

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## What are heros made of?

I have no definitive answer, although most are common men and women who step up to uncommon events and do whatever needs

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



to be done to resolve the situation at hand, often at great sacrifice and even death. From our nation's birth we've had those kinds of folks, who've responded to a calling. from our early beginnings herein is a story of an unusual lady who preformed unusually well for our nation with unselfish sacrifice. Kudos to "All That's Interesting" and John Kuroski for very recently bringing this little know story to our attention.

I'd never heard of Deborah Sampson before, but there are many, men and women who, like her have been and will if needed sacrifice their well-being for America. She was born in Plympton, Massachusetts on December 17, 1760. Her family roots trace back to the Mayflower. Her father abandoned her family, and out of necessity she became an indentured servant, and wasn't privy to any formal education. Turning 18, she was released from her servitude, becoming a teacher, weaver, and carpenter. However the Revolutionary War captured her attention, and she wanted to do her part. Not qualified to join as a woman, she cut her hair, dressed in men's clothing, ergo in May, 1782 she registered as "Robert Shurtliff" and joined the 4th Mass. Regiment reporting to Captain George Webb. She actually pretended to be a man to enlist in our Continental Army. Being of above average height and very strong she was selected for the Light Infantry Brigade alongside 50 to 60 elite men in Bellingham, Mass. then to Worcester under command of Colonel William Shepard. After volunteering to serve for our fledgling nation in an "unwinnable" war against our suppressors of the mightiest military force at the time, she, as a he, went into battle several times. Thus taking two musket balls to her legs, and with great fear of being discovered and booted out of the Army, she used a pen-knife and sewing needle to remove the bullet from one thigh but the other was so deep the projectile remained, and her leg never healed properly. Did that stop her from fighting for what was to become our America? Nope! She fought in several more battles, undiscovered as being female for almost two years. However, in the summer of 1783, while in Philadelphia she became ill. As an awful fever was spreading among the troops stationed there, she was carried to the hospital. and therein Robert Shurtliff was discovered as actually being a woman, our heroine Deborah Sampson! After aiding her recovery the on scene doctor, Barnabas Binney, informed the superior officers who she really was, Deborah Sampson feared greatly of receiving jail time or some other punishment for deception. However due to integrity, honor and appreciation of her outstanding military service she was given and Honorable Discharge on October 23, 1783. Later she married Benjamin Gannett, spoke of her military experiences, and became one of the earliest female lecturers in American history. However she became very poor, needed money and was provided a loan from and old family friend, none other than Paul Revere! She finally was able to secure a military pension in 1805 after much petitioning of the government (Sound familiar??), thus becoming the only woman to earn a full military pension in our Revolutionary War. She lived out her days in peace as a farmer, being called Home by our Supreme Commander on April 29, 1827 of age 66. She is buried in Sharon, Massachusetts.

We know not who all our heroes are, however we owe them all, every Honorable Veteran and those who are serving this great country a depth of gratitude, honor and respect that we'll never fully repay. -Semper Paratus

## Letters To The Editor

### Rename Lake Winfield Scott, YES!

Dear Editor,

Last week, a "kind and gentle" soul suggested that we should rename Lake Winfield Scott.

I completely agree. That being said, I would not go with the Op/Ed writer's suggestion of "Lake Grace." I would go with a more historically based name. I would call it "Native American War Memorial Lake." After all, what's right next to Lake Winfield Scott? That's right, Slaughter Mountain. What's right next to Slaughter Mountain? That's right, Blood Mountain. What flows from Lake Winfield Scott? Slaughter Creek. For such a beautiful area, these are some pretty gruesome and troubling names. I wonder what happened there? As someone who was born in this state, I know what happened there. The two major Indigenous Native American Tribes, the Creeks and Cherokees, had a "Little War" over land, resources and supremacy of the area. There's no "Grace" in that historical fact. Regardless of what weapons are used, war is war. That cannot be sugar coated by a name change. The major fact that is overlooked by those who want to extort our bad treatment of Native American Tribes is the fact the EVERY MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN TRIBE warred against their neighboring tribes for land and resources. Period. As a matter of fact, for thousands of years in North America, Tribes warred against each other just like European Nations had been doing across the Atlantic.

So in conclusion, if we're going to rename Lake Winfield Scott, how about we name it something that actually has to do with what happened in that area? If that's not suitable, how about we rename it for Winfield Scott's Nickname? It has a nice ring to it. "Old Fuss and Feathers" Lake.

Take Care and God Bless,

Claude Rains Jr.

### Memories of Old Mt. Zion Baptist Church

I remember well when, as a child, Old Mt. Zion Baptist Church was where I went for a while. The walls were plain, the floors were bare, but love was there and we didn't care. Mrs. Willie Anderson was my Sunday School teacher, and oh so sweet, one of the kindest ladies you would ever meet.

She taught us the Bible straight from the heart; the lessons I learned really made a mark.

Preacher Sim Martin would preach way past noon. Nobody was in a hurry, lunch would come soon.

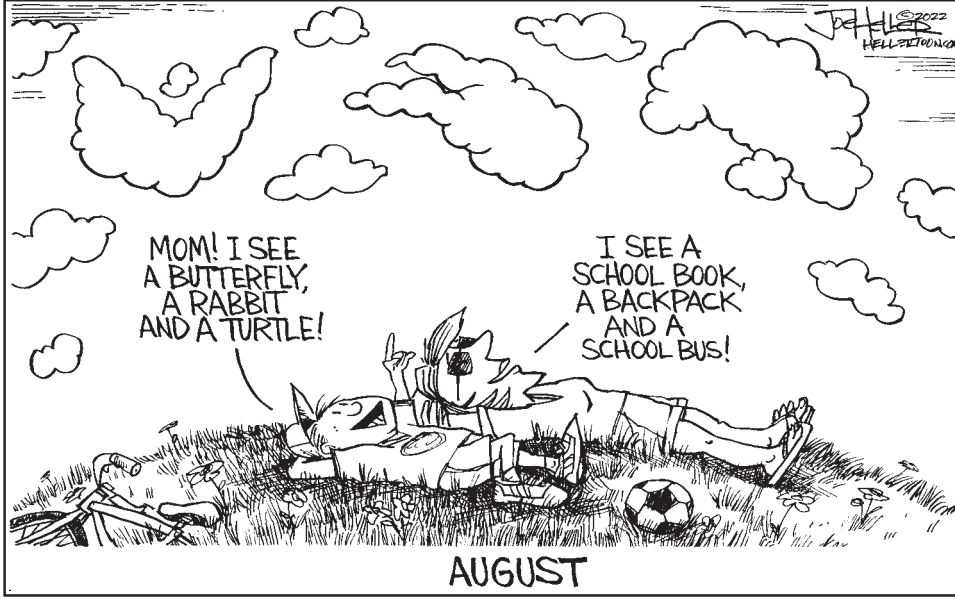
The power of God was in that place, the people that attended all had much grace.

Many dear people still come to my mind; they are stamped on my heart, they were so kind. Old Mt. Zion Baptist Church is torn down and gone, but memories still linger way past dawn.

There is one thing for sure when this life is complete, many loved ones gone on I then will meet.

So until then I will be patient and wait, one day we will all meet at the Pearly Gate.

Written by Jean Abernathy Presley, Buford, Georgia



AUGUST

## Corn Earworm

Corn earworm is a serious pest in corn, especially sweet corn. Let's talk about this pest, what damage it does and what can be done to control it.

**UGA extension**  
 Watching and Working  
 Jacob Williams



Corn earworm and tomato fruitworm are really the same species of caterpillar. Its just that when we see them on corn it's an earworm, and when we see them on tomatoes we call it a fruitworm. These are caterpillars that turn into moths. The moth stage has yellowish-brownish wings with a dark spot in the center. The larval or caterpillar stage vary in color and can be brown, pink, green, yellow, or black. They typically have alternating dark and light lateral lines the length of their body. Corn earworm moths lay eggs on the

silks of an ear of corn. In tomatoes they are laid on the leaves. As the eggs hatch the baby caterpillars will move down the silks into the ear of corn. On tomatoes they will move into the fruit. They will begin to eat the corn or tomato. In tomatoes they will carve tunnels through the fruit, while on corn they will eat the kernels on the tip of the ear. Sweet corn is a particular favorite of corn earworms so you should expect to see damage on at least some of your corn if you grow it yourself or buy it at a farmer's market. In corn there is typically only one caterpillar per ear. The moth stage does not cause any damage.

Corn earworm are very difficult to control. The Georgia Pest Management Handbook states, "For caterpillar pests of ears, if damage free ears are desired, begin treatment when silks appear. Repeat at 2-day intervals with sprays directed at ears. Daily applications may be required in the fall and damage may still occur." You can download the pdf version of the Georgia Pest Management Handbook Home and Garden Edition for free at this website. <https://extension.uga.edu/programs-services/integrated-pest-management/publications/handbooks.html>

Spraying at 2-day intervals is a lot of insecticide, and is probably more than what most people are comfortable with. Spraying that frequently may be doable for a garden, but is not possible on a commercial scale. Especially since once silks has occurred the plants are too tall to drive a tractor through the field. The damage caused by corn earworm is usually minimal as they will eat about 1 1/2 inches of the top of the ear. If you have corn earworm damage from corn that you grow or buy simply break or cut off the tip of the ear where the damage is, and eat the rest of the ear. If you purchase sweet corn that has some corn earworm damage, this could be taken as an indicator that the grower did not use a lot of insecticides when growing the corn.

Sweet corn that has corn earworm damage is still marketable and consumers shouldn't view corn earworm damage as the fault of the farmer or a lower quality product. If you have questions about corn earworm contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## Habitat for Humanity

As we look at the Affordable Housing Crisis in America, our nation worries about families and children struggling to make ends meet. We often forget about our rising senior population. The appearance of this is something I have been made vastly aware of as my one-year mark of being director of Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties approaches.

Prior to my time with HFHTUC, I managed a Rural Development property locally that offered senior housing. This particular property had a constant waiting list for approximately two years. This is normal for subsidized housing for seniors in the country, but particularly more evident within our rural communities. Many times, I had to turn away seniors looking for a safe place to live, and it never failed to feel the thoughts running through their mind that they would more than likely not be able to find a safe place to lay their head. Now that I am beginning my 22nd Helping Hands project, I am informed of the looming outlook of what our community will be facing.

The average Helping Hands project is an elderly woman, owning her home outright, and living off of less than \$1,000 a month on Social Security. Some might say, well that's a big home, she could get an equity loan to do needed repairs. However, due to the lack of financial literacy programs and overwhelming medical debt/other debt, they are unable to qualify. Aging homes, aging population, and lack of senior living is the reality.

Adults 50-plus years are expected to grow to 133 million by 2030. The 2020 American Census found Union County, GA, has the highest median age in the entire state of GA, at 55 years old. That's 17 years difference from the national median average age of 37 years. Only 21% of households in Union County are raising children under the age of 18, compared to the national average of 30%.

HFHTUC currently is the only nonprofit in our two counties to solely service home repairs for limited income households. Seniors in our area desperately need a safe place to call home, and bringing awareness of the issue will in turn provide solutions and support. Donations to HFHTUC Helping Hands project will directly support seniors being able to stay in their homes safely and live comfortably.

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

Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor  
 P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546  
 Our email address: [tcherald@windstream.net](mailto: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.*

## Wet Homes Do Not Burn

Jack Cohen, a renowned fire scientist, 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 wildfire tragedy in Paradise, California, a few years ago, 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, Minnesota. 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 function of an exterior sprinkler system is to minimize the opportunity for ignition by wetting the home and surrounding property. Sprinkler systems should be able to protect a home against 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. Water should reach all vulnerable areas for the system to have maximum effect both on and near the approaching fire.

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. 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. The sprinklers do this by 1) hydrating potential fuels, thus making them less susceptible to ignition, 2) increasing humidity, and 3) creating a cooler microclimate around the home. 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-borne embers from having a dry place to ignite. Strong winds will deflect the water spray but, despite 20-25 mph wind gusts during the Ham Lake, CA, Fire, the installed sprinkler systems worked well. When people are awakened in the middle of the night and see smoke everywhere, panic can set in, and it's difficult enough to evacuate, much less remember to run outside and turn on the sprinklers; however, it is not an excuse to dismiss the possibility of using exterior sprinklers.

If conditions are right for a wildfire, you can use a broom handle to hang the sprinklers on the gutters before the fire approaches, and it will only take a few minutes to turn on the water before you evacuate. Extra time can be found if communities can get their emergency alert systems up to speed, and trained CERT volunteers serve as support personnel. These fire volunteers can activate the systems, extinguish ember-caused spot fires, and help those who are stranded.

During wind-driven, catastrophic wildfires, there will never be enough professional emergency personnel available to do the job because we are volunteers. Communities should consider picking up the slack with trained volunteers, and only those who are specially trained should stay behind to defend a community. Roof-mounted sprinklers are inexpensive, easy to install, work a lot better than nothing, and can also serve as a garden sprinkler in the off season! This is one step to becoming Firewise, and we can help.

For more information on roof sprinklers, contact RC&D at [info.ccred@gmail.com](mailto:info.ccred@gmail.com) or [www.waspwildfire.com](http://www.waspwildfire.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.



**RC&D**  
**Frank Riley**  
 Executive Director

**Habitat Happenings**  
 Executive Director  
 Charlotte Randall



# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

**Kenneth West**  
 Owner/Publisher

**Shawn Jarrard**  
 General Manager/Editor

**Todd Forrest**  
 Staff Writer

**Derek Richards**  
 Advertising Director

**Jordan Hyatt**  
 Office Manager

**Lowell Nicholson**  
 Photographer

**Publication No: 635540**  
 Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.  
**Towns County (1 Year) \$30. Out of County (1 Year) \$40.** 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  
**Phone:** (706) 896-4454 **Fax:** (706) 896-1745 **Email:** [tcherald@windstream.net](mailto:tcherald@windstream.net)  
**Or mail to:** PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546