

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Towns County is Blessed Again

Welcome Marion Crawford 1st SGT, US Army Ret and Major Joyce Miller, US Army Ret!

Marion was at one time the youngest 1st SGT in our nation's Army. It all began back home in Sault Ste. Marie

, Michigan when she was 11 years old, riding her bike behind a parade of the 501st Women's Army Corps operations unit. Their HQ being nearby, she and her bicycle soon became their unofficial mascot. Marion knew from an early age the Army was for her. "Pestering" DoD throughout HS to join the Army as post WWII the Army had quit taking women, was to pay off.

Immediately after HS she went to the local PO to apply, was told, and "No Way" until she showed them the certified letter sent by the Army top brass, in September, 1948. Her dad, who joined the US Navy on the day of Pearl Harbor, pitched a fit! She was the first woman in Michigan to join the WAAC Peace Corps. Shortly afterwards this became our WAC.

Not to last forever, the Vietnam War required her services managing the first combat detachment of women since WWII.

Administration was her and her girl's primary duty, but under constant attack by the VC in their Saigon encampment, she is proud of all our soldiers who protected them during these attacks. The Army wouldn't issue them guns. Later transferred to Long Binh; safer than but not as much to do as in Saigon. Marion and her girls witnessed a lot of horror and deaths of our great young men over there. However they never faltered in their assignments and mission.

With 21 years in the service, she became the top recruiter carrying her Army duty over into the ROTC for three years. Married for a short while, she was told by her soon to be ex-husband, "It's me or the Army". No explanation needed!

Her troops called her "Mom". Every command officer, from Generals on down that ever met her or worked with her showered her with praises; she has the documentation to prove it as well as a loaded chest full of awards, and medals. Towns County is blessed that Marion's CO and best friend Major E. Joyce Miller are now permanent residents at our wonderful Brasstown Manor, both having full, exciting wonderful lives. They have some of the best stories I have ever heard.

Successful in real estate, as top realtor, Coldwell Banker for 20 more years, she and Joyce bought a decrepit RV Park renovating it into a successful business.

Both are military historians. Did you know that there were 900 women in Vietnam at one time or another, representing four of our five military services? Army has the largest percentage.

Sexual harassment or foul play was non-existent back then. Quotes: "Young women with half a brain and ambition join the Army"; "Army was best years of my life"; "Military service should be an American institution two years minimum, for all our young folks!"

*Semper Paratus*

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



## Religious Fervor without the Religion

We usually avoid discussing religion here (in our newspaper column). I consider religion a personal matter, and there are many who are much more qualified to address it. When it comes to Faith, however, we will speak. Faith is a golden thread that runs through all religious and spiritual beliefs. It is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. Our lives are often defined by its presence, or its absence. It is odd that many will shy away from anything that references Faith, but be quite content with any number of opinions. We should know that Faith and Opinion are siblings.

I have a friend who considers himself an atheist and a secular humanist. He has faith that the inherent goodness of human beings will inevitably move us onward and upward. We debate from time to time our opinions about what is true and what is not. Our discussions about what is true sometimes do not end well, but our conversation is usually more amicable when we discuss what is useful. My friend finds no usefulness at all in religion, and through the filters of his own experience he focuses on the bloodshed that throughout the ages has accompanied religion like a shadow. That bloodshed continues to this day. My usual retort to his universal condemnation of religion is to point to the uncountable examples of individual sacrifice and devotion which have also accompanied religion and shined light into the shadows.

A particularly animated discussion we have results from my assertion that humankind needs Faith, and falling short of that still benefits from religion. My point being that we need a code of some kind as a framework for our decision-making process. We need values. We need sense that there is something larger and more important than our individual appetites.

Even Science is still arguing whether such civilizing influences are innate or inborn or whether they must be taught. My friend thinks that they are innate and require only nurturing. His opinion is at odds with billions of people gathered under the banners of Christianity and Islam and all of their many divisions, who believe that we are born to a legacy of "Original Sin." You would hope that two religions which share so much of the same history and so many of the same beliefs would find it easier to locate their common interests, but history has shown this to be difficult, though we suspect that politics has had more to do with the animosity between the two belief systems than anything else.

By the same token, you would think that liberals and conservatives who share a nation, a history and a culture would also be able to get along better, but this is proving to be increasingly difficult. Again, we suspect politics, or more precisely, the power struggles that are being played out behind the political facade, but that is a discussion for another time.

My friend and I do agree on one thing, and that is how belief that is mutated by politics can result in behavior that is almost indistinguishable from religious fervor. And now, as my grandfather used to say, I'm going to "quit preaching and go to meddling."

We will begin with the behavior of some of our conservative friends. For many years the right has condemned the lifestyles and personal choices of people who do not conform to their beliefs about what is true. Some have judged based on their own research or reading of Scripture, but if we are honest we will admit that most simply echo other people's opinions, most often those delivered from such perceived positions of authority as a pulpit.

We become what we think and we think what we hear, and our thinking becomes a kind of faith often informed more by interpretation than by fact. The left has had legitimate grievances against those on the right who have set aside Christian principles of universal love and non-judgment in favor of dogmatic discrimination.

On the left, we have a gathering of people less informed by religious belief. This is certainly not true of everyone who gathers there, but few would argue against the observation that the left is more secular (and the right more religious), and statistics support that observation. But while the left often rejects a framework of values informed by religion (Christianity), it can be hard to describe what, if anything, has replaced that framework.

Herein lies the problem as I see it. A kind of relativism has moved into the vacuum formed by the departure of religion, where "right and wrong" are at best a thing of cultural context and at worst a variable based upon personal appetites.

Humans don't seem to find much success as independent agents responsible, and accountable, for our own actions. We have always sought after structure and guiding principle, and where none exist, we eventually invent them. What seems to guide many on the left right now is a mutant form of "tolerance." On the surface, the values they champion are very similar to the core principles of Christianity: universal love and respect for individual rights.

Gathered under the banner are advocates of women's rights, sexual freedom, racial justice – at a glance just about every group which has at one time or another felt the judgment of the religious right. But while the ideals of the left are sound (and not all that different than those of the right), there is a growing element of militancy in the thinking of some of the left's more passionate devotees.

This militancy frames what should be simple differences of opinion that could be solved by our still functioning political process into a "fight" against "injustice, racism, bigotry, misogyny." There is a laundry list of grievances that must be "fought," in the language of these devotees. And the extreme manifestation of this "fight" can be found in the numerous stories of conservative speakers violently attacked simply because they are conservative, and in the widespread use of violent language to describe those on the right.

It is a cruel irony that the left now hosts devotees who are ready to "fight" with an almost religious fervor, or a hatred that mimics tragic examples of national zeal. They view anyone guided by conservative or Christian principles – or anyone who disagrees with the left – as possessed by as many flaws as were attributed to any racial or ethnic slur ever made.

Such embers are always smoldering at the roots of every civilization. We will continue to discuss those who are intent on fanning those embers into flame.

## The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

## Ticks

Ticks are very common in the wooded mountains. Let's talk about some of the different species that are out there and the dangers that they can pose.

Ticks have life cycles that last 2 to 3 years. There are many things that factor into tick population including temperature, rainfall, humidity, and available hosts (deer, mice, and other animals.) Ticks start in an egg mass of approximately 6000 eggs. After hatching they are called seed ticks, they have 6 legs and will climb up a blade of grass and wait for an unsuspecting host to come along. After feeding the seed tick will drop off and shed its skin, resulting in a nymph that has 8 legs. The nymph will feed, drop off, and shed its skin reaching its final form as an adult tick.

There are two main species of ticks that are found in Georgia: Lone Star tick and American Dog tick. The Lone Star tick can be identified by a small white star on its back and does not cause any known diseases. The most common tick disease in Georgia is Rocky Mountain Spotted-Fever, which is primarily carried by the American dog tick. A spotted rash appears 2 to 4 days after the onset of fever. The Lone Star Tick is the most commonly found tick in Georgia. They are more active in warmer months. Black-legged tick can still be active in the winter, but they are not as common in Georgia. They are more often found in the Northeast of the U.S., and can carry Lyme disease.

Red meat allergy can be caused by the Lone Star Tick. There is not a lot of information on why this allergy occurs because it has come about in the last 10 years. Not everyone has an allergic reaction after receiving a bite. Research is ongoing to find out more about how red meat allergy is caused.

The best way to avoid ticks is to avoid areas where vegetation is over ankle height. If that's not possible then make sure that you wear long pants and tuck your pants into your socks and shirt into your pants. You won't look glamorous, but hopefully you'll be tick free! Repellents that contains DEET are the most effective. Spraying DEET on your skin and clothes will help keep them away. Permethrin can be used on clothes to kill ticks and insects that crawl over your clothes. If you go out hiking or are working outside check yourself when you come back inside. The longer an infected tick feeds, the higher the likelihood of them transmitting to you. If a tick does bite, remove the tick with forceps, grabbing it as near to the point of attachment as possible. Pull it firmly and steadily so that the mouthparts won't be broken off in the skin. Disinfect the bite and wash your hands.

There are products that can be used on pets as a collar to keep ticks away. Some of them are expensive, but products like Seresto last up to 8 months.

Finally, if you have a question about a tick the Extension Office may be able to help with identifying which species it is. There's no way to tell if a tick is carrying a disease, but knowing the species will help eliminate possible diseases. Email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.



## Letters to The Editor

### Earth's climate changes: always has, always will

Dear Editor,

As a relatively new resident in the area as well as a subscriber to your paper, I have noticed that you publish a letter to the editor (by the same person) concerning man-made climate change; seemingly every month!

I would like to point out that the "climate change alarmists" are the same folks who in the 70s were warning us about the upcoming ice age. The same folks, who in the 80s, told us we were on the verge of running out of fossil fuels and that the oceans would be dead in ten years. The same folks, led by Al Gore, who put up a "doomsday clock" predicting our planet could not last ten years unless we addressed climate change. These same folks who changed the narrative from global warming to climate change because Al Gore was giving speeches on global warming during a blizzard! These are the same people who can't tell us what the weather will be next week, next month or next year but can accurately predict the ocean tide increase and global climate conditions 30 to 50 years from now!

Their computer models have constantly been wrong (unless they fudge the numbers to fit their narrative). The earth's climate is constantly changing; always has, always will.

The alarmists who fearmonger over "man-made climate change" are perpetuating the biggest hoax on the American people in the history of the republic! We don't need the government to regulate our behavior, tax our resources or force us into a world of windmills and "wind-up" cars!

Kevin P. Cannon

### It's Here. Get Over It.

Dear Editor,

There's no benefit in arguing about climate change or global warming anymore. It's here. There is no local or national government conspiracy theory to cash in on it but many government entities are making plans to deal with the devastating effects of climate change. Coastal governments are taking action now to deal with rising tides, more severe hurricanes and tropical storms. Witness the past wet winter and spring and the havoc done to many local people's homes due to erosion and flooding. The coastal areas will certainly bear harsh devastation.

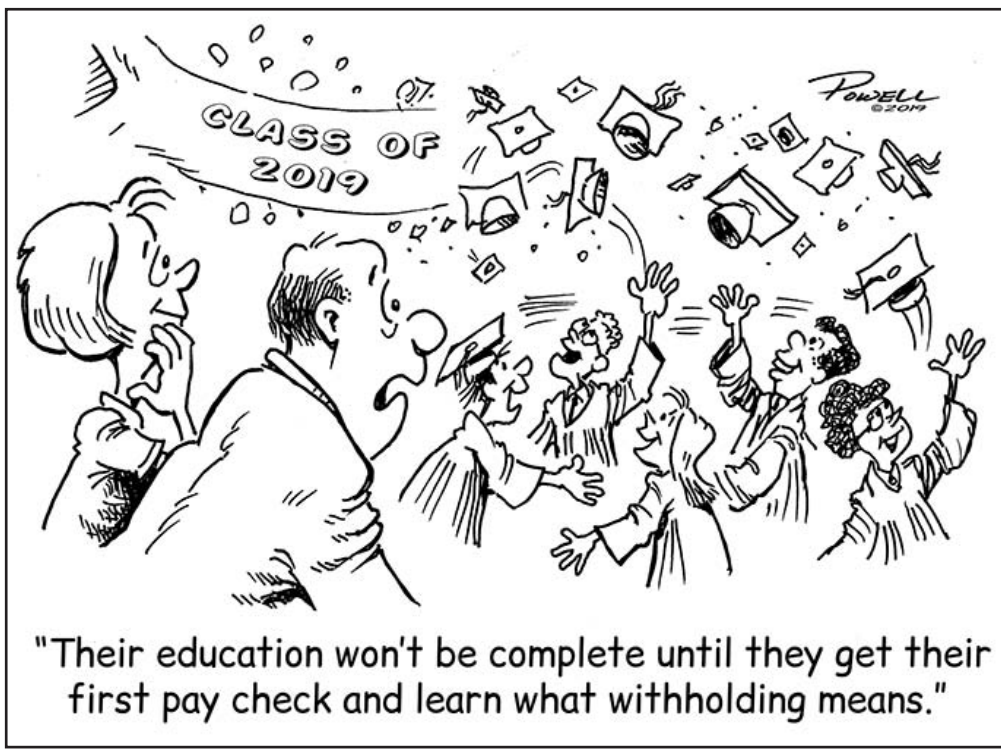
It's here. Whether man made or nature, it's here. We only have so much time to adjust our life styles and eliminate carbon into the atmosphere to slow it down. Can you imagine yourself taking fewer car trips and errands? Plane flights and road trips?

Those are just the obvious things we can do to slow down the inevitable since we as global citizens have debated this too long and been slow to find remedies. So fasten your seat belts as this is going to be a bumpy ride, like nothing we've experienced before.

Our generation has lived care-free developing products, communities, nuclear plants, more cars and planes; total life styles of convenience without regard or taking any responsibility for our waste and over consumption. Fat we are, in more ways than one.

Deniers of climate change can continue to doubt and look for boogie men and con men in every corner. Fine. As for me, I'm glad I don't have grandchildren to hand this violated planet off to.

Bonny Herman



## 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
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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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Alzheimer's Supp.	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	6 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Chamber Board	1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
VFW	VFW Soc. Bldg.	5:30 pm
Historical Society	Hist. Soc. Bldg.	7 pm
School Board	Auditorium	7:30 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Conv./Vis. Bureau	Civic Center	8 am
Gem & Mineral Club	Senior Center	1:30 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild	Calvary Church	4 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
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

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## Towns County Herald

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