

Chamber Chronicles

The official source of Towns County Chamber News

Wednesday February 17, 2010

Winter Safety Tips Courtesy of SERVPRO:

Everyone wants to keep their homes and workspaces warm during the winter. In an effort to keep heating costs down, many residents and employees will turn to alternative heat sources, such as fireplaces, wood burning stoves and portable space heaters. When used and maintained as directed, these methods can effectively warm your home or office. However, there is also an inherent danger, as heating equipment is the leading cause of home fires during winter months.

Safety Tips:

- Never use the oven, range or stove to heat your home.
- Never burn trash, paper or green wood in your fireplace. These items cause heavy creosote buildup, which could eventually start a fire in your chimney.
- Only buy heaters evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Purchase electric heaters with a thermostat control mechanism that will switch off should the heater tip over.
- Never use electric heaters to dry clothes or other objects. Keep space heaters at least three feet away from any combustibles.
- Plug your electric heater directly into the wall – do not use an extension cord or a power strip.
- Always unplug your electric heater when it is not in use.

Community Events

Old Fashioned Square Dance - every Monday in Hiawassee, GA. 6:00 pm at the Senior Center (2 blocks behind – south of the town square, beside the Courthouse, 48 River St.). Old Fashioned Square Dance lessons are free. This is not Western Sq. Dance but rather Big Circle (shew-fly, grapevine, etc.) with basic clogging demos. Help us revive this lost art, come once or every lesson. Sponsor: Towns Co. Historical Soc., POB 1182, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060.

Member Benefit of the Month

Calendar of Events Listing on Mountaintopga.com. Send us your event information and will include it in our Calendar of Events on the website and in our vacation package brochure.

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Be a part of the 2010 Census Team! Earn good pay, get paid weekly, work flexible hours, receive paid training, receive reimbursement for authorized mileage and other work-related expenses. Help your community have a successful 2010 Census and apply today! More information, including a practice test is available at www.2010censusjobs.gov or call the toll free jobs line at 866.861.2010. Brochures with detailed information are at the Towns County Chamber of Commerce.

Article Courtesy of The Esposito Institute: How to develop personal & business relationships to increase happiness, health and success.

By Benita A. Esposito, MA

This is the first of several monthly articles that will offer helpful tips to develop personal and business relationships. How will this help you, your family and our community? One of the obvious answers is that happy personal relationships make us feel fulfilled. We have more inner peace. When we're happier, we are healthier. Marriages thrive and kids grow up healthier. That helps the whole community. Many people say that when they have a relationship conflict, most of their day is shot. Their creativity and productivity goes out the window. Relationships filled with unresolved conflicts are hard on our bodies. Research shows a direct correlation between stress, sickness and accidents. Stress compromises our immune systems. Research done by Dr. Dean Ornish, a cardiologist, tells us that when we enjoy supportive loving relationships, we have the greatest ability to heal from serious disease. We live longer, and have higher quality lives.

Healthy business relationships set the foundation for individual and corporate success. Companies that prosper over time invest in their people. They help employees define their core values (what's important to them) and they support employees to achieve their personal life goals. The company environment resembles a healthy family. Leaders invest in training for team building, customer service and sales. They know that success hinges upon people's ability to develop trusted relationships within the company and with consumers.

Can you remember a time when you worked at a job where there were unresolved conflicts? Did people waste time gossiping? Did people get depressed, moody or anxious? Did their stress levels rise? Did they get sick more often? Did they want to skip work? Was there high turnover? Poorly handled conflicts injure relationships. They hurt business, decrease sales and damage customer service. There might even be a lawsuit. All this shows up in reduced bottom line profits. That affects individual salaries.

In a time of economic crisis when stress is high, one of the immediate things we can all do is increase our ability to practice healthy relationship skills.

In future articles, you'll learn specific ways to build healthy relationships on the job and at home so individuals, teams, companies and our communities flourish.

If you would like to get free information now to improve your business and personal relationships, visit www.EspositoInstitute.com. You'll find articles in the "Media Room" and on the Weblog.

Benita A. Esposito, MA is a relationship coach who teaches S.M.A.R.T. women (and the men who love them) to develop and sustain flourishing relationships. Email Benita@EspositoInstitute.com. Call 770.998.6642. A resident of Young Harris, Benita Esposito is a member of the Towns and Union County Chamber of Commerce, and Tri-State Business Women.

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Angel's Chamber Messages



Towns County Tourism Association Updates

The Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In is coming to Towns County August 12, 13 & 14, 2010! Over 1000 hot rods and thousands of spectators are expected at this summer's show.

Schedule of Events:

Wednesday, August 11th – Guests will be arriving from across the country

Thursday, August 12th – Car Show 8am-5pm
Haulin' Mash Kick-Off Bash at The Ridges Resort

Friday, August 13th – Car Show 8am-5pm
Parade 6pm
Concert on the Square following the Parade

Saturday, August 14th – Car Show 8am-5pm
Concert TBA

Member Calendar of Events

February 27th at 7:00pm – George Jones in Concert at the Anderson Music Hall. For tickets and information, call the Fairgrounds at 706.896.4191.

February 27th – Habitat for Humanity Towns / Union County's 4th Annual Bowling Tournament at Galaxy Lanes on Hwy 76. Four person teams at \$25.00 each - Contact Bobbi Tower at 706.745.8750 for additional information.

Habitat for Humanity
Towns/Union Counties, Inc.

The Fifth Annual Habitat for Humanity Bowling Tournament will take place Saturday February 27th at the Galaxy Bowling Center in Blairsville.

The tournament is open to the public and is designed to bring the community together for fun and fellowship. Proceeds from the tournament will be used to further the Habitat Mission to provide affordable housing in the Towns Union County community.

Reducing poverty in this economically depressed time is challenging. We all have had to cut and get back to the basics however, for some of our friends and neighbors this has been a way of life for many years. Doing without or having to pay most of their income for housing perpetuates the problem.

Sharing your blessings with those in need makes us all winners! Local businesses are rallying to support the bowling tournament. All we need is your team to compete in this fund raiser.

If your business or orga-

nization has not been contacted and would like to be a sponsor, contact the Habitat office for a "sponsor packet" and Habitat will promote your business during the tournament.

This is a non-sanctioned tournament and no previous handicap is required. Teams should be composed of four bowlers with at least two women per team. Handicap will be based on 90% of 210 at the time of the tournament. Cash and door prizes will be provided as well as fun and fellowship.

Deadline for team registration is February 20th. Cost is \$25 per person, \$100 per team. Registration forms are available at Galaxy Bowling Center and through the Habitat office at PO Box 270, Young Harris, GA 30582 or by calling the Habitat office at 706-379-2484 or by emailing habitatoffice@brmenc.net.

Habitat for Humanity of Towns Union Counties is a nondenominational Christian housing ministry building affordable housing for the needy in our community. NT(Feb17,A12)gg

Lee Knight to perform at Folk School



Lee Knight

Folksinger Lee Knight will be featured in special Thursday night concert in the Community Room at The John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, N.C. at 7:00 pm on February 18. The concert is free although donations are welcome.

Lee Knight hails from the Adirondack Mountains of New York and became interested in folk music while in high school. He was intro-

duced to traditional Southern Appalachian music while attending Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC. As a result, Knight became interested in learning first hand from singers and musicians who carried on the traditions of their families and communities. He has studied folk music in his native Adirondacks, the southern Appalachians, Canada, Russia, Central Asia, Scotland, Colombia and Peru. He performs in community concerts, schools, camps, Elderhostels and libraries around the country accompanying himself on guitar, dulcimer and banjo.

Upcoming concert series performers at the Folk School include The Rosin Sisters (February 26) and Jerry and Paul Wilson (March 5). The Friday night concert schedule is available on the world wide web at www.folkschool.org.

For further information, call the Folk School at 828-837-2775 or 1-800-FOLK-SCH. NT(Feb17,A8)SH

2010 Georgia Junior Golf Tour

Young golfers have the chance to play 10 courses across Georgia during the 2010 Georgia Junior Golf Tour. Running March 20 through October 24, the tour travels to all Georgia State Park Golf Courses, plus courses at Brasstown Valley, Lake Blackshear, Stone Mountain and Jekyll Island. The season-ending Championship Cup will be November 13-14. Boys and girls 6-18 are invited to register at www.georgiajuniorgolf-tour.com.

"State Park courses are affordable and challenging, which make them a great option for young golfers," said State Park Golf Director Arnie Page.

"Golf helps children develop concentration skills, character and sportsmanship. That's why we are so pleased to be able to offer this year-long tour that can take young golfers to all corners of the state."

The 18-hole fee is \$125 for boys 6-18 and girls 10-18. The 9-hole fee for girls 6-9 is \$95, and additional children in the same family can register for only \$60.

"This tournament is unique because we don't charge membership fees and we allow family members to get involved," said Karl Gross, the tour's director and PGA pro at Highland Walk Golf

Course. "We even encourage parents to serve as caddies for their children."

Georgia Junior Golf Tour 2010 Schedule

March 20-21 -- The Lakes at Laura Walker State Park, Waycross.

April 17-18 -- Meadow Links at George T. Bagby State Park, Ft. Gaines (double points).

April 24-25 -- Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris.

May 15-16 -- The Creek at Hard Labor Creek State Park, Rutledge.

June 12-13 -- Georgia Veterans Memorial Course at Lake Blackshear Resort, Cordelle (double points).

July 13-14 -- Stonemont Course at Stone Mountain Golf Club, Stone Mountain.

July 31-Aug 1 -- Jekyll Island Resort-Pine Isle Course, Jekyll Island.

August 28-29 -- Arrowhead Pointe at Richard B. Russell State Park, Elberton (double points).

September 25-26 -- Highland Walk at Victoria Bryant State Park, Royston.

October 23-24 -- Brazzell's Creek at Gordonia-Alatamaha State Park, Reidsville (double points).

November 13-14 -- Champion's Cup at Little Occumtee State Park, McRae. NT(Feb17,A3)SH

Frosty the Snowman visits Hiawassee



Cullen, Molly-Ray and Kyle Davis proudly display the six-foot tall snowman they built during the weekend snowstorm in Hiawassee. TF(Feb17,R3)SH

Blackwell's Auto & Truck Sales celebrates 10th anniversary



Steve Blackwell, Brandon Anderson, and Michael Tatum during the blizzard of 2010

By Janice Boling NGN Reporter

Just over ten years ago, Steve and Rebecca Blackwell moved to Blairsville, Georgia from Dallas, Texas to raise their daughter Jessi and start a new business – Blackwell's Auto & Truck sales. Well, Jessi's not so little anymore, but the small town family values they moved here for are still intact.

Just like Jessi, the business has grown over the past 10 years. Blackwell's Auto & Truck Sales has been serving the Tri-County area by selling and shipping automobiles all over the United States, overseas, and in Union County.

That's not all! From classic cars to family vans, sports cars, trucks, and SUV's, Blackwell's sales and services almost all makes and models including brake repairs and tire sales. Their expert detail manager, Brandon Anderson will keep your automobile looking great while mechanic Michael

Tatum keeps it running at top performance.

Steve and Rebecca would like to thank all the many friends and customers for their loyalty, help, and trust. Steve says, "Our friends and customers have welcomed us to the area. Without their support and friendship, we wouldn't have made it. We look forward to the next ten years. Thanks again!"

Steve Blackwell and all the employee's and families at Blackwell's Auto & Truck Sales would like to invite everyone to drop by for a visit. Even in the snow, Steve and the staff are available to help you.

Blackwell's Auto & Truck Sales is located at 1894 Blue Ridge Highway (across from Nelson's Ace Hardware). Business hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. Please call (706) 745-7952 or visit www.blackwellsauto.net for more information. NT(Feb17,C2)

Celebrate Arbor Day 2010

Residents of Georgia will celebrate Arbor Day 2010 on Feb. 19. While National Arbor Day is held on the last Friday in April, several states, including Georgia, observe the holiday at a time best suited for tree planting for their residents.

The best way to celebrate Arbor Day is to plant trees. The Arbor Day Foundation's Web site (www.arborday.org) offers many helpful tips to celebrate the tree-planters' holiday, from how to plant a tree to selecting the right tree for the right place.

To find out which trees grow best in Georgia, consult the Arbor Day Foundation's Hardiness Zone Map at www.arborday.org/treeinfo.

Georgia has 125 cities and towns that were honored by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA community. Tree City USA recognizes communities that are committed to its trees. More than 135 million Americans live in a Tree City USA community. To see a list of Tree City USA communities, go to www.arborday.org/programs.

The first Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska on April 10, 1872, thanks to a resolution proposed by Nebraska

City, Neb., resident J. Sterling Morton. Morton, a civic leader, agriculturist, and former newspaper editor, urged Nebraskans to "set aside one day to plant trees, both forest and fruit." The tree-planting holiday was so popular that by 1920, more than 45 states and U.S. territories annually celebrated Arbor Day. Today, Arbor Day is observed in all 50 states and in countries around the world.

The live oak, Quercus virginiana, was adopted as Georgia's state tree in 1937 at the request of the Edmund Burke Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The USS Constitution, better known as "Old Ironsides," earned its nickname from the hull made out of the famously hard live oak wood and was known for repelling British cannonballs. The famous oak has also been voted as America's National Tree.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit conservation organization of nearly one million members, with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information on the Foundation and its programs or ways to celebrate Arbor Day can be found at www.arborday.org. TF(Feb17,R2)SH