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# Ladies Join us for a summer of ball 3 Divisions, 1 Great League

**Our Softball** division, open to ladies 18 and older, is for players who have played before and who are looking for some competition. Games are every Wednesday night.

**Our 3-Pitch** division, open to ladies 18 and older, is for players who are new to the game, who are just returning or who are looking for a fun night out with the girls. Games are every Monday night.

**Our Youth** division, for girls 4 to 18, is open to all skill levels and abilities. Go to **www.GLPL.org** for age divisions and scheduling.



### Registration:

Thursday, January 29, 2015 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

at Georgetown Market Place (Court)

For rates & additional information, visit www.GLPL.org or email deedeeridley@gmail.com



GEORGETOWN LADIES POWDERPUFF LEAGUE

## COMMENT

# The old 'fire horse' still trembles when the call goes out

**By Ted Brown** tedbit@hotmail.com

Looking at the calendar, I can't believe my eyes.

It seems that I've lost a year somewhere along the way!

Yup, later this week, Jan. 31 to be exact, it will be 12 months, since I retired from *The Independent & Free Press*.

And to be honest, it still feels strange to NOT drive to the office every morning.

Case in point: Not long ago, The Sidekick and I were driving to town. I turned off at one intersection— in the wrong direction.

"Where are you going?" she asked.

"Oh, I guess the truck wanted to go to the office this morning."

Twelve months later, I find myself still getting out of bed in time to rush to the barn, feed the sheep, return to the house, have a shower, and make it to the office by 9 a.m. Phew!

Oh, right, I don't do that anymore.

I recall back in 1988, when my dad and I sold the dairy cattle and the quota. He retired from the 24/7 job of milking cattle, and I dedicated myself to a full-time position at *The Independent & Free Press*.

For more than a year, both Dad and I would be up at it by 6 a.m. We'd feed a handful of young cattle at the barn early in the morning— when it didn't really matter when they were fed. It wasn't like they were being milked, and had to be milked at 12 hour intervals.

Same thing later in the day. Dad and I used to laugh when we'd show up at 5 p.m. at home, after being away for a Sunday afternoon jaunt. Again, there was no reason to be home at that time— it was simply imprinted into our habit-driven brain.

Up to the day he died, Dad was up at  $6\,\mathrm{a.m.}$ , to walk outside and smell the fresh morning air—something I find myself doing quite regularly now.



#### A Ted Bit

And 26 years later, I'm exhibiting the same behavior— the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. We really are animals of habit.

After three decades, one would think it'd be easy to walk away from that day to day newspaper grind.

In some ways, it was.

Especially this time of the year, I don't for a moment miss those cold, snowy nights, out at an accident scene, trying to get a photo in a snow storm. Ditto for covering late night fires, where, in spite of the adrenalin rush, I was looking forward to returning to my warm bed, ASAP.

But then there's the camaraderie. There's the friends I met along the way— the co-workers, the friends and contacts I gathered along the way.

I was recently at an event, with a few members of the media on hand.

They were shooting the event, and I watched the proceedings. I felt stressed—they were missing 'this angle,' they were shooting with a window in the background, 'shoot on an angle, for goodness sakes, use some fill-flash!' My mind was racing.

As I the event wrapped up, an old friend stood nearby grinning.

"Seems the old fire horse still misses getting into the traces," he grinned.

"Was it that obvious?" I asked.

"Yup, sure was," he smiled," you didn't quite tremble, but it was close".

So 12 months later, I still do have pangs of withdrawal. As time goes on, they become more manageable, but they're still there.

And if my dad's habit of getting up at 6 a.m. every day is any indication, I expect they'll be here for some time to come.

