

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## From the Desk of:



**Sheriff Clinton of Towns County**

### Weather preparedness

There are a number of things that each family can do to be prepared for an emergency situation. There are any number of weather events that can create an emergency on a very large scale and for those who are unprepared, the consequences can be devastating.

Events such as tornadoes, flooding, winter ice storms, heavy snow, and extreme cold don't happen all the time, but when they do happen families can be stranded for days without help. During a major event, it may take rescue workers and utility crews several days to reach certain locations. Tornadoes and winter storms may make roads impassible for long periods of time, in essence trapping people in their homes and preventing help from getting to them until roads can be cleared. Other events, such as flooding may require people to evacuate their homes.

Because these types of events can and do happen, there are some things that families should do to be prepared for an emergency. The Georgia Emergency Management Agency offers many tips. The following information is compiled in large part from their recommendations and I believe they are helpful if implemented.

Families should consider installing safety features

in their homes. A NOAA weather radio can alert you to rapidly changing weather conditions and let you know if a serious weather event is impending. Smoke detectors and fire extinguishers should be in each home.

It is a good idea for family members to learn CPR and first-aid, as well as how to use a fire extinguisher and how and when to turn off water, gas, or electricity to the home.

Children should be taught how and when to call 9-1-1 for help.

Families should keep enough supplies, including medical supplies and medicines to last for at least three days.

Families should have a plan and discuss where to go in the home in the event of a severe thunderstorm or tornado and what to do in the event of a flood. Children especially need to know and practice this.

In the event you need to evacuate your home you will need an emergency supply kit. A good kit should include enough water to last three days (a gallon of water per person per day), food that will not spoil, a change of clothes and shoes for each person, a blanket or sleeping bag for each person, a first aid kit that includes any prescription medications, emergency tools, extra car keys, and cash. Infants and disabled persons may need specialty items and they should be included. A kit should be ready to transport in easy to carry containers such as back packs or duffel bags.

While the possibility of experiencing a disaster is unpleasant to consider, having a well thought out, discussed, and practiced plan can make a tremendous difference in the safety of all concerned.



## There's Nothing Like a Fair

By Towns County Herald Editor  
**Charles Duncan**

When I was a kid growing up in these beautiful North Georgia Mountains there wasn't a whole lot to do.

I say that knowing that during a certain time of year, there was the most exciting time any kid would ever enjoy.

I loved the Georgia Mountain Fair in Hiawassee. Nothing else was on my mind as summer came to fruition.

Fair food, rides, and just being able to be a kid was the life.

Another annual fair is just around the corner, and the kid inside me is rearing to go once again.

Beginning Wednesday, April 15 and continuing through Sunday, April 19, the annual Blairsville Kiwanis Mountain Fair returns to Airport Industrial Road. I can smell the cotton candy already and I'm anxious for that 5 p.m. start on April 15.

In a kid's eyes, nothing is more exciting than seeing the magnificent bright lights that come with being at the Fair. The sounds and music take me back to my childhood as I remember the joys of my youth.

The best part about this Fair is what it means to the community. This is one of Blairsville Kiwanis major fundraisers and all proceeds are returned to the children of our community.

Fun and benefits, a great combination.

The Fair includes rides and contests for all ages from pony rides and merry-go rounds for smaller children to funnel cakes and heart-stopping thrill rides for those still young at heart. I'm partial to the funnel cakes.

Over the years, the Fair has been attended by people from all over Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, and even as far away as Kentucky.

The Blairsville Kiwanis Club was chartered Sept. 13, 1950. It has been going and growing

strong ever since. The club is dedicated to serving and supporting the young people in our community through its many service projects.

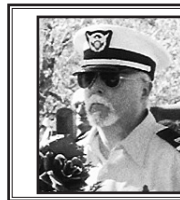
The Blairsville Kiwanis Mountain Fair is just one of the many fund raisers for the Blairsville Kiwanis. The community's young people benefit from the good works of the Blairsville Kiwanis.

We hope to see you at the Blairsville Kiwanis Mountain Fair and we hope you have as much fun as we will.

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## The Veterans' Corner

By  
**Scott Drummond,**  
*USCG Veteran*

### New Chapter of American Legion Riders forming in Towns County

We are fortunate to have Director of American Legion Riders, Lloyd MacBride, as a new member of American Legion Post #23. About ALR: This is not a motorcycle club or gang and it is not called a motorcycle club. This is a program of The American Legion and attachment, thereof. Purposes: To support American Legion and its programs, even beyond American Legion fundraisers. It is for Veterans and will be local. American Legion Riders supports visitation programs. American Legion Riders also honor funerals of deceased Veterans as motorcycle escorts.

Fund raising efforts consist of but are not limited to: Poker Runs, possibly 65-70 miles. Burger nights, barbecues, raffles are to be considered.

Very strict rules for a safety oriented Veterans' organization fully committed to a better America:

First and foremost promote motorcycle safety! Membership is open to members of American Legion, Sons of American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and spouses, thereof. Also prospective members must be licensed with motorcycle certification in Georgia. Members must own a registered motorcycle and it doesn't have to be a Harley! Ha! Membership requires proof of insurance. Also American Legion Riders will have separate monthly meetings from American Legion Post 23.

This will be a very committed organization consisting of those who would love to serve others while enjoying the wind in their faces and fellowship with like minded patriots. Safety, fun

and fellowship combined with efforts to do for others is a winning combination.

Springtime is almost here with beautiful summer weather on the way to our North Georgia Mountains and if you are a Veteran and meet the above listed qualifications we would love to have you come and learn more about American Legion Riders. We have our regular American Legion meetings on the first Tuesday of every month over at VFW Post #7807 at 4 PM. Please come! Or contact Lloyd MacBride at 706-379-2449.

A little about Lloyd: Hometown is Rochester, NY where Lloyd enlisted US Navy Reserve program at age 17 while in high school and went directly into boot camp right after graduation. He turned 18 in boot camp! He earned his green stripes, commonly called Airedale stripes, while in boot camp, meaning he became qualified for the US Naval Air program. He was transferred to Pensacola FL Naval Air Station and began working as an aircraft mechanic, soon becoming part of the Flight Line Crew and became Flight Captain. Amongst those responsibilities were pre-flight inspections on outgoing aircraft and post flight inspections after flight mission completions. Lloyd served two years active, having achieved promotion to PO3 AMS. He then went on to serve active US Naval Air Reserve in New York, reporting once a month to Floyd Bennett Naval Air Station, NYC, and became part of an aircrew on the US Navy's famous P2B aircraft. His primary job aboard the P2B was Radar/Sonar operator tracking submarine activity, keeping guard over America.

*Semper Paratus*

## RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

Have you seen the new educational breakthrough coming out of the state of Virginia? No matter how poorly your kids do on a paper they turn in, they can't get a grade lower than 50%. A hundred questions on the test and your little Einstein gets all 100 of them wrong, the teacher still has to give him a grade of 50%. Homer Simpson would love this.

The reason? The state of Virginia doesn't want your budding scholar to feel bad. Doesn't matter that he didn't study. Makes no difference that he failed to prepare. Doesn't count that he didn't read the assignment. Somewhere I had picked up the idea that education was about learning, but in the state of Virginia they've decided that it's really about how their students feel.

Come on, in the real world if you do everything wrong you don't get credit for getting it half right. If you make some bad financial decisions and end up losing your house in bankruptcy you don't get half the house back by telling the judge you feel bad. I'm very disappointed that the Virginia Department of Education has forgotten that excellence is born in struggle, not from getting a free pass.

My friend, Dr. Ben

Carson is a classic example. He was admittedly a terrible student in grade school. He didn't pay attention, wasn't motivated. It showed on his report cards. D's and F's were common. But his mother determined that he could do better and that she would be the motivator. So she began to assign books for him and his brother, Curtis, to read, and then have them each write a book report and turn it in to her. While other kids were out getting into mischief, Ben was at home, reading. Did he like it? Huh uh. But the more he read the more he learned to love to read. The more he read the better his grades got. The final grading period of his eighth grade year in Wilson Junior High in Detroit Ben won the highest academic achievement of the entire class and would go on to become one of the world's leading neurosurgeons, and perhaps a candidate for president of the United States. Later he would discover that his mother was illiterate and could not even read the reports he turned in.

If you have kids who are struggling in school, give them some encouragement, but don't give them a free ride.

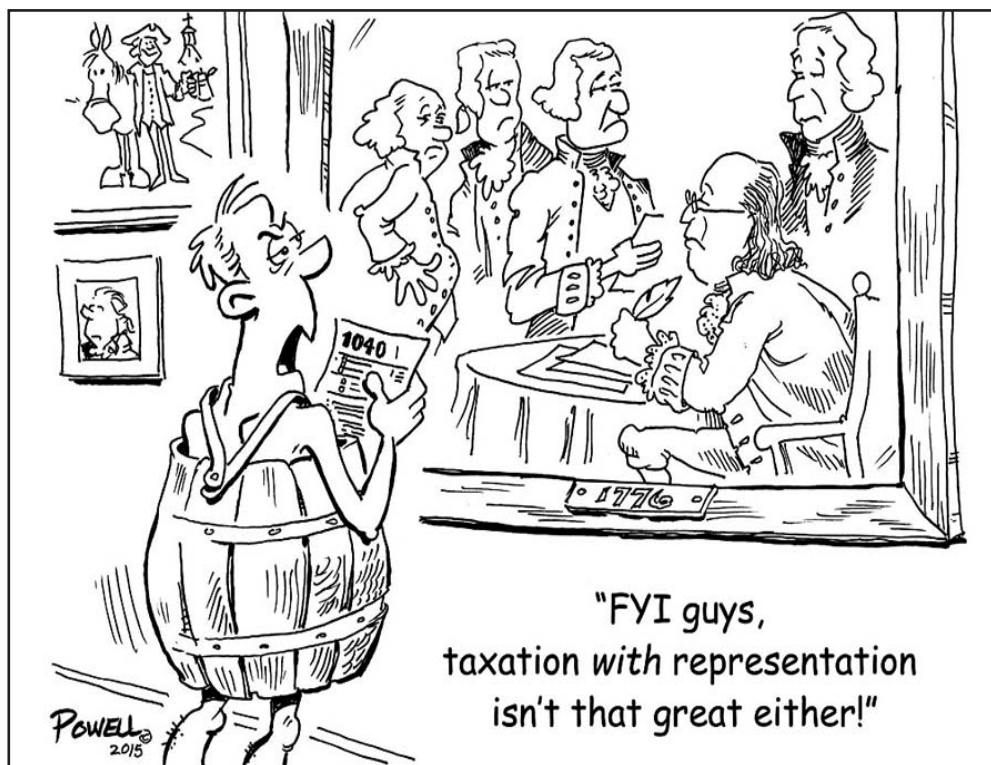
Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

### 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.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE EMAILED OR MAILED TO:

Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. 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.**



# Community Calendar

**American Legion Post 23** meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support!  
**VFW Fish Fry** April - October on 2nd & 4th Fridays each month from 4:30 - 7. \$10 per plate.  
**Towns County Water Board Meeting** 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.  
**Mountain Community Seniors** meet the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 1 p.m.  
**Towns County Republican Party** meets at 6:30 PM the 4th Thursday of each month at the new Senior Center. For more info call 706-994-3919.  
**Democratic Party of Towns County** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5 PM at the new Senior Center. For more info call Bill Jones at 706-851-0318.  
**Towns County Planning Commission** is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse.  
**Towns County Commissioners** meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse.  
**School Board Meeting**, 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.  
**Hiawassee City Council** 1st Tuesday of month 4 p.m., at City Hall.  
**Young Harris City Council**, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 p.m., Young Harris City Hall.  
**The Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259** meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.  
**Stevens Lodge #414 F & AM** meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris. Sat. morning breakfast 2nd Sat. of each month from 8 - 10:30 AM. \$6 adults, \$3 12 & under.  
**Towns County Board of Elections** holds its monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Elections Office (Old Rock Jail).  
**Towns County Historical Society** meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the old Rec Center in Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org  
**Bridge Players** intermediate level meets at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Rec Center.  
**Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG)** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse, Hiawassee. The Board meets at 4 p.m., and the Guild at 6. Call us 706-896-0932.  
**Mountain Computer User Group** meets the 2nd Monday of each month. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.  
**Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter, Trout Unlimited** meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Cadence Bank in Blairsville. 5 p.m. Fly Tying - 7 p.m. General Meeting. Everyone welcome. www.ngatu692.com.  
**Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)** meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call John at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous:** 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.  
**Chattahoochee Regional Auxiliary** on the 3rd Monday of each month, except the months of July, October and December, in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m.  
**Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club** meets 3 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Jerry (828) 837-7658.  
**The Humane Society Mountain Shelter** Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Cadence Bank in Blairsville.  
**The Towns County Alzheimer's Support Group** meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the Family Life Center of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church. For more info call Carol at 706-896-6407.  
**The Appalachian Shrine Club** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Allegheny Lodge in Blairsville. For more info call William 706-994-6177.

**GMREC Garden Tours** every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Shooting Creek Basket Weavers** meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreek-basketweavers.com.  
**Friendship Community Club** meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76, 706-896-3637.  
**Goldwing Road Riders** meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** meets every Wednesday evening at 7 PM at the Red Cross building on Jack Dayton Circle.  
**Caregiver support group** meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.  
**Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club.** Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch.  
**Brasstown Woodturners Guild** meets 1st Saturday of month at 9:30 AM in HHS shop. For more info call J. C. at 706-896-5711.  
**Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC)** meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiawassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.  
**The Board of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce** meet the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.  
**The Quilting Bee** at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Family Life Center, Room 216. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 AM - 3 PM. Bring a sack lunch. For more information call Kathy at 706-835-6721 or Marilyn at 706-897-4367.  
**Mountain Coin Club** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the North Georgia Tech campus in Blairsville. Guests are welcome. For more info, call 706-379-1488.

## Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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