

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

My husband and I attended the EMC meeting Saturday, September 12th. When the time came for the members to ask questions, I thought the questions were excellent. Unfortunately, the answers we received from Mr. Larry Sorgen were quite evasive. Actually, I thought he would make a great politician.

It seems that we don't have a right to know how much the severance package for our resigning manager was as it is "personal information". I thought asking how much his house cost would be considered personal information, not something that our co-op proposed and voted in favor.

When asked who proposed giving the resigning manager a severance package or whatever the EMC wants to call it, we were told we were not entitled to this information. If we don't know how our board votes on issues how can we intelligently vote? I happen to know it was Mr. Jenkins who proposed the severance package. I know it was not a unanimous vote so I would like to know those who supported this. We voted for Mr. Jenkins hoping for someone who would make decisions in favor of the membership, not their cronies.

Hopefully, these new board members will be more open and maybe we can have the minutes printed on the EMC's website so we members can actually know what the EMC is doing for us.

Marcia Schultz

Dear Editor,

I was wondering if they are planning on having the Halloween on the Square festivities again this year?

Personally, I think they should have it one night through the week before Halloween, except Wednesday night (church) and Thursday night (Youth Football practice) and leave Saturday night (Halloween Night) open for them to go house to house like people use to!

We took our grandsons last year after we got finished with the square festivities and they loved it so much better and got way more and better stuff too.

Let the kids enjoy "olden times" for once.

Many of them didn't even know how to say "Trick-or-Treat" last year on the square and didn't even know much what it was.

Shame almost old fashioned ways have come to an end.

*Thank You,
Blessings,
D. Barnes*

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

So, Sean gets to school on the school bus Monday morning. But, bummer, he forgot his homework assignment – or his lunch – or his backpack. Or something. No problem; call mom and she'll bring it, right?

Sorry. Displayed prominently in the entrance to the school is this sign: "Attention students and parents. We do not accept items for drop-off such as lunches, backpacks, homework, or sports equipment. Please plan accordingly." Whoa. What's this about?

Well, the faculty at Easyville High School (I won't identify the school since that might sound like I was advertising for them, but it's a true story) has taken the position that high school students ought to be responsible. That is, the high school years comprise that period of life when responsibility needs to develop. They want to help. So, bring what you need for the day or go without it. Kind of like life.

I also like some of the things the school says about its goals: "Easyville High School is committed to the development of the 21st century student by providing rigorous courses that foster intellectual curiosity. It is also committed to the students' personal development by utilizing curriculum that will focus on individual character... Individuals will demonstrate personal integrity, the highest standards of behavior, and initiative in their education."

Amazing. I like it. It seems like one of those wonderful settings where the school and the family are in cahoots in seeking the best interest of the student and of the community. Years ago when I was teaching at a university in Michigan I came across this statement that helped to shape my goals in the classroom: "To educate the head and not the heart only increases the capacity of the scholar to do evil." Education is not just about information; education is preparation for life. I'm convinced Easyville High is on to something.

Not surprisingly, there has been push back from some of the parents in Easyville. We probably should expect that in today's environment. But not many of the kids fuss about it. They understand. When asked how he felt about the rule, one junior student replied, "Well, it's kind of a bother, but it's probably a good rule. I don't want to show up at work some day to build a house and forget my hammer." I think he gets it.

-Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net

OWN A BUSINESS? NEED TO ADVERTISE?

**Contact the
Towns County Herald
706-896-4454**

Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

KENNETH WEST.....PUBLISHER

CHARLES DUNCAN.....EDITOR, ADVERTISING

SHAWN HENRIKSON.....COPY EDITOR

SHAWN JARRARD.....STAFF WRITER

MASON MITCHAM.....STAFF WRITER

JOE COLLINS.....ADVERTISING SALES

LOWELL NICHOLSON.NEWS, SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER

OFFICE LOCATED AT 518 N. MAIN ST. SUITE 7

"THE MALL" HIAWASSEE (706) 896-4454

Publication Number 635540. 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.

EMAIL Address: tcherald@windstream.net

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to:

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

P.O. BOX 365 HIAWASSEE, GEORGIA 30546

DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS COPY & ADVERTISING

Fridays at 5 PM

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

TOWNS COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$20

OUT OF COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$30

The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All subscriptions must be paid in advance.

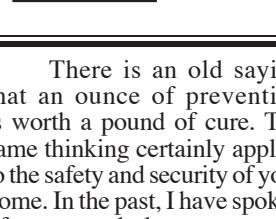
The Middle Path

by Don Perry

I'm writing this, so it would seem, during the fourth consecutive lunar eclipse of the Blood Moon Tetrad which has occupied headlines and imaginations in recent months. I'll have to take it on faith, from NASA and the live feed from Space.com that the eclipse is actually happening as advertised. The moon tonight is hidden behind clouds and drizzling rain. Civilization, such as it is, has not ended, at least it hasn't at the time of this writing, and if you are reading these words, chances are that civilization may endure a bit longer yet.

If my dad had lived to enjoy his 91st birthday today, I would probably be with him now, watching a baseball game instead of the moon. He was the second of my parents to go on ahead, joining my mother a few lonesome years after her own passing. Losing one parent in no way prepares or hardens you to lose the other. You relive the first loss while adding new grief for the second, and a third emp-

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

There is an old saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The same thinking certainly applies to the safety and security of your home. In the past, I have spoken of ways to help protect you from becoming the victim of a burglary. While these crimes have declined 74% in Towns County over the last eight years, I still believe that we can make an even bigger difference by increasing awareness.

The following are some ideas of ways to protect your home or business from burglary. These ideas are available from a number of sources including the National Sheriffs' Association, Council on Burglary Prevention, Georgia Secretary of State, etc. They are offered in the spirit of helping you remain safe.

1. Always remember to keep your doors and windows securely locked. Burglars, like most criminals, often commit crimes of opportunity. If you make your home an easy target, then you may be asking for trouble. It is always best for doors to be secured with a deadbolt lock that has a one inch throw and has the strike plate reinforced using three inch screws.

2. Sliding glass doors should be secured by placing a metal or wooden rod in the track.

3. If you have an attached garage you should always lock any door leading into your home. Never rely on an automatic garage door opener to be secure. Often, burglars will ride through an area with an automatic garage door opener to see if they can open a garage door on the same frequency.

4. When you are away from home, you can create the illusion that someone is home by placing lights, televisions, or radios on timers and having them turn on and off at different times.

5. It is a good idea to keep the perimeter of your home well lit. The last thing that a criminal wants is a witness. A well-lit perimeter can be an excellent deterrent.

6. If you are going to be away on a trip, it is a good idea to have a trusted friend, family member, or neighbor pick up mail and other packages while you are away. Having a full mailbox and packages lying around tells a burglar that you must be away for a while.

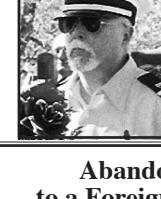
7. Consider having a friend or neighbor house sit or leave a vehicle in your drive to suggest someone is home.

8. Never leave a message on your home voicemail telling people you are away and when you will return. This is just letting people know that your home is vulnerable and for how long.

9. Consider taking advantage of the extra patrols offered by the sheriff's office. They can be submitted in person at the sheriff's office, by calling 706-896-4444, or by going online at www.townsheriff.com.

The Veterans' Corner

*By
Scott Drummond,
USCG Veteran*



Abandoned to a Foreign Army!

Harold Bailey, born October 10, 1928 in Decatur, GA to a large family of five boys and two girls, had to forgo high school in order to work on the family's 24 acre farm. Aged 16 in 1945 he went to work for DeKalb County driving trucks, heavy equipment for \$34 monthly. In 1948 went to work as a fireman for DeKalb FD at a pay raise to \$115.

Drafted in 1952 and assigned to the Quartermaster Corps, then "hand-picked", was transferred to California only to board a troop ship for Japan, then to South Korea and boarded one of those tiny passenger trains in January, 1953 where he nearly "froze to death". Ending up in 25th Infantry division quartermasters. The buck private was sent to the Turkish Brigade, in order to "train" them in the use of common field equipment. Supposed to be there only a month, the Turks refused to co-operate and his interpreter told him he'd just have to stay! Private Bailey learned they were mean, too!

Turks soon moved to the front and forced Harold to go with them. Once he heard an incoming mortar, "singing the blues" coming right at his position, he went to dirt right in front of the round which, praise be, was a dud! A year later a division lieutenant shows up, looking for missing Americans, didn't recognize Harold, dressed and looking like a Turk, beard and all. Harold spoke, the puzzled Lieutenant asked him who he was, turned over a replacement quartermaster to the Turks and

took a thrilled private back to headquarters. The Chinese or North Koreans didn't get him, the Turks did!

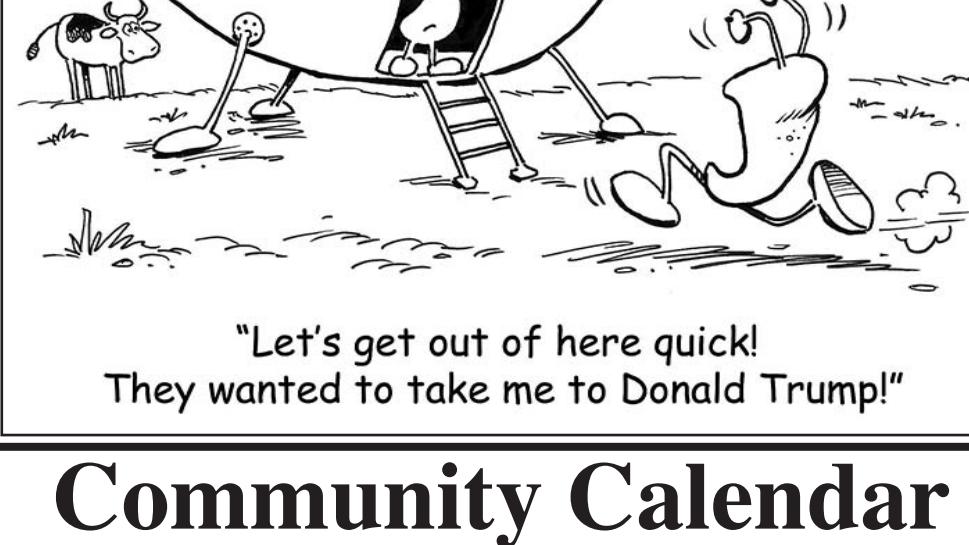
His Captain didn't know him, ordered him to clean up, shave, and put on a clean uniform and report back. Harold was promoted to corporal, told the CO, "I don't want it, after what I've been through." Threw the stripes back on his desk, the CO immediately promoted him to sergeant and finished his tour in charge of 25th Division.

Discharged 1954, Harold went back to DeKalb County FD and after 37 years having earned his way up through the ranks, retiring 1982 as Battalion Chief. His craziest job as a firefighter was rescuing a lady from a drunken monkey. Berserk after consuming whiskey, the simian was destroying her home and library. The fearless fireman was able to subdue the monkey and secure it with its chain. Harold's largest conquest was the infamous tank farm fire, Doraville, GA, a million gallon gasoline tank engulfed in flames, several trucks burned, requiring a three day long fire fight, and all available fire agencies involved.

Harold and his wife, Hazel bought their home here in Hiawassee, in 1985, moved permanently in 1997. Hazel passed on in 2002 after a long illness, but she "loved it here, was never going back". Harold now attends McConnell Baptist Church.

Yes, he said he'd do it all again!

Semper Paratus



**"Let's get out of here quick!
They wanted to take me to Donald Trump!"**

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 Thursday 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 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at new Senior Center. Newcomers welcome. Questions please contact the T.C. Dem's at Townscountydemocrats@gmail.com.

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 at 4 p.m. at City Hall.

Young Harris City Council

1st Tuesday of month at 7 p.m., Young Harris City Hall.

The Unicoi Masonic Lodge #259

meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Stephens 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 & Crafts Guild

meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Calvary Chapel on Hwy. 76 in Hiawassee. All local artists and crafters are welcome, for information call 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.

Chattohoochee-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)