

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Fundraiser for Tricia Spear

By Towns County Herald Editor
Charles Duncan

This week, I hand my column over to the Friends of Tricia Spear:

On Valentine's Day, the No Greater LOVE 5K and 1-mile Walk will be held at Meeks Park. It's all about Tricia Spear, Humane Society Thrift Shop Manager.

Tricia has been in the Neurological ICU of Erlanger Medical Center since the beginning of January. She is a great friend to our community and not many have gone untouched by her compassion. Whether volunteering for events, giving up her days off to help at the Union County Farmers Market, saving a stray animal or helping with the needs of families displaced by a fire, Tricia has always been the one who steps up time and time again to offer assistance to anyone and everyone.

Now it's our turn. We (Friends of Tricia Spear) are hosting the No Greater LOVE 5K and 1-mile Walk on Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14th at Meeks Park. The money we raise will go towards a Recovery Fund that will pay bills and expenses while she is unable to work. Please consider sponsoring our event and helping us make sure the only thing

Tricia needs to think about is getting better.

There are several ways you can help.

First, become a sponsor for the event by contacting Colleen Urbaniuk at colleen-1969@hotmail.com or stop by the Seasons Inn Motel or The Humane Society Thrift Shop (both in downtown Blairsville) to get a sponsorship form.

Second, register to participate in either the 5K or the 1 mile walk. Registration forms are available at the Seasons Inn Motel, The Humane Society Thrift Shop or online at active.com. You can also register the day of the race. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the race starts at 10 a.m. Entry fees are \$25 for the 5K and \$20 for the 1 mile walk. Registration includes an event t-shirt for all those who pre-register for the event.

Third, volunteer to help for the event. Please contact Colleen Urbaniuk at Seasons Inn, (706) 745-1631.

Fourth, make a donation to The Tricia Spear Recovery Fund at United Community Bank.

Fifth, prayers, prayers, and more prayers for Tricia's full recovery and her vibrant return to the things she loves.

Small farm conference at Unicoi State Park, Feb. 26-27

Executive Director of RC&D



Frank Riley

The Chestatee/Chat-tahoochee RC&D Council's mission is to help conserve our natural resources and improve the environment for all of our citizens here in Northeast Georgia. Most of these projects involve helping farmers, many of whom are small, improve their land, farms, and economic wellbeing. There are many government programs that help farmers with information on how to do things better and provide information on new things that they can try to make their farms produce more crops which will improve their economic outlook. The trick for the farmers is to know where to look for this help. Below is a press release on a conference that will bring many experts in their respective fields to Unicoi State Park where small farmers (or any farmers) can listen and learn from these experts. I will present a session on the things that Chest/Chatt RC&D is doing for the farming community in Northeast Georgia. The conference is sponsored by the Broad River and Upper Chattahoochee River Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) were created in 1937 by the Georgia General Assembly to protect the state's soil and water resources following the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Districts provide a way for citizens to set local resource priorities for state and federal assistance programs. Today, Georgia has 40 SWCDs encompassing all 159 counties. Throughout the state, 370 volunteer district supervisors meet and work to conserve, improve and protect Georgia's natural resources. Each county is represented by at least two district supervisors, one appointed and one elected. District supervisors are unpaid state officials who work hand-in-hand with the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Regional Representatives provide professional support to advance the goals of local soil and water conservation districts. Regional offices are located in Rome, Athens, Milledgeville, Dawson, and Statesboro. Districts hold regular monthly meetings to plan their work and determine local needs for soil and water conservation and resource development. SWCDs work on a local level to promote statewide conservation goals.

Chest/Chatt is a member of 5 Soil & Water Conservation Districts in our 13 county work area... Towns, Fannin, Rabun, and Union counties are covered by the Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation District that meets monthly in Blairs-

ville and is chaired by our own Dr. John Kay. The Small Farm conference is free if you are among the first 120 to register and the contact information is listed below and all you have to do is call to register and get the free tuition.

The Broad River Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with the Upper Chattahoochee River Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, will be hosting a small farm conference Feb. 26-27, 2015, at Unicoi State Park in Helen, GA. The goal of the conference is to educate farmers with small-scale operations on ways to improve their operations and make them run more efficiently and profitably. The two-day conference will feature general sessions that will cover major agricultural topics, as well as breakout sessions that will cover unique topics of interest to small farming operations. Registration for the conference is \$225 per person. However, through sponsorship from the Broad River Soil and Water Conservation District, the first 120 people to reserve a spot will receive a fully-paid scholarship for the event. Registration must be received by Feb. 20, 2015.

For more information, and to register for the event, contact the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Region II office in Athens at 706-552-4479 or Frank Riley Executive Director Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council at frank.ccred@gmail.com.

The Veterans' Corner



By
Scott Drummond,
USCG Veteran

Women who serve

Our "Veterans' Visitation Committee", consisting of VFW members, American Legion members, Marine Corps League, USCG Auxiliary FL-23 and Veterans of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and USCG, were blessed again recently to be the guests of Brasstown Manor and to share lunch with all those veterans, widows of veterans and yes our All American Ladies who have served America, without whom America couldn't have survived. Thank you, Holli and all the staff at Brasstown Manor for your open hearts, professionalism and gracious hospitality. Your lunch was great, but the fellowship with these fine upstanding Americans was superb. May God bless you all!

Our USA could've never been without our ladies. Amongst the many ladies who served America, is the legend "Rosie the Riveter" and we are blessed to have our own Rosie here in Towns County, now living at the beautiful Brasstown Manor. Please allow me to introduce Anna Marie Davis, age 91, born October 3, 1923, Gettysburg, PA. At the tender age of 18 years, right out of high school, in 1942 she went to work at Glen L. Martin Aircraft Company, Baltimore MD, wiring control panels, left side of cockpit, to the rear of the pilot, and riveting the aluminum encased controls into place in our B-26 Bombers. After the war our valiant men came home, the girls were let go from these jobs, and Marge (Rosie) went to work at Fairfield National Bank in Fairfield, PA, just outside of

Gettysburg. Rosie wanted it mentioned that she has gone to church as a Lutheran every Sunday.

Her loving husband, Ronald "Ronnie" W. Davis enlisted in the US Army as an infantryman at the age of 24 and was still serving under General George Patton, where he had participated in the Battle of the Bulge. As a career soldier, Ronnie was disability retired while en route to Vietnam with the rank of Sergeant Major, after 21 years service to America. They then lived a wonderful life in Tampa, FL. Ronnie left to go home to God, 14 years ago.

Marge continued her service to our Disabled Veterans by collecting donations, door-to-door up until May, 2014. She was named "Patron of the Year" for two years. She has resided in Tampa, FL, and Murphy, NC with her daughter, Debra Ann Graves. Now she lives in Hiawassee. Rosie also wanted it mentioned that she is proud of her grandson, James Davis Buchinsaky, age 32, currently a repairman for Sears Roebuck in Clearwater, FL.

Our own Rosie wrote this and read it to us at the lunch: "Dear Brave Veterans: I give thanks every day that there are brave Americans like you, who sacrificed so much for the freedom I enjoy. I will always remember your outstanding courage and commitment to our country. Thank you for your service and God bless you and God bless America. Your friend, Rosie the Riveter."

Thank you Marge, our very real Rosie the Riveter!

Scott Drummond
Semper Paratus

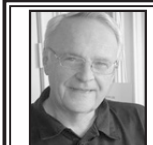
Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

One of my hobbies is tracking rainfall at our home in the Gumlog Valley. We are surrounded by mountains that divert some of the rain from the valley lessening our measurements. Also, I suspect, but do not have data to confirm, that rainfall nearer area lakes is greater than in our valley. My measurements for 2014 show 54.3 inches for the year. The wettest month was June with 9.6" and the driest was January with 2.5". The average annual rainfall for the past seven years is 58.87 inches.

Yearly figures were as follows: 2008 (44.2"), 2009 (72.5"), 2010 (47.7"), 2011 (56.4"), 2012 (50.0"), 2013 (87.0"), 2014 (54.3").

Wm. Ronald Gibson



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

"...The decline in marriage is our most ignored national crisis," proclaims an editorial commentary in a TIME magazine issue not long ago. Strong words. For a secular news magazine to brand American marriage as a "national crisis" is an attention-getter. I assure you the statement is not a provocative ploy to sell more magazines. Let me describe some of what they might have seen that birthed that strident conclusion.

Boys without dads living at home are about twice as likely to end up in prison as boys whose mom and dad are both present. If a girl finishes high school, has a full-time job and does not marry or have children until she is at least 21 she has about a 2% chance of ever living in poverty in America. If any of those three markers is missing, her chances of ending up in poverty climbs to 77%. American taxpayers spent \$112 billion in 2012 to provide assistance to unwed mothers and to fund the trauma to society caused by domestic violence, divorce courts, etc. And how do you even measure the anguish caused by those affected?

So is "national crisis" too strong a term? I don't think so.

Let me contrast the score when our marriages are strong. Children raised in a home with

both parents do better in school, have fewer addictions, fewer run-ins with the law, and are less apt to engage in pre-marital sex. They tend to choose friends who come from two-parent homes which provides additional reinforcement. They also produce fewer divorces themselves, because healthy relationships between a husband and wife is a learned skill. That is not to suggest that their marriage will be problem-free, but rather that they were able to observe how you keep loving even through the rough spots.

But wait, there's more. Married adults live longer, enjoy better health, and have greater personal happiness. Married adults are more apt to have adequate finances and greater financial stability. When people marry, their mental health tends to improve, perhaps because of the permanence and stability they enjoy. All of these bonuses help create a setting where kids can learn essential life lessons.

Kids who are raised by their birth mom and dad in the same home suffer less domestic violence in their growing-up years and they grow up to have more healthy relationships as adults. My take on it: Marriage: It's worth fighting for.

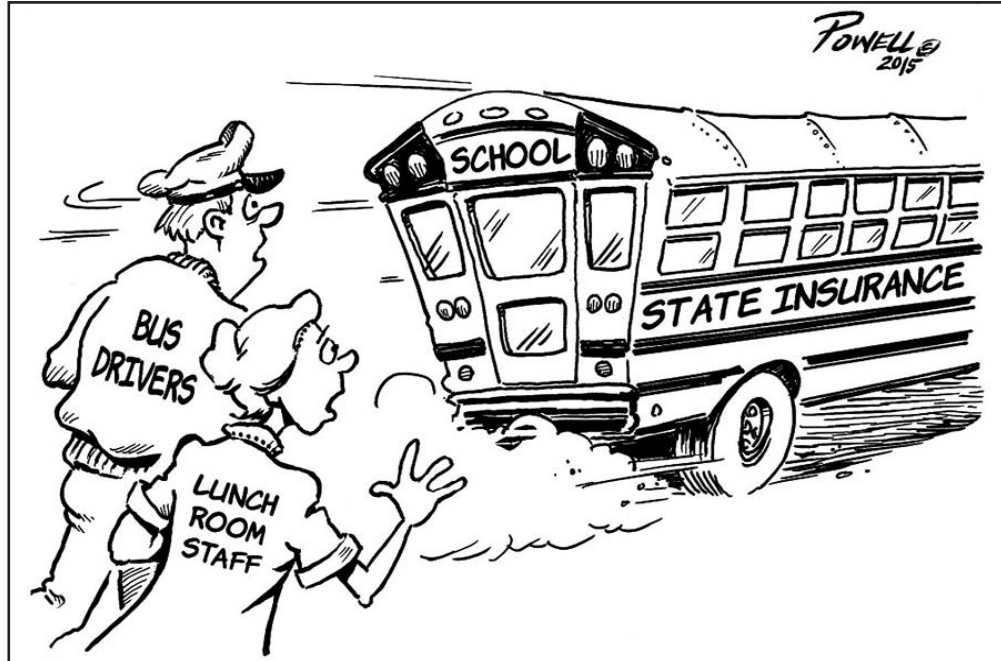
Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

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, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.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.



Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support!
Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.
Mountain Community Seniors meet the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 1 p.m.
Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 4th Thursday of each month at the new Senior Center. For more info call 706-994-3919.
Democratic Party of Towns County meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5 PM at the new Senior Center.
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.
Hiawassee 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 Unicoi Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Stephens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris.
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 old Rec Center in Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org
Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Rec Center.

Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse, Hiawassee. The Board meets at 4 p.m., and the Guild at 6. Call us 706-896-0932.
Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.
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 at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.
Mothers of Preschoolers meets the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church at 706-745-2469.
Chattahoochee 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.
Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club meets 3 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Jerry (828) 837-7658.
The Humane Society Mountain Shelter Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Cadence Bank in Blairsville.
The Towns County Alzheimer's Support Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the Family Life Center of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church. For more info call Carol at 706-896-6407.
The Appalachian Shrine Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Allegheny Lodge in Blairsville. For more info call William 706-994-6177.

GMREC Garden Tours every Monday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Shooting Creek Basket Weavers meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreek-basketweavers.com.
Friendship Community Club meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76, 706-896-3637.
Goldwing Road Riders meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meets every Wednesday evening at 7 PM at the Red Cross building on Jack Dayton Circle.
Caregiver support group meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.
Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch.
Brasstown Woodturners Guild meets 1st Saturday of month at 9:30 AM in HHS shop. For more info call J. C. at 706-896-5711.
Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC) meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiawassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.
The Board of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce meet the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.
The Quilting Bee at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Family Life Center, Room 216. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 AM - 3 PM. Bring a sack lunch. For more information call Kathy at 706-835-6721 or Marilyn at 706-897-4367.
Mountain Coin Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the North Georgia Tech campus in Blairsville. Guests are welcome. For more info, call 706-379-1488.

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