

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Chuck Frisk, USMC

Chuck Frisk was born in Grand Rapids, MI in 1973. After graduating from Boyne City High School, MI in 1991 he attended Marine Corps Recruit Training in San Diego, CA. Upon graduating recruit training, attending Marine Combat Training and the School of Infantry he was stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC. He deployed with 2nd Battalion 2nd Marines to the Mediterranean and ultimately Sarajevo, Yugoslavia in 1992, Okinawa, Japan in 1993, and Cap Haitian, Haiti in 1994. He deployed with 3rd Battalion 6th Marines to Camp X-Ray in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in 1995. Upon his return he transferred back to 2nd Battalion 2nd Marines and deployed to evacuate and reinforce the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia in 1996. In 1997 he reported to Recruiting Station Lansing, MI as a recruiter and then the senior Marine at the Military Entrance Processing Station until his reassignment in 2000 back to Camp Lejeune, NC.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



After returning to Camp Lejeune, NC he deployed with 3rd Battalion 8th Marines to Okinawa, Japan in 2001, re-opened the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2002 and deployed again to Okinawa, Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong and the Philippines in 2003. He then transferred to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force Special Operations Training Group, and was the Lead Instructor in the Marine Corps for all helicopter rope suspension techniques from every U.S. military rotary/tilt wing and aircraft. Assault Element instructor for amphibious raids and the assistant instructor for Urban Assault Climber, Implied Explosives, foreign weapons and Close Quarters Battle. Deployed with a special operations advisor team to Iraq in 2004. While at Marine Corps Special Operations Command he was the Lead Instructor for Survival Escape Resistance and Evasion, Personnel Recovery, Advanced Special Operations, and force protection and assistant instructor for, direct action, unconventional warfare, special reconnaissance, foreign internal defense, counterterrorism, communications, and tactical combat casualty care. After transferring to 1st Battalion 2nd Marines he deployed back to Iraq in 2008 and then again to Afghanistan in 2010. After returning from Afghanistan he became the Senior enlisted operational/tactical advisor at the School of Infantry East.

In 2012 he became the Operations Chief of the United States Africa Command's Special Operations Division in Stuttgart, Germany. He oversaw the synchronization of DoD counterterrorism, special operations missions, programs and initiatives resulting in long-term impacts to regional counterterrorism operations, with the ultimate goal of promoting an environment inhospitable to violent extremism on the continent of Africa.

Upon his retirement as a Master Sergeant in 2015 with almost 25 years of service and 72 medals, ribbons and other personal accolades he, his wife Katie and two boys Hunter and Tanner researched places to move to. Towns County was the obvious choice based upon their needs, wants and desires as a family. Chuck is now the Manager at Hiwassee Hardware.

Semper Fidelis/ Semper Paratus

The long, strange trip through 2016

This morning I got a message from my editor urging me to shake off the turkey hanger and start typing, and so we close out the year with a few comments on our long, strange trip through 2016.

There seems to be a consensus of opinion among many friends and associates that the year soon to be ending is one which we are glad to leave behind. Of course this is opinion and not physics, but I believe we can safely say that most if not all election years befall the mirror of reflection for at least half the population.

The wailing and gnashing of teeth which immediately followed the election has receded somewhat, mitigated perhaps by the gnashing of turkey and dressing during the national season of bacchanalia which begins with Thanksgiving and ends with auld lang syne.

Judging from traffic in and around stores and especially online, the expectation for increased holiday retail sales this year should not be disappointed. We shop when we're happy. We shop when we're sad. We shop less when we're afraid, so at least our fears seem to have diminished just in time for Christmas.

And why should we be afraid? Obama just signed the \$619 billion Defense Authorization bill prepared for us by the lobbyists to our good friends in Congress, ensuring that we will continue to spend more than eight of the next largest military spenders combined: Three times what China spends and about eight times what the evil Russians spend. Buried within the massive (in words as well as dollars) omnibus bill is more good news in the form of the Countering Information Warfare Act of 2016, which give us our very own "Ministry of Truth."

Protected from the Russians by dollars and guided towards the truth by the full force of government, (or as Senator Rob Portman, one of the authors of the bill, put it, "whole-of-government strategies to counter foreign propaganda and disinformation," Americans should feel confident enough to buy that new car or take out another mortgage on the house.

I realize that despite what the polls, those always-accurate and trustworthy representations of public opinion, tell us about the new optimism in America, there are many who, disappointed by the election, are still fearful. We should comfort them. Things may look very different on the surface when considering a new Trump Administration, but all indications are that the important things will remain the same. Goldman Sachs and the big banks will be fully represented. George Soros will be represented. Even Henry Kissinger (Richard Nixon's Secretary of State and Hillary's friend) is warming up to Trump. Corporations are people too, and their voices will not be muted in the new regime. Like the old song says, "Meet the new boss. Same as the old boss."

As another year draws to a close and we find ourselves looking back, I wonder how accurate our reflections are, even in the most highly polished of mirrors. As we get older we tend to look behind us with longing for better times during halcyon days.

I think we forget to factor in that much of that happy memory occurred when we were children, and knew little of the world at large. While Wally and the Beaver explored the sidewalks of Mayfield, June and Ward worried about nuclear annihilation. We never got to see the bomb shelter in the Cleaver's back yard.

But we were not annihilated. We survived the Cold War. We survived the turbulent sixties while our children played, blissfully unaware of the social upheaval which threatened to tear the country apart.

Today our children play, somewhat better informed because of the Internet, but still unburdened by the things that keep their parents awake at night. This is the job of children, and it is our job to provide a safe space for them to play.

Maybe that is our problem today. Too many of us are reluctant to grow up. We want that "safe space" to continue long past childhood, and if our parents are no longer around to provide it, we are willing for the government to take their places.

I have a friend who has a unique ability to sum up great truths very succinctly. A veteran not only of war, but of numerous "adventures" and their consequences, he recently said, "People worry more about the [expletive deleted] they make up inside their head than the roof over their head, but if that roof ain't leaking, they need to learn to be happy with that.

We agree. Our roof is not leaking. We have leftover turkey. We have friends and neighbors who like us some, and who are willing to pull together when times get tough. Our house did not burn up, and sweet rain is falling from heaven. We are content.

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: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiwassee, 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.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Poinsettia Care

The most popular flowering plant sold in the United States every year is the poinsettia. Though we mostly see these beautiful red, white or pink flowers around the holidays, they can actually make great houseplants year round!

Poinsettias were first introduced in the United States in 1828. Native to Mexico, the original wild poinsettia was much different form the large bush-like decorations we see today. The brightly colored foliage that are often considered flowers are actually brightly colored leaves called bracts. These bracts have evolved their bright coloration to attract pollinators to the true flowers, which are the small yellow bulbs in the center of the stalk. Poinsettias do not have any true petals.

Plants are available in a wide range of colors such as pink, marbled, speckled, yellow and even peach. The most popular, of course, are the red varieties, such as Prestige. If you want to try to keep your poinsettia as a house plant after the holidays, it is important to select a healthy one. Look for plants with fully matured and brightly colored bracts and rich green foliage all the way down the stems. Make sure the plant is balanced with each stalk growing uniformly. Finally, choose poinsettias whose yellow flowers in the center have not quite opened. This will ensure the bright foliage to last through the holidays.

After the holidays, poinsettias can still add beauty to your home. Place your plant in an area that has about six to eight hours of indirect sunlight each day. These plants do not do well in the sun and too much direct sunlight can bleach out their beautiful foliage. Poinsettias are extremely temperature sensitive and should not be placed near drafts or doorways that open outside. Try to avoid placing them near heating vents as well. Poinsettias hate extreme heat just as much as they hate extreme cold. They should never be exposed to temperatures below fifty degrees or above seventy degrees. Make sure the soil is consistently moist. Never let the potting mixture completely dry out, but do not let it sit in standing water either. Never fertilize a poinsettia that is in bloom.

When the bracts fade in March or April, cut the plant back to about eight inches. Keep it near a window with plenty of sunlight and water regularly. Only take the plant outdoors once nighttime temperatures are consistently above fifty degrees. Fertilize the plant about every two or three weeks during spring, summer and fall. A well balanced 10-10-10 mix provides plenty of nutrition. In June, transplant the poinsettia into a pot about two to four inches larger than its original container, depending on how much it has grown. The more organic matter contained in your potting mix, the happier your poinsettia will be!

Getting a poinsettia to reflower is no easy task. These plants have strict light requirements for them to form the yellow flowers and colored bracts. In the first week of October, the plant needs complete darkness for fourteen hours every night. You can move the plant into an area of the house that gets no light, or put a box over it. The plant also needs about six or seven hours of bright sunlight each day. Though this seems demanding, after eight to ten weeks, you should see colored bracts start to grow and the plant will fully come into bloom once again in November and December.

UGA extension
From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee



Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

What is wrong with Young Harris College leaders for trying to turn our beautiful Young Harris mountain sanctuary into a concrete and steel high-rise jungle and for what?—a view polluting, eye-sore, five story high, off-campus student housing? The attempt to change zoning ordinances in favor of a greedy, cost saving, zoning-developers-dream ordinance that breaks the existing two story limit must be defeated. And for what? So a bunch of pampered transient college students can have high-rise temporary (for them) housing for a transient student body, many of which escaped the urban concrete and asphalt urban jungles to enjoy a relatively rural peace and quiet of environmentally friendly living in the Northeast Georgia mountains.

Thanks goes to Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall for standing up to campus officials backed by big money endowed attempts to ramrod this unwanted high-rise development. We the tax paying citizens must stand together to preserve the wonderful gifts nature bestowed; we must, in turn bequeath these gifts to our children.

Sincerely,
 Lance Jobson

To the Editor:

City Manager

It never ceases to amaze me the difference between the workings of government and that of private business. As an example a motion taken by the city of Hiwassee at their last city council meeting. In a private business the matter is simple, the individual is released, desk and/or office cleaned out, a severance issued and the person is out the door. However, to the contrary, the city Mayor demonstrated the inefficiency of the government's workings. The individual is released by majority vote and is continued to be employed till the end of January, exactly eight weeks. The words amazing and incredible do not do justice to this decision. Totally unheard of in the private world. The individual then proceeds to make threats against the three council members who constituted the majority, which to my lack of proper legal knowledge I interpret as being illegal and/or criminal, or at the very least leaving himself open to suit.

In the business world they know that the individual will no longer be productive henceforth. Contrary to the public world they seem to believe that the individual will cheerfully continue to come to work with a smile every morning that he has left, and give his full attention to matters that no longer concern him or that he should even be involved in.

The decision for his remaining is said to be the Mayor's which of course would give the Mayor, who was actually elected to do the work of a City Manager, extra time to do whatever it is she does, which is not what she was elected to do if there is a need to hire a City Manager. Which actually comes at no small cost to the city taxpayers and those in the county who receive services from the city. I know my water bill has gone up approximately 50% since the hiring of the City Manager, I presume to help cover the exorbitant salary.

During a few weak moments I have thought of delving deeper into the workings of the city, but fortunately quickly come to my senses as I realize I may end up spending the rest of my life in an institution due to the shock of realizing the difference from running my business for over 40 years.

Let us hope that the council comes to its senses and follows the majority of the country's recent choice in deciding to run the government like a business and not a useless bureaucracy.

John Fitzgerald



Towns County Community Calendar

Bingo	Every Monday: Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday Red Cross Building	7 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Thursday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Bridge Players	Every Friday: Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Mtn. Amat. Radio	First Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	First Tuesday of each month: McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	5:30 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
Quilting Bee	First Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge	First Thursday of each month: Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg	Third Thursday of each month: Courthouse	5:30 pm
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 pm
Goldwing Riders	Third Saturday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
Red Cross DAT	Fourth Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Fourth Tuesday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Republican Party	Fourth Thursday of each month: New Senior Ctr.	6:30 pm
Square Dance Club	Fourth Friday of each month: Rec. Center	7 pm

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