

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 devel-

opment 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](mailto:DrDon@RareKids.net)

## 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, trusting 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 em-

ptiness for the loss of the family unit as well. It is an eclipse of the heart.

But after an eclipse the moon emerges from darkness to become bright again, reaching its full brilliance for only a brief moment before diminishing a little each night until the last sliver of light disappears, only to reappear in this cycle as old as time. It reminds us that life itself is cyclical, seasonal, and ever changing. After the light, the darkness. After the darkness, the light. So it is with our lives as well as our civilizations, and while this one did not end as predicted by some, there is no doubt that one day it will. Every life will be eclipsed by loss from time to time and every civilization will be eclipsed by change, and on occasion even the grandest celestial events can be obscured by a few clouds. This, too, is instructive, for as we grieve for the past or dread the future, it is all too easy to allow the time we have now to pass by unnoticed.

**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](http://www.townsheriff.com).

10. Always keep shrubbery trimmed back away from windows and doorways. While these may look attractive they can offer easy hiding places for burglars to break in undetected.

11. Possibly one of the most important steps to keeping your home safe is to organize a Neighborhood Watch program. I am convinced of this fact: if every community in our county had an organized and alert Neighborhood Watch, it would be nearly impossible for burglars to commit an undetected crime.

For more information on starting a Neighborhood Watch program in your neighborhood, contact the sheriff's office at 706-896-4444.

**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 truck brigade 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!

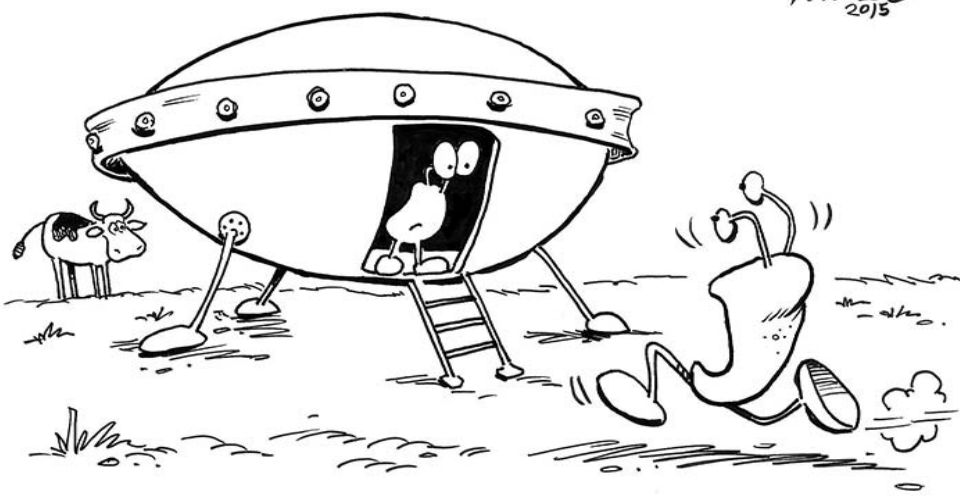
His Captain didn't know him, ordered him to clean up, shave, and put on a clean uniform and report back. Harold was promoted to corporal, told the CO, "I don't want it, after what I've been through." Threw the stripes back on his desk, the CO immediately promoted him to sergeant and finished his tour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



POWELL  
2015

**"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 5 p.m. at new Senior Center. Newcomers welcome. Questions please contact the T.C. Dem's at [Townscountydemocrats@gmail.com](mailto: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 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.

**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ngatu692.com).

**Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)** meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call Gary at 706-896-4308 or visit [www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountain](http://www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountain).

**Alcoholics Anonymous**: meets every Friday and Sunday evening at 7 at Red Cross Building at 1293 Jack Dayton Circle. 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.

**Chatuge Regional Hospital 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](http://www.shootingcreekbasketweavers.com).

**ketweavers.com.**

**Friendship Community Club** meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76. 706-896-3637.

**Golfing 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). 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.

**Mountain Coin Club** meets the 2nd Tuesday 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.

**Towns County Lions Club** meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, 273 Big Sky Drive, Hiawassee.

## OWN A BUSINESS? NEED TO ADVERTISE?

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

## Towns County Herald

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