

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

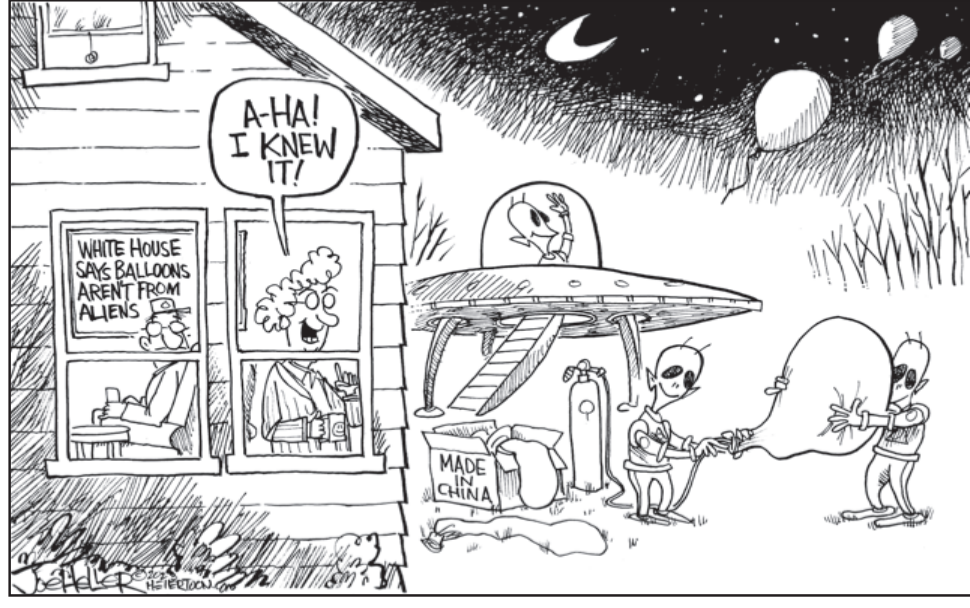
## Iwo Jima Flag Day, February 23

We honor the history of our USMC for this event. The Battle of Iwo Jima is often reflected upon as the turning point of WWII. However strategic military historians point out that Midway was the genuine turning point for the War against the fascist agenda of the Japanese Empire during that horrific era of world history. So what was the real and extremely important value of our blood and treasure expended upon capturing the island of Iwo Jima, thus real importance? Besides cleaning out the Japanese occupation, building our air fields, establishment of our military bases, that very flag, our beautiful red, white and blue symbol of Freedom, Liberty, and equal Opportunity for all was raised atop Mount Suribachi by our men of the USMC. That highly publicized victory was sorely needed all across America for morale and the desire to continue and win that doggone War. Folks' spirits and attitudes across our landscape were faltering prior to Iwo Jima. The psychological damage of American deaths and horrors of a War that implied a pending loss to the Japanese war lords was taking a tremendous toll upon America. Please know this! THE FLAG RAISING AS COSTLY AS IT WAS CHANGED ALL THE NEGATIVITY TO A SOLID POSITIVE FOR AMERICA!



**The Veterans' Corner**  
**Scott Drummond**  
USCG Veteran

Here are just a few facts to remember and honor that event of February 23, 1945, only 78 years ago:  
After much research by historians Stephen Foley, Dustin Spence, and Brent Westemeyer, the USMC has acknowledged that for 74 years afterwards, the "identity" of one of the fighting men who appeared in photographer Joe Rosenthal's Pulitzer Prize winning photograph needed to be corrected.  
As a result USMC Corporal Harold Keller has replaced PFC Rene Gagnon as one of the six flag raisers in this iconic American image. In a way this is almost heart breaking but ironically in the best fashion and integrity of our USMC, as the search for truth prevails.  
Untold hours and diligence by historians and others reviewing film footage and photos taken by other Marines who were there were required to determine who was who and where they were on Suribachi. Our USMC convened a special investigative board and the FBI's Digital Evidence Laboratory to verify this momentous change. It needs to be noted there are NO ZERO, NADA politics involved in this quest for truth and facts.  
This being the SECOND change within the past several years to the list of names atop Mount Suribachi with our heroes of that era who will live in our hearts forever, no matter what they did or did not do. In 2016, another USMC board of Inquiry determined that US Navy hospital corpsman John Bradley was NOT atop Suribachi as previously recorded in historical accounts. It is now known thanks to many long hard hours of research that PFC Harold Shultz was one of those six, not John Bradley.  
This is critically important and inspiring to know that our USMC, amongst all other military services still put great efforts into finding and sharing the truth and facts concerning America's perpetual struggle in an often uncivilized global environment to remain the "Shining Beacon of Freedom on the Hill" for possibly other nations who want to emulate America.  
The utmost value of these historical accounts is that each and every one of our men and women, who have HONORABLY served our nation in uniform, will always be a part of our greatness and Blessings vested in our Sovereign Republic. May our Supreme Commander, our Creator in Heaven shed His Blessings and Love to them all, as SHOULD WE AMERICANS!  
*-Semper Paratus*



## Learn and Burn Workshops

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy is a national collaborative effort to bring a broad cross-section of stakeholders together to address wildland fire management challenges. The Strategy directs wildland fire planning activities and has three primary goals: restore and maintain landscapes, develop Fire-Adapted Communities, and improve wild-fire response "Learn and burns" are workshops for private landowners, consultants, or anyone interested in learning more about how to safely and effectively use prescribed fire. Depending on the location and objectives of the event.



**RC&D**  
**Frank Riley**  
Executive Director

"Learn and burns" provide training for participants to develop prescribed burning skills for forest or rangeland management and enable them to take the next step in applying fire to their land. Such next steps can include the landowner leading a burn on their land, seeking additional training, contacting local agency personnel, or hiring a contractor to burn their land.  
The goal of "learn and burn" workshops is to demystify prescribed burning through firsthand experience and connection to resources, allowing participants to feel comfortable and competent with prescribed burning. The events include classroom exercises, hands-on experience, burn demonstrations by professionals, and combinations of these topics. Participants are provided with several useful publications on prescribed burning, local contacts, and other information to use as reference material and to assist in taking the next step towards implementing prescribed burning on their property.  
A prescribed burn is an event where a forest is burned under optimal weather conditions, at the right time, in order to put fire back on the land just as nature has done since the beginning of time. Man interrupts this natural process (Smokey Bear) by keeping fire off the land and gets nature out of whack which leads to a decline in fire dependent species and causes forest health to decline. Without fire, fuel builds up in the forest which can lead to destructive wildfires. Animals can't browse for food on the forest floor if it is covered with dead debris and briars, rainwater can't infiltrate the soil with a heavy litter layer on the ground, and things we don't want to burn are in danger with a wildfire.  
A fire will clean the forest for all forest species to survive since many forest species, both plants and wildlife, depend on fire for their very survival. A prescribed fire is carefully controlled by forest professionals with a well-orchestrated plan, under optimal weather conditions and is allowed to burn only where it is planned to go. Foresters burn many thousands of acres in north Georgia each year with minor damage outside the planned area (accidents do happen). People who panic when they see smoke in the forest can rest assured if it is a prescribed fire, it is well controlled by professionals with all equipment necessary to keep it safe. Wildfires are hot and fast and out of control and prescribed fires are cool, fire is slow and under control. Fire can be destructive if left to its own but when its planned it can be a forester's and nature's best friend.

On Saturday, February 25, 2023, Chatstee-Chattahoochee RC&D along with Georgia Forestry Commission, North Georgia Technical College, Forest Stewards Guild, and US Forest Service will hold a Learn & Burn workshop on the North Georgia Technical College campus in Clarkesville. All interested parties are welcome to attend to learn more about the benefits of Prescribed Fire.  
Date: February 25, 2023; Time: 8 AM - 4 PM; Location: North Georgia Technical College, Clarkesville, GA; Cost: \$10, includes lunch; Who should attend: Landowners and others interested in prescribed fire, no experience necessary!  
To Register: Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/learn-and-burn-workshop-tickets-224793943737>; You Will Learn About: Why We burn; Burn Safety; Burn Objectives; Burn Planning; Liability; Smoke Management; Burn Weather; Becoming a Certified Burner; And More!  
Join local experts to learn more about prescribed burning, experience and learn the next steps to improving your forest health by putting fire back on your land! Gain firsthand prescribed burning experience. Ask questions and learn from local experts. Connect to resources and assistance to help you burn. Meet other landowners interested in burning.  
Space is limited and the first 40 to sign up which will complete the class. We plan another learn and burn workshop later in the year in Northwest Georgia so if you are interested and miss this one, stay tuned here. We will also have 3 more in South Carolina this year. The first will be at John da la Howe the SC Governor's School for Agriculture near McCormick SC on March 2.  
For more information on Learn and Burn workshops go to <https://foreststewardsguild.org/> or <https://gateways.org/> or check us out on Facebook at [ChestateeChattahoochee RC&D](https://www.facebook.com/ChestateeChattahoocheeRC&D).

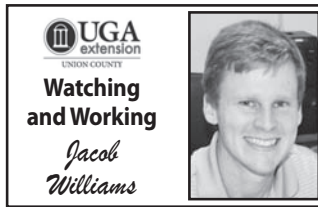
## Guest Columns

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.

The Towns County Herald is an independent and non-partisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

## Plant It?

When to plant? That is a big question. We are still a ways off from warmer weather. However, that doesn't mean that we can't start thinking about the garden. Winter is a great time to go ahead and start planning your garden and picking up seeds. Let's talk a bit about planting calendars and when to get started on that garden.  
Soil temperature should be our guide for when we plant. Ideally, for warm season vegetables we want the soil temperature to be at least 65 degrees. Some examples of warm season vegetables are tomatoes, peppers, squash, and okra. Cool season vegetables can be planted when soil temperatures have reached 50 degrees. Some examples of those are radishes, cabbage, collards, and kale.

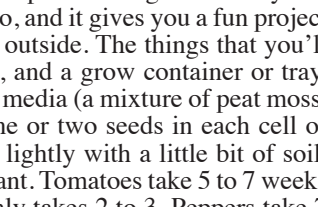


**UGA Extension**  
**Watching and Working**  
**Jacob Williams**

Some crops like carrots, parsnips, beets, radish, turnips, and mustard do better from seed. However, for most other vegetables using transplants is a great way for your garden to get a head start. There are a few benefits to using transplants. One is spacing. Not every seed that you plant is going to come up. For most plants if we have good quality seed we hope to get at least 85% germination. If you space out the seeds in your garden and some of them don't germinate you'll have wasted space. Using transplants, you know that you'll have a live plant in every spot. Another reason is for weed control. A transplant that is already up and growing with a developed root system will be able to compete against weeds for sunlight, water, and nutrients better than a plant growing from seed. You'll also put yourself a little ahead of the game.  
There are two ways to get transplants. The first is the easiest. Go to one of the garden centers or nurseries around here and buy them. The second option is to grow them yourself. This is not too difficult to do, and it gives you a fun project to do inside while it's still cold outside. The things that you'll need are seeds, growing media, and a grow container or tray. Fill the container with the grow media (a mixture of peat moss, sand, and loamy soil). Place one or two seeds in each cell of the tray, and then cover it very lightly with a little bit of soil. The timing of seeding is important. Tomatoes take 5 to 7 weeks before they're ready. Squash only takes 2 to 3. Peppers take 7 to 9 weeks. So pick your target planting date and back up from there to determine when you need to start transplants. I usually recommend planting outside in mid-May for warm season vegetables. Most seeds will need to be at least 70 degrees to germinate. You can purchase a heating pad to put your seed trays on to reach this temperature. Once the plant has germinated, you will need a way to provide light for it. A south facing window won't provide enough light, and will need to be supplemented. Supplement with a fluorescent or LEDs. Leave the bulbs on for 16 hours a day. You can plug the light into a timer to help keep track.  
If you have questions about when to plant or starting your own plants you can contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## Habitat for Humanity

A home is the strongest foundation for a family. The benefits of homeownership represent financial stability and the opportunity to contribute to society. Habitat for Humanity strives to develop successful homeowners through our Family Selection Program. The need for bettered housing, the ability to pay an affordable mortgage, and the willingness to partner and volunteer with Habitat are thresholds of our Family Selection Program.  
After our December financial wellness seminar held with South State Bank, I am pleased to say that two individuals who attended the class are in the application process of the USDA 502 homeownership program. Neither participant was aware of the opportunities available to them and that they have a high probability of qualifying for a home loan. The financial wellness seminars South State Bank, Habitat, and USDA will be hosting bi-annually will promote awareness and education to those in need within our community.  
The National Association of Realtors reports that homeowners have higher self-esteem and perceived control over their lives than non-homeowners. The financial skills and knowledge needed to become a homeowner tend to be passed on to future generations of their families. Areas with a higher percentage of homeowners tend to display a lower crime rate within the neighborhoods. Overall, homeowners tend to stay in one area longer, which has a direct correlation to positive academic achievements in children.  
According to NLIHC.org, Georgia is lacking 207,000 rental homes throughout the state. By providing assistance to educate individuals and guide them toward homeownership, rentals would become available for others in need. Supporting Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties better our community. Providing options for the families that make up this community is the backbone of our economy, and striving to enhance affordable housing is what we need to consider as we move forward into 2023.



**Habitat Happenings**  
**Executive Director**  
**Charlotte Randall**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:**  
Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiwassee, GA 30546. Our email address: [tcherald@windstream.net](mailto: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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Towns County (1 Year) \$30. Out of County (1 Year) \$40. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiwassee, 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, Hiwassee, GA 30546.  
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**Phone:** (706) 896-4454 **Fax:** (706) 896-1745 **Email:** [tcherald@windstream.net](mailto:tcherald@windstream.net)  
**Or mail to:** PO Box 365, Hiwassee, GA 30546

## Letters To The Editor

### You Are Being Watched

Dear Editor,  
"I see you," is no longer in question. Wherever you go or whatever you do, you are constantly under surveillance. As a young boy, my grandmother knew everything I did and didn't do. That was before security cameras. How did she do that so many years ago?  
I love what I call one-horse towns. But one-horse towns now have security cameras at intersections and various other locations. In places like Atlanta, surveillance cameras can be seen for miles on the interstates before you get to the downtown areas. In a lot of restaurants, every bite you take is under scrutiny, so make sure you chew your food with your mouth closed. In large retail stores, cameras follow you all the way to the dressing rooms. Do they stop there? You tell me!  
Perhaps churches will follow suite and install cameras in the Narthex areas so sinners can be spotted quickly and converted on the spot.  
Some B&Bs tell you up front when you make the rental that cameras are present on their property and that all cameras aren't automatically easy to spot. They maybe in a light fixture or some other object that conceals them. They go on to tell you that the cameras are not in the private areas. Why would I believe that?  
The bottom line is this: Watch yourself, because someone else is already watching you as well.  
**Gene Vickers**

## Towns County Community Calendar

<b>First Monday of each month:</b> School Board... HS/MS Media Center	6:45 pm
<b>Every Tuesday:</b> Storytime for Children... TC Library	10:30 am
<b>First Tuesday of each month:</b> Hiaw. City Council... City Hall YH City Council... YH City Hall	6 pm 7 pm
<b>Second Tuesday of each month:</b> Conventions & Visitors Board... Civic Center	8 am
<b>Second Wednesday of each month:</b> Board of Elections... Elections Office	4 pm
<b>Third Monday of each month:</b> Planning Commission... Civic Center Water Board... Water Office	6 pm 6 pm
<b>Third Tuesday of each month:</b> Commissioner's Mtg... Courthouse City of Young Harris Planning Commission... Meeting Room in City Hall	5:30 pm 5 pm

## Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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