

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



I Believe...
by Pastor
Jim Blair

Life is a test

All of life is a test. This new opportunity I have to write a weekly article for the Towns County Herald is a challenge. When I was asked if I would consider it my response was let me think about it. Letting it filter through my mind for a few days (and nights) I could see no reason to say no. In fact, I saw an opportunity to share my faith in God and reach many more than I could in a church setting. As a pastor, especially a retired one, you would think that would be enough consideration. Yet, there was this thing called commitment. League bowling requires a 34-week commitment, so I don't do that any more. I've taught some Bible studies that also required a 34-week commitment, and in today's culture it's difficult to get people to sign up for that. However, there is one primary thing I consider when making a final decision; is this divinely inspired. In other words, for me since I did not seek to do this and the conversation with the person who called me, I determined that perhaps it was God's will.

Let me begin by asking if you saw the recent

movie "Do You Believe?". If you have not, I recommend it very strongly. What I just said is somewhat of the theme of the movie. God does work in mysterious ways and the outcome works for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. I was asked to give this column a title. Well, I am not sure if it will remain the same a few weeks from now, but I want to call it, "I Believe....." meaning that what I write is primarily my belief. For instance, every body has an opinion. It's like a nose, everybody has one also but often they poke it in someone else's business. I, too, have been critical of some newspaper articles I read and that extends into many other aspects of social, political, and local media. Therefore, my purpose is to share with those who read this newspaper information that will perhaps enhance one's life. The Bible clearly states in Philippians 4:8; "Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things." That in itself could be the biggest test for all of us. I look forward to visiting with you through the Towns County Herald.

Jo Anne Allen
Master
Gardener
Extension
Volunteer



May Garden Chores

Strong sun and wind are hard on new transplants. Set them out in the late afternoon so the plants have overnight to acclimate.

Tomatoes can be grown in containers on a sunny deck or patio. Bush-type tomatoes do better in containers; plant in a large pot at least 24 inches across filled with a good quality planting soil. Fertilize and water tomatoes regularly. Plant rosemary, basil, thyme and other herbs to enhance summer meals. Herbs are a good choice for a flower-box for your patio. Most herbs grow best in full sun, but mint, cilantro, parsley and thyme tolerate moderate shade.

Plant peppers by the first part of June for summer harvest. Plant annual vines like moon flower vine and purple hyacinth bean to disguise ugly walls and enliven fences. Plant sunflowers for a sunny summer flower arrangement.

Use rubber soaker hoses among shrubs and flowers in beds and mulch with pine straw to put the water where the plants need it and to conserve water this summer. Water roses with a soaker hose to keep water off the foliage and possibly prevent blackspot. Weed flowerbeds and borders. Pinch out terminal growth (the tip) of annuals to make bushy plants and encourage growth. Prune climbing roses after they finish flowering.

Mulch newly planted blueberry plants to insulate shallow roots from heat and drought. Move or replant irises if they did not bloom very well last season. Fertilize your vegetable garden every four to six weeks during the summer, always following label directions. Variegated hosta may turn green when grown in lots of sun. It's best to grow hosta where it does not get hot afternoon sun.

Look for Lenten rose seedlings underneath your mature plants and transplant them to other shady spots in your garden.

den. Do not pile mulch against the trunks of trees. This can encourage possible insect and water problems. Mulch should be approximately 6 to 8 inches away on all sides. Do not remove daffodil foliage after they have bloomed until it turns yellow. The leaves absorb sunshine for energy and nutrition for the bulbs so they can bloom again next year.

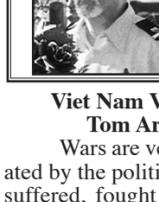
Caladiums need generous amounts of water and fertilizer to continually produce new leaves during the summer. Look for fire ant mounds and treat with appropriate insecticides, always following label directions. Lichens growing on your tree trunk may be an indication that your tree is stressed from soil compaction, poor drainage or insufficient fertilizer. Remove invasive plants like Chinese privet, poison ivy and English ivy from your landscape.

Prune off sprouts from the base of crape myrtles that are being trained to an upright tree form.

Seeds of annual flowers like zinnias, cosmos, salvia, marigolds, and nasturtiums can be seeded directly into prepared flowerbeds. Wait until after your azaleas have bloomed to prune them (if pruning is needed). This is also an ideal time to fertilize them. Replace pansies with summer annuals and plant ornamental grasses now. Remove faded blooms from rhododendrons to increase the buds that make the blooms for next year. Remove low-hanging and dead limbs from shade trees.

Fertilize azaleas, rhododendrons, and roses now. As your spring flowering bulbs die back, plant bulb beds with annuals for summer color, being careful not to disturb your bulbs. It is still not too late to set out roses. Fertilize flowerbeds with a slow-release fertilizer.

Rejuvenate houseplants by lightly pruning them and moving them outdoors to a partly sunny/partly shady area for the summer. Start fertilizing at half the recommended strength.



The Veterans' Corner

By
Scott Drummond,
USCG Veteran

**Viet Nam Veteran:
Tom Arline**

Wars are very often created by the political class, but suffered, fought and won by those who desire peace and provide national security more so than most. Those who love our nation the most seem to be willing to sacrifice the most. And as always the few, the proud, the Marines are at the forefront. A fine, easy going fellow, living here almost on the Union/Towns county line would be Tom Arline. Born 19 October, 1949 and reared in Thomasville, GA, Tom worked in a railroad yard on boxcars for about a year after high school. Not satisfied with this for his future, Tom being inspired, like many of us, by World War Two veterans and especially the Marines, enlisted in June of 1968. Boot Camp, was Paris Island, then Camp Lejeune, and four months at 29 Palms before Viet Nam and attached to Third Marines, First Division as MOS 0331 (machine gunner) out of Vandegrift, working with either air or infantry. After five months, Tom was transferred to Marble Mountain, south of DaNang as MOS 1371 (combat engineer). As Tom put it, "much better living conditions". During this time Tom advanced from PFC to Lance Corporal to E5 Sergeant. After overseas duty, Tom came back to Second Marine Division, Shore Party Battalion at Camp Lejeune. While at Camp Lejeune, one assignment required Tom to be a prisoner "chaser", or as we in the USCG called it, "prisoner escort". We shared

our personal experiences in dealing with military prisoners. It doesn't hurt to be kind to those who must spend a certain amount of their lives behind bars, just be wise and cautious; very much so.

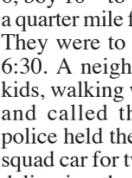
Honorably discharged in October, Tom came back to south Georgia where he went to work as a lineman for Florida Power Corporation for the next 24 years before retiring and moving here to the North Georgia Mountains. Many folks here in the Hiawassee area may have seen or known Tom as he has been hauling, grading, doing tractor work and construction for many years. In fact, that's how I met Tom about ten years ago.

Tom wanted some personal perspective put forth herein: Would he do it all again? A resounding "yes!"

A quote shared by Tom with none other than Marine Zell Miller, "Everything I know that's worth knowing, I learned in the USMC." Also Tom sincerely volunteered, "I was a good Marine. I did everything I was told to the best of my ability." And finally Tom wanted it mentioned that "MSGT Eric England is my hero as he is to many others and he is THE Marine I really wanted to be."

Honor, faith, loyalty, perseverance, and deep abiding, never ending bond and friendship, all reflected in one's humility and love of others, we often witness in those who have written a blank check for their lives to America, for their brothers and for all America.

Semper Fidelis, Tom and Semper Paratus.



**RARE KIDS;
WELL DONE**

By Don Jacobsen

Last Saturday afternoon Danielle and Alexander allowed their two children - girl 6, boy 10 - to walk to the park a quarter mile from their home. They were to return home by 6:30. A neighbor spotted the kids, walking without an adult and called the police. The police held the children in the squad car for two hours before delivering them to Child Protective Services, but didn't call the parents (although the children knew the phone number) until 8 p.m.

If you heard the talk-radio responses you now know what a hornet's nest is like when it's been stirred. My observation is that the audience was about evenly divided - half said the parents were irresponsible; half said the police were reprehensible.

My take: Depending on where we lived I probably wouldn't do what Danielle and Alexander did. Although some parents would rather allow their kids to run barefoot through a mine field than go down the street without an adult, here are a couple of interesting facts.

Actually, the problem of missing children has been improving in recent times. FBI statistics show fewer missing persons of all ages - down 31 percent between 1997 and 2011. Yes, down. This isn't the time or place to describe all of the reasons, but I find it encouraging.

Here's another shocker:

You may get the same flyer I do about every week that says something like, "...every day more than 2,200 children disappear." Good grief, we shouldn't even let them go out and get the mail alone. Or this one: "A child is abducted every 40 seconds in the US."

Here are the unemotional facts: The majority of kids reported missing have been snatched by an angry ex, an estranged dad, a divorcee who doesn't like the joint custody arrangement. Another large segment of those listed as "missing" are unhappy teens who "run away" to a friend's house over night to register their protest over some new rule dad enforced.

In the latest year for which statistics are available, a total of 115 children were victims of the most serious, long-term nonfamily abductions. That's too many, but that's about two per week in the entire nation. To say it another way, Children taken by strangers or slight acquaintances represent only about one-hundredth of 1 percent of all missing children.

Probably wouldn't send them to the park alone in most neighborhoods, but I'd make sure they got outside for a good romp, and I'd make sure they didn't end up scared to death of their world. That may be the greatest risk of all.

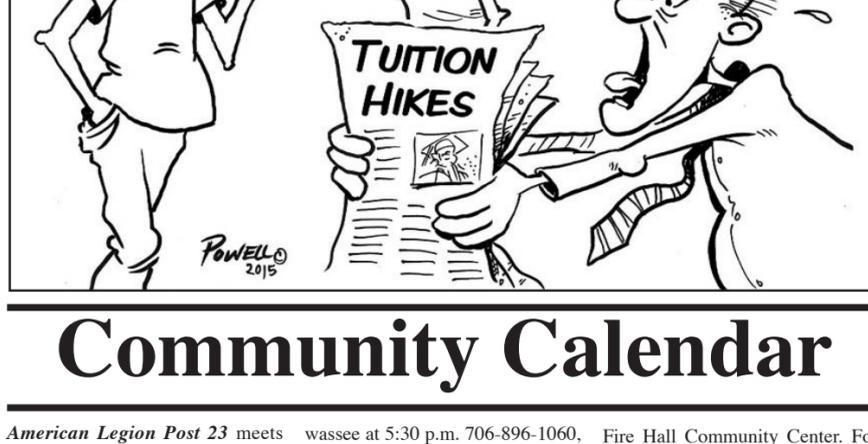
Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

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 info contact 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 Commissioner 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 Unicorn Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Stephens 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.
Chatuge Regional Hospital 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.
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 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at Shooting Creek

Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreekbasketweavers.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 AJ 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.
The Board of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce meets 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.
Monday morning BINGO at Brasstown Manor every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Players meet in the Bradford. Questions 706-896-4285.

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