

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

New Year, New Decade

However let's not forget how and why we got here! So let's choose to start this new decade off RIGHT!

Even though they were founded 10 November, 1775, not long after our Army and Navy were established, let's

look at some more recent history of our USMC. Military history, often overlooked, in many cases, forgotten.

Why not start this decade on a positive note by honoring a smaller group of our military, those men and women who often make the impossible become possible. Their sacrifices are many and great. Their greatness is to be admired and honored by every single American.

Without further adieu here is only a miniscule selection of January achievements for readers of our TCH to further research and become awed by our Marines: (excerpts taken from other online sources)

10 January 1995: The Pentagon announced that 2,600 U.S. Marines would be deployed to Somalia for Operation United Shield to assist in the final withdrawal of UN peacekeeping troops from Somalia. The decision came in response to a UN request for American protection of its peacekeeping forces serving in the war-torn African nation.

11 January 1945: The first elements of Marine Aircraft Group 24, commanded by Colonel Lyle H. Meyer, landed at Lingayen, Luzon, and Philippine Islands, to provide close air support for Army forces. Over three months, MAG-24 and MAG-32 would fly a total of 8,842 combat sorties and drop more than 19,000 bombs as part of the Fifth Air Force in supporting our Sixth Army.

16 January 1991: Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm as forces of the allied coalition launched an all-out air campaign against targets in Iraq and occupied Kuwait in an effort to liberate Kuwait and enforce the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. Overall, in the theater of operations, the coalition forces included more than 415,000 U.S. troops.

18 January 1951: Marines of the 1st Marine Division began mopping-up operations against guerrillas in the Pohang area, South Korea, following the Division's return from its epic battle with Communist Chinese troops at the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir. Our own Cecil Sanders Jr. now at the right hand of our Supreme Commander survived the Frozen Chosin fiasco. A wonderful friend to all who knew him!

20 January 1968: The second battle for Khe Sanh began when Marines from the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines attacked a North Vietnamese battalion between Hill 881 South and Hill 881 North. More than 100 of the enemy were killed.

22 January 1969: Operation Dewey Canyon, the most successful high-mobility regimental-size action of the Vietnam War, began in the A Shau/Da Krong Valleys when the 9th Marines, commanded by Colonel Robert H. Barrow, and supporting artillery were lifted from Quang Tri. By 18 March the enemy's base area had been cleared out, 1617 enemy dead had been counted, and more than 500 tons of weapons and ammunition unearthed.

Never forget, always honor our men and women who make it possible for us to be America and who made our world a better place.

Semper Paratus

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



Ichauway Plantation

This week I was honored to be a guest at the Woodruff House on Ichauway Plantation in Baker County, GA. I lived for 2 days like the elite did in years past when many well-known, famous people spent time as Mr. Woodruff's guests on Ichauway. I know it is a tough life, but somebody must do it! I tried my best to endure the wining and dining and waiting on hand and foot that they provide just like when Mr. Woodruff was here. I spent a whole day on a horse riding with bird dog handlers and horse handlers, hunting wild quail on Ichauway. There were only 2 of us on each hunting party attended by 5 hunt guides and a matched pair of mules pulling a wagon that carried 6 bird dogs and a Labrador retriever as we hunted the elusive wild quail. We found 10 coveys under the Longleaf pine stands that are well manicured and maintained just for quail hunting. You can't ask to go to Ichauway but must be invited by someone there who has permission from the Woodruff Foundation that runs the plantation and invitations are hard to come by. The governor could not get an open date to go there! There were only 4 of us on our 2 days there: Chuck Williams, Director of Georgia Forestry Commission, Shardul Raval, Director of Fire and Aviation for Region 8 US Forest Service, Mike Worley, Executive Director and CEO of the Georgia Wildlife Federation and me. We are all part of the Georgia Prescribed Fire Council (I am President) and our host was Mark Melvin who works at the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center. Mark is also leader of the national Prescribed Fire group of councils. I felt like I was in the presence of royalty! In fact, I told the horse handler that "I wasn't royalty and he said, I will treat you like you are!"

The Joseph W. Jones Center for Ecological Research is located on Ichauway and was founded on a long-standing ethic of conserving land and water resources and many scientists use it for research on many natural resource subjects. Ichauway is maintained as the tangible expression of this natural resource management philosophy. Central to this philosophy is the conviction that management and research inform each other and are partners in their contribution to knowledge. The Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center is located on Ichauway, a 29,000-acre property in rural southwestern Georgia. Ichauway was established as a quail hunting reserve in the 1920s by Robert W. Woodruff, who became the long-term chairman of The Coca-Cola Company. An avid outdoorsman, Woodruff recognized the unique natural characteristics of the land and maintained one of the most extensive tracts of longleaf pine and wiregrass in the United States for quail hunting. After Woodruff's death in 1985, the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation undertook an exhaustive process of research and advisement for the future of the property and ultimately established the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway in 1991.

The Robert W. Woodruff Foundation provides the core financial support for the Jones Center programs and facilities. The Jones Center was named in honor of Joseph W. Jones, former senior vice-president of The Coca-Cola Company, Woodruff's longtime associate, and former chairman of the Woodruff Foundation. By 1993, core staff members were hired in research, forest and wildlife management, and administrative support, and a newly constructed campus was completed in 1996. There are now approximately 85 employees at the Center. Over 100 graduate students from regional universities have completed thesis research with on-site advisors.

The 29,000 acres that comprise Ichauway include a diverse range of ecological communities; extensive longleaf pine forests, slash pine forests, old field loblolly pine stands, mixed pine hardwoods, riparian hardwood forests, isolated depressional wetlands, agricultural fields, shrub-scrub uplands, human cultural zones, and rivers and creeks. The fire-maintained longleaf pine ecosystem is a remnant of the forest type that once dominated the southeastern Coastal Plain and is perhaps the most significant ecological attribute of Ichauway. Much of the ground cover of the 18,000 acres of this forest at Ichauway has not been disturbed by previous agricultural tillage and consequently harbors some of the most species-rich habitats in North America. The characteristic vegetative structure and composition of well-managed longleaf forests support a unique faunal community that provides habitat for many species of conservation concern. Just over 15 miles of Ichawaynochaway Creek flow through Ichauway, and the Flint River forms 13 miles of the property's eastern boundary. The ecological communities found across Ichauway provide a unique example of the historic landscape of the southeastern Coastal Plain. These relatively undisturbed natural communities offer valuable insight and opportunities for research that helps better understand the structure, function and value of these ecosystems.

For more information on Ichauway, see me, IF I come back! The Georgia Prescribed Fire Council promotes Prescribed burning in the forests to reduce fuel that contributes to uncontrolled wildfires, improve water quality, improve wildlife habitat, and is nature's housekeeper in the forests. Fire is a natural thing, and it's better to be controlled than not.

What an experience, my bucket list is almost full!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE EMAILED 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.



RC&D
Frank Riley
Executive Director

Mulch

Mulch is a very important tool in any gardeners' toolkit. In addition, it does a lot more than simply make beds look nicer. Mulch serves a variety of different purposes that are beneficial to plants around your house.

Let's talk about the different types of mulch that are out there and how they can help you have healthy plants.

There are many different types of mulches out there. Some of the most common kinds of mulches are bark, compost, leaves, newspaper, pine needles, straw, and wood chips. If you are using bark for mulch usually small chunks is going to be better because large chunks are more susceptible to being washed away. Compost can be a very beneficial mulch. What separates compost from the other mulches on this list is that compost is capable of providing nitrogen to plants. Leaves are a good cheap source of mulch for many people. Many times, there's nothing wrong with taking leaves that have fallen and applying them around the base of plants. The only time when applying leaves as a mulch is not a good idea is if the leaves have a disease in them. Those leaves should be removed to prevent the disease from spreading to the next season. It's also good if you can shred the leaves before applying them so that they don't become matted. Newspaper serves as a good undermulch. Placing pine needles or straw on top will keep the newspaper from blowing away. Pine needles look good as mulch. They can make the soil more acidic over time, but that is a slow process. Straw can be an effective mulch, but it's not as long lasting as some of the other mulches described here. Straw will also sometimes contain weed seeds. Wood chips are a long lasting mulch. They can last two years.

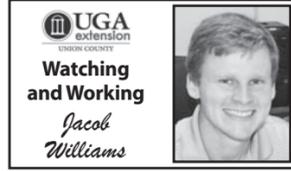
One of the benefits of mulch is weed suppression. When it's applied thick enough, mulch creates a barrier that blocks sunlight and creates a physical barrier preventing unwanted plants from growing. Once summer is in full effect mulch can go a long way to make your job of weeding easier. Mulch can help with disease suppression in the case of mummyberry on blueberries. Mulch will bury the disease.

Mulch also benefits moisture retention in the soil. When there are hot dry summers the mulch will serve as insulation against the sun and the wind, reducing the amount of water that is lost. The insulation from mulch also helps moderate soil temperatures. That doesn't mean mulch can keep your soil from freezing, but it can give you a buffer of a few degrees if temperatures are fluctuating.

One thing to keep in mind when applying mulch is the carbon to nitrogen ratio. Most mulches are very high in carbon. For the microbes in soil to decompose mulch they need nitrogen. So, if you apply a lot of wood chips as mulch, those microbes in the soil will need all the nitrogen to break down the mulch, meaning your plants aren't going to get as much nitrogen. So adding some extra nitrogen to the soil will be beneficial to the mulch and your plants.

Most mulch should be applied 3 to 4 inches. 5 inches for pine needles and 2 inches for wood chips. If you have any questions about mulches contact your local Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

I am hosting an Organic Production Meeting on January 28th. It will be geared towards people commercially involved in farming. If you'd like to attend RSVP call 706-439-6030 or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.



UGA extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams

Letters to The Editor

Not Quite the Middle Path?

Dear Editor,

I have some comments on "The Middle Path" in the January 15 issue. It seems like "The Middle Path" is becoming less and less "Middle" as each week goes by.

First the author says "war is ALWAYS about resources/economics." (Emphasis added). He goes further to say that governments use politics as a mask to rationalize these wars. While that is true in many, if not most cases throughout history, the author ignores the justice and moral aspects of many events in history.

He does not mention that the oil and steel embargo on Japan prior to WWII was a result of the very brutal Japanese invasion of China. The Japanese brutality toward the Chinese people went well beyond just looking for resources.

Did we get involved in the European theater of WWII so we can exploit resources? No. We saw that we needed to rid the world of a homicidal madman.

Who can deny that, today we are faced with madmen of extreme religious intolerance that seek to impose their religion by force beyond their own borders? Ever heard of the Ayatollah, or ISIS?. Their brand of brutality rivals that of Hitler, but fortunately have not been yet able to achieve the scale of Hitler's atrocities...and it's not for lack of desire...it's because freedom loving nations have the backbone to oppose them.

Today, finally, the US is a net exporter of energy, mainly because we finally have a president that has the backbone to look out for the US. If the price of gas hit \$7.00 as the author warns, it would certainly be disruptive for a time, but the market would adjust: additional energy reserves would then be economically feasible to tap, and alternative energy sources would come online faster.

The main lesson from history is a just nation achieves peace through strength. Not just military strength, but economic strength as well. But I do appreciate Don's contribution to the cause by wearing a wool sweater.

Jim Soltys

Thank you, Towns County Herald

Dear Editor,

We all thank you so much for the pictures and articles that you put in the paper to promote our Annual Tree Lighting at City Hall in Young Harris. We appreciated so much all you did. To Jarrett Whitener, thank you for the articles and pictures. We will see you in December 2020. God bless you all.

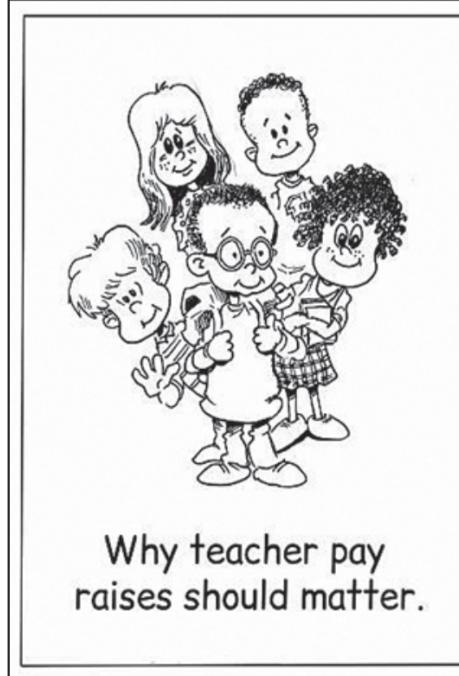
Sincerely,
Betty Walther
Enotah Garden Club

Have something to sell?

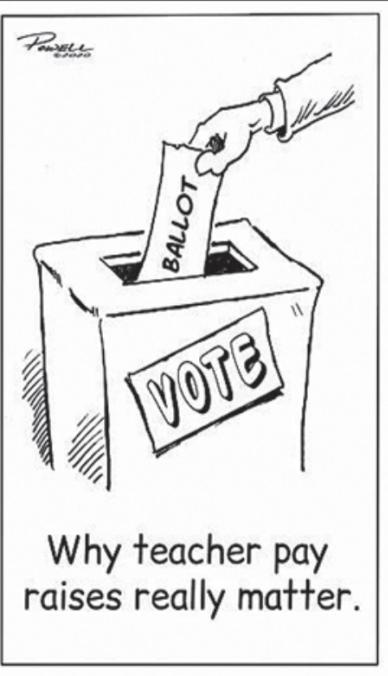
Let the Herald work for you!

Contact us at 706-896-4454

Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM



Why teacher pay raises should matter.



Why teacher pay raises really matter.

Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Sharp UMC (Men)	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Wednesday Hiawassee UMC	Noon
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
YH Plan Comm.	Third Tuesday of each month: 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	Third Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
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

Publication No: 635540

Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.

Towns County (1 Year) \$25. Out of County (1 Year) \$35. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points. The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. **Postmaster:** Send change of address to: Towns County Herald, P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546.

Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawassee
Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: tcherald@windstream.net
Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Kenneth West Owner/Publisher
Shawn Jarrard Editor
Mark Smith Staff Writer
Chad Stack Sports

Derek Richards Advertising Director
Shawn Henrikson Copy Editor
Todd Forrest Sports
Lowell Nicholson Photographer