

Crisp...from Page 1

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Townson-Rose Funeral Home, which provides services in Murphy, Andrews and Hayesville, NC. Crisp worked at Rib Country in Hiwassee. She was a member of the FBLA and a Beta Club member. She held the highest average in science in 2014 and

2015 along with the Agriculture Award in 2014 and 2015. Crisp was outstanding in literature and was on the A Honor Roll in 2014 and 2015. She was a member of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Hayesville. She was preceded in death by her great grandparents, Coy and Evanel Oliver,

Ronald Ledford and Johnny and Earlene Auberry; she also was preceded in death by her Aunt Brendus Jacinta Crisp. In addition to her mother and father she is survived by two brothers, Shon Crisp and wife Christina and David Jesse Allen; step-brothers, Cody Wiggin and Jared Wiggin; grandparents, Ben Crisp and

wife Jackie of Hayesville, NC, David and Lannie Ledford of Hayesville, NC and Charlotte Williams; great-grandmothers, Doris Ledford and Ethel Martin Crisp; Aunt Michelle Sellers; Uncle Caleb Sellers and wife Brittany and many cousins. Funeral Services will be held at 2 p.m., Thursday, June 25, at the First Free Will Baptist

Church in Hayesville, NC. The Rev. Chris Ruffelt and Isreal Rogers will officiate. Savannah Dyer will give the eulogy. Pallbearers will be Caleb Sellers, Josh Ledford, Cole Bradshaw, Luke Ledford, Adam Barrett, Zane Boyd, Tristin Dyer, Kyle Davis, Jonathan Barrett, Kyle McClure and Kendall Barnard.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, June 25, at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Hayesville. You may send tributes to the Crisp family at www.townson-rose.com. Townson-Rose Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements.

Cummings...from Page 1

Ridge Mountain EMC is a privately-owned cooperative, but the people that are elected to that board are responsible to the people in their counties and in the region where they serve," said Cummings. "So, in that viewpoint, I look at it as being a public servant, and anybody that's on the board needs to make sure that they have a servant's heart. I think that they need to place the EMC members' needs ahead of their own personal needs."

In 2004, Cummings was elected - with the help of his friends and peers in Georgia, he pointed out - as vice president of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, and he went on to serve as president of that organization two years later.

"While serving as president, I learned a lot of things," said Cummings. "I learned about putting other people's needs ahead of my own, but I also learned a little bit about budgets."

Agriculture, Cummings said, is always the first thing to take a hit in and the last thing to pull out of a recession or a depression, and during the start of the recession, Cummings was responsible for managing the budget for the NACAA's national meeting.

One of the measures Cummings had to take was to impose budget cuts.

"I had friends who got mad at me for things that I had to do, but if I didn't do it, our organization would have suffered

if we would have had to borrow money," said Cummings. "And our board didn't feel like that was the right thing to do, so we made some severe budget cuts, and we learned how to make some of those budget cuts in some of those exercises that we were trying to go through."

Cummings offered this past experience as an example of how making tough decisions is sometimes necessary when putting the needs of others first, and to safeguard an organization from debt.

"I think that our EMC board is dealing with a lack of confidence from its membership," said Cummings. "Things that have happened over the past few years have caused this. To regain that confidence of the membership, I think the board needs to take some actions. First of all, I think our board needs to become more transparent, open some of its meetings to the public."

"I think we also need to make elections easier for people to vote, and also easier for people to run. I really don't understand an election when you don't have more than one person running for a position, so I think our board needs to encourage more involvement from its members, and try to get more people running for these positions."

If elected, Cummings said that he would approach the job with honesty, integrity and "a servant's heart."

"That's the only way I've known how to do it, that's the

way I was a county agent for 33 years, and that's the way I would approach it," said Cummings. "And I would always put the members' needs in front of my own. And I also think that the workers at our EMC are the backbone of our organization. I think that we need to do everything that's in our power as a board to enhance their working environment."

On a side note, Cummings shared his desire and enlisted help in starting a speech contest to take place at the UC Farmers Market this fall, geared specifically toward agriculture and modeled after the Movers and Shakers' successful competition format.

Cummings is retiring from the Extension office as of June 30. The County Extension Office is having a retirement party for him at the Pat Haralson Civic Center on June 30, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. The readers of the North Georgia News, as well as all Cummings' friends from the Union County Farmers Market are invited to attend the event.

Cummings requested a hamburger/hot dog cook-out meal and fellowship with his friends, family and co-workers.

If you wish to attend, just show up and wish Cummings a happy retirement.

Cummings hopes to see you on June 30th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Civic Center.

CMA...from Page 1

Run for the Son mission campaign, which has brought in funds for 2015 nearing \$4.5 million.

Many took part in various sporting events, including scenic rides throughout the mountains and low-risk motorcycle games following the parade, like a water balloon toss.

One particularly amusing game was the slow race.

"It's to see who can keep their feet up off the ground and keep their bike moving and ride it the slowest the longest, and they're the winner," said Parmenter. "They're just fun games, and they're fun to watch. If you're not participating, they're still a lot of fun to watch."

CMA national rallies are held on even years at the association's headquarters in Arkansas, with odd years being hosted in different communities on the East and West coasts.

"So far, we've been really blessed that most of the communities that we go into, once they get to know the CMA members as they're making their presence in the community, whether it's at the grocery store or at the restaurant - as people get to know us, they tend to be okay with all the motorcycles riding around," said Parmenter.

"A lot of times, if we're going into a community for the first time, they're kind of like, I don't know about this Christian biker thing - they're not too sure about this," Par-

menter continued. "But so far, the communities we've gone into, it's all worked out really well. Some of our guys look a little rough, but talk about the best people you could ever get to know."

When national rallies extend into communities like Hiwassee, the CMA always chooses a local organization to benefit.

"It doesn't even have to be a spiritual organization, but it has to be doing something to help people in the community," said Parmenter. "For this rally, we chose Towns County Food Pantry to do a food drive as just something that the CMA members can do to give back to the community while they're here."

This is the second time the fairgrounds have played host to the Eastern National Rally, the last time just four years ago.

"There were some motorcycle events taking place here that we were participating in, so we knew it was a viable location for our national event," said Parmenter. "And we started contacting the fairgrounds probably 10 years ago to try to work out being here for one of our events."

"It took a few years before we were able to get that approved, that the fairgrounds was available for the dates that we needed, but we looked for a place that has the buildings that we need, the camping, because

a lot of our people camp. And then, add on top of it just the beauty of this location and the rides as an added bonus."

Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason was happy to have the Christian motorcyclecyclists.

"They've got both camps in the fairgrounds," said Thomason last week, referring to the local economic impact of such a large group. "They've got the whole Chatuge Lodge rented out and the whole Holiday Inn rented out, and they're staying in all the cabins and cottages in the county, as well as the other campgrounds."

Thomason has also announced that another big Country Music act is coming to the fairgrounds - The Oak Ridge Boys will be playing Anderson Music Hall on Friday, August 21.

Tickets for The Oak Ridge Boys go on sale July 10.

"We've got Ray Stevens Aug. 1, we have Oak Ridge Boys Aug. 21, and then Sept. 4 is David Allan Coe," said Thomason. "And then, Sept. 19, we've got Taste of Home Cooking Show. And then, on Oct. 24 is Gene Watson."

The next event at the fairgrounds will be the Annual Fourth of July Fireworks, followed by the Georgia Mountain Fair running July 17-25 and the Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In from July 30 to Aug. 1.

Relay...from Page 1

services to people with cancer, including lodging and transportation to and from treatment centers.

"Our committee from Hiwassee went on one Saturday, took soups and salads, and fed the people lunch and visited," continued Cunningham. "So I think the American Cancer Society gives 91 cents out of every dollar. It goes back into helping people so only a small percentage is used for administrative purposes."

This year, the Relay committee is working on raising more money than they did last year.

"We had a bass tournament, we've had brunch with the Easter Bunny, we're hav-

ing a 5K run, and we'll raise a certain amount of money at the Relay event itself," said Cunningham. "We hope to raise our goal for this year's \$30,000."

Last year, the Relay council raised close to \$22,000. They're setting their sights higher this year.

"Quite honestly, it's been a little slower than we would have thought, but we still hope to reach our goal of \$30,000," said Cunningham. "We can definitely I think raise our \$30,000. In years past, I realize they did raise more. But that was before the turn in the economy in our county. And as you know, we don't have that many deep-pocket businesses just to hand over money, so

that's why it takes all those efforts working together to reach that \$30,000 goal."

The American Cancer Society is the largest and most visible non-medical support system helping to fight against cancer in the United States.

Last year, American Cancer Society workers gave 16,500 cancer survivors rides to treatment.

It has helped nearly 14 million people who have had cancer reach another birthday.

Every year, more than 4 million people around the world come together to celebrate Relay For Life Events. On Saturday, make sure to be one of them.

Korea...from Page 1

are available online.

Twenty-one countries as part of the United Nations aided the U.S.-led effort in Korea, and the war succeeded in helping the government and peoples of South Korea establish sovereignty.

"One good thing about South Korea - a lot of people died in that war, but they're a country that showed appreciation," said U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Cecil C. Sanders Jr. of Towns County, who served in Korea beginning in 1950. "Every time a country needs help, South Korea is one of the first to contribute help. So, they're paying for what people have done for them."

Applications for the medals were made available to Korean War veterans at the event that Saturday, which took place at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center, and veterans spent the time trading stories and getting acquainted.

"South Korea is the only nation in the world that ever thanked America, especially the GIs, for what they did," said Charles Patterson, who helped to organize the gathering as part of Garrison 66.

"They're the most grateful nation in the world - they teach it in school, that if it wasn't for the GIs in America or the United Nations, they

wouldn't be anything."

Area veterans of every age and branch are encouraged by the members of Garrison 66 to join their ranks to further the deeply entrenched community of veterans already present in Towns County.

"We try to get the veterans together throughout the month, and we have the barbeques, we have Friday night pool," said Garrison Commander Tony Peluso, who was in Korea in 1955 aboard the USS Pawcatuck. "Every other Saturday we have pool tournaments. We have karaoke, we have our meeting the first Wednesday of the month starting at 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. meeting."

Glow...from Page 1

its attendance next year.

The Relay Committee is closing in on its goal of raising \$30,000 for the fight against cancer.

"This will definitely help," said Cunningham. "This will be a nice chunk towards our \$30,000 goal. People are paying \$30 each to run and then we had a couple people who weren't running, they just wanted a t-shirt and paid the fee anyway. So this will be basically a \$2,200 event. After this event tonight, we'll be well over a third of the way towards our goal."

Plans for next weekend, include a yard sale, a cake

walk, and selling more items at the Downtown Hiwassee Square.

Relay organizer Cameron Lopez, from Habersham County, has only been with the American Cancer Society for a year as an employee, was a volunteer in the Habersham County Relay for Life for nearly 15 years.

"I got involved in memory of my Grandfather," she said. "So it is personal."

Lopez hoped that the Glow Run would help spread awareness and build momentum for the Relay for Life on June 27.

"I and a team of volun-

teers in Towns County have been working since September of last year to organize and plan other fundraisers as well as the Relay for Life," she said. "It's just a lot of letting people know about it and getting the word out. This is awesome, I'm so proud of the way the race has turned out so far."

The winner in the male division was Davin Melton with a time of 14:12.1. The winner in the female division was Kaitlin Merwin with a time of 22:38.6. The race was also divided by age. More results are available at <http://southernappalachianracing.com>

Lucy...from Page 1

The schools where she taught history, geography, and math, however, left a lot to be desired.

"Some of the schools had

no principals," she said. "Just the teachers. I started in a two-room schoolhouse. That was my very first job."

Aparo was married for

66 years before her husband, Sal, passed away. She had a son, Salvatore, who comes to visit regularly. To this day, she still hears from her old students.

Firefighters and Red Cross hand out smoke alarms

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, June 17, the Towns County Fire Department partnered with the American Red Cross to install 58 free smoke alarms in homes throughout the county.

"It's a group venture between the Red Cross and the Fire Department," explained Fire Chief Harold Copeland. "They already have a list they've obtained from the Towns County Food Pantry and they've already made contact with many residents in the county. So they've got this all set up."

While the initiative to install smoke alarms in houses that needed them did not come from the fire department, Chief Copeland said they were happy to assist the Red Cross.

"We're sending a firefighter per group. They have four groups that have spread out in the county and I think this is going to be one day of many to come," he said.

Lowes and Home Depot generously donated the smoke detectors and other hardware. What some people may not know is that smoke detectors have life spans of about 7-10 years, so it's important to replace them. It's also important to keep the batteries installed and fresh.

Not only did the Towns County Fire Department assist in the installation of hardware, but they also assisted in giving fire education to people who needed it. Each of the four Red Cross groups included at least one Towns County firefighter.

Matt Akins, the Northeast Georgia Red Cross Disaster Action Team Captain, explained that smoke detectors are not



Towns County firefighters and Red Cross volunteers handed out 58 smoke detectors last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

required by law, so not every home has one.

"It's good to have them but the government cannot make you buy them. It'd be nice to know everybody had one. It really would," he said.

Also present was the Red Cross Communications Officer Carisa Hettich, based out of Atlanta. She explained the initiative to install smoke detectors fit into a bigger five-year plan to help make the nation safer from fire hazard.

"It's a national campaign," she said. "It's a five-year campaign, and the Red Cross is a response organization that responds to house fires and a natural disasters, but we want to be on the prevention side, so we want to decrease the deaths and injuries over five years by 25 percent."

To do so, the Red Cross encourages preparedness, much like the Fire Adapted Communities Campaign.

"What we encourage people to do is have a home fire evacuation plan so they know how to evacuate their house," said Hettich. "We want them to test their smoke detectors so they know to actively check that, and we also want them to be able to evacuate their homes in two minutes."

Just like with any other situation, a little bit of common sense can go a long way toward preventing accidents.

"Education is knowing that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires," said Hettich. "A lot of people don't know just to put a cooking lid on it. If there's a home fire you put a lid on it, that's the best thing you can do. It's real basic things."

Last years, similar initiatives took place in Lagrange, Lawrenceville, Macon, Moultrie and Savannah. The campaign will progress to add even more communities.

Avita...from Page 1

members to this, but they go to a meeting or two and then drop out. Zadie has been very faithful. She's secretary now to the board."

The position is personal for Peters, as a mother of two adult developmentally disabled children. She has often participated in or organized events for developmentally disabled children, including special Vacation Bible School and summer camp.

"I have been privileged to serve one term and my term was up actually this month, and my new one begins July first," said Peters. "We meet once a month down at the main office at Flowery Branch."

A good portion of Avita's Board of Directors must be made up people with families who have consumer services or who have expertise in the area of serving people with addictive behaviors, developmental instabilities, and mental illness.

"I think the reason I was initially asked to serve on the board is because I'm the

parent of two developmentally disabled adult children," Peters said. "They do not receive services from this 13-county district, that would be a conflict of interest. My children receive services down in South Georgia, because that's where they live. But because I am family and have some understanding of the needs of these people, that's why I was asked to serve, and as I said it is a privilege."

Avita's mission is to improve the quality of life for persons with behavioral health and developmental disabilities. The organization envisions all individuals served participating in a variety of relationships and having a home, a job, and a natural support system.

"Our mission is achieved by providing person-centered care and partnering with families and communities," said Peters. "Avita has many services. They have host homes, they have programs in several areas of developmental disabilities. They provide help

with jobs. Also with alcohol and drug addiction, they have a crisis stabilization unit in Gainesville to serve emergency cases."

Physically, Towns County consumers are served in Union County. Transportation between the two counties is provided to those in need, and several of the consumers with developmental disabilities are brought to Towns County, for example, to work at the food bank.

Just in the last fiscal year, Avita served 345 individuals from Towns County with mental illness, addictive disease, or developmental disabilities.

"That's 345 different people who were served in 2014, and that was up 2.1 percent from fiscal year 2013," Peters clarified.

"As Towns County's Representative, I'll be happy to assist in any way I can and put you in touch with the right people," she said. Anyone needing to contact Avita services can call (706) 745-5911 for assistance.