

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

74 Years after Iwo Jima

Towns County annual memorial, the Battle of Iwo Jima. Event will be held at Towns County Convention/Recreation Center, Foster Park, on Monday February 18, 2019 at 10 AM. Several proud Iwo Jima survivors will honor us with their presence. Jim McKeral USMC (ret) will be an honorable guest speaker. Along with special guest Lt. Col. Raul "Art" Sifuentes, USMC (ret) of our national "Iwo Jima Veterans of America", out of Quantico, Virginia. Please plan on attending.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



Event supporters and organizers include but are not limited to: Towns County government and Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw; Clarence "Bud" Johnson, USN (ret), Iwo Jima survivor; USMC League Unicoi Det. #783; American Legion Post #23 and Auxiliary; VFW Post # 7807 and Auxiliary; various VSO assemblies of Union County; American Legion Post #23 Riders.

This community event is to honor each and every American who has ever served honorably in uniform, including our many Towns County First Responders and indeed our Blessed United States of America.

For information please call Walt Scott, 706-897-9610 or Bud Johnson 706-970-0195. Historical overview:

The Battle of Iwo Jima from February 19, 1945 to March 26, 1945 marks one of the key offensives by American forces to achieve victory in our WW2 effort against the Japanese. This Japanese island is located 650 miles from Tokyo, midway between Japan and US bomber bases in the Marianas. The strategy anticipated was to allow for landing strips on Iwo Jima to accommodate escorts for our long range bombers, en route to bombing missions in Japan, to be long range bombers, en route to assault by short range escorts.

American naval forces, 450 ships had the island surrounded as never before, yet the Japanese, numbering approximately 22,060, were entrenched in over 16 miles of underground tunnels and interlocking caves. Even though our naval and air forces had commenced heavy shelling and bombing of the island on 15 June 1944, and continuing through the morning of 19 February 1945 our 30,000 Marines of 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine divisions encountered very heavy resistance. We had committed more than 60,000 US Marines, several thousand US Navy Seabees, alongside our US Navy, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard members who represent, to this day the very best of American determination and love of country.

Mount Suribachi, on the south end of this small island where our Marines raised the first flag on this rough volcanic island is often thought of as the final chapter of this horribly expensive piece of real estate, wasn't the final task of our Marines and our entire amphibious landing forces tough mission. The Motoyama Plateau on the northern end was yet heavily defended and had to be taken.

These young men of the Marines, Navy, Army, Air force and Coast Guard well aware of these hardships in advance, were not deterred, knowing they were there for our USA, YOU and I. Never, ever forget them; ALWAYS honor our men and women of our armed forces.

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

Prayer for Our Nation

Dear Editor,
 Heavenly Father, save us from the corruption of our government. Save us from the abuse of power by elected and unelected officials, and judges, who seek to serve only the desires of Satan, to deceive the people and destroy this nation. As Your ordained protector of Israel, O God, preserve this nation against the evil forces of darkness that are seeking to undermine our founding principles, weaken our defenses, remove our religious liberties, and destroy the biblical family, the sacrament of marriage and the lives of unborn children. By Your Holy Spirit, O God, protect those in government and the news media who stand for life, truth and equal justice for all. Give them courage and wisdom to fight the good fight and defeat the servants of Satan, that we may once again be one nation under God. Guide and direct our elections that more Godly men and women would be elected to serve You, our nation, our states, and our communities. Finally, Heavenly Father, raise up Your church and open the eyes of church leaders to see the threat that is looming. Inspire and empower us for prayer, and deliver us from hearts of complacency, apathy, and indifference, lest we fail to fulfill Your destiny for this nation, and for the world. Heavenly Father, save us for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, in whose precious Name we pray. Amen.

Don O'Malley
 Pastor, Christ the King Church, Hiawassee

Burn Awareness Week proclaimed in Georgia

Recently, Governor Kemp signed a proclamation for Burn Awareness Week, observed the first full week in February. This week is a window of opportunity for organizations to mobilize burn, fire and life safety educators to unite in sharing a common burn awareness and prevention message in our communities. Burn Awareness Week is an excellent opportunity to kick off a year full of burn awareness education. Each year, over 450,000 are seen in emergency departments, clinics, or physician's offices for the treatment of a burn injury in the United States and Canada. The majority of these injuries are preventable.

Plan A: Primary Prevention: The best time to cook is when you are wide awake, and not drowsy from medications or alcohol. Always wipe clean the stove, oven, exhaust fan to prevent grease buildup. Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking. Keep a pan lid and dry potholders or oven mitts near you EVERY time you cook. Cook on the back burners of the stove when possible. Turn pot or pan handles toward the back of the stove. When heating food in the microwave, use microwave safe cookware that allows steam to escape. Allow food to rest before removing from the microwave. When frying, use a pan lid or splash guard to prevent grease splatter. Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave, turn off the stove. If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly. Remain in the home while food is cooking and use a timer to remind you to check on your cooking. After cooking, check the kitchen to make sure all burners and other appliances are turned off. Plan B: Secondary Prevention: If your food does catch on fire: Cover the pan with its lid or a cookie sheet. Leave covered until the pan is cool. NEVER move the pot or carry it outside - the pot is too hot to handle, and the contents may splash, causing a severe burn. Turn the heat off. With the lid on and the heat off, the fire should quickly put itself out. NEVER use water to put out a kitchen fire. Water will cause the oil to splatter and spread the fire or scald you as it vaporizes. If the fire is inside the oven or microwave, keep the door shut and turn it off. Keep closed until the oven is cool. Thinner skin of older adults burn faster and deeper. Preventing a burn injury is always better than the pain and trauma of medical treatment afterward.

The Mystery

*Sunset and evening star,
 And one clear call for me!
 And may there be
 No moaning of the bar,
 When I put out to sea.*

The Middle Path
 By: Don Perry

My mother crossed the bar ten years ago last week, and my father followed her not quite five years later. The old family home passed into our keeping.

There are a great many things contained within that house. My parents were collectors of memories. Great grandmother Eula's rocking chair, the length of strong hemp rope Great Grandfather Will used to climb down into the wells he dug by hand, hand forged farm implements, quilts, tools, documents and pictures were among the many things that were carefully kept and preserved. Every birthday card we ever gave our parents was there; artwork from grade school, compositions, awards, trophies, and toys. A history of our entire family was kept under that roof.

If you have lost a parent or loved one and if you are as sentimental as your humble scribe, then you will understand. For a time, we do not suffer a single thing to be moved or removed from the possessions of the deceased. Some things preserve memories better than a photograph, almost as if the spirit of the departed lingers for a while among them.

In time, we realize that our spirits are not, nor should they be, bound to earthly possessions, and we begin to let them go. If you have done this, you know there is catharsis in that process, and grieving is never finished, only deferred.

All of this and more have I realized as we prepared for the estate sale that will finally empty the family home and allow new life to occupy it, new memories to be born. But there has been an unexpected reluctance which has slowed this process, and I did not realize until quite recently what was at its root.

As we sorted through the possessions of times past, mysteries were uncovered. Love letters from one parent to another, four leaf clovers pressed in wax paper, birthday and holiday cards from long lost relatives, arrowheads, coins and scrap books were found hidden in nooks and crannies. One by one, the old house gave up its secrets, until finally there were no more to reveal.

We are a curious species. We love mysteries, and we love even more to solve them. Our curiosity has led us from the depths of the ocean to the outer fringes of our solar system to the inner workings of the atom, and our imaginations would lead us even farther.

I think, however, that we should not rush to nor insist on knowing all. Perhaps some stones should be left unturned, some paths untraveled. We need mystery. We need undiscovered country. We need wilderness for the sake of wilderness.

Imagine a world without mystery, where all is known, developed, monetized and surveilled. We are fast approaching that world, and since our bodies are currently earth bound, our civilization turns from pioneering and adventure to gratification and habit. You can see it in the way we walk, no longer looking to the horizon, but slumped over in the constant sharing of the disjecta membra of our daily routines.

In solving the mysteries of our old family home, opening my mom's cedar chest and the steamer trunk my dad kept locked in the hall closet, plumbing the depths of the big steel toolbox in the basement, I confronted unwillingly an uncomfortable truth. There are limits to this human life. We are granted only so many days. We will write a finite number of love letters. We will find only so many arrowheads, and there is a number, however distant, that is the reckoning of our last breath.

One day we will solve the puzzle of our own earthly lives and confront the mystery of the next. We will cross the bar ourselves on a journey into the next unknown, and someone else will sort through the remnants of the earthly possessions we leave behind.

Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers and the damage that they do are common here. We have several different species of woodpeckers in Georgia. The damage that they do to can look bad on trees. Let's talk about which species we have here, how to identify their damage, and what you can do about it.

UGA Extension
 Watching and Working
 Jacob Williams



Woodpeckers are found all over the world except Australia. Generally, they like to live in groves or areas with large scattered trees. They don't like areas with unbroken forest. You may see them in forest clearings or along the edge of the woods. In the mountains, we have red-bellied woodpeckers, red-headed woodpeckers, hairy and downy woodpeckers, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, pileated woodpeckers, and northern flickers. Most of these woodpeckers can be found in our area year round. The yellow-bellied sapsucker is a migratory bird that spends its summers far up north in Canada. They will move south to Georgia during the wintertime.

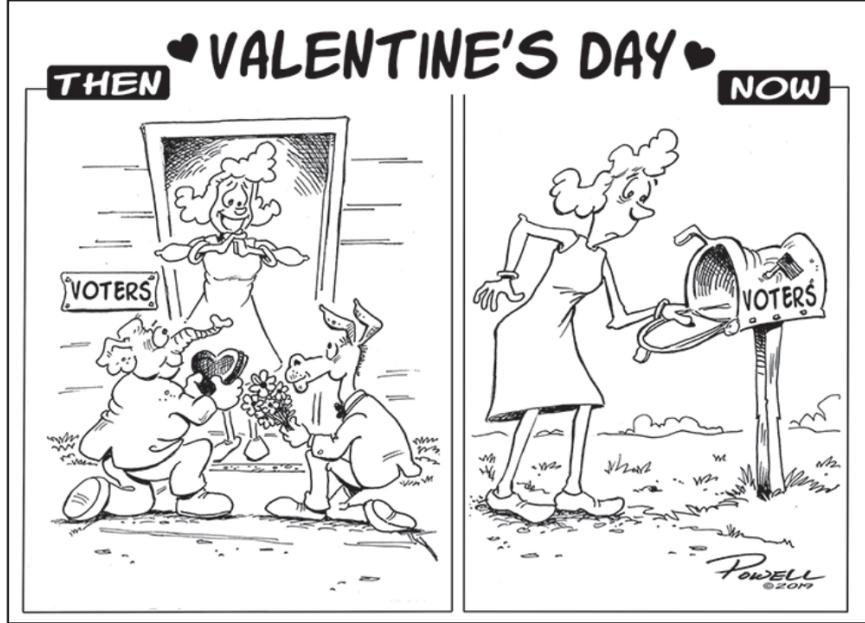
Woodpeckers use their strong, pointed beak to chisel and pry bark off the tree. Most woodpeckers have a similar diet. They like to eat a variety of insects, spiders, earthworms, nuts, seeds, and berries. They will also eat the bark of a tree. Sapsuckers will also eat sap from trees, thus giving them their name. Woodpeckers have unique feet to allow them to hang onto trees while they drill. Their talons form an X shape, giving them more leverage to hang on. These feet are called zygodactyl feet. Many woodpeckers also have stiff tail feathers that they can use to help support themselves against the tree.

Woodpeckers have special eyes that have an extra membrane over them called a nictitating membrane that closes right before the bird makes contact with the wood. Their eyes are small and well protected so that they don't get a headache from all the drilling that they do. A woodpecker is estimated to peck between 8,000 and 12,000 times a day.

Woodpeckers will peck many different kinds of trees. They'll peck apple, pear, maple, hemlock, pines, and many other species. If a tree has been pecked, the tree will usually increase sap flow and form a callous over the hole. Woodpeckers will keep returning to the hole to keep it open and find new bugs to eat. Usually the holes from woodpeckers are between the size of a dime and the end of a pen. They also have a very regular pattern. The holes will be very neat rows. Sometimes woodpeckers will peck on houses. It's very likely, they are drumming, which is done so that other birds hear them and stay away from their territory.

Most of the time the damage done to the tree doesn't kill the tree. Some trees may become infected where the holes are, but most of the time the tree survives. If there are so many holes that they create a continuous ring around the tree the tree will die. You can try putting protective screening around the tree to keep them from reaching the bark. Another strategy is to buy an owl decoy. You'll need to move the owl decoy every day for it to be effective. Shiny pinwheels or foil strips can also scare birds away, but you have to keep moving them. Keep in mind that woodpeckers, as most birds, are protected and it is a federal offense to kill one or disturb their nest. Therefore, you will need to use non-lethal control methods.

If you have questions about woodpeckers or damage on your trees contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.



RC&D
Frank Riley
 Executive Director



Approximately every minute, someone in the United States sustains a burn injury serious enough to require treatment. Each day over 300 children are seen in emergency rooms and 2 children die from burn injuries. An estimated 376,950 scald burn injuries associated with consumer household appliances and products were seen in hospital emergency rooms in the U.S. between 2013-2017; 78,526 (21%) of these occurred to children 4 years old and younger. Children are at particularly high risk for burn injuries due to their immature motor and cognitive skills, inability to self-rescue, and dependence on adults for supervision and danger-avoidance interventions. Older adults are similarly more vulnerable due to decreased reaction time, impaired mobility, and effects of pre-existing health conditions. Infants/toddlers and elderly adults have thinner dermal injuries compared to persons of other ages, leading to deeper burn injuries at lower temperatures or shorter exposure times. Hot water will burn skin at temperatures much lower than boiling point (212°F/100°C). In fact, it only takes 3 seconds of exposure to 140°F/60°C water to cause a burn serious enough to require surgery! Hence, set water heaters at 120°F/48°C or just below the medium setting. A safe bathing temperature is 100°F. Dangerously high-water temperatures were found in 41% of inspected urban homes, with rental properties at greater risk for unsafe levels. Actual tap water temperatures can vary from the heater thermostat settings. Therefore, test water temperatures at the faucet with a candy/meat thermometer after allowing the hot water to run for 1 - 3 minutes. Adjust the heater setting accordingly. Re-test in 24 hours. 85 - 90% of scald burns are related to cooking/drinking/serving hot liquids. Coffee is often served at 175°F/79°C, making it high-risk for causing immediate severe scald burns when spilled or pulled down.

For more information on Burns go to www.amerburn.org or ChestChatt RC&D at www.info.cccrd@gmail.com.

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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Basket Weavers	SC Fire Hall	10 am
USCG Aux.	Senior Center	7 pm
Hiaw Writers	Hiaw Pk. Comm. Rm.	10:30
Awake America Prayer	Civic Center	Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	6 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Planning Comm.	Civic Center	6 pm
YH Plan Comm.	YH City Hall	5 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Blairsville store	5:30 pm
Water Board	Water Office	6 pm
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Joff @ 386-530-0904	
Book Lunch & Lunch	Daniels Steakhouse	11:30 am
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party	Civic Center	5:30 pm

Towns County Herald

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Shawn Jarrard Editor
Mark Smith Staff Writer
Lowell Nicholson Photographer
Derek Richards Advertising Director
Shawn Henrikson Copy Editor
Todd Forrest Sports

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