DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Frozen Chosen

This story in our American Legion November magazine caught my eye immediately as my friend, OUR FRIEND to all in Towns County, Cecil Sanders, Jr. has told me this almost verbatim story of his experiences in the Marines, several times. Cecil is now experiencing true peace at the Right Hand of our Supreme Commander, no more wars or hardships to endure.

Charlie Gebhart, from Chicago's West Side ,served as an Army sergeant in that subfreezing hell of the Chosin Reservoir also. He was 21 years old. Temperatures were 35 degrees below zero. His fingers were black and his feet felt like balls of lead. Charlie is a member of Boone American Legion Post #77 in Belvidere, IL, today. Just as our own Cecil Sanders told me the freezing temperatures took a greater toll than the Communist bullets.

Communist Chinese troops surrounded the Army and Marine Corps units as they neared the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. This evolved into a hellish seventeen day battle in extreme cold conditions. Our America lost 2,500 precious lives, KIA;

5,000 wounded and 8,000 were unable to fight due to frostbite.

They were outnumbered 10 to one and Army and Marines were forced to make a 70 mile retreat with Chinese forces fighting them all the

The Veterans' Corner Scott Drummond USCG Veteran

way. Marine aircraft were the only aid they had to help them escape certain death from the cold or the Chinese. "I was just trying to survive the moment" says Charlie. "We were surrounded and outnumbered 10 to 1. We were fighting the impossible. Death was always there. You were always next.' Everything was frozen and virtually nothing worked as it should have.

Charlie puts it like this, "I had to put up with a lot of combat, but got through it because I had so many great people beside me. "I don't care about the awards and decorations that much. The only badge I really respect is the Combat Infantry Badge. I'd do it all over again, because of my band of brothers.'

Gebhardt came home in July, 1951 and worked for Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad as a switchman, conductor and yardmaster. In 1970 he married his wife, Linnea and had two children, John and Julie. He has also served in the Honor Guard for Veteran burials. He goes on, "I've had a good life". ""The whole thing has been a good life."

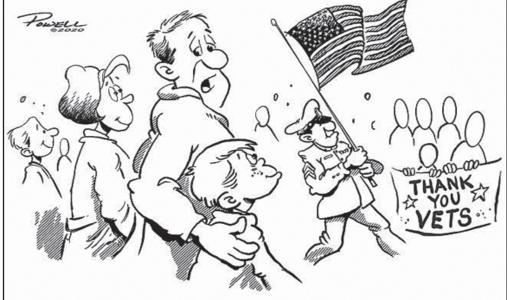
There exists the high probability that Charlie Gebhardt and Cecil Sanders Junior were nearby each other during this awful battle, but for good reason, to save our allies of South Korea who are grateful allies to this day. Just like Cecil said many times over, "this is not about me, but about them", referring to all those who gave their lives. If these two fine men could have ever met, they would have formed an immediate bond, not known or felt by anyone who has never experienced what they survived. Their stories are identical. They are both wonderful Americans. Fact not opinion!

Semper Paratus

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 E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:



"You're right, son. We should thank them more often."

Phenomenal Cosmic Power

Itty Bitty Living Space I think we would all like to forget about politics for a while, but like Colombo said, "Just one more thing," and I'll be brief(ish).



cans who are grieving Trump's election loss. Obviously there was hanky panky with ballots. even at a glance. Did deeper into the numbers and Benford's Law of unnatural distribution clearly indicates the implausibility of some of the vote counts in key areas.

Overall, however, the malfeasance of both parties tends to balance out, and we are talking about a difference of over 4 million votes. Let it go.

We'll be arguing about this election for years, or for as long as short term memory holds. My first message today, however, is for the core of the President's base, the millions of Americans, and the over 80% majority of our home town folks who say they are Christian.

Here's what you're going to do. (I know you don't like being told what to do, but I'm hoping you'll hear this in your head in Rip Torn's voice from the movie, "Defending Your Life.") You're going to pray for the new president. You're going to forgive those you think have trespassed against you, and you're going to move on. There's work to be done.

It's in the Book: Pray for "kings, and all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." Render unto Caesar. Pray for your enemies, especially if you think your fellow Americans and people who voted differently are your enemy. The Book is pretty clear on this. These are not suggestions, and The Book is not a one issue book

The message for the democrats is a bit more complicated. To begin with, congratulations. Many of you worked hard; you worked smart, and you worked passionately.

Don't let it go to your head. This has all the earmarks of a Pyrrhic victory. The so called "Blue Wave" gave out long before it reached the shore.

You lost ground in the House. You lost ground in local elections and state houses. You lost at least 5 governors.

Americans don't like socialism, and they don't like being called various forms of "deplorable."

No, you don't have a mandate. The "racist" president got more non-white votes than any republican since 1960. The "hater" got 45% of the votes of gay males.

And if you intend on "reaching out" as Michelle Obama so superciliously suggested, to the millions who saw the great evil of Mr. Trump but voted for him anyway, then you're going to have to stop thinking about your fellow Americans in term that differ from a racial slur only by virtue of the subject matter. One of the most enduringly distasteful thing about elections is the absence of common sense in the rush of idealism. Here's the problem with idealists: Truth, honor, even decency take a back seat to "The Great Cause." You can't reason with an idealist caught up in a partisan cause. The ends justify the means This is particularly damning for democrats right now. When the euphoria wears off, think about how consistently media incorporated worked to suppress dissenting voices and nonwoke opinions. It's OK because republicans suppress votes, right? We'll ignore hard evidence that can indict our candidate because The Cause is more important. (This has been equally true of republicans.) Think about it this way. Cheaters in relationships never stop to consider that the character flaw which allows the cheating partner to betray their relationship will still exist in the new coupling. If corporate media will betray the trust of the Fourth Estate to further the current political cause, what will stop them from betraying you when their agenda is at cross purposes to your own? Finally, for left and right and for all concerned, there's a fundamental fact about humanity that is consistently overlooked. A brief review of history, and especially the history of warfare, should be all you need to confirm this for yourself. It is helpful for understanding why the leaders of nations say one thing but do another, and why politics is a distraction from the true business of running the world. Democracy and our republic, the freedoms we enjoy, the street level reality of all the ideals and platitudes we wave about like flags in a parade, are rare species in the history of humanity. Human rights, equality, diversity, social justice, even legal justice, are empowered by a healthy economy, and a healthy, sustainable economy is only possible when this one condition is met:

Moles and Voles

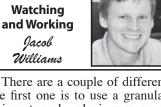
Moles and voles can be very damaging to your yard. They can dig up long tunnels through your yard and make a meal out of the plant roots. The key to treating these issues is figuring out whether you have moles or voles in your yard. Understanding some of the differences between moles and voles is important to decide how to treat them. Technically speaking voles are rodents, but moles are not. Moles are carnivorous animals that eat insects and grubs that they find underground. If you look at a picture of a mole they have very large front feet. They're able to use these big, meaty claws to 'swim' through the soil creating the tunnels in your yard. They are looking for insects to eat in the soil. They won't eat the roots of plants, as those aren't in their diet. Voles are smaller in size than a mole, looking similar to a mouse. The easiest way to tell the difference between a vole and a mouse is that a mouse's tail is about the same length as its body. A vole has a much shorter tail. Voles are herbivores, meaning that they feed on plants. Bulb plants are often a particular favorite of voles. Voles have

much smaller front paws than moles do. This means that voles

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are not nearly as adept at digging tunnels through the ground. Voles will often use tunnels that have been left behind by moles.

Because moles and voles have different diets and behavior they must be



treated differently for control. There are a couple of different methods for mole control. The first one is to use a granular insecticide to get rid of all the insects and grubs in your yard. Once the food source is removed the moles will move on to find a new food source. A second way of removing moles is by placing a trap in their main tunnel. Go out into your yard and tamp down all the tunnels that you can find. Wherever the ground has popped back up the next day is the main tunnel. Repeated trapping may be necessary because a single yard could be host to several moles. Some of the grubs that moles eat, such as earthworms, are a sign of healthy soil. Moles also like moist soil because it is easier for digging. This means that if you do a good job taking care of your garden you will also inadvertently be encouraging moles to tunnel!

Voles can also be trapped. Place a mouse trap with peanut butter near an active site to catch the voles. If you are able to get rid of the moles in your yard oftentimes the voles will also leave because they can't do a good job of digging their own tunnels. If you're unsure if you have voles or moles take a slice of apple and tie a piece of string around it. Place it in the hole and let it sit for a couple of days. When you pull it back out, if the apple is gone you have voles (herbivores), if the apple is still there you have moles (carnivores). If you have questions about vole and mole control please contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@ uga.edu.

Emergency Go Kit for Kids/Pets

Wildfire planning usually is about important things we will take if we have to leave for a natural disaster. Kids need to be prepared too! Bring your parents and talk to school officials to learn about their plans in case of a wildfire or other emergency.



Create an emergency plan with your family, including knowing where to meet if you are separated. Build your own "Go Kit," (a backpack works great) to keep at home. The kit will not only provide comfort during rough times, but it will also allow you to be better prepared to help someone else if they need it. Create a secret password" with your parents—one that only you and they know. In case you are home alone and need a ride, your parents can provide the password to the family friend or neighbor who picks you up. That way, you will know this person can be trusted. Create a second "Go Kit" to keep at school. Before including any items in your backpack for school, make sure to check with the school about any items you may not be allowed to carry on school grounds. Suggested items and actions to take to complete your Go Kit: Fill a small notebook with information about your important contacts. Work and cell phone numbers for your parent(s) or guardian(s), as well as their work address and an alternate contact at their work in case they are away from their phone. Phone numbers of relative(s) who live out of state, in case local cell towers don't work. Addresses and phone numbers of your closest friends. Names/addresses of three safe locations to meet in case you are away from home and school, such as the local library, a friend or neighbor's home, local police station, hospital, or community center. Information about any medical condition you have or medication that you are on and the name and phone number of your doctor. If you wear glasses, the prescription information for them. Phone numbers for neighbors. What to do with Fluffy, Tweety bird, or Ole Blue? Pets are family too and need to have supplies to go with them when we must leave. Simple tools you'll need to start building your pet's evacuation kit: Large bin or tote with a lid. A Sharpie for labeling and marking contents. Notepad for documenting special details and needs. Storing all the information outlined in the following sections on a flash drive will provide access if you're evacuated and unable to take the kit due to limited time. Having a backup flash drive that you provide to a friend or relative, is also a good idea so you have an alternate source if you are unable to take the primary one with you. The following items need to be included in each kit and also stored on your flash drive(s): Pet Vaccination Records: Copies of all current vaccination records for each pet (NOTE: Your pet's most recent rabies registration tag needs to be attached securely to its collar). Medications: Keep a list of all current medicines and their associated doses Your vet's office may also be evacuated or closed during a wildfire, so this information will be important If possible, keep an extra supply of medicines that your pet takes on a regular basis. Ensure each is labeled with the pet's name and a description of that pet. If you have multiple pets, consider enclosing a photo of the pet that needs the medication. Periodically check the expiration dates and replace as needed. Special Needs Documentation: List of each pet's current physical disabilities or illnesses. Special feeding schedule/requirements and feed, Dietary restrictions, Allergies, Copies of Ownership Records: Adoption records, Registration paperwork, Pet health insurance policies. Municipal or county license tags and paperwork and copies of the animal's microchip paperwork. The time to plan for evacuation is now while before an emergency, not when smoke, wind, or flood is headed into your backvard. Be Firewise, be prepared, and be safe! For more information on evacuation plans check out fact sheets at: www.nfpa. org

Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor P.O. 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.

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Contact us at 706-896-4454

Deadline for the Towns **County Herald** is Friday by 5 PM



The availability of cheap and abundant energy.

I'm concerned that too many Americans now believe that coercing the former conjures the latter. It has the opposite effect. I'm also concerned that too many in government believe it can all be paid for by conjuring pixel money which is backed up by nothing but coercive power.

Conservatives have ignored deficit spending during 4 years of Trump all the way back to the Bush Administration, and democrats who ignored Obama's spending will continue to look the other way when their party accelerates that spending. Modern Monetary Theory, in effect, is fatal to free markets. It also gives government, and its host of unelected officials, what must feel like a phenomenal cosmic power to monetize the human condition, and that has never ended well on this itty bitty living space.

Publication No: 635540

Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.

Towns County (1 Year) \$25. Out of County (1 Year) \$35. 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

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Towns County Herald

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