

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY
OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Beautifying Towns County Part 2
 Dear Editor.

Ten years ago, when my wife June and I moved from Minnesota to Towns County, Hiawassee was promoted as a "Pretty Little Mountain Town", and the local citizens were described as friendly and warm.

While the folks here have certainly lived up to that description, and we have grown to know and love many of them, Hiawassee and Towns County no longer can be touted as a "Pretty Little Anything" and the price that was paid for our flirtation with "progress" is terribly apparent.

The Chamber of Commerce, in its ongoing efforts to advertise the area, would be wise to suggest that prospective home buyers/business people do not visit during the winter months when the scars on the mountains are visible in such an ugly way; and the forest of huge steel power poles marching through town toward another sub station on the lake may be a tough sell.

In envision, as the final insult to our "Pretty Little Mountain Town," an elevated version of Interstate 3 making its way down the length of Main Street, complete with entrance and exit ramps every two hundred yards to allow access to the shopping that will no longer exist. This of course, for those who moved here for the isolation, and who then felt isolated.

Because we remember things as they were before, and we rejoice in the many friends we have made, we continue to love what has come to be "our little town and county," and we do not feel too badly that "progress" has slowed.

Jack Gottlieb

Help emergency services help you

The Towns County Mapping Office is requesting that you post your E911 resident or business address numbers today. Living in a rural county sometimes it poses problems for our emergency service workers. It can be very difficult finding an address in the dark of evening or in foul weather. The County Mapping Office is encouraging everyone in the county to check their E911 Address Numbers, and be sure that they are in good shape and that they are in a location that is easy to read from the road while sitting in a vehicle.

Post your home with 4" reflective numbers on the driveway entrance door (above the door or on the side of the door) so that it can be easily seen. Again, post the E911 numbers at the road side with 6" reflective numbers in a location that can easily be seen from the road.

Sounds simple, doesn't it. Now think about a worse case scenario, sometimes in an emergency you may not be able to speak, let alone give directions. If you do have the ability to explain how to get to the residence or business, would you be able to do it in a time of crisis, under pressure? Will you be able to explain what the emergency is, where it is, and how many people are involved and what the nature of their injuries could be? If you're visiting another residence or business could you explain to the dispatcher how to get to that location? Under pressure these things can become very confusing and time consuming. So let's do something so simple and easy and post your E911 Numbers today.

And Remember: SECONDS DO SAVE LIVES... Seconds count in medical emergencies, seconds definitely count in a house fire. Please ... help us help you!

Post your E911 Address Numbers TODAY!
 E911 Mapping Office



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Deadline for the T.C. Herald is Monday by noon

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The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Continuing last week's discussion of computer security, today we will discuss ways to keep the home computer safe and sound. Again, and in bold letters, underlined and italicized - we are our own worst enemies when it comes to computer security.

Junk mail is a problem for computer users and for Internet Service Providers. More than half of all email traffic today is junk mail, or "spam." Much of it is generated by algorithms which produce huge lists of randomly generated email addresses and it is sent from locations outside the United States. Software at your ISP and/or on your home computer scans your email for known spam sources and for common keywords used by spammers and it either blocks the offending message or routes it into a "junk mail" folder. One problem with this method is the techniques now used by spammers to obscure the source of the message or disguise it as being from a friendly source.

Viruses and spyware are a continuing threat to Internet users, but improvements in email security have made it less likely for an infection to reach your computer through an email message. Spammers now use social engineering to manipulate a computer user into clicking on a link or giving up an email address. "Free offers" which require a user to enter a legitimate email address for confirmation are notorious for compiling lists of addresses which are then sold to mass mailers. If you enjoy trawling for "free" stuff on the Internet, it is highly recommended that you set up an account at one of the free web based services such as Gmail, Hotmail or Yahoo - which will protect the privacy of the primary email address provided by your ISP. If you have an email account at work, NEVER use that address to download coupons or receive your free horoscope. There is nothing free on the Internet - the coupon, the report or the software gizmo that you receive, should you bother to read the fine print of the license agreement, comes with strings attached, and those strings are often attached to a quick scan of your browsing history and cookies to determine what things interest you so that your future junk mail can be personalized.

Social engineering is also the driving force behind some of the rumors and chain letters that continuously circulate on the Internet. Spammers know that people love to forward things by email - and they also know that people regularly fail to use BCC or Blind Carbon Copy to protect the privacy of the people to which they forward. If you have ever received a forwarded message that was covered by a list of email addresses and email headers which must be scrolled through to reach the original message, then you can see how easy it would be for spyware resident on even one of

GUEST COLUMNS

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@brmcmc.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.

Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*

Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

the recipient's computers to farm a list of legitimate addresses. Bill Gates is not going to pay you for forwarding Microsoft's experimental email. That little girl in Bosnia who needs money for shoes is now 35 years old. Even the inspirational message that you are urged to forward to 10 people in order to receive a special blessing - may have originated in China or the UAE. Use Blind Carbon Copy religiously. If you must forward junk have the courtesy to remove the email addresses of past recipients first.

The following is a scenario I have seen repeated in our area many, many times. Grandma and Grandpa buy a new computer to keep up with the stock market and to receive messages from the grandkids. When the grandkids, teenagers now, come to visit, the grandparents generously allow them unrestricted use of their computer. The grandkids go home Sunday afternoon and Monday morning Grandma turns on the computer and the first thing she sees over her cup of coffee is a pop-up advertisement for Viagra (or worse) and an official looking little box warning her that the computer is infected and that she should "click here" to download the cure for the infection. Grandma's computer is in the first stages of being compromised - and clicking that little box will just about guarantee an expensive repair or a reformatting of the hard drive with the loss of all data stored on it.

If this has happened to your computer after a visit from the kids, chances are they have downloaded and installed one of the many peer to peer file sharing programs used to download music. Programs like Limewire and several others connect a computer to thousands of other personal computers around the world to allow the transfer of files. The problem is that you never know what you're getting until it's too late - that downloaded song may be imbedded with a Trojan or some other type of malware. If you still want to let the kids use the same computer you use to check your bank account and pay bills - consider this. When sharing a computer it is a good idea to set up a limited account for the kids to use - one which will allow Internet access but will block the installation of any software or any changes to system settings.

Having good security software is vital to protecting a computer used on the Internet. A combination of a good antivirus program and a good antispyware program is a beginning - but simply installing these things is only the first step. These programs must be used regularly, at least once per week, and they must be updated, preferably on a daily basis. Virus scans and program updates can be automated, but it is a good idea to do both manually on occasion to ensure that the software is working correctly and still capable of receiving updates.

In conclusion, the Internet, or the Information Superhighway, is still a marvelous place to communicate, to do research and to have fun. You would not dare to drive on an Interstate highway without a well maintained vehicle in good running condition with good tires, new wiper blades and paid up auto insurance. By the same token, regular maintenance of your computer, the insurance of good security software and above all - common sense - will make your ride on the Internet safer and much more enjoyable.



Careful, you could end up in hell

By Dr. Steven Swisher, Pastor
 Living Word Revival Center

Life is still flying by and people are just acting like all is good not knowing that the time of judgment is at hand. So many people are deceived by the devil into thinking that they are saved and headed for heaven when they die. Somehow people do not think God is truly watching and storing up wrath against them because things, well, you know, are good for the time being. The Bible says in Colossians 3:5-8, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth." The Bible only names a few things here in this scripture, but adultery, homosexuality, drunkenness, abusiveness and all pornography are sins against a holy God and they are lifestyles that will be judged by God.

I realize that excuses can be made for living the way you might live. Yet the devil allows excuses to work in order to keep you from serving God. I don't need God, or I only have Sundays off, I can't go to church. How about, the church is full of hypocrites, why do I want to go there? How about the fact that isn't it hypocrisy to think you are saved and yet you don't have a heart for God's people or to assemble at the house of God. I would bet that all of you who pray and believe in God especially in times of emergencies, probably don't even pick up your Bibles and read them. Praying or calling on God at difficult times does not qualify you as being saved.

Being saved is living a sanctified life that is dedicated to living holy and honestly before the Lord. It is being equipped by the word of God in order to be as a reflection of Christ in obedience to the commandments of the Bible and by showing Godliness and good character to others as an example of living out your faith.

I would contend that most people who think that they are saved with no real evidence of having had a true encounter with Christ are not saved. That is they don't speak about God much at all, thinking their faith is nobody's business, not at-

tending a church, doesn't have a pastor, they don't hang out with other Christians, nor are they even looking for a deeper relationship with God. You see, it's not the ones who don't believe and know that they aren't saved that concern us who are Christians the most, because at least they can be evangelized. It is the ones who believe that they are saved, who say they don't need to be evangelized. These are the ones that want to go to heaven, think they are going, but will only inherit a dark cruel place of torment for their eternal destiny.

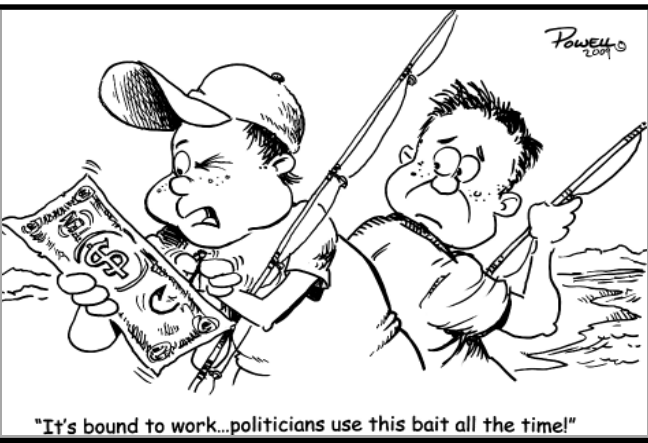
I think that if someone was going to walk out in front of a bus, most people who were aware of the situation would warn that person sharply by saying, "Hey, watch out for the bus, before you get killed!" This is all I am saying in this article. Watch out before you land into hell because you weren't watching out for the bus. That's all Christians are trying to say to you. They are able to see the bus coming and are in place to care for your souls.

You may have family members who are saved, who have given you the truth of the gospel, but you have continued to ignore them contending that you have your own style of faith, etc. Believe me, they only speak out of concern and love. They care for you much more than you give them credit for. When you reject their warnings, it is like saying I don't need you to say anything more about the bus that's coming at me to run me down. If I may say something else, the bus is coming that may hurt you, but it is up to you to take heed from someone else's wisdom or just get run over.

The Bible says in Proverbs 9:8, "Reprove not a scorners, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee." I hope that you are wise and will take the time to read the Word of God in order to discover the truth for yourself. Those of you who would "banter" these things written, ought to ask yourself why you are even reading them!

I would like to invite you to join us for our weekly services at Living Word Revival Center, where you can be blessed, filled and equipped by the Word of God. Located in Hayesville, NC, on Sundays at 10 a.m. and on Wed. nites at 7 p.m. "Come taste and see that the Lord is Good!" For information 828-389-3444.

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