

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Welcome Month of May

We have been PRAYING for the betterment and eventual recovery of our great nation from this ChiCom virus. Let us never forget those who have lost jobs, finances and worst of all those who have suffered illness and loss of loved ones.

In my humble opinion, I believe that this should have never happened and what in the heck was our enemy doing "experimenting" with a deadly germ? As always our military forces were called in as our front line, alongside the many unrecognized civilians in this horrific event, not unlike WWII. With that being said how about some great upcoming events for the month of May?

The month of May is our National Military Appreciation month! I believe it should be year around!

May 1 is Loyalty Day, set aside for Americans to reaffirm their loyalty to our USA and to recognize our Heritage of freedoms and liberty, kept intact over decades only by the sacrifices of those who served in the uniformed military services. Also shared on May 1st, Americans

honor the sacrifices of the combat wounded, ill and dying service members on Silver Star Service Banner Day. The day also recognizes service members awarded the Silver Star medal.

May 7th, our National Day of Prayer. It is an understatement to say we certainly do need God's Help this year, which has turned our lives in so many directions. National Day of Prayer is held on the first Thursday of May. Millions of people from different faiths are called to pray for the United States and its leaders.

May 8th is VE Day, the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII. Commonly known as Victory in Europe Day by America and our Allies who sacrificed much including their lives for our free and civilized world's people.

Before coronavirus, plans were in place to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War; however no matter what, we should remember and honor how and why we are here today thanks to those who committed so much.

Friday, May 8th is Military Spouses Appreciation Day. We honor the contributions and sacrifices made by military spouses. Their commitment and support help to keep our country safe. America's military spouses are the backbone of the families who support our troops during mission, deployment, reintegration and reset.

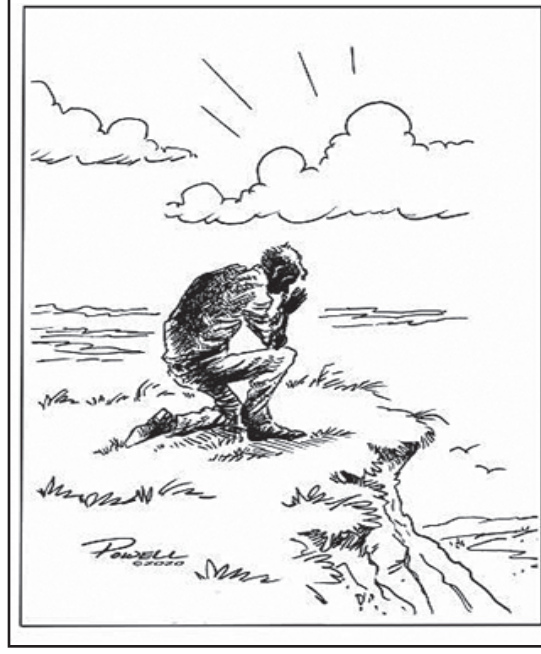
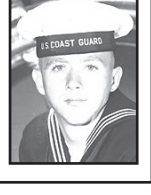
Military spouses are silent heroes who are essential to the strength of the nation, and they serve our country just like their loved ones. This precedes Mothers Day, May 10th, 2020, as both mothers and spouses are equally important, for where would we be without either?

Saturday, May 16, 2020, Armed Forces Day. Every American should celebrate Armed Forces Day each year on the third Saturday of May. We pay tribute to men and women who serve the United States' armed forces. Armed Forces Day is also part of Armed Forces Week, which begins on the second Saturday of May.

Monday, May 25th is Memorial Day whereas we commemorate and honor the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. We too should never, ever forget those who came before us!

Semper Paratus

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



YOU ARE NEVER ALONE WHEN YOU PRAY.

— II —
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 7TH

Creative Destruction

A frequently parroted headline in recent weeks has been, "The Food Chain is Breaking." If you've been in one of our local grocery stores when the meat counter was empty, you might be inclined to agree. Another school of thought has considered the food chain broken for some time now. More accurately, over the last couple of generations we have transitioned from a food "web," multiple networks of small, local and regional producers and processors, to a food "chain" of monolithic international corporations with centralized processing and distribution. It is much easier to break a chain than a web. Much of the shift is due to the ascendancy of predatory crony capitalism as ever-growing multinationals destroyed or digested smaller companies. There are fewer banks, fewer news outlets, and fewer locally owned businesses for the same or similar reasons. Part of the shift is a natural consequence of cities that grew while rural areas were depopulated. Family farms became suburban developments and factory farms replaced small holdings.

The pandemic is exposing the weakness inherent in monolithic systems, but it is also revealing the sickened state of factory farming. There is no shortage of food, but as processing plants shut down, cows, pigs, chickens and produce are being destroyed because hobbled processing plants and backed up transportation cannot move it fast enough.

Let's look at that phrase, "fast enough" a little closer. Produce is perishable and freezer space is already near capacity, but what about livestock? Why can't cows graze and chickens peck until they can be processed? The answer is in the Frankenstein nature of factory farming. Cows and chickens bred and hormone treated for rapid growth quickly become so obese if they live past a certain date, that the meat becomes much less valuable. Between the cost of feed and the loss of value, it's cheaper for the factory farm to destroy the animals than to preserve them. While the monoliths struggle to keep supermarkets supplied, the remaining smaller, local and regional producers are more flexible. They can and are adapting. This is great if you happen to live near one or have been able to find one online to replace what the grocer can't currently supply - and you can afford to do that. There just aren't enough smaller producers to go around.

The vulnerabilities of monolithic food production are not the only weaknesses that have been exposed. The monolithic modern diet has also been called out. There has never been a day since the pandemic officially began that there was not food in the stores. Fresh and canned vegetables and beans and rice have been abundant, but we have been led by media dramatists to the verge of panic because we might be denied our daily hamburger or dose of bacon and eggs. Never mind that the volumes of beef, chicken and pork that we consume are a historical anomaly, or that there are millions living among us who can't afford ribeye steak, but somehow manage to feed themselves. I don't know of a single vegetarian who is frantic because the meat counter might be empty tomorrow. But rather than inconvenience the insatiable appetite for meat that Americans have, the President felt it necessary to use the Defense Production Act to attempt to force meat packing plants, where many of the poorest and least educated among us work, to stay open.

So many things are changing right now that it's hard to keep up. The economist, Joseph Schumpeter, might have described this volatile time as the process of "Creative Destruction," which is the "process of industrial mutation that incessantly revolutionizes the economic structure from within, incessantly destroying the old one, incessantly creating a new one." Socialists, particularly Marxists, ran with the idea of creative destruction to predict that capitalism would inevitably destroy itself from within. We disagree. Creative destruction simply mirrors processes as old as time. Devolution precedes evolution. The old breaks down to make room for the new. The sturdiest tree in the forest becomes a home for woodpeckers, a slowly rotting log, and food for the new generation of trees.

Our tolerance for change and uncertainty is so low that we can't allow the economy to follow its natural cycles. We have banks too big to fail and airlines that need government bailouts, and a stock market that can't be allowed to crash. At some point in the future, and I think it will be sooner rather than later, we may find ourselves standing at a kind of crossroads. The destination will be the same, whichever route we take, but I think the journey will be much more pleasant in one direction than the other. I think that our two largest generations, who rarely see eye to eye, will unwittingly conspire to take a hard turn toward socialism and an even more totalitarian state - or we will allow creative destruction to proceed and embrace the changes that a new generation of entrepreneurs will bring us.

The elder generation desires to finish its run without losing affluence or a sense of social security. This generation is the natural ally of corporate America and the financial elite who have warped space-time itself and deformed the monetary system beyond recognition to keep the stock market from crashing. The rapidly growing ranks of unemployed and underemployed younger Americans will look to government to either guarantee their livelihood (Did you cash your \$1200 government check yet?) Or take a bigger role in directing our lives for the greater good.

And there you have it, a plausible explanation for government growing larger and more coercive under both democrat and republican leadership. There was a time in this nation when there was a bridge spanning generations and demographic groups and diverse opinions. That bridge was faith in the future, and, particularly, faith in who holds the future. (Hint: It wasn't government.) We were more than capable of embracing change and tolerating uncertainty. Now we cower from it. Perhaps it's time we re-examine that faith.

The Middle Path
By: Don Perry
onthemiddlepath.com

Ticks and Snakes

Ticks and snakes are two of everyone's favorite creepy crawlies. As the temperatures continue to warm up we'll see more and more of these guys. There has also been a surge in interest of getting outdoors due to the time that people have spent at home because of COVID-19. A hike while using social distancing can be good for the mind, but I'm going to talk about some precautions to take to protect yourself from ticks and snakes.

Ticks have life cycles that last 2 to 3 years. There are many things that factor into tick population including temperature, rain, fall, 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.

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. If a tick does bite, remove the tick with forceps or tweezers, 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.

Most of the snakes that live in Georgia are non-venomous. There are 46 species of snakes in Georgia of which 6 are venomous. Of those 6, we have 2 of them in Union and Towns counties. Copperhead and Timber Rattlesnake are the 2 that we have in our area.

To lessen the chance of having snakes around your home make sure that your dryer vent is covered with a screen to prevent snakes from wandering inside. Remove piles of debris, leaf piles, or wood piles, because those create habitats for snakes. Thick ground cover like tall grass or ivy can create hiding spots for snakes or the rodents, frogs, and insects that snakes like to eat. Keeping the space around your house clear will decrease the likelihood of a snake being present.

Most of the time people are bitten when they try to kill a snake. Non-venomous snake are protected by state law. If you are bitten 1) stay calm; 2) Get competent medical help as quickly as possible; 3) Keep the affected limb level with the body; 4) Do not cut, suck, or apply ice or a tourniquet to the wound. Wear closed toed shoes when walking in areas where snakes might be present. Be wary of poisons or repellants for snakes, many of them don't work as advertised. Snakes can't hear or smell, so any kind of repellent that uses sound or smell isn't going to work.

If you have any questions about snakes please contact your local Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

UGA extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



Letters to The Editor

A Little Bit of History

Dear Editor,
I find it interesting one of your readers is so abnormally fixated on the topic of climate change he has written a litany of letters to the editor about it. Considering there are scores of real evils plaguing this planet, including the current coronavirus, it seems the writer would be better served to direct his attentions to some of those. The writer constantly harps about "science and reality". Perhaps he should take into consideration a little bit of history. The reality is that climate change has been with us since the creation of earth, alternating between extreme cold (ice age) and warmer periods. We are presently in one of those warmer periods called interglacial. That's the way God planned it.

According to geologist Louis Agassiz and mathematician Milutin Milankovitch variations in the Earth's orbit and shifting plate tectonics produce the changes in climate. In his letter of January 8, the writer states "We now have a new year and a chance to really do something about climate change". What does he propose? Does he really believe mankind is capable of changing the earth's orbit or altering the shifting of plate tectonics to produce the climate in which he feels most comfortable?
Gary Meier

Climate Anxiety

Dear Editor,
In the latest letter on his favorite subject, climate change, the writer asks the question, "ask our children and grandchildren if they care about climate change." I guess that if you can't sell your hysteria to adults, try the kids. After all, no one is as easily impressionable as the children, right? If the progressives didn't tell them the world is going to end, they wouldn't worry about it. They'd be enjoying their young lives, maybe even learning to appreciate that they live in the freest and most prosperous country in the world.

We need to teach our kids how to think, not what to think. The climate change sky is falling types can't seem to get enough in their pursuit of fear-mongering.

Thanks to these alarmists our kids live in a world of existential climate-anxiety.
Tim Groza

Appalled

Dear Editor,
This morning (May 3) I was appalled to see how few people were wearing masks while shopping at Ingles. Why can't Ingles do what some other grocery chains are doing and insist these inconsiderate fools wear masks to protect us all? We have to look out for each other in these terrible times.
Paula Hayes

Exterior Roof Sprinkler Systems Work

As renowned fire scientist Jack Cohen has said repeatedly, the wildland fire problem is a home ignition problem, not a wildfire control problem. Cohen has been trying to help fire agencies understand this since 1999. Unfortunately, they have shown little interest. We are hoping with the recent wildfire tragedy in Paradise, CA, attitudes will change. But private citizens do not have to wait.

There are several proven strategies and retrofits that can be implemented easily to homes and communities now. One is the installation of exterior fire sprinklers. The sprinklers can save homes and the effectiveness of exterior fire sprinklers was proven during the 2007 wind-driven Ham Lake Fire in Cook County, MN. In 2001, exterior sprinklers had been installed on 188 properties, including homes and several resorts. All 188 properties survived. More than 100 neighboring properties were destroyed. In order to be effective, external sprinklers must be able to wet all areas where ignition can occur or be sufficiently effective in quenching embers that approach the home, so they will not have enough energy to ignite combustible items. Roof-edge mounted sprinklers hang on gutters or brackets and are connected to a water faucet with a wildland fire hose. If a fire is approaching, you simply turn on the sprinklers and leave.

The three basic wildfire exposures: wind-blown embers, radiant heat and direct flame contact. Ember ignition of combustibles located on or near the home can result in a radiant and/or flame contact exposure. Post-fire assessments have shown exterior sprinkler systems can be effective in helping a home survive a wildfire, but potential issues exist with their use.

These issues include: The water supply should be adequate to deliver water, when needed, for the time embers could threaten a home. Check with your local fire department if your sprinkler system uses water from a municipal supply; they may have suggestions to help minimize water consumption.

Given the potential issues regarding sprinkler performance, it's recommended that their use be a supplement to, and not a replacement for, already proven mitigation strategies, such as the reduction of potential fuels throughout the home ignition zones, along with removal of roof and gutter debris, and use of noncombustible and fire/ember-ignition resistant building materials and installation design details. Exterior sprinklers work by creating an environment that extinguishes embers (spotting firebrands) that are the primary cause of building ignition. Homeowners can install many of the systems themselves for considerably less than a professional price.

The W.A.S.P system that our Firewise coalition displays costs less than \$200 for two sprinklers and two hoses and they simply hang on the home gutters and will wet a 60 foot circle around the house and the roof to keep wind born embers from having a dry place to ignite.

For more information on roof sprinklers, contact RC&D at www.info.crcrd@gmail.com, www.chestchattred.org, www.appcofac.org or www.waspwildfire.com.

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