

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## WWII Airmen get their Memorial

Thanks again to Bart Rogers, USAF for sending me an article on this Memorial, consisting of bronze sculptures, dedicated to our WW II airmen. Called "Lest We forget" is an artistic depiction of actual history by one who was there with no reserves in his efforts to tell it like it was and to honor his fallen comrades. Appropriately timed, as per our recent loss of Captain Jim Coker, this summer who told us all of many heroic and brave exploits of these young men over Europe, Germany and other places in the deadly skies during WWII. Captain Jim now has an angel's eye view of this and more. He would have loved to have seen this, and undoubtedly, if this had come up several of us would have seen to it that he made the trip to visit this historic piece of American history. Like all our WWII Veterans their history, stories, personalities, leadership, wisdom, and above all loving friendship mean so much to so many of us. If you do not know or have not befriended any of our remaining WW II Veterans, by all means, make plans on meeting and spending time with one or more of them. It will be a two-way blessing!

Major Fredrick Arnold (ret) flew P-38 Lightnings in the Mediterranean theater of war. Also to his many credits, as an outstanding artist he created this Monumental Memorial dedicated to the many that flew in WWII. As I have learned our American Airmen were subjected to a horrible casualty rate and we lost over 88,000 of these souls. Major Arnold, now 94 years old, and other survivors swore to memorialize their fallen comrades. There were 14 men in his original squadron and out of those, in only 6 months time, they lost 12 dear friends! After 46 combat missions Fredric Arnold was shot down over Sicily, taken prisoner, then escaped and completed his quota of 50 combat missions. After returning to our USA he became a test pilot and also wrote his memoirs of aerial combat titled, "Doorknob Five Two". I would surmise that it would be a good read.

As of 6 August, 2016 and for the next six months, these sculptures will be open to the public in the Wings over the Rockies aviation museum in Denver, Colorado. For those who are interested in actual history, unedited, lifelike, and unvarnished, those who travel a little off the beaten path this would make a trip to Denver worthwhile. After 6 months, this sculptural Memorial will be moved to the WWII Museum in New Orleans. For a photographic glimpse of this long overdue Memorial please go here: [www.americanthinker.com/articles/2016wwii\\_airmen\\_get\\_their\\_memorial.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2016wwii_airmen_get_their_memorial.html).

Let us never forget those who have come before us and done so much for America and each of us. Not for self, always for others. And pray for those who are now there, in harm's way, like those who have walked in their boots, sailed their seas, and flew in their skies.

*Semper Paratus*

## Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor,

With October coming, and Halloween falling on a Monday night this year, I have been thinking, and the counties around and about should consider doing the Halloween on the Square event this year on the Saturday eve before Halloween, giving Halloween night for the chance for the kids and parents to do it the "old fashioned" way by going house to house if they choose to want to do that.

We omitted doing the Square event altogether last year and went house to house with the grandkids and they loved it! Said it was all they wanted to do from now on, but did miss the square too.

They also got way much more and better things by going house to house.

Give it a try any way.

*Thank You,  
Delores Barnes*

Letter to the Editor:

When I was young those many years ago, my parents said that "some of the biggest and best things come in small packages."

So I thought when I read that the Towns County School Board lowered the "Net M & O Millage" for 2016. However, I took out my trusty Texas Instruments calculator to see how much a reduction in taxes might be. I was shocked at the number so I dusted off my old abacus and recalculated.

Boy, was I shocked. On a home with an "Adjusted Net M & O Digest Value" of \$100,000, the savings was \$.70...that's right 70 cents...not enough to buy a cup of Senior Coffee at McDonald's. This is based on a millage reduction from 7.964 to 7.957 dollars per thousand.

The total reduction in proposed school taxes for the county was \$13,115. Why...Isn't this the same School Board who asked for a SPLOST 1% tax to generate up to \$8 million in 4 years for necessary items.

Perhaps I am not savvy enough in finance to understand this mini tax action... perhaps one needs an MBA in finance.

However as many say... numbers never lie, they are just manipulated to one's benefit.

*Dewaine A. Olson*

Dear Editor,

I am sure most of our Towns County residents noticed the activity last week at the Towns County Pickleball Complex. Over 300 players from all over the U.S. participated in the Georgia Mountain Pickleball Fall Classic. If you do not know what pickleball is, you can think of it as a cross between paddle ball, ping pong and regulation tennis. Graphite or composite paddles are used to hit a whiffle ball across a three-foot-high net. The court is the size of a badminton court. Pickleball is usually played in a doubles format.

There are a lot of health benefits when you play pickleball and this is a great sport for all of us to participate in as we mature. It requires good eye-hand coordination and fast reflexes, as well as the ability to move forward, backward and side to side. It also requires a good level of stamina; and aerobic exercise. These are all fitness attributes we need to maintain as we get older.

With pickleball, it is amazing to think that all these excellent health benefits are attained by running around for an hour hitting a whiffle ball. How cool is that?

So the next time you drive by the Towns County Pickleball Complex how about stopping by and giving the fastest growing sport a try. It is addictive you know, in a good way of course.

*Tim Groza*

## Loving and hating both parties

Hate is a strong word and nothing needs to be added to the world's plentiful supply. Love is a word often misused, lavished on things but sparsely meted out to people. For the purposes of this discussion, love and hate will do.

Of the short list of people whom I consider to be of "salt of the earth" quality, a slight majority of them have been republican. During my youth I traveled, made big mistakes and had large adventures. When I was down on my luck, the people who offered a helping hand, a meal, a place to stay, or a job, were usually republican. Democrats were long on advice and encouragement, but for a tangible, practical leg up out of a low place, the republicans were always there for me. To this day, if I need help building a wall or plowing a field, that help is most often republican help. It was republicans, not exclusively, but by a wide majority, who stuck with my family during sickness, who tended to my mother when she was ailing, who visited my dad in the nursing home. I love that about republicans.

Republicans can, at the risk of sounding judgmental, be a judgy lot. They are adept at identifying things to be afraid of, though when they do, they are usually willing to face those fears head on. They seem to spend an inordinate amount of time worrying about what other people are doing, about other people's relationship with the Divine and about what they do with their bodies in the privacy of their own homes. They seem to believe that they, and they alone, have discovered the secrets of what is sacred and what is profane. They are willing, based on what they have read or what they have been told, to condemn someone to the fires of hell because of a disagreement over what that person has read or has been told. They are too often obsessed with the mote in their neighbor's eye while missing the beam in their own. I hate that they do that so often.

Some of the most interesting, the funniest, the most creative I have known have been democrats. They have been the best traveling companions, the most open to new experiences and new ideas. Some of my greatest teachers and mentors in life have been democrats. The greatest artists, the most talented musicians and the best chefs I have personally known have, by and large, been democrats. It has been the democrats in my life who have helped to inspire me to push out the boundaries of my own knowledge and experience. Democrats seem to understand on a visceral level what republicans need Faith to grasp - that all people are one, no matter what they look like on the surface, no matter the cut of their hair or the length of their hair or the color of their skin. I love that about democrats.

Democrats can be almost insufferable during election years. They take pride in being tolerant, but that tolerance evaporates quickly when you disagree with them. Democrats seem to think that they are smarter than you, and being smarter, they are willing to sacrifice that legendary tolerance in order to tell you what to do, for your own good, of course. If you are unwilling to take their advice, democrats seem eager to enlist the help of the government in bringing you into line, for your own good. For all their ability to embrace the unknown, to try new things, embrace different cultures, push out boundaries, the one thing they seem to fear the most is their fellow citizens who disagree with them. Democrats seem to believe that a powerful central government which oversees all aspects of our lives is necessary to protect us from the hazards of unenlightened thinking. I hate it that democrats have such a poor understanding of how government, and business, and free speech really works.

I do not blame anyone for being a democrat or a republican, a liberal or a conservative. I have the advantage of not feeling I have to choose one or the other. I did not grow up observing that the poverty and crime and desperation I saw all around me existed in large part because my skin was a different color or my parents were born somewhere else. Political democrats have done a better job than the republicans in selling the idea that they care more about these problems than their opponents, though their success at actually fixing the problems has been limited. I also did not grow up, or grow older, feeling that the moral and economic decline of the nation was the fault of people who voted for democrats, or that the republicans were speaking in a secret code that was designed specifically for people who lived in my neighborhood.

I did grow up, and grew older, with the advantage of having friends who were colored with a variety of pigmentation and whose parents came from a number of different lands. My parents taught us that most politicians were full of crap, most of the time, and that all people, including politicians, should be judged by their actions rather than their words. They taught us that the only measure of a human being is the quality of that person's character. Therefore they voted sometimes for republicans, sometimes for democrats, and sometimes for third party candidates.

Our choices in life are informed by our perceptions, which are in turn informed by our experiences and modified by the way our brains are wired. Fact and logic are usually insufficient to overcome the filters of perception created by a lifetime of experience. People who buy and sell soap, used cars and politicians understand this very well. It does not require a great effort to aggravate our natural tendencies to think differently in order to keep us more or less evenly divided.

The current schism between republicans and democrats sometimes reminds me of that old classic, "The Dark Crystal," in which once powerful beings were split into equal halves of darkness and light; (apply whichever half you like to whichever party you choose). Each half was a diminished version of the original. Both needed something the other had. They were not whole until joined together again.

This is where we find ourselves in America today: divided, weakened. The country needs the steadfast reliability of the republicans. We need their ability to identify danger, prepare for it and overcome it. We need the vision and the ideals of the democrats, their creativity and inspiration. We need the ability of both parties to see one great nation in the diversity of our people. No matter how this election turns out, we will either bring our two "halves" together, or we will continue to be herded like cattle by those for whom politics is a tool rather than a belief.

## The Middle Path

*By: Don Perry*

## Leyland Cypress

Throughout the South-east, Leyland cypress has grown in popularity as both individual ornamental plants and as screening plants. Though they are marketed as hardy trees, it is still important to be sure they have adequate resources and don't become stressed or diseased.

One of the most common diseases of Leyland cypress in our area is Seiridium canker. This is caused by the fungus Seiridium unicolor and results in the death of individual branches on an infected tree. Dark, oval cankers form on the flesh of branches and are often dry and sunken with a raised edge. One canker will not completely encompass a branch. However, multiple cankers can form at one point, which significantly reduces water flow to the rest of the branch. Eventually, sap will start to flow from these cankers as the branch begins to die. While individual branches are usually all that is affected, if the infection spreads to the trunk or a majority of the tree, the entire plant will die. There is no cure for this disease, so the best way to take care of it is to prevent it. Make sure cypress planted as a screen have at least twelve to fifteen feet between them to allow for adequate airflow and discourage disease establishment. Drought conditions make trees especially susceptible, but studies have shown that those trees with a regular irrigation schedule can overcome mild to moderate infections.

Passalora needle blight can also affect Leyland cypress in our area. It is also referred to as Cercospora needle blight, but it is caused by the Passalora sequioae fungus. The fungus typically only affects growth that is at least one year old. Because of this, a major symptom is needle drop starting at the bottom of the tree where the oldest tissue is. The needles will grow back but more and more of them will drop each growth cycle as the disease moves up the tree. Sometimes, only one side of the tree will be affected. This is especially common in Leyland cypresses in close proximity, such as those planted as a windscreen. If there is not enough space between them, there will not be enough air flow and conditions will be ideal for fungal growth and spread. In addition to making sure there is enough space between trees, restrict irrigation to early morning hours. Never water at night, because the moisture will not evaporate completely until the next day and any spores will develop due to the presence of water and absence of light. There are several fungicides available for treatment of needle blight. Contact your county extension office if you need fungicide recommendations.

Insects can also be major pests of Leyland cypresses, especially bagworm moths. Many people get these confused with webworms, which make silken tents on the ends of branches. Bagworms, however, make cocoons using needles from evergreen trees and hide in these cases suspended from branches. They continuously add to their cases as they feed on the trees. While mild infestations of bagworms can slow the growth of trees, if there are enough of them, they can kill entire plants. Often, a single side of a cypress will turn a dead, grayish color. The cases will be the same color, so they can sometimes be difficult to spot. If the infestation is mild and the cases are within reach, remove as many as possible in the winter. In cases of severe infestation, consult your extension office for a pesticide recommendation.



## Towns County Community Calendar

Bingo	Every Monday:	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Bridge Players		Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday:	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Thursday:	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Bridge Players	Every Friday:	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Alcoholics Anon.		Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday:	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Mtn. Amat. Radio	First Monday of each month:	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	First Tuesday of each month:	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion		VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council		City Hall	5:30 pm
Young Harris Coun.		YH City Hall	7 pm
Quilting Bee	First Wednesday of each month:	McConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge	First Thursday of each month:	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg	Third Thursday of each month:	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Friendship Comm.		Clubhouse	6 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
Republican Party	Fourth Thursday of each month:	New Senior Ctr.	6:30 pm
Square Dance Club	Fourth Friday of each month:	Rec. Center	7 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Last Thursday of each month:	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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## Towns County Herald

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