

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY  
**OPINIONS & COMMENTARY**

**Letters to The Editor**

**Dear Hiawassee,**  
 Memorial Day Holiday I was at the lake for the weekend. On Sunday afternoon I had to go get gas for my waverunner at the Chevron station on Bell Creek. As usual I was in a hurry. I prepaid for the gas at the counter inside and went back to my car to fill the gas can. Since I was wearing shorts that had no pockets at that time, I must have set my wallet on the roof then forgot about it. On Monday as I began to pack to go home to Waynesville I started to look for my wallet, well guess what, I couldn't find it anywhere. I took everything out of my car searching for the wallet. As I began to think when the last time I had seen it, I realized it was when I had bought the gas for the waverunner. I went back to the station and asked if anyone had found a wallet, the clerk said no one had which didn't surprise me because I had a large sum of money in it, several credit cards, my license, etc. Tuesday morning when I went back to work all depressed knowing what a pain it was going to be to get a new license and cancel my credit cards, (not to mention losing all that money), I went to check my phone messages. Well guess what... Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus and he lives in Hiawassee and his name is Jody Henson. He had been trying to call me on my work phone to tell me he had found my wallet in the middle of the road. He had gotten my work phone number off my business cards in my wallet.

I'm very thankful there are still good honest people left in this world like Jody. With all the bad news going around and all the no-account people that sometimes it seems like are taking over it is good to be reminded that there are people like Jody who really are the backbone of this country and are still out there willing to do the right thing.

Patt Burgin



**T.C. Herald Editor**  
**Fourth of July was one to remember**  
**By Charles Duncan**

Sitting atop the parking grounds at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday was a true experience.

One-by-one, families gathered in the ample parking spaces available for the evening's fireworks festivities.

The fireworks brought these folks here from near and far; parking spaces soon became as scarce as hen's teeth. Families came prepared to make the evening a personal occasion with gas and charcoal grills set up to cook various meats, mainly of the barbecue variety.

Stan Wood's Boston Butt roasts cooked up nicely on his family's grill. The tender portions of pork soaked in barbecue sauce also tasted delicious.

Blankets were tossed on the ground; Frisbees flew through the air. Then there was the unmistakable sound of children laughing and playing. This day bore an uncanny resemblance to a summertime camp meeting.

Bottom line, it was good, clean and wholesome family fun. It was everything that the Towns County Lions Club and the Georgia Mountain Fair folks wanted it to be: the largest Fourth of July event in Towns County history.

As light became darkness, the sky was filled with multi-colored fireworks. And it truly is fireworks that give

us the best indication of what Francis Scott Key really witnessed at Fort McHenry in 1814. Every Fourth of July it is the rockets' red glare and the bombs bursting in air, that give proof through the night that our flag is still there.

The weekend events such as the boat parade and the fireworks display at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds pull us closer together. As a community, we know times have been hard with the downward spiral of the economy. It's events like this that allow us to share and experience the revelry and excitement of America's birthday.

It's events like these that teach us that sometimes the best vacation ever is located in our own backyards. Sure, it's nice to travel, but it's even more fun to share spectacular occasions with the people we know best.

Soon, all roads will lead to Hiawassee. True, the Fourth of July holiday has come and gone. But the annual pilgrimage to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds by thousands of tourists is right around the corner - July 15 to be exact. If all goes well, Georgia 515 will be a well-traveled thoroughfare as our community welcomes thousands of tourists into our backyard.

There's one thing this community can take pride in: we've never met a stranger.

**The Middle Path**

by Don Perry

For thousands of years we lived in close relationship with the natural rhythms of the earth. We marked the passage of time by observing the movements of the sun, the moon and the stars. Long before the word "schedule" was invented, we woke up and went to sleep with the rising and setting of the sun. We had an intimate knowledge of the phases of the moon, the movement of the tides and the changing of the seasons. A calendar was something we used to keep track of religious observances. Time was something that flowed.

Time developed a nervous "tick" during the Industrial Revolution. Instead of marking the passage of time with months and moons we began to segment it into smaller and smaller pieces. Industrial time introduced us to the work week, the schedule and the deadline, and at some point we began to equate time with money. As money grew to paramount importance, time became a tool for the ongoing monetization of the human condition.

Today we measure time in nanoseconds. Computers monitor our productivity at work in terms of how many minutes it takes to complete a service call or to enter the correct numbers into the right boxes so that the proper amount can be charged on the bill. The rising and the setting of the sun are secondary to the pulsing of the digital clock. Technology has given us a world that never rests, where the segmenting of time and the monetization of life itself can continue nonstop around the world and around the clock. Sleep is a luxury to be enjoyed when we can schedule it.

Despite our success in measuring time and harnessing it for the production of money, the average person in the developed world often feels that there is not enough of either. Dividing time into smaller and smaller pieces has not slowed the rotation of the earth just as conjuring more money has not created more wealth. Time poverty is a condition now recognized by psychologists as another contributor to our industrial/technological malaise. Long commutes during longer work weeks leave little time or energy left over for participating in the lives of our families and communities or engaging in other activities that lead to a full and balanced life. Millions of people feel that there is simply not enough time. The modern world has given us more to want and more that we

think we need to do, but since we cannot create more time for these activities, we have learned to multitask instead. We talk or "text" while we drive to work, while we eat our meals or even while we relax at the theater or the stadium. The television, the radio or the computer is always on, constantly reminding us of the passage of time, constantly updating us with information that we can never fully process. We are reluctant or even afraid to turn any of it off because we don't want to feel disconnected.

The irony is that the thing from which we are afraid to disconnect is an artificial construct that is inimical to our health and peace of mind - and the thing from which we cannot disconnect, but which we strive to invent new ways to ignore, is the natural world that sustains life itself. For many of us, our "divorce" from the natural world is almost final as we continue our transition to virtual reality. Our children do not play outside anymore. They would rather talk and text from inside climate-controlled enclosures. Even those of us who remember what bare feet in morning dew feels like, who moved from the city to a more "natural" surrounding, rarely emerge from our air conditioned dwellings. It is enough to enjoy the scenery from behind double paned glass windows.

It is odd, and it is tragic, that as divorced from the natural world as we may be, some part of us feels a visceral urge to engage it. The screen saver on our computer displays a beautiful mountain stream; we read outdoor magazines and watch animal shows on television, but since we are unconscious or unwilling to be aware of our true natures, we act blindly. We move to the mountains so that we can see the stars and then we obscure that view with the ugly glare of a security light. We tear down a mountain so that we can sit behind a window and enjoy looking at another mountain. We want "natural" food and organic produce but we want it to be microwavable.

The answer is simple. The natural world still exists and as paved and polluted as it may be, it still offers us a chance for renewal if we can but make the choice to engage it. We were born of that world, and no matter how many layers of technology we place between us, we are still subject to its rhythms.



Let not your heart be troubled

**By Dr. Steven Swisher, Pastor**  
**Living Word Revival Center**

With a global economy spinning out of control, a run away congress in place along with chaotic regimes rising with threats of nuclear attacks towards America, life doesn't seem to be business as usual anymore. This shifting into new global era awareness has impacted many people with a sense that things are not ever going to be like they were before. Daily our freedoms are being taken away by our own government elected officials leaving us feeling like we are headed for serious troubles. By these things, fear has begun to rise up in the hearts of many people wondering when or if these shifting cycles of economic uproars are going to ever stabilize.

Jesus told us that in the last days there would be wars and rumors of wars before his return. I believe that now is the time that Jesus was speaking about. Even in the midst of declaring these things about the end times to us, Jesus said in John 14:27, "Peace I leave unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." This came from Jesus as a way to comfort all of us who believe upon Him in order to remind us of the true peace that he brings to all who place their faith in Him. Jesus exhorted us to guard our hearts of worry and of fear in these days knowing that all things were being done for His divine will and that He is in control of all things.

The Bible says in Psalms 46:1-3, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah." This is a perfect scripture to put our hearts at rest with today's activities as every thing seems to be shifting underneath us, yet Jesus Christ is always solid ground for us. This scripture also gives us a picture of how great God is for our lives in order for us to know that in the time of trouble, God is still on the throne of heaven and earth and well able to make good things happen for

us in trying times. The truth is that when you truly know God, you know that God is bigger than any world tyrants and economic upheavals that will ever exist. So go ahead and exhale and say it, "God is in control, Hallelujah!"

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the message of hope to all of us who have lost homes, jobs, vehicles and other things that have worked to discourage us. Even in the midst of this bizarre season, God can be glorified by His great power to supply for us if we believe upon Him. Many are missing out on the favor and blessings that God has been preparing for them in these days because of fear and unbelief. We have to realize that God blesses faith, not fear. So, if we can guard our faith and believe in God, we can also receive of His promises no matter what the conditions are in our lives. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 4:8,9, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed." Cheer up, you don't need a miracle until you need one, and if you are a candidate for one, get ready to receive one!

Faith in God gives you the ability to turn things around for your benefit in order to give you a new perspective for your life. God doesn't leave us in the midst of our troubles alone, but he stands present, looking to bless our faith in Him. For example, when Daniel went from the palace to the lion's den, God showed himself strong for Daniel and delivered him. God saved Daniel because of his faith, but He did that also as an example of how He loves us all. His Word says that God is no respecter of persons and that he helps us all in time of trouble. Yet it was the faith of Daniel that moved the heart of God to work in his behalf and it will take your faith as well. (Hebrew 11:33) So take on a "racy" attitude, God is with you!

I would like to invite you to join us for our weekly services at Living Word Revival Center, Home Share Groups and other activities to help you be successful. We are located in Hayesville, NC, with services on Sundays at 10 a.m. and on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. "Come taste and see that the Lord is Good!" For information call: 828-389-3444.

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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.

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Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@brmenc.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.

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