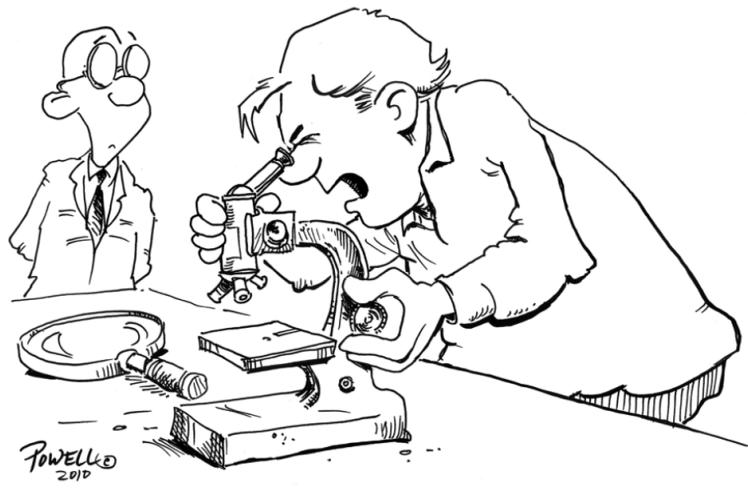


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

"I'll be through in a moment... I just want to see my W-2!"



Towns County Fire Corps 2009 accomplishments

The Towns County Fire Corps, Inc. has had a very productive first year in their mission to help the Towns County Fire Department in behind-the-scenes projects. They are an entirely volunteer group who became a 501c3 corporation within the laws of Georgia in November 2008.

***December:** Weekly articles were started in local newspapers introducing members of Towns County's mostly volunteer firemen to the public, showing their picture and outlining their training. Fire Corps members visited the local Lions Club, VFW and VFW Auxiliary, receiving \$950 in donations that went toward the purchase of state required Traffic Safety Vests.

***January 2009:** Fire Department personnel files were organized; an inventory was made of all equipment at Towns County's six fire stations; and the Fire Corps joined the Towns County Chamber of Commerce.

***February:** Received donation of 4 computers from Kenneco Computers of Young Harris to be installed at several fire stations. Providing dinners before each month's training session was begun.

***March:** Several Fire Corps members attended FEMA Grant Workshop in Cleveland, TN.

***April:** Applied for FEMA grant for Fire Dept. needed gear and equipment.

***May:** Held the first "Fire in the Mountains Chili Cook-off" fund-raiser on the square in Hiwassee with several thousand people attending. Recognized Towns EMS during EMS Appreciation Week in a Letter to the Editor in local newspapers and delivered a large fruit basket to each station.

***July:** Fire Corps members helped Firemen with Muscular Dystrophy Boot Drive, raising over \$3,000, 10% of which stayed in Towns for fire prevention. Bought supplies for Fire Prevention Week at T.C. Schools.

***August:** Committees formed for next fund-raisers--Brasstown Big Band Concert, May 9, 2010 at Anderson Music Hall, and 5K Race and Chili Cook-off on May 29, 2010 on the square in Hiwassee.

***September:** Fire Corps members, firemen, and Red Cross members had a Maintenance Day at Fire Station #1 in Hiwassee with donations solicited from ProFormance Paint, T.L. Thompson Construction Inc., Service Master, Holcomb Construction, Superior Paints, and Mamasu's Pizza.

***November:** Celebrated 1 year anniversary with Dutch-treat dinner at a local restaurant.

***December:** Provided all supplies and firemen recognition certificates for the annual Firemen's Appreciation Dinner held at the Senior Center.

The Fire Corps thanks all who have worked on these projects and all who have donated money and supplies to further our work. We look forward to another active year in aiding our heroic men working in the Towns County Fire Department. If this is a group you wish to join please contact Joan Crothers 706-896-6240 or Brenda Hunt 706-896-5522 or you may send a donation to: T. C. Fire Corps Inc., P.O. Box 247, Hiwassee, GA 30546. Any donation is appreciated. Thank you!

Letters to The Editor

Food Pantry has new friend

Jeff and Dianna Freeman have opened Navics Variety and Thrift Store at 678 Bell Creek Road (across from \$5 store). This wonderful couple have decided to donate a percentage of all sales to The Towns County Food Pantry. Please drop by and check the store out, Monday thru Saturday, 10-4. They welcome donations anytime during business hours. For more information call 706-781-7565.

*We appreciate your help,
Towns County Food Pantry*

Free Food Distribution

There will be a free food distribution Tuesday, January 12th, 2010. The distribution will be held at The Towns County Food Pantry from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. All that are in need of food assistance are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to pick up your food please contact the pantry at 706-896-4783, prior to distribution day so arrangements can be made to deliver your food. All clients and inquiries are confidential.

*We appreciate your help,
Towns County Food Pantry*

Thank you

The family of the late Kenneth "Sawbriar" Moss would like to say thank you for the food, flowers, visits, and prayers. It was a comfort to see so many people of the community touched by him and his testimony. We are so truly blessed to have such loving friends and family and appreciate all you have done for us during this difficult time.

*With Love,
The Kenneth Moss Family*

From the desk of

State Sen. Jim Butterworth



The 2010 legislative session is upon us and I'm once again honored to represent you. At the State Capitol we are rolling up our sleeves in preparation to do the people's business and move Georgia in a positive direction.

Last session, while facing historic drops in revenue, we passed a balanced budget without raising taxes. This year, we are facing additional declines in revenue and shrinking reserve funds. Although tough decisions must be made, raising taxes is still not an option. Your money belongs in your pocket. You are the best budgeter of your money, not the government. Attracting business and getting Georgians back to work is the only solution that will lead to economic recovery.

It is statistical fact that Georgia is currently ranked as one of the top states to do business in the nation. We have one of the lowest corporate income tax rates, total per person tax burdens, and cost of living in the nation. We have eagerly opened our doors to new and emerging businesses that will only lead to positive economic growth and increased job opportunities.

Northeast Georgia, along with the entire state, is feeling the strains of the tri-state "Water Wars." Judge Magnuson's ruling that Atlanta does not have the right

to take its drinking water from Lake Lanier shocked millions. As much as I disagree with the decision, we must find a solution. The upcoming session will be an opportunity to work with the Governor's Water Contingency Task Force and the states of Alabama and Florida, and even South Carolina, to find a solution that will work for everyone. One part of Georgia is not more important than another. We can all agree on one thing, the water faucet cannot be simply turned off to four million people and a solution that comes at others expense is no solution at all.

Trauma care must be addressed. A great extent of Northeast Georgia, as well as much of the rest of rural Georgia, has little access to trauma care. Trauma is the number one killer of Americans between the ages of one and 44, and the third cause of death across all age groups. We made steps in the right direction last year with the "super speeder" bill which imposes an additional fee on drivers convicted of driving at excessive speeds. Money collected from the fee will go into the State's general fund with the intent of funding a trauma care system in Georgia. Despite this, we must find a consistent funding source for trauma care.

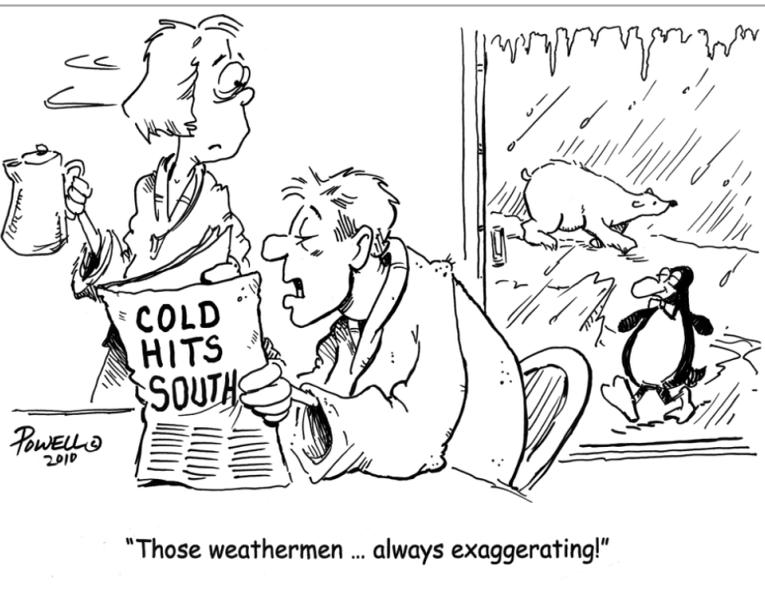
We will work diligently

to find a long term, sustainable answer to transportation in Georgia. We passed a transportation governance bill last year that streamlines the way transportation projects are developed, implemented and funded. With this headway, it allows our time this session to be focused on more pertinent issues, like budget and trauma care. We must find a funding solution but we must also prioritize.

The General Assembly continues to work throughout the year to prepare for the next session. Many bills have been pre-filed and meetings have already started. I am co-sponsoring a bill with Sen. Seabaugh (R-Sharpsburg) that will increase legislative oversight of the Georgia Lottery Corporation. This bill will ensure that money intended to be generated for the Hope scholarship is being used properly and efficiently instead of going to Lottery executive bonuses.

I am elected by you. You elected me to do a job. I am honored and ready to tend to our business at the state capitol. If you have any comments, concerns or would like your voice heard, please feel free to contact me anytime. If you need contact information you can go to the Georgia General Assembly website or simply send an e-mail to jim@jimbutterworth.net.

Sen. Jim Butterworth represents the 50th Senate District which includes Towns, Rabun, Habersham, Stephens, Banks, Franklin, and Hart counties along with a portion of White County. He can be reached by phone at (404) 463-5257 or by e-mail at jim.butterworth@senate.ga.gov



"Those weathermen ... always exaggerating!"

Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.

Towns County AARP Chapter 1859 meets the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiwassee at 2 p.m. Luncheons are held at 1 p.m.

Towns County Democratic Party meets at 5:30 every 2nd Thursday of the month at Crossroads Restaurant. Meeting begins at 6. Please call Julie Miller, (706) 896-6076.

Towns County Republican Party meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 5 p.m.-6 p.m. Dinner at Daniels Steak House, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. meeting, 896-7281.

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.

Hiwassee 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 Hiwassee River Valley Kennel Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 828-835-1082.

The Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Voter Registrars meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.

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 Senior Center in Hiwassee at 5 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 932, Hiwassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org

Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Health Dept. Call Eden at 706-896-6921.

Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiwassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregarts-craftsguild.org. mtnregarts-craftsguild@hotmail.com.

VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m., \$9 a plate, all you can eat.

Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Goolsby Center at YHC. Q & A at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

FPL retirees Breakfast will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each

month at the Hole in the Wall Restaurant on the square in Blairsville at 9 a.m.

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.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call John Quinlan at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridge-mountains.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information.

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.

Old Fashioned Square Dance Lessons each Mon. in Hiwassee, GA, 6 p.m. at the Senior Center (2 blocks south of the town square, beside the Courthouse) Hiwassee, GA 706-896-1060

Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club meets 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown.. Ping Pong players welcome.. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!
Contact us at 706-896-4454

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

Towns County Herald
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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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, Hiwassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@brmemc.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.