

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

In my recent Letter to The Editor, you added an Editor's note "Hiawassee City Hall Records indicate that Janet Allen recused herself from any vote on the sale of the old city hall. The City also maintains that its charter allows it to sell municipal property."

Your statements imply the information I presented was either wrong at the worst, or less than correct at best. Let me correct that implication.

I would like to see the "City Hall records" documenting Ms. Allen's recusal and the discussion concerning the sale of the old city hall. The copies of City Council Meeting minutes I have are devoid of any details of discussions or records of personal Council Members votes or comments on any issue.

GMA ethics rules and guidelines, as submitted, are also very clear on Councilmember's ethical behavior. The "donation", regardless of the good intentions, is of no consequence. She nullified her recusal and actually voted with the rest of the Council by selling the old city hall.

Yes. The city charter does provide for the sale of property owned by the city... however... the state law very clearly prescribes on exactly how that property may be sold. That is not how it was done. The City Charter can not and does not over rule state law.

Since the old city hall was not sold in the manner prescribed by state law, is it a legal and binding sale?

Fellow taxpayers; what do you think? Please attend your Council Meetings.

*John L. Holmes
Taxpayer
Property owner
Hiawassee resident*



**RARE KIDS;
WELL DONE**
By Don Jacobsen

Q: I hate to admit this but I am about as exasperated as it's possible for a sane person to get. For the past year or so our 4-year old has been acting like he's completely deaf, although I've had his ears checked by his pediatrician. Every time I give him instructions he acts like he didn't hear me and goes right on doing what he was doing. I tell him over and over again but he totally ignores me. It's not until I raise my voice - I mean really raise my voice - that I can get him to move. Sometimes I just want to advertise him on eBay.

A: Don't put him on eBay; you'd want him back before the day was over. We've had moms try that before. Let me make some observations, then some suggestions. First, ignoring instructions is a learned skill. He has discovered that he can ignore you without penalty until your voice reaches a certain pitch. He knows when you are reaching that pitch. When he hears it he knows that "ignore mom" time is over, and "better do what mom says" time is here. It's actually a little game he has figured out. You have to admit it's pretty clever. Incidentally, a good leader never has to raise their voice. They only have to claim the authority that is theirs.

Second, since he's four you're a bit behind the curve in helping him understand where leadership resides in this family. You are the leader, he is

the led. You make the rules, he carries them out. You can help him unlearn the bad habits and learn new ones. Here's how.

Let me script it: "Andy, daddy/mom and I are making some new rules for our family. Sometimes when we tell you to do something you go right on playing like you didn't hear us. The new rule is that whenever we tell you to do something we want you to say, 'OK, mom,' then stop what you are doing and do as we tell you. Immediately. We will only tell you once." (Mom, you could even do some role playing if you wish at this point. Give him a toy, then ask him to put it in the toy box and go to the other room. Commend him for doing it immediately. If he doesn't, take his hand and illustrate what you mean.)

Continue: "That was wonderful. That's the way we want you to do it every time we tell you to do something." If he forgets, let there be a consequence he doesn't like, such as loss of a privilege, he can't watch his favorite cartoon, he goes to bed right after supper. Something like that. No exceptions here. It may take a couple of weeks to establish a permanent memory, but he can re-learn who's in charge. He probably wouldn't have brought much on eBay anyway.

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

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

I was chatting with a group of young people in a coffee shop recently and one of the more vocal males in the group, frustrated with politics in America and life in general, was extolling the virtues of anarchy. So I took his cell phone and put it in my pocket. "This is anarchy," I said.

"But what if we were communists?" Another member of the group joked.

"Then I would take all your cell phones and give you back the oldest one to be shared equally, although some of you would be more 'equal' than the others."

"I think our government is fascist," said one of the young ladies. "What then?"

"If we were fascist I would take all the cell phones, although they would be so expensive that only a few of you would have them, paint a flag on each one and then give them only to the people with blue eyes."

"My dad claims that pure capitalism is the best system," said another voice. "Where would our phones be then?"

I had to think for a moment before answering. "If we were pure capitalists, I think everyone would have a phone from a different company. They might be somewhat more advanced than the phones we have now, but then they might also be on different networks and unable to communicate with each other."

"Can I have my phone back?" the first young man asked. "I think I'm OK with the system we have right now. What would you call that?"

"Some would call it 'crony capitalism,' which is a form of capitalism where

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.

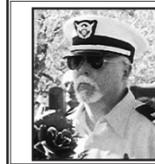
successful companies pay elected officials to create laws and regulations which favor them over other companies. Of course they are competing with other companies that have their own 'employees' in the government."

"If that is true then in time there wouldn't really be any difference between government and the biggest companies with the most money," one young lady observed. "Isn't that an oligarchy?"

"Right," said another, "and that eventually becomes fascism, and then the economy crashes, which leads to dictatorship, which brings on a revolution and then we start all over again."

"You have just graduated from the coffee shop school of economics and here is your diploma!" I said, handing her a bagel. We all laughed and the conversation drifted on to more mundane topics.

One by one the young people left the café to go about their business until finally I was left alone, content in the knowledge that there are young people in the up and coming generation who are intelligent and concerned with the important issues facing the nation. It was then that I noticed that I had been stuck with the tab. Apparently I had just spent the afternoon with a group of democrats.



The Veterans' Corner

By
Scott Drummond,
USCG Veteran

USAF/Korean War

Volunteer: Vincent Walter Miller

Vince was born April 10, 1932, Indian Head, MD and grew up farming. Tobacco, wheat and corn made up lots of Vince's life when he wasn't playing his trombone for Lackey High School, graduating in 1951. Working at the Naval Propellant Plant, in Indian Head lasted until June 1952 when Vince enlisted in the still transitional USAF, hoping to help our efforts in Korea.

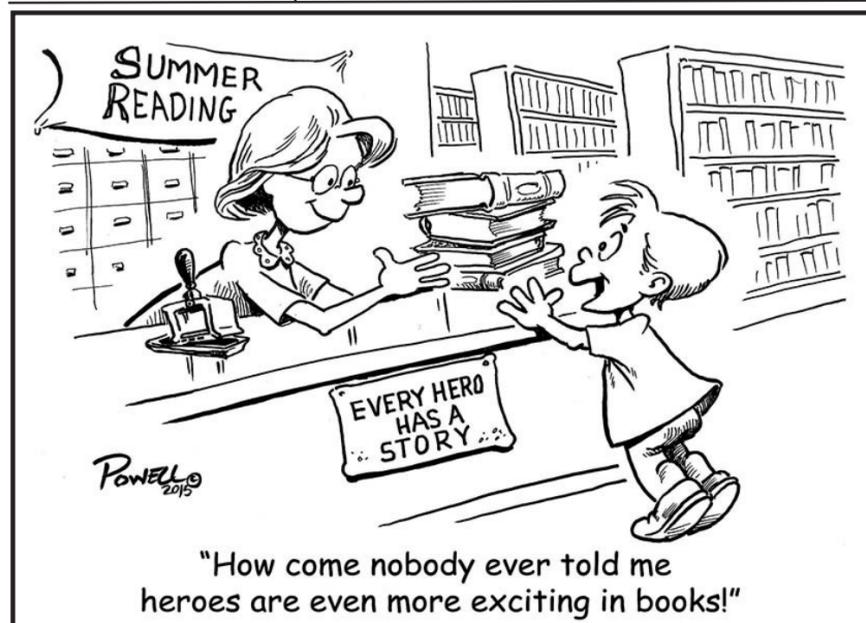
Boot Camp was in Cheyenne, WY where he was pleased to learn that he wouldn't have to live in one of the hundreds of tents, but would be in the new six week boot camp housed in new barracks. He was assigned to the 34 50th training squad (communications) and had already won the "Expert Marksman Rifleman" badge, then still issued by the US Army to AF trainees. Vince was also well versed in certain martial arts disciplines. Tragically on Vince's last day of advanced training, 24 hours before shipping out to Korea, Vince fell from the top of a 50 foot telephone pole and permanently injured his back. He spent one full year in the military hospital in Cheyenne where the AF doctors told him he would never walk again. They didn't know his grit, as he refused to stay down. He also suffered a bout of MS which unexplainably went away. He was then transferred to Denver, CO on light duty and after doing his duty, waiting orders, the base Colonel called him in, gave him "72 hours to get out of that uniform" and an Honorable Discharge.

On his cane, Vince, again back in Indian Head, worked at the Naval Propellant Plant and drove a taxi amounting to many 14 hour days. Living in Clinton (Surratt), MD, Vince and his wife had two sons, Matt and Mark. Sadly his first wife passed. Vince went to work for USPHS, attached to HEW and met his wife Charlotte, married in 1980. Three heart attacks in two weeks led to his decision to retire. Vince attributes the heart attacks to his permanently damaged spinal cord and less than perfect legs. He and Charlotte moved on to Val Rico, FL until 1993, then to Murphy, NC where Vince received awards as head of WNC Community Development and assisted the Sheriff's Department with acquiring much needed emergency equipment for their patrol cars. From there to Young Harris, GA and now in Hiawassee. Vince is active at Macedonia Baptist Church, several veteran committees and our American Legion. He was awarded the Quilt of Honor last year and just got back from the Honor Flight where he was guided in his wheelchair in and around the War Memorials and Washington, DC.

Vince was very positive when asked would he enlist again. "Sure!" "For love of family, Flag and Country!" "There's a good reason for all that happened." "I am fortunate."

All who know and have worked with Vince are fortunate, too. For men like Vince, America is fortunate.

Semper Paratus



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 Tuesday 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 Commissioners 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 Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Stevens 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.
Chautage Regional 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 PM at the Shrine Club, Industrial Blvd., Blairsville.
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 Al 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.
Towns Coin Club meets the 2nd Monday 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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