

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

If You Missed Out July 9

Don't fret for a minute, everyone who participates will have many OTHER chances to win every Saturday evening at VFW Post

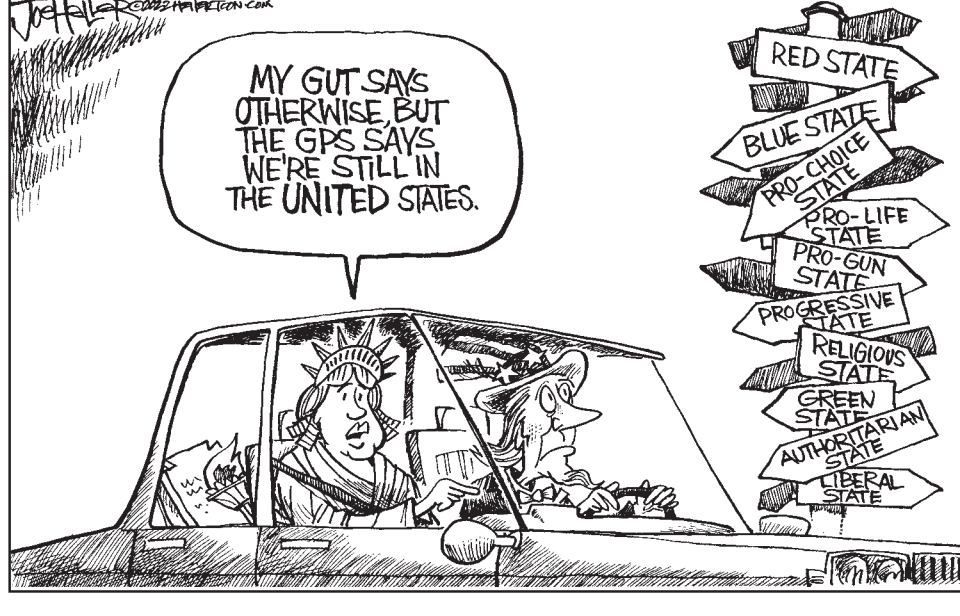
The Veterans' Corner Scott Drummond USCG Veteran



#7807 over on Sunnyside Drive. BINGO! Our Post represented by several Veterans Service Organizations, including VFW, VFW Auxiliary, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion Riders, Sons of American Legion and those many fine folks who support our Veterans have started a vetted, Georgia state approved and certified Bingo game open to the public. Every Saturday afternoon from 5:30 PM. Those several on site assistants from our post have been thoroughly background checked and fingerprinted. There will be nominal costs for purchasing BINGO cards; 12 chances/\$18; 9 chances/\$13.00; 6 chances/\$10.00 plus a whole lot of fun with some really great folks! Snacks, including hot dogs will be available beginning at 5:30 PM and game begins at 6:30 PM. Two hour time limit! Alternate VSO volunteers will assist on various Saturday evenings. The winning pot progresses depending upon local participation numbers. So do not miss out on this clean fun event! Please take note that this BINGO GAME supports our local Veterans who in turn participate in our missions to support our local community.

In case you may be wondering, our BINGO Manager, a fine easy going very friendly guy is Mark Newman, an Iraq Veteran of our outstanding United States Army. Mark served in 1978-1981 and again in 1991-2012. Born in Lakeland, Florida, he returned home to serve as a Sheriff's Deputy for 17 years before moving here to Young Harris as full time resident almost a year ago. Mark has seemingly unlimited energy and continues to serve in a very positive fashion for our VFW Post activities. As such he believes and works for each and every one of our VSOs under the roof of VFW Post #7807. In his own words, "I AM MISSION ORIENTED!" You just have to love that attitude! His father is also a USAF Veteran from Tampa.

Please do not forget this new BINGO game is now open to the public and will be held every Saturday evening in the same upstairs room where our magnificent Fish-Fries are served on alternate Friday evenings. This is a great idea which required long hours of work, certification and planning by the many Veterans who worked with Mark to insure that anyone who joins us, has a safe, fun time with some of America's best folks who sacrificed and served our Sovereign Republic in one of our military services. -Semper Paratus



Weather Sayings / Meanings

Weather is one of the most talked about events we hear every day. Most discussion we have and particularly on TV and radio will be about weather sooner or later. It is too hot, too cold, too wet, too dry, or happens when we least want it to, or look out a bad one is on the way to your location! It is a good thing the brilliant government can't control it, or we would be in more trouble than we are now. Imagine a political debate between congress and the white house over who gets rain and who does not depending on which party the recipients are aligned with, the subcommittees to study the problem and expert consultants and witnesses to give their opinion depending on who paid them the most. By the time the debate, public comment period for all the "educated" citizens to throw in their opinion from the "experts" on the internet, the filibusters, court battles, and the real "brilliant" input from the TV media, the crops in question would be dried up and dead. Thank goodness a higher authority is in control of the weather!

RC&D Frank Riley Executive Director



When I was a kid in Taylor County, my Dad was in the hay business so weather was important to know about so we could cut hay when it would not get wet. We did not have internet or cell phones, (dark ages), but we had Doug Wallace on one of the only 3 TV stations we could get with our old antenna. I'm showing my age! Doug was the Godfather for weather according to local farmers. Everybody believed old Doug and planned their farming activities around what he said, and he was usually right. He is all we had at the time, and he did not have political overtones or advertising, just weather ... what a refreshing memory!

People have been predicting weather since the beginning of time because they had to in order to survive, so they used their observations and made proverbs to do what we do today with computers, satellites, and Jim. Ever heard the saying, "Red sky at night, sailor's delight"? Long before meteorologists reported the weather, people made forecasts based on their observations of the sky, animals, and nature.

Here are some weather sayings—and what they mean. Many of the traditional sayings they used, called proverbs, are surprisingly accurate. Try out some old-fashioned forecasting—that still works today! "Red sky at night, sailors delight. Red sky in morning, sailors take warning." A reddish sunset means that the air is dusty and dry. Since weather in North American latitudes usually moves from west to east, a red sky at sunset means dry weather—good for sailing—is moving east. Conversely, a reddish sunrise means that dry air from the west has already passed over us on their way east, clearing the way for a storm to move in.

"The higher the clouds, the finer the weather." If you spot wispy, thin clouds up where jet airplanes fly, expect a spell of pleasant weather. Keep an eye, however, on the smaller puff clouds (cumulus), especially if it is in the morning or early afternoon. If the rounded tops of these clouds, which have flat bases, grow higher than the one cloud's width, then there is a chance of a thunderstorm forming.

"Clear Moon, frost soon" When the night sky is clear, Earth's surface cools rapidly—there is no cloud cover to keep the heat in. If the night is clear enough to see the Moon and the temperature drops enough, frost will form. Expect a chilly morning!

"When clouds appear like towers, the Earth is refreshed by frequent showers." When you spy large, white clouds that look like cauliflower or castles in the sky, there is probably lots of dynamic weather going on inside. Innocent clouds look like billowy cotton, not towers. If the clouds start to swell and take on a gray tint, they are probably turning into thunderstorms. Watch out!

"Rainbow in the morning gives you fair warning." A rainbow in the morning indicates that a shower is in your near future.

"Ring around the moon? Rain real soon." A ring around the moon usually indicates an advancing warm front, which means precipitation. Under those conditions, high, thin clouds get lower and thicker as they pass over the moon. Ice crystals are reflected by the moon's light, causing a halo to appear.

"Rain foretold, long last. Short notice, soon will pass." If you find yourself totting an umbrella around for days "just in case," rain will stick around for several hours when it finally comes. The gray overcast dominating the horizon means a large area is affected. Conversely, if you get caught in a surprise shower, it's likely to be short-lived. We can often predict the weather by observing clouds, and you can often predict the incoming weather. One type is called a "mackerel sky," so named because its wavy striped pattern resembles the markings on certain mackerel fish. Several proverbs are related to this weather phenomenon, including Mackerel clouds in sky, expect more wet than dry. The proverb is based in fact. The sight of mackerel clouds (also called "mare's tails") suggests that rain will arrive within a day or two, ahead of a warm front.

There are many of these weather predicting proverbs and old wives tales, and they are usually as accurate as the Weather Channel and not nearly as annoying as watching Jim reporting from inside a hurricane or listening to their opinions on everything except the weather. I like to turn off the experts and depend on old wives tales, they work and are much more satisfying.

For more information on weather Google it.

The Towns County Herald is an independent and nonpartisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

Yellow Jackets

Yellow jackets will become the most active during the late summer and fall. I've received a few calls from people saying that they have encountered some around their homes. I have a few around my own house, so I know they're out there! Yellow Jackets can look similar to wasps. Wasps are usually unaggressive unless threatened. Yellow jackets have a thicker waist, shorter legs, and wings that press more flatly against the body when resting than wasps.

Watching and Working Jacob Williams



Wasp's nests are usually under eaves or beneath porch railings and have hexagonal cells. Yellow jacket nests are usually built in old rodent holes or cavities that have been left behind by a small critter. They can build nests in wall spaces, although this is less common. Yellow jacket nests will die out over the winter and start anew with a new reproducing female each year. This means that yellow jacket nests will be the easiest to eradicate in the spring while the nests are still small. The flipside is that the nests will be harder to find in the spring because they only have a few individuals in them at that time. Nests can grow up to 5000 yellow jackets, and will grow larger in years with a long dry spring.

Solitary yellow jackets can often be seen foraging for food for the colony. Yellow jackets feed on a variety of insects pests. They will also eat meat and like drinking coke. They will also attack bee hives. Yellow jackets are able to discern at a pheromone level which hives are weak. They'll choose those hives to attack, making them more of opportunistic pests to bees than actual predators. If they are able to get inside past the guards, yellow jackets can take out the entire hive killing bees, eating larvae, eggs, pupae, and honey.

The longer before you start to control a nest the more difficult it becomes because the nests control in size. Pyrethroid insecticides that you can buy at the store will be effective at killing yellow jackets, but only when you make contact with them when you are actively spraying. If you can block the hole that they use as an entrance you may be able to eradicate them this way too. Yellow jackets aren't diggers, they use holes other critters have made, so they can be trapped inside if there is only one entrance. There are yellow jacket traps that can be effective at controlling them too. Another method of control is to use hot water mixed with dish washing soap and pouring it down the hole. Whenever you are working with yellow jackets the safest time will be at night. They will be less active at nighttime, so your chances of being stung decrease. It is still a good idea to wear protective clothing. If you have a serious yellow jacket problem it is best to call a professional to control them.

If you have any questions about yellow jacket identification or control please call your local Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Habitat for Humanity

We have a lot going on here at Habitat for Humanity this week, here are all the details!

This week is the long-awaited Christmas in July Sale at the Habitat ReStore! Between July 11th - July 15th we will be selling our usual ReStore items, but for one week only we are dedicating a whole section of our store to Christmas. We hope you stop by and check out all things Christmas. You won't want to miss out on these great deals. Get your Christmas décor wanted in July and save big! All our profits in the ReStore go towards our Helping Hands projects and Home Builds here in Towns/Union Counties.

We will be announcing a surprise sale on different Christmas items everyday throughout the week. In addition, if you shop at our ReStore July 11th - July 15th wearing anything Christmas, whether it be an ugly Christmas sweater, Christmas earrings, Christmas socks, etc., show your Christmas spirit at the register and receive 10% off your purchase!

Furthermore, on July 16th Habitat for Humanity is partnering with Downtown Blairsville for the Art in the Park Event on 62 Blue Ridge St. Blairsville behind City Hall between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. We have called on local artists to paint the new picnic tables that Habitat for Humanity of Towns Union Counties and Rotary Club donated to the Blairsville Park. If you're out and about around Blairsville be sure to stop by and watch artists paint this park into a fun and beautiful destination location for our community to enjoy.

Are you looking for employment? Habitat for Humanity is hiring! We are looking for a part-time ReStore Associate and a full-time Pick-Up Driver. Stop by the Habitat ReStore at 225 Wellborn St. Blairsville to fill out an application.

Pick-Up Drivers must have a valid driver's license, a clean driving record and must be able to lift 75lbs or more. Our ReStore Associate position requires excellent customer service skills, knowledge on running a register and organizational skills.

We are eager to hire associates who not only are diligent in their work and are ready to learn but individuals who value our mission here at Habitat for Humanity of ensuring that our community has safe and affordable housing to call home. Everything we do here at Habitat is to benefit others. We want our team to have the mindset of helping others through the work they do here at Habitat.

If you have any questions, be sure to contact us at 706-745-7101.

As always thank you for supporting your local Habitat for Humanity through ReStore purchases, donations, sponsored events, volunteering, and more. We are so thankful for the support of our community; without your help we wouldn't be equipped to help those in need.

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.

Making the Best of It

Life is a series of strange non-chaotic attractors shaped by irrationality. If we only had the math. If you're hooked into popular culture and mass media, life tends to lean more toward Shakespeare's description of a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury.

I prefer my mother's observation that life is what you make of it; an idea which has declined in popularity during a time when everyone is a victim of something. Nevertheless it remains the idea which inspires me the most.

Today I am motivated to make the best of the gift from God of another day, and that day is inspired by the image of my grandfather at 90, standing in his garden, leaning on one hoe as a walking stick while chopping weeds with a second. My grandmother is picking shades. She's wearing a bonnet she's had for many years to shade her from the sun. You only see such attire in museums now.

The bean is a very special bean. We still grow it, and it has been in the family for generations. It came into Towns county in the early 1840's with a group of families who moved here from Buncombe County, North Carolina to escape the smoke of their neighbors' chimneys - and the liquor tax.

Everyone was a seed saver back in the day. Stores were few and far between, and if they did happen to have the seeds you wanted, the dollars to pay for them were scarce and usually needed for something else more urgent.

Saving seed was just something you did without a second thought, but that first thought was full of consideration. The science of genetics was decades away, but a wisdom born of keen observation and animal husbandry told the early farmers to save the seed from the healthiest plants.

As a result, our full runner bean is a vigorous cultivar. Much like the people of the Appalachians, it has survived many hardships to become strong. The vines will run 20 feet in a good year. It is resistant to blight and drought, (and raccoons if you plant squash between the rows). When a storm beats it to the ground it will pick up and grow again, just like a hillbilly.

My grandfather would be amused by the industrial bean seen in the grocery store. He was particular about the timing of the harvest, and collected his crop during that narrow window between the time when seeds are forming in the pod and the mature bean begins to yellow. He said you would go hungry eating the empty and flaccid pods that are the choice of tv cooks, but "wait until there's a bean in those pods and a man can work on that."

It's hot job gardening today, and they're complaining about the heat and humidity on the tv weather again. It's nice of them to let us know beforehand how miserable we should be. My beans are happy, however. This hot, steamy weather and all that extra CO2 in the air are making them cover the trellises in a thick, green blanket of beany goodness. The tomatoes are thrilled with this weather too, and just about everything else that grows in the garden.

I guess the weather is pretty miserable for folks dependent on air conditioning, and we should all pause from time to time in remembrance of Mr. Carrier's great invention. I asked an elderly gentleman who ran a store in Valdosta what folks did on really hot days before air conditioning, and he simply said, "We closed." He went on to say that the definition of "hot" has changed a lot since he was a boy.

Back in the garden, blooms are starting to form on our beans, and they're already attracting the bumblebees. Honeybees get all the attention, but it's the humble bumble that makes our gardens. I'm leaning on a modern imported hoe having a drink of water and thinking about putting my feet in the cold creek. I still have one of Pa's hoes. It retired long ago and stands in a corner in remembrance. I'm a long way from needing it as a walking stick, but when that time comes, I hope it reminds me of how he made the best of the day in spite of age and arthritis and well meaning advice.

Outside The Box

By: Don Perry worldoutsidethebox.com

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Kenneth West Owner/Publisher

Shawn Jarrard General Manager/Editor

Derek Richards Advertising Director

Jordan Hyatt Office Manager

Todd Forrest Staff Writer

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 Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546