

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Black Jack

General Of The Armies (Black Jack) - July 15, 1948 marks the date that John J. Pershing died of heart complications at the age of 87 at Walter Reed

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



General Hospital. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery near the grave sites of the soldiers he commanded in Europe.

Pershing was sworn in as a West Point Cadet in the fall of 1882, and graduated 30th in his class of 77, the summer of 1886. He reported for active duty on September 30, 1886, and forthwith served in several Indian campaigns as assigned to the 6th US Cavalry. He was an expert marksman and in 1891 was rated second in pistol and fifth in rifle skills out of all soldiers in the US Army.

In September, 1891, he was assigned as the professor of Military Science and Tactics at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln....He not only taught but took classes himself, pursuing his first interest of justice, thus earned a law degree.

He became the first white officer to command African-American soldiers in the 10th Cavalry, hence earning him the nickname, "Black Jack", originating from his command of the segregated regiment, but it stuck with him for his entire career and signified his stern demeanor.

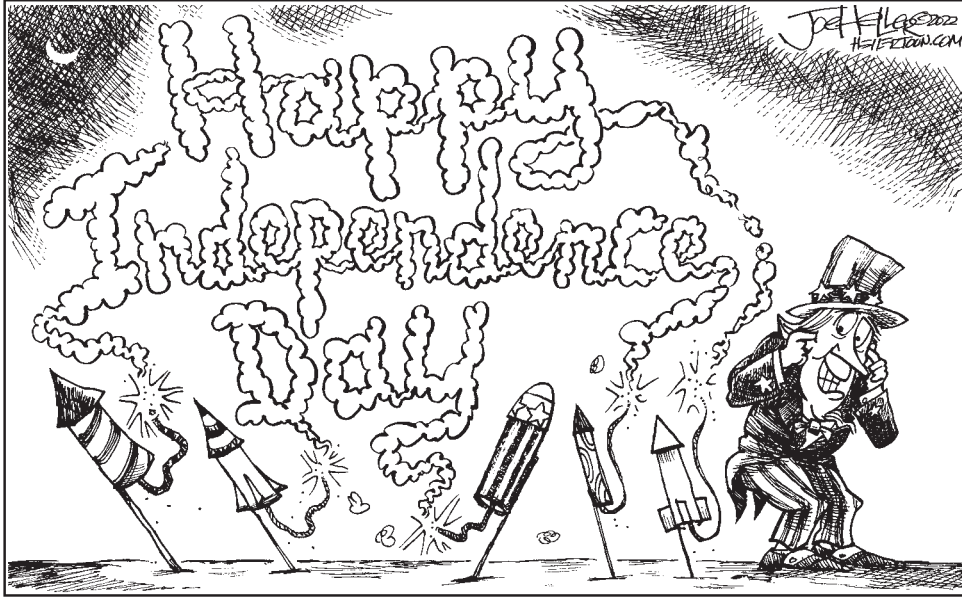
In 1898, Pershing led the 10th Cavalry up San Juan Hill. Teddy Roosevelt who also was with those "Rough Riders" fought his way up San Juan Hill and later after his presidential win, promoted Pershing to Brigadier General. He then served most of the 1900s in the Philippines.

In 1915 Pershing's wife, Francis and three daughters perished in a fire at the Presidio in San Francisco. His son, Warren escaped as the sole survivor. After WWI, Pershing was promoted to General of the Armies and other than George Washington became the only other 6 star General, the only active duty Six Star General in US history. In 1932 he won the Pulitzer Prize for his two-volume book, "MY EXPERIENCES IN THE WORLD WAR." In his acceptance speech, he recognized 1922 Pulitzer winner Willa Cather, who was his student when he taught in Nebraska.

Pershing was a mentor to a generation of US Army Generals who led the USA in WWII, including George S. Patton, Dwight D. Eisenhower, George C. Marshall, and Omar Bradley.

In 1946, at age 85, he secretly wed French-Romanian Portrait Artist, Micheline Resco, she being 35 years his junior. They met in Paris in 1917 when Pershing arrived to command troops. They exchanged love letters for almost 30 years.

His fame for serving as Commander of American Expeditionary Forces in WWI bears a strong thread in the fabric of America's military history.....a brave, bold, and courageous leader, and interesting man. Our Sovereign republic would certainly do well with many more like him. -Semper Paratus



Watch Where You Put Your Feet

It's hard to love a snake. I know, all creatures great and small and all that, but even though I am a snake supporter, I have to admit that there is something very snaky about a snake.

I had a pet King Snake in college. (It was just a phase.) I've captured beneficial snakes and brought them to the farm, and I've relocated other snakes. My official snake policy on the farm is "live and let live." In fact, we have the same policy for all the creatures that share this space.

Except for Copperheads. Copperhead behavior and puppy behavior is not compatible. I'd be embarrassed to tell you what I spent at the vet once because of a copperhead. Copperheads just won't get out of the way. They "bow up" and stand their ground and wait for you or one of your dogs to step on them. "Go ahead. Step on me. I dare you. I was here first and I'm not moving." I don't relocate Copperheads, but I do relocate parts of Copperheads.

Rattlesnakes? No problem. We have co-existed here with timber rattlers for decades. Rattlesnakes are thoughtful enough to alert you to their presence; otherwise they are good at getting out of the way.

Snakes are just too beneficial to disrespect. They earn their keep in mice alone, and the only cost to me is watching where I put my feet. We could all use an occasional reminder to watch where we put our feet.

We don't have water moccasins here in the North Georgia Mountains. Some people will argue with that, but I've never seen one, and the biologist for our Conservation Easement says that this area is outside their range. I'll take the word of the scientist over the guy who runs over every snake he sees in the road. You know the type.

We do have water snakes here, and they look so much like water moccasins they really get your attention. They are extremely snaky. They can also be aggressive. They like to jump out of a bush and into the water when you're trout fishing. I think it amuses them to wait until the last minute when you're almost directly under them. Sometimes they even like to see what kind of gear you have in your boat.

Water snakes are spring-loaded, and they can jump an unbelievable distance. I saw one jump about 15 feet into the Chattooga River. The kid who disturbed him was in a canoe and decided to float over to a rock face and investigate a hole. The snake cleared his face by about 3 inches.

Fear makes you do illogical things, and the poor kid screamed and jumped into the river - with the snake. When he realized what he had done, I swear he walked on water trying to get out. He wasn't a great swimmer, and with his life jacket on he churned the water in little circles like whipping eggs into meringue. I don't think he ever bathed again, and the snake left the river and moved to the desert.

We once had a water snake living in our frog pond. When you looked at her head, there was no doubt that she was non-poisonous. She looked almost sweet, with a ghost of a Mona Lisa smile, and she had pretty eyes. I named her Hazel.

Though Hazel's visage was very becoming, any time you happened upon her there was a visceral reaction. The grab in the gut, the raised hairs on the arms and the tingle in the spine all shouted, "Snake!"

We eventually got used to each other, since the pond is right next to the garden. But even when I knew it was only her with the pretty eyes, those intimidating markings and that serpentine slither did not inspire a warm, cozy feeling.

The frogs in our pond were not very happy with Hazel as a neighbor. Some of them moved to another nearby pond, and the ones that remained were not nearly as mouthy as they once were. There were far too many frogs in that pond for the available food supply, but Hazel provided for a better balance. Nature always seeks balance if we get out of the way and allow it to happen. Just watch where you put your feet.

Letters To The Editor

Independent Legislatures

Dear Editor,

It's about time for our side to see the light. The Moore v. Harper case before the Supreme Court will make the decisions easier. The leaders in the state can continue the revolution they started when Obama appeared. Let's consider viable separation where appropriate, the legislature must control voting who can vote, how and where.

As conservative judge Lutttig says, the 2024 election is very important to the independent state legislature doctrine. Police must be given more power when provoked. So-called liberal progressive journalists, writers and artists have to stop the wild accusations. Abortion, thank goodness, is settled. Yay for the right to life.

Marshall Green, Jr.

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.

Outside The Box

By: Don Perry

worldoutsidethebox.com

Fire Ants

Fire ants are very common throughout Georgia. Thankfully, we don't have as many in the mountains as they do south of us. However, once you experience a fire ant bite, you won't ever forget it. Another problem with fire ants is that you rarely get just one bite. Fire ants were first reported in Georgia in the 1950s. They've been found all the way from North Carolina to Texas, and down to Florida. Let's talk about fire ants and things that you can do to control them so that they don't take over your lawn or pasture.

UGA Extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



If you can manage to get an up-close look without being bitten and stung, you'll see that fire ants have two nodes between their abdomen at the end of their body and the thorax in the middle of their body. Fire ants generally like to stay in open grassy areas.

Fire ants are most active when temperatures are between 70 and 85. In the fall fire ants are active because they are foraging for food. This makes fall the best time to treat them. Treatment during the spring and summer is also possible, but effective population control will be less likely. When it's really hot during the summer time fire ants will burrow deeper into the ground, making them more difficult to treat. Treatments in the summer are best done in the morning or evening when it's cooler.

Using a bait will be the most effective way of controlling fire ants. Amdro is the main ant bait that is used for fire ants. Broadcast the bait either over the mounds, or in a four-foot circle around each mound. It's important to know that Amdro is not labelled for use in vegetable gardens. It has to be used in scenarios where the plants growing there are not going to be eaten. If a few mounds remain after seven to ten days, a follow up application of Orthene will be effective against those problematic mounds. Take a long stick and quickly put a hole in the center of the mound. Then fill the hole with insecticide to eliminate those mounds. When applying pesticides always make sure to read and follow the label.

I have also seen people using orange oil mixed with soap and other ingredients. This treatment is effective because it eats away the ant's skin. However, it will also kill any other insects, grubs, or worms that are in its path. It could also strip away the outer layer of any roots that it meets.

There are not many biological controls for fire ants in the United States because they are an invasive species. Fire ants are native to South America and have many natural enemies there. Researchers have to be very careful about introducing a natural predator, because the effects of that introduced species are unknown on our ecosystem.

If you have any questions about fire ants and fire ant control, contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Habitat for Humanity

Did you know that now is an excellent time to consider donating land or real estate to Habitat for Humanity? With the appreciation of property values in recent years, and the increase in property taxes, donating property to a charitable organization is a great way to potentially save on tax bills, utilize as a tax deduction, and make a meaningful contribution to the cause of Habitat. Whether it is undeveloped land, a rental property, unwanted inherited properties, or a home, your contribution provides housing solutions to our community.

Habitat Happenings
Executive Director
Charlotte Randall



2022 has been a busy year for Habitat. We are currently working on our 14th Helping Hands project. Our first home build of 2022 is underway, and we are hopeful to have more builds in the near future. With that being said, the building materials, land and labor needed to achieve our work have all gone up. Habitat would like to continue the good work we are providing in our local communities, and to do so will require a continuation of the support and generosity we receive from our donors. Donations, whether property, financial, or items provided to our Restore, help Habitat significantly.

Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties is dedicated to providing safe, affordable housing in our area. We can utilize the land to build more housing, or if the property is in another area, we can sell the property to help fund our local community work. Ask your legal or tax advisor for guidance on property donations. If you or someone you know has a property to donate, please contact Charlotte Randall at 706-745-7101. Feel free to stop by the Habitat for Humanity Restore at 225 Wellborn Street, Blairsville, GA, 30512.

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." ~Coretta Scott King

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:

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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.

The Towns County Herald is an independent and nonpartisan 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.

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