

Public Health cuts...from page 1A

ments generally rely on at least a four-month operating cash flow.

District 2 Public Health is made up of 13 counties in Northeast Georgia, including Towns County. The county's health department is funded by local dollars in addition to state grant-in-aid. The health department is managed by the County Board of Health.

Dr. Westfall told the group that the Fiscal 2011 budget is a continuation of the 2010 budget. The proposed budget for 2011 includes two furlough days per month for each employee, which generates a cost savings of \$39,762.

With the General Assembly still in session, there are still no clear indications of Public Health funding for FY 2011.

With that in mind, Dr. Westfall is presenting a local budget that includes the same \$116,180 grant-in-aid funding from the state as in 2010, which was a reduction of 8 percent of the original 2010 budget amount of \$127,120.

Revenues for FY 2011

are projected at a no frills total of \$501,008. FY 2011 includes no raises for employees. It also anticipates the employer portion of health care insurance to be 23 percent in July.

The accuracy of the projections for FY 2010, which ends June 30, as well as the accuracy of FY 2011 projections, depends on the impact of budget discussions made by state lawmakers, no changes in staffing formulas, and projected revenues and expenses remaining the same as anticipated, Dr. Westfall said.

Any significant change in either expenses or revenues will result in a change of the bottom line, Dr. Westfall said.

The health department expenditures for FY 2011 are \$569,587. That's a shortfall of \$68,579, resulting in a rapidly decreasing fund balance for the local public health department.

The Towns County Board of Health's make up includes Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, Towns County School Su-

perintendent Dr. Richard Behrens, and Dr. Shell Cochran. Dr. Westfall, the District 2 Public Health Director functions as the Chief Executive Officer of each county board of health within the district.

"Our health department is vital to this community," Commissioner Kendall said. "We've got to make sure it remains fiscally stable."

Towns County already pays more per capita than any of its neighboring counties, with a per capita cost of \$16.12.

Rabun County ranks second with a per capita cost of \$15.66; Lumpkin County ranks third with a per capita cost of \$10.06; Union County ranks fourth with a per capita cost of \$9.63.

Fannin County has the smallest per capita operating cost at \$1.81.

The Fiscal 2011 health department budget could be adopted in April.

In other business, Dr. Cochran announced he will take a leave of absence due to health-related issues.

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along with United Community Bank in Hiawassee, will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3rd. All boys and girls through age 9 are invited to come out and join in on all the fun.

The hunt will be held on the recreation ball fields located at Highway 76 just west of Hiawassee. Entrance to the ball field complex will be through the upper gate located near the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Office. The hunt begins promptly at 10:30 a.m. and will last approximately one hour. There will be more than 2,500 eggs, including prize eggs to be found.

The hunt is free to all boys and girls ages 4 through 9. There will be two age divisions for the hunt: 4, 5 and 6 year olds; 7, 8 and 9 year olds. A special activity is being planned for children 3 years old and younger.

There will be Cash Prize Eggs, Toy Prize Eggs and a Grand Easter Basket to be given away in both age

divisions. There will also be a drawing for a Mother's prize.

On Sunday, April 4th at 2 p.m. another Easter Egg hunt is scheduled in the field of The Ridges Resort. The Ridges' General Manager Chad Hooper says that event is open to the public. He adds that the Easter Bunny will be there hopping around throughout the event. A grand prize will be awarded for finding the Golden Egg, Hooper said.

"We'll be hiding more than 1,000 eggs," Hooper said. "The last year has been tough on a lot of families. This is our way of getting folks out of the house and helping them get their minds on something other than the economy. Easter is a time when folks need to get together with others."

"It's a time when children need to experience a joyful adventure," he said. "It's a chance for us to share these grounds and make some children and their families smile."

Stars Shine...from page 1A

crowd cheered him on in support. However, it was Dr. Le Church & Staff's rendition of *Man of Constant Sorrow* by The Soggy Bottom Boys that put the audience into fits of laughter.

Perhaps the most moving moment of the night was when Palmer Dernehl, posing as a young Whitney Houston, performed the hit song, *One Moment in Time*, flawlessly in front of the crowd, hitting each high note like a professional. Her performance merited a standing

ovation from the audience.

The women in the audience swooned over Stealing Autumn's performance of a ZZ Top smash hit, *La Grange* and *Sharp Dressed Man*. These sharp dressed men took the stage in style, without the signature beards of the band, but complete with sunglasses and suits. Members of the band include C.J. Townsend, Cody Matheson, Cody King, and Gabe Miller.

But the real cause of the night was to raise money for the American Cancer

Furloughs...from page 1A

chairman of the Senate Committee on State and Local Government by Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle and the Committee on Assignments. This appointment became necessary after Sen. Lee Hawkins resigned from the State Senate to run for Congress.

"In the short time Sen. Butterworth has served in the state Senate, he has proven that he is a capable leader who delivers results. I'm confident in Senator Butterworth's ability to chair this committee and look forward to all he will accomplish," Lt. Gov. Cagle said.

Sen. Butterworth was humbled and honored by the appointment and Lt. Gov.

Cagle's confidence in him.

"I am honored by this appointment and look forward to working with local leaders on legislation that will further develop policies throughout our state," Sen. Butterworth said. "I would like to thank Lt. Gov. Cagle for the opportunity to serve as chairman and look forward to leading this committee."

Jurisdictions for the committee include special taxes, city and county organization and powers, subdivisions, and administration of special districts. The committee considers legislation for not only state government operations, but also counties and cities across the state.



Everybody got in on the act Saturday night at Anderson Music Hall during the Third Stars Shine for Cancer. Photo/Lowell Nicholson