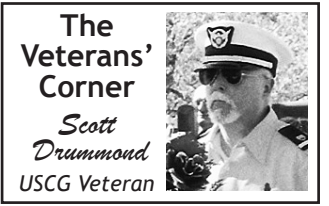


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Captain Jim's last mission

We lost a great man on 15 August 2016, at 7:47 PM. Per his daughter, Cindy, "how appropriate, for a man who spent most of his life in and around airplanes"... "747". He now rests at the right Hand of our Supreme Commander. Cancer took him when the Germans of WWII couldn't, try as they did. Being limited in my meager capacity to honor this man and each and every man and woman who has honorably done their best for God, America, each other and you and me, I can only mention a minuscule overview of our beloved "Captain Jim". That's the way he would want it! Jim made a point to advise me that he wanted all of our approximately 405,000 men and women who gave their lives for all of us and our beloved USA during World War II, honored whenever, wherever possible. Jim Coker, a kind, easy going soul who served in many combat missions, saw many of his beloved comrades make the ultimate sacrifice for each other and our USA. He and his crew were assigned to the 3rd Bomb Division, from England made many highly dangerous and perilous 8 and 10 hour flights deep into Germany.



The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran

In fact, to honor this man, is to honor each other and our nation. By honoring each other, we also honor men like Jim Coker, who with his God-given skills, never backed down in the face of instant death and the many cruel and brutal adversities of air combat in WWII. As Jim would have wanted it, each and every man and woman who participated in saving our world from evil during WWII, or since, deserve our love, honor, and respect. The real heroes, as it seems, with America's best of our best, never made it back home to our beloved USA. Factually in a world filled with evil beings, this will never change. Our men and women in uniform do their best to keep evil away from us, just as Captain Jim and thousands of others did in WWII. Jim now resides with all of those heroes, forevermore, no wars ever to be fought and no evil souls will ever know.

For Jim, his beloved Cindy and all of our heroes and their families:

*I needed the quiet so He drew me aside,
 Into the shadows where we could confide,
 Away from the hustle where all the day long,
 I hurried and worried when active and strong.
 I needed the quiet though at first I rebelled,
 But gently so gently my Cross He upheld,
 And whispered so sweetly of spiritual things.
 Though weakened my body, my spirit took wings
 To heights never dreamed of where active and gay,
 He loves me so greatly He drew me away.
 I needed the quiet, no prison my bed,
 But a beautiful valley of Blessings instead.
 A place to grow richer, in Jesus to hide.
 He loved me so greatly, He drew me aside.*

May God Bless America and may America Bless God.
Semper Paratus

Tilting at windmills

Like Don Quixote tilting at windmills, we return this week to our discussion of politics.

Without a doubt there are liberals and conservatives who are sincerely devoted to the principles espoused by their political parties, but many of us are beginning to see that politics, as it is acted out on the national stage, is primarily the grease paint used by our perennial troupe of actors. It is the "circus" part of "bread and circuses." This is nothing new.

Half of us never vote, but those who do are still caught up in the drama, believing "the play's the thing." We identify personally with symbols, ideals suggested by the labels affixed to our preferred brand, and when someone criticizes our politician, we take it personally, as if we have been personally insulted.

I have a few liberal friends who take it very personally when I criticize the Obama Administration. (It was the same for conservative friends during the Bush Administration, but that is ancient history to our abbreviated attention spans). They were inspired by Obama's message of hope and change, and the fact that things didn't turn out quite as promised does not, they believe, implicate the message or the messenger.

When we have adopted such a defensive posture around the image of a human being that we have allowed to become a chimera of our own aspirations, we have behaved exactly as political operatives hope we will behave.

The caricatures of the left that are so often used by conservatives, are another example of a divide-and-conquer strategy successfully deployed.

But these epic, "us versus them" confrontations played out every election cycle are a side show. We are never invited to the main event, although that event does affect each and every one of us in very personal ways.

It is not very difficult to deconstruct the myth of most presidents, and by picking on Obama today we are not implying that he is any different than past or future presidents in his...humanity. We focus on Obama because this election is an opportunity to see how the myth is created and perpetuated, and to peek at the goings on behind the curtain.

One simple fact completely destroys the myth of the Nobel Peace Prize winner and the progressive champion of gun reform: Obama is the biggest weapons dealer of any president since WWII, and he has sold weapons to some of the most repressive regimes on earth. This fact is incontrovertible, and it flies in the face of his rhetoric and that of his defenders, does it not?

Keep in mind, however, that President Obama is not the only weapons dealer since WWII, just the biggest. All of our presidents have been dealers. When we look at certain facts of the current Administration as well as those which came before, there is a temptation to assume that presidents are simply employees of corporate greed and imperial hubris, but it's more complicated than that.

A mindset persists among our elite that, in addition to defending their own power and profit, they are also defending American affluence, which has depended in our own lifetimes on cheap energy and reserve currency status. Cheney was speaking from his own truth when he said, during the Bush wars, that "The American way of life is not negotiable."

The affluence, (compared to most of the world), we have enjoyed over the last 30 years or so, since the hollowing out of our industrial capacity, has depended on the extraction of energy and natural resources and the manipulation of markets far from our shores.

This process of "making the world safe for crony capitalism" has been accomplished by the projection of American military power. We have at least 668 military bases on foreign soil, and where this is not possible or practical, we arm regimes (often brutal ones) that allow our markets to flourish. If we are not defending markets, we're kicking over anthills in our competitor's back yards, attempting to contain Russians and Chinese just as intent as we are in projecting their own power.

Another way to look at it is this: When we condemn Obama for his arms sales, or Bush for his wars, or Clinton and Bush Senior for theirs, we are also, to a degree, condemning our God given "right" to drive 10 miles in an SUV to buy a lottery ticket, our right to fill up our swimming pools in a drought, leave the lights on all night long or throw away, as a nation, as much food in a year as Canada consumes in that time.

Some of us don't like to hear this. In truth, I have some lights on right now that I should turn off, and I will not be among the first to line up to give away my possessions for "redistribution." But the times, they are a-changin'.

We are losing our reserve currency status, and energy is no longer cheap. Our affluence has been in a steady decline for almost 30 years.

And to complicate matters even further for all the empire builders, the rise of fundamentalist religion has been like gasoline poured on a fire.

I'm not preaching impending doom here. There is talent and integrity enough in our younger generations for them to make their own way. But we all need to mature our understanding of how the world works; to stop blindly following our parties or ideologies and, for God's sake, stop gushing about our favorite politicians like they were saints as well as condemning them like they were devils. They are all too human.

Perhaps the best way to begin this maturing process is with simple gratitude. We should never take for granted whatever affluence we have been able to enjoy, and we should never, ever, forget the cost in blood and treasure, not only to our own people, but to the rest of the world, of our advantages. If we learn to be grateful for what we have, perhaps one day we will learn to have less.

There are over 7 billion of us now, and this year "overshoot" day came on 8 August. That was the day when we had used up all the resources that the entire planet can produce in a year.

Keep this fact in mind when considering the motivations behind the actions of our imperials.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Like Don Quixote tilting at windmills, we return this week to our discussion of politics. Without a doubt there are liberals and conservatives who are sincerely devoted to the principles espoused by their political parties, but many of us are beginning to see that politics, as it is acted out on the national stage, is primarily the grease paint used by our perennial troupe of actors. It is the "circus" part of "bread and circuses." This is nothing new. Half of us never vote, but those who do are still caught up in the drama, believing "the play's the thing." We identify personally with symbols, ideals suggested by the labels affixed to our preferred brand, and when someone criticizes our politician, we take it personally, as if we have been personally insulted. I have a few liberal friends who take it very personally when I criticize the Obama Administration. (It was the same for conservative friends during the Bush Administration, but that is ancient history to our abbreviated attention spans). They were inspired by Obama's message of hope and change, and the fact that things didn't turn out quite as promised does not, they believe, implicate the message or the messenger. When we have adopted such a defensive posture around the image of a human being that we have allowed to become a chimera of our own aspirations, we have behaved exactly as political operatives hope we will behave. The caricatures of the left that are so often used by conservatives, are another example of a divide-and-conquer strategy successfully deployed. But these epic, "us versus them" confrontations played out every election cycle are a side show. We are never invited to the main event, although that event does affect each and every one of us in very personal ways. It is not very difficult to deconstruct the myth of most presidents, and by picking on Obama today we are not implying that he is any different than past or future presidents in his...humanity. We focus on Obama because this election is an opportunity to see how the myth is created and perpetuated, and to peek at the goings on behind the curtain. One simple fact completely destroys the myth of the Nobel Peace Prize winner and the progressive champion of gun reform: Obama is the biggest weapons dealer of any president since WWII, and he has sold weapons to some of the most repressive regimes on earth. This fact is incontrovertible, and it flies in the face of his rhetoric and that of his defenders, does it not? Keep in mind, however, that President Obama is not the only weapons dealer since WWII, just the biggest. All of our presidents have been dealers. When we look at certain facts of the current Administration as well as those which came before, there is a temptation to assume that presidents are simply employees of corporate greed and imperial hubris, but it's more complicated than that. A mindset persists among our elite that, in addition to defending their own power and profit, they are also defending American affluence, which has depended in our own lifetimes on cheap energy and reserve currency status. Cheney was speaking from his own truth when he said, during the Bush wars, that "The American way of life is not negotiable."

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Fall webworms

A few months ago I wrote about eastern and forest tent caterpillars making webs in the crooks of branches and causing unsightly damage to trees. Well, now we have a new culprit on our hands. The webs that you see at the ends of branches are caused by fall webworms. While these webs may look similar to what we saw in the spring, these critters are quite different from tent caterpillars.



From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee

The adult webworm moth has a one and a half inch wingspan. Its wings are white, and sometimes they have small black spots on them. The caterpillars are about one inch long, pale green or yellow in color and have tufts of long hairs covering their bodies. The webs they form are always at the tips of branches so they can eat plenty of the nutrient rich new tree growth.

Though webworms can sometimes be seen in the spring, they do the most damage in late summer and fall. Adult moths begin to emerge in summer where they disperse and mate. After mating, females will deposit their eggs on the undersides of leaves on trees and other plants. The egg masses can have up to six hundred eggs and are covered in hair to protect the new generation of webworms until they hatch. Once the caterpillars emerge, they build their silken nests to protect themselves while they eat the foliage. As they use up all of the leaves, they expand their nests down the branch until they are ready to pupate. The caterpillars will burrow into the ground and overwinter there as pupae. Once the weather warms up again, they will emerge as adult moths to begin the cycle all over again.

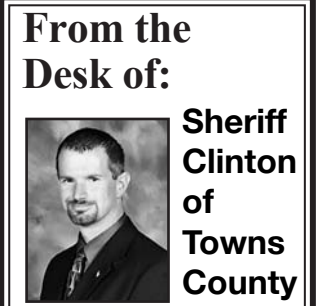
Webworms can do a lot of damage to trees, but they will never kill them. On smaller trees and low hanging branches, webs can be removed a variety of ways. If the branch is small enough, it may simply be pruned off and disposed of. If the branch is too big to clip off, then webs can be manually destroyed using a rake or long pole, and larvae can be knocked down into trash bags and killed. Many beneficial insects and birds rely on webworms for food, so simply tearing open the nests and letting natural predators eat the caterpillars will also help to keep future populations at bay.

Nests that are high up in trees can be damaged with pressure washers or by spraying them with insecticides. Pesticides containing Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) or spinosad are specific for harmful insects and will not hurt the beneficial ones that control the webworms. Carbaryl and pyrethroid insecticides are also very effective, but they can kill most insects, including non-harmful ones. Whenever applying pesticides to the nests, try to damage the nest first so the chemical can penetrate and reach the caterpillars.

The Chastatee-Chattahoochee RC&D, Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center (GMREC), and your local UGA Cooperative Extension Office are hosting a forestry field day. SepTIMBER Forestry Ag Day will take place on September 28th at GMREC in Blairsville from 9:00am to 1:45pm. Admission is \$5 and will include lunch and a chance to win door prizes. Topics covered will include native tree identification, nuisance wildlife management, invasive species control, tree disease and pest management, and fire prevention. This program will offer three hours of commercial pesticide credit in categories 23, 24, and 27, as well as one hour of private applicator credit. To RSVP, please contact GMREC at 706-745-2655 by September 14th to ensure your spot.

Identity theft and fraud

Identity theft and identity fraud have become fast-growing crimes and can impact significant portions of the population. Related crimes can include check and credit card theft, and theft of telephone and other utility services. In some cases, thieves may take out loans or mortgages under the victim's name or file for bankruptcy as the victim. They may submit fraudulent tax returns and collect the refunds. They may even submit applications for services, such as for social security, and collect the payments.



From the Desk of:
Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

Studies conducted by the Federal Trade Commission indicate that thieves may collect identity information from various sources, including information searched out on the Internet, through records of legitimate business transactions, from trash bins or discarded files, from mailboxes, or from thefts of wallets or purses. Listed below are several ways you can help protect yourself from identity theft or identity fraud.

Invest in a paper shredder. Shred documents such as credit solicitations, statements or records that contain sensitive information.

Drop outgoing mail containing checks in a postal drop box or at the post office, rather than your mail box.

Guard your wallet, purse or bag when you're out in public or when people are in your home, such as service or maintenance personnel.

Limit the release of your personal information, including your birth date. If you discover that you have been the victim of identity theft, contact your Sheriff's Office to file an incident report immediately. Some banks or credit card companies may require you to file an "identity theft affidavit," along with the copy of the incident report.

Contact the major credit reporting agencies to flag your account. (Equifax, PO Box 74021, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241, Telephone 800-916-8800, www.equifax.com; Experian, PO Box 8030, Layton, UT 84041-8030, Telephone 888-397-3742, www.experian.com; TransUnion, PO Box 390, Springfield, PA 19064, Telephone 800-916-8800, www.transunion.com).

For more information, contact the Federal Trade Commission at www.consumer.gov/idtheft and www.ftc.gov or at 877-ID.THEFT.

Have something to sell? Let the Herald work for you!



Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM • 706-896-4454



Towns County Community Calendar

Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Mtn. Amat. Radio	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	5:30 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Red Cross DAT	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Republican Party	New Senior Ctr.	6:30 pm
Square Dance Club	Rec. Center	7 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Charles Duncan Editor
Shawn Henrikson Copy Editor
Lowell Nicholson Photographer
Joe Collins Advertising Director
Shawn Jarrard Staff Writer
Lily Avery Staff Writer
Website: townscountyherald.net

Publication No: 635540
 Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.
Towns County (1 Year) \$20. 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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