

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

Winter driving

Lately our winter precipitation has brought warm temperatures with it. That being said, it is still winter time in the North Georgia Mountains and one never knows when conditions may change. Along with winter weather comes special considerations when traveling.

It is always best not to drive during snowy or icy conditions. Whenever possible avoid driving during extreme winter weather. Even front wheel drive and four wheel drive vehicles are susceptible to snow and ice. If you must drive, the following suggestions are meant as helpful tips to avoid increasing the risk.

During winter you should always make certain that your vehicle is prepared. Vehicle preparation should include keeping your vehicle properly tuned up and making sure that your tires are in good shape. Tires should be properly inflated and have a tread depth of at least an eighth inch. Always keep plenty of fuel in your vehicle's tank and make sure that your battery is up to date and properly maintained.

There are several items that are recommended to be kept in your vehicle during cold weather. These are especially important if you are traveling long distances. Good items to have on hand include bottled water, a flashlight with extra batteries, spare warm clothing, a warm blanket or sleeping bag, jumper cables, snow chains,

a tow strap, wooden matches in a water proof container, a fully charged cell phone, and road flares, safety triangles, or both, to make your vehicle more visible. Cat litter can be used as a traction aid, much like gravel, but is easier to carry in a vehicle.

Some things to consider when driving include slowing down by at least half the speed normally recommended and allowing at least twice the distance between your vehicle and another. Remember to use more gentle controls during slippery conditions. You should start, steer, and stop, your vehicle in a gentle, steady, and smooth fashion. If you are breaking and your brakes start to lock ease up on the pressure. If your rear wheels start to skid take your foot off the brake and steer the vehicle in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go. Do not try to accelerate during a skid and never use cruise control during snowy, icy, or wet, conditions.

If you become stuck or stranded in the snow, it is almost always better to stay with your vehicle and wait for help. If you run the vehicle to use the heater, be sure that the exhaust is not obstructed and always leave at least one window slightly open to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only leave your vehicle if you know exactly where you are and are certain that you will improve your conditions by doing so.

It is always better to stay off the roadways during winter weather conditions such as snow and ice. The information I have provided is by no means a comprehensive list and is only meant to offer some suggestions for being safer. All the preparation in the world cannot guarantee that you will arrive safely to your destination if you choose to drive in poor conditions. My first advice is that you not drive during extreme weather. If you must, please take precautions and drive carefully.

4-H - Head, Heart, Hands, & Health

"I pledge my head to clearer thinking, My heart to greater loyalty, My hands to larger service, and my health to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world". This is the 4-H motto and has helped guide youth into adulthood since the early 1900s. Many of the business and government leaders in the world got their start in 4-H when they were in school. 4-H is a youth development program that we should support so that our youth will develop into good leaders with a solid background for the future.

One of Georgia's 4-H pioneers was my grandfather, Walter S. Brown, who grew up "down on the river" here in Towns County, and after graduating from the Mountain Scene school, on the site of the present Mt Zion Baptist Church, Walter Brown, or Granddaddy Brown as we called him, attended the University of Georgia in Athens in 1910. To get to the University he had to walk from Mountain Scene over the mountain to Robertstown where he would catch the train to Athens. After he graduated from UGA with a degree in Agriculture in 1914, he returned home to become the first County Agent in Towns County and stayed in that position until 1917 when he was moved by the Extension Service to Savannah to continue his work there. He eventually moved up to become the Director of the Cooperative Extension in Athens and held that position until he retired in the late 1950s.

Walter Brown was one of the pioneers of the Georgia 4-H and instilled that spirit in me when I spent summers with him up here. During his tenure as Director, he started the Georgia 4-H Center at Rock Eagle and held many other agricultural positions nationwide all somehow connected to 4-H. His influence and the 4-H principles for which he stood still guide me today.

The Georgia 4-H is a world in which youth and adults learn, grow, and work together as catalysts for positive change and the mission of Georgia 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is accomplished, through "hands on" learning experiences, focused on agricultural and environmental issues, agriculture awareness, leadership,

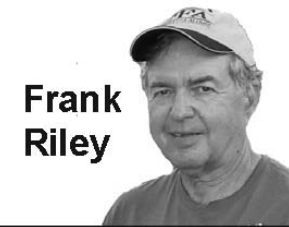
GUEST COLUMNS

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

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Executive Director of RC&D



Frank Riley

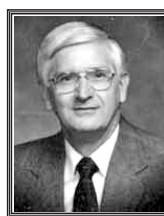
communication skills, foods and nutrition, health, energy conservation, and citizenship. Exploring and discovering, encouraging and challenging, that's what Georgia 4-H is all about. As a program of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Cooperative Extension System, 4-H is part of the nationwide Extension network. 4-Hers are known for sharing their research-based knowledge and technology to people where they live and work. 4-H combines federal, state, and local expertise and resources. In Georgia, Extension faculty members are based on the campus of the University of Georgia and in most Georgia counties work directly with adult and teen volunteer leaders to implement the 4-H program at the local level.

The 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development, shows youth engaged with 4-H are: Nearly two times more likely to get better grades in school; Nearly two times more likely to plan to go to college, 41 percent less likely to engage in risky behaviors; and 25 percent more likely to positively contribute to their families and communities.

Towns County has a new 4-H Program Assistant, Billie Harvey and to learn more about the local 4-H program contact her at the local Extension Office in Hiawassee.

For more information on the 4-H program or RC&D, contact Frank M. Riley, Jr. - Executive Director of the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council. frank.ccrd@gmail.com.

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"IT'S ON MY MIND.." Danny H. Parris

Take a break

I know this is a Holy Season for most of us, but sometimes this very spiritual time of the year can become very stressful and frustrating. So let me ask you to take a break and read the following email someone sent me. I am not trying to be flippant, but most of us need to slow down, take a deep breath and renew our perspective. Maybe the following will help you produce a smile or two.

1. My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned. Couldn't concentrate.

2. Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack, but just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe.

3. After that, I tried being a tailor, but wasn't suited for it - mainly because it was a sew-sew job.

4. Next, I tried working in a muffler factory, but that was too exhausting.

5. Then, I tried being a chef - figured it would add a little spice to my life but just didn't have the thyme.

6. Next, I attempted being a deli worker. But any

way I sliced it...I couldn't cut the mustard.

7. My best job was a musician but eventually found I wasn't noteworthy.

8. I studied a long time to become a doctor, but didn't have patience.

9. Next, was a job in a shoe factory...tried hard but just didn't fit in.

10. I became a professional fisherman but discovered I couldn't live on my net income.

11. I managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, but the work was just too draining.

12. So then I got a job in a workout centre but they said I wasn't fit for the job.

13. After many years of trying to find steady work, I finally got a job as a historian - until I realized there was no future in it.

14. My last job was working at Starbucks, but I had to quit because it was the same old grind.

15. So I tried retirement and found I'm perfect for the job!

And finally, if you eat yeast and shoe polish what happens? You will rise and shine!

May the "good news of great joy," "that a Savior is born which is Christ the Lord," occupy our time and thoughts.

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Elected Officials

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