

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Military Town

I'm passing this along as forwarded by our American Legion Post #23 Commander, John Harkins. Kudos to John for his continued service to our community and America. John knows that we are blessed to live in Towns County, along with many Veterans.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



Eglin Joint Base Command located near Ft. Walton, FL, is presently the largest Military Complex in the world and encompasses a large contingent of Air Force units, Naval Warfare units, and the 7th Army Special Forces and 6th Army Rangers. My home is exactly 5 miles outside the main gate of Eglin AFB.

Most folks in the USA don't live in a Military Town, with lots of guys in uniform walking the streets and jets overhead daily. They go on with their lives unaware of what a Military Town is all about. And that's OK, but I want to share with you what it's like to live in a Military Town. We see guys in uniform all the time; we have state of the art, high-performance aircraft in the air nearby all day long. We hear the sound of freedom when an F-22 or F-35 streaks over the house and we read in the local paper, some times daily, but at least weekly, of the loss of one of our own in combat in the Middle East.

Staff Sergeant Mark DeAlencar was 37 years old, had a family and was a Green Beret with the 7th Army Special Forces stationed here in the Fort Walton area. He was killed on April 8, 2017, while fighting Islamic State in eastern Afghanistan. In January of this year, he was deployed for the second time to Afghanistan. He promised his adopted daughter, Octavia, that he would be home for her High School Graduation. He didn't make it. But she went to graduation anyway. And in the end were eighty (80) US 7th Armed Special Forces soldiers from her dad's unit in full Parade Dress Uniform. Additionally, they brought their families to be with them, as well.

And as Octavia ascended to the steps to receive her diploma they all silently stood up. And when she was presented her diploma they all cheered, clapped, whistled... and yes, cried. Octavia in attendance then stood up and cried and cheered. Everyone had graduated and yes she had lost her Dad but she had 80 other dads to stand there with her and take his place. I just wanted to share this moment with you and remind you that this is what it's like to live in a military town. This is the real America we all love and I'm proud to be part of it. May God bless our men in uniform and their families who give so much.

We are blessed to live in Towns County, along with many who served in many ways.

Semper Paratus

The Value of Advice

Everyone has a right to an opinion, but nobody is entitled to one. Opinions are worthless unless formed by reason and informed by fact. A worthwhile opinion takes effort. This is one of the reasons why we rarely give advice. Advice is usually an unwelcome visitor, and even when invited, it is expected to be an agreeable guest. People who ask for advice are usually hoping instead for validation.

Recently, however, someone did ask me for advice, and since it seemed a sincere request on a subject that was well researched, I decided to comply. The question was a very old one that has been researched for millennia but never fully answered. The question was, "How do I find my perfect mate?"

That's not a direct quote, but it contains the essence of the actual question I heard, and I hope that you laughed as much when you read it as I did when I heard it.

Nevertheless, the question has value, and I don't mean the value of the profits made by online dating services that claim to be able to answer it.

Let's get right to it, and we'll begin by addressing the conventional wisdom of popular culture, which often conflates passion and codependency into a Top 40 simulacrum of "love." These relationships have their value and all are worthwhile if only to spark the twinkle in an old man's eye. Sometimes we need know our extremes to find our balance.

But popular culture offers little that is useful for finding that long term, self sustaining relationship.

We hear a lot about "chemistry" when we talk about relationships, and a chemical attraction is an important component. But chemistry also offers an excellent metaphor for the philosophically minded.

Chemical bonds are primarily of two types: ionic and covalent. In an ionic bond, one side of the pair has a positive charge and the other a negative. One gains an electron and one loses. "Opposites attract," says popular culture. "He completes me," croons the singer. Think of salt when you think of ionic bonding. Salt is easily dissolved in water, and ionic bonding is the weakest of chemical bonds.

In a covalent bond, two neutral atoms begin to share electrons. The shared electrons form a new orbit that extends around the nuclei of both atoms, and a new molecule is produced. Carbon forms covalent bonds when a diamond is produced. "Like attracts like and repels unlike" says ancient wisdom. In popular culture, perhaps only a Sheldon Cooper would write a love note composed of chemical equations, but you can see what we're driving at. The relationships that don't last have their value, but they are destined to dissolve by virtue of their codependency.

The strongest relationships are covalent. We meet the best people when we are satisfied with our own company; when our actions are not compelled by need.

Experience, however, compels me to say that this advice, while useful, will rarely if ever be taken. It may only be useful in retrospect.

An elderly friend of mine, while not a chemist, was a very wise man who gave me essentially the same advice, but in a practical application. He said, "Do the things that you love to do, and that's where you'll meet the people you're supposed to meet." In my own life this bit of wisdom has proven it's worth again and again.

"Do the things you love and that's how you'll meet the people you're supposed to meet," I told my young friend. His reply was, "But I love to stay home and read."

Well, we haven't exactly solved the challenge of finding the perfect relationship, but perhaps we have demonstrated the value of advice.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Journey Down Inane Lane

Night time is the right time to be with the one you love. I know this to be true because I heard it in a love song. Can't be wrong. In the wee small hours of the morning Frank Sinatra lamented a lost love who descended a staircase formed of smoke from a low burning cigarette (unfiltered, I'm sure). Night time may be the right time for the one I love and I hope he has a grand time.

Like an old cow I head to the barn when the sun goes down. I'm talking real time, not daylight savings. Those wee small a.m. hours belong to me. At 4 o'clock in the morning the world is all mine. Auto pilot kicks in and I get to thinking with no filter or sensor. It is bliss. Last week I slept until 6 a.m. It scared me. I thought I was going sane.

Here's a quick trivia question for you. Who played Lurch's mother on The Addams Family? Give up? Azalea and Lurch were sort of introduced in the maiden column of Dishin' Dirt. These garden machines are for go, not show. It was pointed out by She Whose Name Must Not Be Mentioned that Azalea is female and Lurch is male. I knew right then and there we would get along.

We hang in the same fruit bat cave, but I did wonder just where on the under carriage to look to determine that gender fact. Lurch is used for hauling. Sometimes for taking limbs and leaves corralled to manageability by the Hammies, to the debris pile after a mountain storm. "He" is called into service when the vast mulching tasks are due in The Garden. His looks are deceptive. Kind of like a skinny boy in a hotdog eating contest. How in the world can he be so small and hold so much? Square and bulky, nicked and battered, Lurch does his jobs. "You rang?"

Miss Azalea is not only female, she's a lady. She is needed to ensure that people who love gardens but can't navigate uneven terrain can still enjoy Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge. In her former life she was a real golf cart. If she can motor short-tempered divas or gentleman golfers such as was Arnold Palmer, she can handle anyone. Sometimes Hammies call on Azalea to get from one point to the next when speed is a need. Azalea is compact and sturdy, and trust me on this, has big, flirty eyes. O.K. they're head lights but don't be so literal.

Lurch and Azalea are necessary members of Hamilton Gardens. They keep going even when their tail pipes drag.

If you think it odd to attribute human characteristics to machines, remember that Walt Disney created an entire movie franchise, Cars, and made a dump truck full of money.

* Ellen Corby of The Waltons fame.

Dishin' Dirt
 Dale Harmon



Letters to The Editor

In Response to: What will Hiwassee's Legacy be?

Dear Editor,

Whereas the resolution presented to the Hiwassee City Council is a total scare tactic.

Remember our past Vice President Al Gore. Yelled about our carbon footprint but had one of the largest in Tenn. Moved to Calif and had an even larger one. He got rich peddling B S about climate change, founded a TV station and sold it to an Islamic group for more millions.

The council cannot protect the citizens of Hiwassee or Towns County from any of the resolved items.

Any action would be like a rain drop in a full blown hurricane.

The letter writer's citing of polio and other drugs is another scare tactic.

My scare tactic is why are so many children getting sick from the mercury in the children's required shots. Why do we have a drug epidemic? These are more important than worrying about the climate changes.

We cannot control mother Earth or God's given weather.

Facts: The plastic island referenced by some has been blamed on China, India and Africa. The USA is believed to have contributed less than one tenth of a percent to this pollution.

Facts: In reference to the carbon deluge, stated by the letter writer (a Young Harris resident) the USA is listed as being in the 85th position of industrialized nations. Mongolia #1; Afghanistan #2; Nepal, China and India are in the top 20 list of polluters.

Global Climate changes since 1884 to 2017 according to NASA/GISS/Climate Research Unit and NOAA the temperature has increased by 1.3 to 1.9 degrees and average of 0.09 a year.

The USA temperature since 1970, NASA/NOAA/GISS has averaged 1.6 degrees over 48 years an average of 0.0395 degrees. Some other sources shows a temperature rise of 1.3 to 1.9 degrees since 1884 an average of 0.0154 per year.

From 1940 to 1970 the yearly temp for the USA showed a decrease of 0.25 degrees a year.

The last 10 years has shown an increase of 1.2 degrees. It might get hotter, but can we blame the timber cutters, cattle farmers, chicken farms, solar farms (they catch and reflect the sun's rays).

Weather is cyclical. The last mini ice age was from 1645 to 1750.

Each earth quake, active volcano or seismic event shifts the ocean currents and alters the magnetic poles to a slight degree which affects our weather.

So I guess we should blame Mother Earth and the God of creation.

Lester Smith

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!



Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM • 706-896-4454

Towns County Herald

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Some dates are hard to remember. Other dates you can never forget.

Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Bridge Players	Every Thursday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Movers & Shakers	Every Friday: Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday: Red Cross Building	7 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	6 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
Chamber Board	Second Monday of each month: 1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
VFW	VFW Post	5:30 pm
Historical Society	Old Rec. Center	5:30 pm
School Board	Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
CVB Board	Second Tuesday of each month: Civic Center	8 am
Gem & Mineral Club	Senior Center	1:30 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild	Calvary Church	4 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
Basket Weavers	Second Wednesday of each month: SC Fire Hall	10 am
Awake America Prayer	Second Thursday of each month: Civic Center	Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	6 pm

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