

Trucks...from page 1

and out of their pickups as they tend the fields, and that there is too little traffic on Georgia's back country farm roads to worry about the risk of a collision with another vehicle. Opponents have used the agricultural vehicle issue to corral the bill in the past, letting it die in committee. Sen. Thomas said those arguments are merely political tricks this time around since farm vehicles are exempted.

Here in Towns County most of the reaction has been in favor of drivers in trucks being required to wear seat belts. "Inexpensive, reliable pickup trucks are often a teenager's first vehicle, and the lack of a requirement puts teenage drivers at even greater risk of injury", said one father.

Studies show that unrestrained pickup occupants are 37 times more likely to be killed than those who are restrained.

When asked about the vote, Governor Sonny Perdue said, "I don't necessarily think we ought to do it for the federal money. But the kids I'm concerned about are those that are in the modern day pickups, when they get a crowd of friends in there, and they're fooling around."

The Senate Judiciary Committee added the pickup requirement to a bill allowing evidence regarding seat belt use into auto accident trials. The information could cut into a victim's ability to seek damages if they were not wearing a seatbelt and sustained greater injuries, as result.

Lions...from page 1

pantry handed out 112 boxes to hungry families. Last week, the pantry handed out 254 boxes. Botting said the number is growing every week.

"Obviously a program like this requires a lot of volunteers," said Botting, who is only one member of the all volunteer staff. The pantry is currently working on a program called "Groups for Food," where different church and civic organizations form a group that commits to distributing food on a rotation basis. Botting said if they could get ten groups to commit, that each group would only be committed to distributing food one out of every ten weeks.

Botting asked the Lions to consider becoming a group. If they agree, the Lions' group

would come in on Monday when the food is delivered from the food bank and separate the bulk into boxes. Then on Tuesday afternoon, the group would work about four hours distributing food to county residents in need.

In addition, Botting said they are looking for fundraisers. He said the pantry has received a lot of financial help from the Lions, for which they are grateful. Hilda Thomason said the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and Towns County Tourism Association will have a car show the second weekend in August that will include a softball tournament. She said with Commissioner Kendall's help, the proceeds from the softball tournament will go to the Towns County Food Pantry.

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der current law, the only way a prosecutor can secure a life without parole conviction is to seek the death penalty. Death penalty trials are usually very costly and take longer to complete at a greater expense to our taxpayers. Often times, prosecutors seek the death penalty just to secure the life without parole conviction. This change in law will allow prosecutors to seek this type of conviction directly without going for the death penalty. It will also ensure that the people who need to be locked up for the rest of their life will be sentenced quicker and reduce the cost of such trials. I supported this bill that will give our prosecutors more flexibility and in their prosecutions.

House Bill 149 allows 11th and 12th grade public school students to attend a college or technical school to complete high school while receiving

credit towards a higher degree. This bill, commonly called the "Move on When Ready" Act, gives public school students and their families more options to fit their individual educational needs. By allowing students to choose courses that fit their personal life goals we can foster the educational interest students need to succeed. I was happy to support this bill and the children in the 8th district.

As the 2009 Session comes to an end on Friday, April 3, 2009, many bills will come before the House for consideration. I encourage you contact me to voice your concerns on the matters important to you and your family. Please feel free to contact me at my Capitol office at (404) 656-0177, by email at stephen.allison@house.ga.gov, or visit my website at www.allison08.com. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Outcry...from page 1

mined that a change was needed to move the organization forward while continuing to assist the animals in need in both counties. Effective Thursday, March 26, a new board of directors was appointed to serve until the Annual Membership Meeting in June when permanent board seats will be voted on by the HSMS members. In the interim, the temporary board will be working hard to get the HSMS back to business as usual. Both the Blairsville Thrift Store at 208 Earnest Street and the Hiwassee Thrift Store in the Chatuge Harbour Shopping Center across from the school are open for business as usual on Mondays through Saturdays - 10 am to 4 pm weekdays and 10 am to 2 pm Saturdays. We urge you to come by to take advantage of the many bargains available.

We appreciate the accomplishments and under-

standing of the members of the previous board and the compromises they made to support these changes. We also thank Kay Crofford for temporarily managing the Blairsville Thrift Store while we worked through these issues, and many thanks as well to the volunteers who sacrificed many hours to keep the store running. We could not have stayed open without you.

For a short time, we may have lost our focus and forgotten that we are here to help those who cannot help themselves, the animals left behind and in need of food, shelter, love, and affection. I assure you that our focus is back. We will be working hard to ensure the fair, kind and ethical treatment of the animals that need us, and we have a renewed focus on being fair, kind and ethical with one another in the process.

Thank you for your continued support.

Hunters...from page 1

Participants are required to register upon arrival and notify the registering official of their intent to give a statement. Those unable to attend the hearings may submit statements electronically through the Division website at www.gohuntgeorgia.com or by mail prior to close of business May 8, 2009. Written statements should be mailed to: Georgia Department of Natural Resources / Wildlife Resources Division / Game Management Section / Attn: John W. Bowers / 2070 U.S. Highway 278, S.E. / Social Circle, Georgia 30025.

Proposed changes include amendments to reflect statutory changes, manage white-tailed deer populations through either-sex days, set seasons for rails and woodcock, expand alligator opportunity, expand counties open to bear hunting in north Georgia, regulate hunting and other activities on wildlife management areas and others state lands, adjust scheduling of hunting seasons in accordance with calendar date changes, and changes to firing range rules.

With turkey season here and trout season opening

March 28, hunters and anglers are urged to obtain their hunting and fishing licenses through the quick and easy online method says The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division. "It's easy," said Capt. Mike England of the division's License and Boat Registration Unit. "The new system is web-based, offering immediate accessibility to anyone with access to the Internet. Just log onto www.georgiawildlife.com and select "Recreational Licenses" then follow the prompts."

In addition to at home online availability, licenses can be purchased by telephone (1-800-366-2661), through the Internet at your local public library and at various retail locations. A list of retail agents can be found online as well.

For more information on the scheduled public hearings or to view the proposed regulation changes, visit www.gohuntgeorgia.com. For additional information or to receive a copy of proposed regulation changes by mail, contact John W. Bowers at (770) 918-6404.

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