

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

On This Day, June 27

Wow! In researching military history for today's date, there is so much to choose from all the way back to 1776. Can only serve to revisit a small fraction of those many events here, in our small tribute to America. Therefore, and with a little bias, here's a tidbit from June 27, 2003 and our USCG.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



Home ported in Honolulu, the Coast Guard cutter Walnut returned home post deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Amongst her many missions were providing oil spill recovery in the North Arabian Gulf just in case Saddam Hussein decided upon an act of environmental terrorism in the on-going war upon civilization. With the advent that those threats never materialized, a secondary mission became interception of suspicious maritime traffic in that area. This was to assist in enforcing U.N. Security Council resolutions in contraband blockade efforts, which would bring material to aid Islamic terrorists.

Amongst other invaluable duties provided by our Coasties was the search for two downed United Kingdom helicopters. Captured Iraqi offshore oil terminals needed patrol and security, thus provided by our Coast Guard port security personnel, just as our USCG does here on American coastlines.

In an effort to provide safe navigable waterways the Cutter Walnut's crew replaced 100% of Aids to Navigation which comprised of 30 buoys and repaired five more along the 41 mile Khawr Abd Allah waterway. Navigation safety of the waterway, providing humanitarian aid, and safety of commercial and military vessels entering and exiting port provided a much needed step for economic recovery for the people of Iraq.

Yes, in war and in peace our men and women of our USCG have participated in taking lives of those who would take our lives as well as saving lives of folks all around the world. Our USCG has been in existence under several "brand names" and protecting our Sovereign Republic in these and any other fashion deemed as needed since 1790. The very small USCG has left wakes from many and various sailing vessels as well as troops on the ground boot prints all over our globe. If it's "doable", or even "mission impossible" and critical the USCG has been there and in all probability done that and will continue to do so.

For actions to this day by these who served America above and beyond, and with many different military units, Congressional Medal of Honor Citations were awarded, as follows: 1862, Daniel Butterfield; 1863, Charles C. Davis; 1862, Henry Seymour Hall; 1862, Charles F. Hopkins; 1862, John Kaiser; 1862, John H. Moffitt; 1862, George E. Sidman; 1862, Ernest Von Vegesack; 1864, Alason P. Weber; 1862, George C. Williams; 1878, Henry Thompson; 1969, Hammett L. Bowen, Jr.; 2005, Michael P. Murphy.

June 27th as only one day in American history represents the cost of freedom, liberty, pursuit of Happiness and Prosperity that we all enjoy. The cost is high but the cost to each of us for anything else would be horrific. History has proven that time and again. Never forget!

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

Hooray! We're Saved!

Dear Editor,
Gurtler wins by landslide! We are saved! Establishment defeated! Voted Nay 40% of the time! So glad we are again treated to the proclamations issued from on high by Matt Gurtler! Sometimes being so focused on HIS values leads to narrow minded voting. What exactly has he done for the people he represents? Any businesses relocated here because of this voting record? Any jobs created? Road projects or other public works? Can he spell compromise? So glad he is back on the pages of the *Towns County Herald*! I was worried he had a broken arm from patting himself on the back!

Joe Benovich

Secretary Perdue Applauds Fire Funding Fix in Omnibus

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue expressed his appreciation for the work of Congress to find a bipartisan fix for the way the U.S. Forest Service is funded for fighting wildfires. Secretary Perdue had advocated for the change since taking office in April 2017. Congress included the solution in the FY 2018 Omnibus Spending Package, which has been signed into law by President Donald J. Trump.

"The fire funding fix, which has been sought for decades, is an important inclusion in the omnibus spending bill and I commend Congress for addressing the issue," said Secretary Perdue. "Improving the way, we fund wildfire suppression will help us better manage our forests. If we ensure that we have adequate resources for forest management, we can mitigate the frequency of wildfires and severity of future fire seasons. I thank Congressional leaders, with whom I've frequently discussed this issue."

The solution included in the omnibus provides a new funding structure from FY2020 through FY2027. Beginning in FY2020, \$2.25 billion of new budget authority is available to USDA and the Department of the Interior. The budget authority increases by \$100 million each year, ending at \$2.95 billion in new budget authority by FY2027. For the duration of the 8-year fix, the fire suppression account will be funded at the FY 2015 President's Budget request - \$1.011 billion. If funding in the cap is used, the Secretary of Agriculture must submit a report to Congress documenting aspects of fire season, such as decision-making and cost drivers, that led to the expenditures.

The omnibus includes a 2-year extension of Secure Rural Schools, providing rural counties approximately \$200 million more per year. It also provides Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization. The legislation also includes seven important forest management reforms, including: Categorical Exclusion for Wildfire Resilience Projects; Healthy Forest Restoration Act inclusion of Fire and Fuel Breaks; 20-year Stewardship contracts; Cottonwood Reform; Fire Hazard Mapping Initiative; Fuels Management for Protection of Electric Transmission Lines; Good Neighbor Authority Road Amendment.

Until the funding solution was achieved, the fire suppression portion of the USFS budget was funded at a rolling ten-year average of appropriations, while the overall USFS budget

RC&D
Frank Riley
Executive Director



If you haven't seen my article in last week's paper, let me introduce myself. My name is Jacob Williams and I am the new Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent. I hope that this weekly column will be informative, relevant, and conversational. I decided on the title "Watching and Working" because my hope is that together we can watch and see areas where improvement is possible. As those areas are discovered, I want to work with the community to educate and network to find solutions and improve results. Now that all of that has been said let's get into the content of this week's column.

Have you seen ticks this year? I've been seeing a lot of them. Let's talk about why there are so many, what damage they can do, and how to keep them from getting a free meal off of you or your animals.

According to the CDC, ticks that spread disease can 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.) As stated by UGA Extension 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 3 main species of ticks that are found in Georgia: Lone Star Tick, American Dog Tick, and Black-legged 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.

Lyme disease is carried by the Black-legged tick. The initial symptom of Lyme is a ring-like swollen rash. Joint pain and flu like symptoms are also common. People should monitor their health closely after any tick bite, and should consult their physician if they experience a rash, fever, headache, joint or muscle pains, or swollen lymph nodes within 30 days of a tick bite. These can be signs of a number of tick-borne diseases.

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 may not win any awards on the fashion runway but hopefully you'll be tick free! Use a repellent that contains DEET. Spraying DEET on your skin and clothes will help keep them away. 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.

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.

remained relatively flat. Because fire seasons are longer, and conditions are worse, the ten-year rolling fire suppression budget average kept rising, consuming a greater percentage of the total Forest Service budget each year. This increase forced the agency to take funds from prevention programs to cover fire suppression costs.

In addition, hunting, fishing, and other recreational programs were cut to cover the costs of fire suppression. Last year, wildland fire suppression costs exceeded \$2.5 billion, making it the most expensive year on record. The USFS confronted wildland fires last summer that started in the Southeast and continued through the year in the Southwest, Pacific Northwest, Intermountain West, and Pacific Northwest.

At peak season, more than 28,000 personnel were dispatched to fires, along with aircraft and other emergency response resources. Since taking office, Secretary Perdue has worked diligently to address the issue and ensure both fire suppression and prevention efforts receive the proper funding they need. This long overdue funding fix for wildfire suppression will allow the Forest Service to put more funds into prevention programs like the ones we have developed here in North Georgia, Virginia, and Western North Carolina. These programs include Firewise Communities USA, Fire Adapted Communities, Ready-Set-Go, and other wildfire risk reduction education programs.

Many of you who moved to the mountains for the beauty and tranquility don't realize that with the good things also comes responsibility to do things to reduce the risk of losing all your "stuff" and maybe your life from a seeming small fire that gets us of control. We just ask that everyone take care of their own homes and putting it all together will take care of our whole community. If these mountains burn, nobody will want to live here or vacation here with a charred landscape. Implementing Firewise measure around your home can buy you time until the Fire Department can get there! Are you Firewise?

For more information on Firewise and Wildfire funding, contact Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D www.info.cccrd@gmail.com.

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.

Ticks

Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



Gender Bender or Bias Be Gone

"Boys don't like flowers" my granddaughter said when I told her brother that I was adding some to Patrick's Garden, the vegetable garden named for him. I asked, "Do you like flowers?" His eyes were down cast, his nod almost imperceptible, as if a boy liking flowers was a secret to be protected. Well, this granny came unglued. Where in the world had Audrey heard that? I asked her and she shrugged. A meaningful and enjoyable dialog among The Young Bloods and The Ancient left us feeling close. I can't leave this flower thing without first saying that flowers are the reproductive part of most plants. They contain pollen and tiny eggs called ovules. After pollination of the flower and the fertilization of the ovules, the ovule develops into fruit. Flowers are pleasing to the eyes, some to noses, and some repel insects and other pests from food crops. What's not to like?

It's coming back to me now. Many Christmases ago when my own children were very young, my wonderful, adored friend who had given birth to my husband, (mother-in-law is a bizarre term which seems to end up making my husband and me out to be brother and sister and that just ain't right) gave her son, my husband, a beautiful yellow sweater and matching socks. He could have said, "Thank you Mom". He could have, but what he said was "I wouldn't be caught dead in those yellow, girlie socks." "You'd better die before I do or you will", said I. And he will. I saved those socks. He may even lie in state, feet on pillow.

Male children are called Master until they reach the age of 12. Then they are called Mister. Female children are Miss until they marry. I had an aunt, who while she liked men just fine, never married. When she was in her 70s giving her last orders (she did not give requests) she told us not to put Miss on her tombstone 'cause she hadn't missed a thing.

Terms such as Tom Boy, Mama's Boy, Femme Fatale, and Pansy are loaded labels which can limit or impose. You tell me. What's wrong with a girl climbing trees, playing base ball or bagging a deer? And aren't all boys their mama's?

I heard someone say that her nephew was in school learning to be a male nurse. Why she felt the need to say male nurse is out of my grasp unless the nephew will only administer his noble calling to men and boys. While I'm at it, just when, why and how have colors been assigned and committed? Blue---Boys? Pink---Girls?

Hamilton Gardens had for sale at one time, some great looking tee shirts. One of the Board Members said because the shirts were pink, he would not wear one. Oh, please. Man up. Go ahead and wear that pink shirt or those yellow socks. Better yet, wear them together.

Dishin' Dirt
Dale Harmon



"Great! Looks like everybody is on board but those guys, whoever they are..."



Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
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
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Mtn. Amat. Radio	First Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	First Tuesday of each month: 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	First Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge	First Thursday of each month: Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
CVB Board	Second Thursday of each month: Rec Center	9 am
Awake America Prayer	Civic Center	Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors Senior Center	Civic Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	6 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Third Monday of each month: Cafeteria	1:30 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
MOAA	Call Joff @ 386-530-0904	
Friendship Comm.	Third Thursday of each month: Clubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party	Civic Center	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Fourth Tuesday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Last Thursday of each month: Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Publication No: 635540

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

Towns County (1 Year) \$25. Out of County (1 Year) \$30. 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
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