

# itawamba Trends

Volume 2, Number 3, Mar. 2010

THE MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE ITAWAMBA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



census collects helps to determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, emergency services and bridges and other public works projects. That's more than

\$4 trillion over a 10-year period for things like new roads and schools, and services like job training centers.

## *Itawamba Tourism*

### **WHITTEN HISTORICAL CENTER**

The Jamie L. Whitten Historical Center on the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway in Fulton is an excellent place to explore the scenic waterway. The center was designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, and contains exhibits from six other Federal agencies involved in the economic development of Northern Mississippi. These include the Appalachian Regional Commission, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, USDA Soil Conservation Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

The Historical Center interpretive Presentations feature many different types of displays discussing the roles played by each of the seven Federal agencies in Northeast Mississippi. Other features of the center include a 120-seat auditorium that contains conference tables and chairs, a partially covered terrace with picnic tables providing a wonderful view of Pool C on the waterway and a winding board walk connecting with a pier that extends into the waterway. Also included in the park is the Fulton

## ***Lets Be Counted in 2010 Itawamba County***

That's why it's so important that you fill in the form and promptly mail it back. Census information affects the numbers of seats Mississippi occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. And people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and so much more.

When you do the math, it's easy to see what an accurate count of residents can do for our community - better infrastructure, more services and a brighter tomorrow for everyone. In fact, the information the

Campground complete with 62 Class A sites, an interpretive nature trail, multi-use courts, picnic pavilions and a boat launching ramp. Guided tours are available for clubs, church groups, schools, and organizations wishing to tour the historical center facilities, without charge.

All groups are urged to call ahead to avoid scheduling conflicts. The 120-seat auditorium complete with audio-visual equipment and the terrace picnic area are available for rent after normal operating hours. The picnic pavilions are available for rent during the day. All reservations may be made by calling (601) 862-5414 or writing to the following address: Jamie L. Whitten Historical Center, 100 Campground Road, Fulton, MS 38843.



*2009 Small Business of the Year*

## **KC Construction: Making a Difference**



There are many examples of small businesses making a difference in America. KC Construction in Itawamba County is one such business – a homegrown business in Itawamba County doing business throughout the

South. Kim Cowart formed the company seven years ago from his first business endeavor, Cowart Painting, and from that time the company has obtained clients throughout Mississippi and surrounding states. Their excellent work can be seen in buildings such as The Meadows in Fulton to the Pass Christian School District on the Gulf Coast. With specialties from commercial buildings to residential structures, the company's goal of superior work combined with an old fashioned Itawamba County work ethic makes KC Construction a top company in its field. With owner Kim Cowart, along

with his brother Kevin, office manager Dixie Crane Wallace and supervisors Chad Pate and Kevin Steele, no job is too big or too small for this superior hometown Itawamba County company.

For the seven years that this company has been a valued part of the Itawamba County business community, the Itawamba County Development Council proudly salutes KC Construction as the 2009 Small Business of the Year. The company was honored at the ICDC annual membership meeting and banquet during January.

*2009 Large Business of the Year*

## An Itawamba County Success Story



Established in 1941 as J. E. Staub & Company by Joseph Edwin Staub, JESCO, Inc. has long established proven in-house capabilities which provide high quality, economically feasible, on-time projects for their customers. Since 1999, JESCO has been a wholly-owned subsidiary

of The Yates Companies, a perennial Engineering News Record Top 50 Contractor.

For sixty-nine years, JESCO has been an important component of the Itawamba County business community and an excellent corporate neighbor. This company has always been at the forefront of economic development in Itawamba County and a place where generations of Itawambians have worked. Today the company employs local residents who are the third generation of their respective families associated with the company.

With those humble beginnings during the World War II era and established with an initial investment of less than \$1,500, the company has grown into one of the largest construction companies in Mississippi with average annual sales of approximately \$200 million.

Perhaps JESCO's greatest asset is the client-oriented, teamwork driven spirit of their people. This

invaluable asset reflects the strong work ethic of the Itawamba County region and is a valuable commodity that is simply priceless. These company employees - our neighbors and friends, are good community citizens who give their time and effort in various community activities in order to make our community a better place to live.

Transforming the landscape in Itawamba County, the State of Mississippi, and the Nation as well, JESCO is truly an American story where the dreams and hopes of a Fulton businessman became a reality. Next year will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of JESCO and for the past seven decades JESCO has been a valuable good neighbor in Itawamba County. For those decades of beneficial community support and service, the Itawamba County Development Council proudly salutes JESCO as the 2009 Large Business of the Year. The company was honored at the ICDC annual membership meeting and banquet during January.

**JESCO, Inc.**  
Construction

*Large Business of the Year*

202 SOUTH SPRING STREET  
FULTON, MISSISSIPPI 38843  
(662) 862-3121 or (662) 842-8423

NEW FACILITY BY  
**JESCO, Inc.**  
A YATES COMPANY

*for 69 years a good corporate neighbor*

**CHILDREN COUNT TOO!**

**DORA EXPLORER**

United States  
**Census 2010**

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[2010.census.gov](http://2010.census.gov)



**RELAY BUNKO NIGHT 2010**

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

Sponsored by Relay for Life Team Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 to play (tickets sold in advance). Deadline to purchase tickets is February 28. Meal will be served. Call 662-401-3241 or 662-790-3000 to purchase tickets or for more information.

**RELAY SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Tremont School Ballfield

Sponsored by Team Tremont, Itawamba Relay for Life. From 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. No team entry fee. \$3 Admission (including players). Games start at 8 am. For more information contact: Windy Abbott 662-652-3366.

**SPRING GARDENING THING**

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Fulton Wal-mart Garden Center

Begins at 11:30 a.m.

Flowering Plants by Dr. Jeff Wilson, County Director and Area Horticulture Agent with Lowndes County Extension Service; Growing Veggies and Tomatoes by Dr. David Nagel, Professor of Horticulture; Preparing Raised Beds by Dr. Crofton Sloan, Assistant Research Professor and WTVA's Morning Gardener. Sponsored by Mississippi State University Extension Service, Fulton Wal-Mart Supercenter and Master Gardener.

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

Saturday March 20

Whitten Historical Center, Fulton

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Admission is \$5. Includes photo with the Easter Bunny, and admission to the Egg Hunt. Prizes and Games. All proceeds go to Relay for Life. For more information call 862-7160, Ext. 101.

**RELAY FOR LIFE PAGEANT**

Saturday, March 27, 2010

W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center, Fulton

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sponsored by Relay for Life Team

Bancorpsouth. Little Mr., Miss, and Mrs. Relay Pageant. Registration 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pageant starts promptly at 2:00 p.m. Cost: \$20 beauty only. Early Bird Special: \$15, \$5 photogenic. 1 parent entered free with contestant. General Admission is \$3. For more information call 662-862-3195.

**FIREFIGHTER COMBAT CHALLENGE**

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Itawamba Community College

Sponsored by Relay for Life Team Real Men Fighting Cancer. Cost is \$25 per two-man team. Public can watch for free. Refreshments will be available. Will be held between the Davis Events Center and the Field House.

**BATTLE OF THE BANDS**

Monday, March 29, 2010

W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center, Fulton

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Admission \$2 per person. Audience will be voting. \$1 per vote. All funds raised will go to Relay for Life. Band Entry \$10 (all entries must be received by March 12). See band applications for guidelines. For more information contact Heather McCormick at 662-862-8191.

**FIRST TUESDAY LUNCH & LEARN**

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Itawamba County Library

Starts and Noon. Just bring your lunch. We will provide tea or water. Topic: Menopause 101. Speaker: Claire Stone Northington, FNP. Sponsored by the MSU-Itawamba County Extension Service and the Itawamba County Pratt Memorial Library. Call 862-3201 for more information.

**RELAY OFF-ROAD RIDE**

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Barnyard Mudboggers on John Rankin Highway. Ride days: April 10 from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. April 11 from 9:00 a.m. until 8 p.m. Cost: \$10 to ride. For more information call 662-213-7983.

**LUNCHING WITH BOOKS**

Friday April 16

Itawamba County Pratt Memorial Library

12 noon. Featured guest will be author Mark Grisham sharing his book, *Bedlam South*. Set in the heart of the Confederacy, *Bedlam South* is the story of ordinary people who fought and suffered, and loved and lost during the Civil War. Authors Mark Grisham and David Donaldson weave a rich tapestry colored with tales of tragedy, romance, and redemption.

Have a community event

*Scheduled?*

Let the Itawamba County Development Council help you with publicity by promoting the event on the council website and membership newsletter!