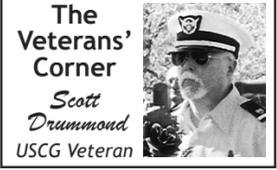


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Veterans Assist in Flag Dedication

This time of year being very busy for so many of us, several of our Veterans found time, out of their busy schedule, to assist in the Bell Mountain Park and Flag Dedication of 10/12/2016. Commissioner Bill Kendall had requested our assistance in said ceremony and specifically requested honoring our two much loved Iwo Jima vets, USN Chief Clarence "Bud" Johnson (ret) and Todd Johnson who served as one of the Navy's Fire Controllers aboard the USS Pasadena. Todd's sweet wife, Hellen was also present for this historical event. Many Towns County residents know and love the Kimseys as teachers/coaches at Towns County Schools as well as Young Harris College. And who doesn't know Bud Johnson?



The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran

Assisting the flag raising were three of our beloved Marines, Walt Scott, Wayne Roshaven and Ash Todd. Wayne and Walt are also members of our North Georgia Honor Guard. Ash Todd and Mel Halfon (US Army, Vietnam Vet), also represented our American Legion Riders, a busy fund raising group. They, like many of our Veterans from VFW Post 7807 have many and various duties, as volunteers.

Jeff Stamey, one of the design and construction engineers and eight year US Navy Veteran helped build the over-looks, also assisted our "mature" heroes in raising our beautiful American Flag, by maintaining positive control of the steel cable halyards.

Brandy Creel, USAF, our new VFW Post Quartermaster also represented our Legion Riders. Brandy works hard; no matter what, and she always does a superb job. Brenda Hoyt, wife of Jim Hoyt represented a group of volunteers, but often, not recognized and certainly not recognized enough for their tireless efforts throughout our community projects, our American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. We just couldn't survive without these ladies. One of our most dedicated and very busy leaders John Richards (ex-Navy), our Post Commander was instrumental in planning our participation, with Mr. Kendall. A surprise visit from a graduate of Towns County HS, former Volunteer Fireman and active duty US Coast Guardsman, Reed Moss topped it off. Home on leave, he was happy to be there, and even assisted our other Fire Fighter volunteers who served as shuttle drivers from the lower parking lot to the smaller lot at the peak. Yours truly represented American Legion Post 23 and the USCG. Hope I didn't miss anyone, nevertheless an exhilarating event. If you haven't been to Bell Mountain overlook, then go and thrill at the view. Now even our "mature citizens" in the safety of their two wheel drive vehicles can visit the peak and enjoy the view of three states and our beautiful mountain community.

There's not enough gratitude and thanks for all those many of whom I do not know, working so hard this past year in designing and building this little park. Our Towns County Historical Society recorded this for posterity thus more history will be with us forevermore thanks to them, as will Bell Mountain which had suffered enough from an earlier failed mining attempt and other erosion issues.

Semper Paratus

Sheeple

"Racism: The belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, especially so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or races."

There is a small but persistent minority in the US which knowingly embraces the fallacy of racist belief. That number expands when we include those who assume "characteristics and abilities" based on other criteria such as religion, national origin or sexual orientation. We call that type of thinking "prejudice," but the mechanics are the same as racism and the results can be just as damaging to the recipient.

Most of us can identify prejudice and racism with little effort, but sadly, we are often blind to the prejudice we embrace when our illogical thinking extends to politics, and other areas of human endeavor.

I challenge you to try a quick thought experiment. Think of the most racist statement you have ever heard, and substitute the words "republican" or "democrat" for the racial or ethnic slur. Then think of the latest political take down or meme you have posted or enjoyed, and substitute a racial slur or other hateful label for "democrat" or "republican."

Wouldn't you agree that the language and the mechanics of the thought processes are virtually interchangeable?

Many of us are sick and tired of witnessing, like a sleeping volcano, this eruption of illogic every four years. Our instinctive, illogical reaction is to group anyone who embraces such fallacy under a broad umbrella. When we are feeling less than charitable, we even have a slur of our own to describe "you people," or as we like to say, you "sheeple." (We refer, of course, to "those" people and not to ourselves or any of our dear readers.)

As with any form of prejudice, we begin to assume certain characteristics and abilities about sheeple, based upon what we observe of their herding instinct. We think that, perhaps they don't read much, or if they do, they only read things that support what they already believe.

We think that maybe they don't get out very much, and if they do get out, they always wear the same colored glasses which cast a uniform tint over all their experiences. We think that they rarely encounter or communicate with people who see the world differently.

We also think that sheeple do not understand history very well, or how effectively the study of psychology and marketing is applied to politics, or how consistently the quest for money and power transcends the most cherished ideals.

When we are truly annoyed, whenever we hear them say things like "those republicans (democrats, rednecks, southerners, yankees, liberals, conservatives and deplorables)," we automatically wonder if they ever notice how often their wool is being sheared by this economy. (Which do you blame for that, the democrats or the republicans? Because that's all we have had for our entire lifetimes.)

We understand that 70% of "them" don't even have \$1000 between them and the next emergency. That is some pretty thin wool, if you ask me.

We do hope that the unfortunate sheeple will come to understand why we don't always join in the fun of bashing the "other side," or why we unthinkably roll our eyes whenever they gush about their favorite candidate or president, past or present.

We hope that one day they will look in the mirror and see the wool pulled snugly over their eyes. If you are concerned that someone in your life may be a sheeple, you might try reading them this article. If they smile knowingly and wink and say, "Yep, that sounds just like a (democrat or a republican)," you might as well get out the shears.

We realize that being prejudiced against sheeple is baa-aa. It is just as illogical as their illogic. We are working on that. But we are getting tired, and the election still seems very far away.



The Middle Path
By: Don Perry

Planting spring bulbs

The end of the growing season may be drawing near, but the time for planting spring flowering bulbs is just beginning. Flowers such as daffodils, hyacinth, tulips, and other plants that bloom before tree canopies start to fully form should be planted from October to early December. Though the bulbs themselves may not look like much, if they are planted in a well-prepared site and maintained properly, they will produce a multitude of large, beautiful flowers as the temperatures begin to warm.



From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee

One of the most important aspects to planting bulbs is the site selection and preparation. Full sun is often best, but flowers will still form with light shade. If there is less than eight hours of sunlight at the site, you run the risk of decreased flower. The site must also be well drained. You can tell if your soil is well drained by digging a hole that is one foot deep, filling it with water and letting the water absorb. The next day, fill it with water again, and if the water disperses after eight to twelve hours, the soil has adequate drainage. If not, you may want to consider adding amendments to the soil to promote drainage. Appropriate amendments include compost, perlite, peat moss and other alternatives. Certain bulbs may do better with certain amendments, so always carefully check the care guide for the bulbs you are planting. Spring bulbs are most productive in a soil pH of 6.0 to 6.8, so always remember to test your soil before establishing these plants. Typically, one to two pounds of 10-10-10 per hundred square feet is an acceptable fertilizer rate.

When purchasing your bulbs, always check for mold, blemishes or cuts. If any of these are present, the bulbs are much more likely to rot or be susceptible to disease after they are planted. Planting bulbs at appropriate depths can also prevent disease and damage. For large bulbs (greater than two inches), plant them to a depth two to three times their diameter. For smaller bulbs, they should be planted three to four times their diameter deep. Different bulbs require different spacing, but planting a few smaller bulbs together in a large hole a few inches apart usually gives a better landscape effect than planting all bulbs individually. When placing the bulb in its hole, always be sure to plant it upright, with the fibrous roots down.

For spring flowering bulbs, not much continued maintenance is needed until they become crowded. Mulching keeps weeds down and helps protect them in hard winter weather, and normal spring rainfall is usually adequate water. However, every few years, you will probably need to divide your bulbs as they produce more roots and bulbets (small bulbs). Always wait until the bulb's foliage starts to yellow and wilt naturally to dig up and divide bulbs. Most can be gently pulled apart and re-planted immediately. If you would like to store your bulbs, wash off all the soil and store in a cool, dry place away from sunlight with adequate airflow until you are ready to plant again next fall.

For more information on bulbs suitable for our area, contact the extension office to receive our publication "Flowering Bulbs for Georgia Gardens."

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

With the recent scare and banning of clown masks and costumes around and about, I can only hope the Halloween on the Square festivities can be cautious about this too.

But whatever happened to the good old' days of using your own imagination, and the stuff from around your house to create and come up with costumes and all? That used to be the fun and enjoyment of watching all of the creativity come to the front door. We use to even have our camcorders set too to record it all, and watch then after Halloween was all over.

Now they have these on the square festivities which has even eliminated all of that fun too.

I admit it might be for a safe cause and reason but still, if you go to houses where you know and can trust the people there you shouldn't have any issues or problems.

Just seems like too many changes for so many things that have just taken all of the fun out of life. No wonder we all keep calling it the good ol' days!

No one even comes here to our house any more at all because of the in town festivities.

We used to have so many that I would honestly have to start giving out candy that my daughter got from going around in the neighborhood and one year I even ran out of that and had to start giving out canned goods! I know those kids enjoyed their can of vienna wieners and potted meat too! LOL!

Now, only memories.

Thank you,
Delores Barnes

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.

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All Things New
Wayne Fowler

Authenticity

Everyone lives out a philosophy or religion whether aware of it or not. It is axiomatic that if you follow a path, you think it is the right one. But just because it is right for you does not necessarily mean that it is "Christian." I once knew of a church that was attacked like a wolf in sheep's clothing. A humbler but well-to-do businessman joined them, but didn't really seek attention. He was encouraging, supportive, and generous. He knew the language of the Christian faith. He let it be known that he was an investment manager. Soon he was signing up new customers at church. It was a pyramid scheme. He was eventually arrested and convicted. Most of his victims lost everything they invested, some their life savings. The Bible addresses authenticity thoroughly. A Hebrew prophet spoke to people who were quite religious, but had forsaken the Lord. "I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings" (Hos. 6:6).

Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven." He told parables about seeds that sprout and appear healthy until challenged, and weeds growing amidst the wheat. He spoke about a small gate and a narrow way "and there are few who find it," which can be alarming (Mat. 7, 13).

John's first epistle has multiple tests of authentic faith. If you have exchanged your life for His, you practice righteousness, confess the Son, and know the Spirit of God. Amidst these clarifying challenges, John writes, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 Jn. 5:13). We do not have to stumble through life wondering. We can know for certain that we have authentic faith. That's good news!



Towns County Community Calendar

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

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Towns County Herald

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