are immune from any harm, because the majority of people I see are not taking any precautions.

So if you're a long time resident or a visitor, please, take precautions. Use a mask. I know it galls us to be confined, to be told what to do, but what are you really losing. How much have you really suffered, confined to your air conditioned living room with Netflix and Google?

That extra 5 lbs. of fat on your belly tells me you didn't suffer too much.

Your nurse wears a mask for 10 hours a day and then goes home to make dinner for her kids. Isn't it worth a small amount of inconvenience if it helps save people's lives and keeps the economy running, or are we softer than our ancestors, who survived world wars and pandemics and rationing?

Are you too soft to bear wearing a small piece of fabric?

The Middle Path
By: Don Perry
onthemiddlepath.com

Fire Ants

Fire ants are very common throughout Georgia. Thankfully, we do not have as many in the mountains as they do south of us. However, once you experience a fire ant bite, you won't ever forget it. Another problem with fire ants is that you rarely get just one bite. Fire ants were first reported in Georgia in the 1950s. They've been found all the way from North Carolina to Texas, and down to Florida. Let's talk about fire ants and things that you can do to control them so that they don't take over your lawn or pasture.

If you can manage to get an up-close look without being bitten and stung, you'll see that fire ants have two nodes between their abdomen at the end of their body and the thorax in the middle of their body. Fire ants generally like to stay in open grassy areas.

Fire ants are most active when temperatures are between 70 and 85. In the fall fire ants are active because they are foraging for food. This makes fall the best time to treat them. Treatment during the spring and summer

is also possible, but effective population control will be less likely. When it's really hot during the summer time fire ants will burrow deeper into the ground, making them more difficult to treat. Treatments in the summer are best done in the morning or evening when it's cooler.

Using a bait will be the most effective way of controlling fire ants. Amdro is the main ant bait that is used for fire ants. Broadcast the bait either over the mounds, or in a four-foot circle around each mound. It's important to know that Amdro is not labeled for use in vegetable gardens. It has to be used in scenarios where the plants growing there are not going to be eaten. If a few mounds remain after seven to ten days, a follow up application of Orthene will be effective against those problematic mounds. Take a long stick and quickly put a hole in the center of the mound. Then fill the hole with insecticide to eliminate those mounds. When applying pesticides always make sure to read and follow the label.

Pouring about 3 gallons of boiling water onto a mound will sometimes eliminate the mound, if it is done in the morning when more ants are close to the soil surface. It is also possible to coerce fire ants to move from sensitive areas by continually knocking down their colonies.

I have also seen people using orange oil mixed with soap and other ingredients. This treatment is effective because it eats away the ant's skin. However, it will also kill any other insects, grubs, or worms that are in its path. It could also strip away the outer layer of any roots that it meets.

There are not many biological controls for fire ants in the United States because they are an invasive species. Fire ants are native to South America and have many natural enemies there. Researchers have to be very careful about introducing a natural predator, because the effects of that introduced species are unknown on our ecosystem.

If you have any questions about fire ants and fire ant control, contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



Firewise during the Pandemic

Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D is the Georgia Firewise liaison and we have worked hard to recruit 110 recognized Firewise communities across Georgia. It has taken a lot of hard work by everybody connected to the Firewise program in Georgia. We cannot let our guard down and we must keep our momentum going to keep our homes and communities safe from the wildfire that will come our way one day when it finally stops raining, and it will stop and then turn dry quicker than you can imagine. That is the dangerous time, when we have become complacent. This year's wildfire preparation season coincided with the nation's all-consuming COVID-19 response. Most states recognize May as Wildfire Awareness Month, with the first Saturday designated as Wildfire Preparedness Day to kick the month off. As the pandemic overwhelmed much of the country, however, we were forced to pivot as businesses closed, travel was restricted, and stay-at-home orders were issued. Precautions against the spread of the virus not only meant that people could not conduct their typical Wildfire Community Preparedness Day activities or annual Firewise events, but also presented an enormous distraction from concerns beyond the immediate health and safety of citizens. National Fire Prevention Association's (NFPA) message around wildfire preparedness emphasizes that there are in fact simple steps people can take to protect their homes from wildfire. Sometimes that message gets lost among all the different wildfire messages out there, as well as the sensationalized news that's often generated when wildfire losses occur.

NFPA and other wildfire safety advocates see the silver lining of people staying at home. It's the perfect time for home maintenance activities that target roofs, gutters, decks, and fences, and cleaning up anything combustible around the house—the kind of steps science shows are most effective in reducing home wildfire losses. This spring, fire departments and state governments observed not only the expected seasonal increase in wildfire conditions, but also worrisome human behaviors. In Washington, stay-at-home orders also translated into "burn your debris piles," and in April the state's forestry agency reported an increase in wildfire starts. Colorado fire marshals reported that people unable to recreate in closed suburban parks were heading to more remote state and federal lands, where they risked starting fires and clogging roads that wildland firefighters needed for access. Wildland fire agencies tried to figure out how to deploy enough people to keep fires small, yet make their crews ride separately and keep a distance from one another in the field. They know that if wildfire preparedness is skipped due to lack of fuel reduction and potential delayed response. With more than 1,700 Firewise USA® sites and hundreds of locations in the US and Canada where people had planned Wildfire Community Preparedness Day events, we've seen creative and inspiring solutions emerge. A resident of a Firewise community in Colorado, commented on the Firewise Facebook page that she was busy "social distancing trees" growing along her neighborhood's access road. She is among the many people determined to make sure that wildfire remains top of mind as a safety issue we cannot ignore. For more information on things you can do to become Firewise even during the pandemic, check out www.firewise.org or www.chestchattrecd.org.

RC&D
Frank Riley
Executive Director



Letters to The Editor

I Have an Idea

Dear Editor,

I commend the email last week by the good doctor "A Time for Healing" on treating others with respect and dignity. I agree with him 100%. I have an idea.

Let's stop the BLM protests and acknowledge that all lives matter including the unborn.

Let's stop the rioting, looting and destroying businesses.

Let's stop the graffiti "Kill All Cops."

Let's stop tearing down historic statues in an attempt to erase our history.

That would be a good start towards reconciliation, establishing meaningful dialogue, and treating others with respect.

Bill Scott

A Biden Administration

Dear Editor,

Come November, if Sleepy Joe, AKA Lunch Bucket Joe, AKA Empty Suit Joe, is elected President what can we expect from his administration. Well, based on his recent declarations from the teleprompter after exiting his padded basement, we should see some drastic changes to our way of life in this country.

Here are just some of what we can expect: 1) defund the police will turn into defund the military, its only a matter of time, 2) education will be federalized which will force schools to teach anti-American subject matter and the reinventing of American history, 3) borders will be flung open and illegals will be allowed to vote, 4) socialized medicine will replace private practices in most places, 5) AOC will be in charge of the EPA with draconian green edicts issued, and 6) Pocahontas will be in charge of the economy, need I say more.

Many of these issues will involve stricter regulations in all areas of our life and increased taxation on the middle class. In many areas there will not only be a 180-degree turnaround from Trump policies, but some will be unprecedented in American history. In other words what one sees now in Seattle or New York City is just a microcosm of what this country will look like if Biden is elected President. Think about it.

Tim Groza

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