

**WHEN YOU'RE
EXPECTING GREAT THINGS
WE CAN DELIVER**



Pardee
Excellence...close to home!
www.pardeehospital.org

Log in | Register | Subscribe | Current Conditions: SUNNY 27°

BlueRidgeNow.com
Times-News Online

NEWS SPORTS FEATURES OPINION OBITS BUSINESS WEATHER PREPS MOVIES AUTOS JOBS REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIEDS SHOPPING COUPONS

Search Times-News Online --Select Section--

Published Sunday, March 2, 2008

Let legislators know you oppose funding cuts

By Linda Burrell
Special to the Times-News

T SMALL TEXT PRINT EMAIL DISCUSS SHARE

Mainstay, Henderson County's front line against domestic and family violence, is calling for residents to contact Washington legislators to protest proposed cuts in federal funding for programs aimed at helping victims of violent crime.

Federal funding for the Violence Against Women Act programs was reduced \$35 million in last year's budget, Mainstay Executive Director Tanya Blackford said. She said victim service providers across the country have been struggling to compensate.

"We have seen federal funding for victim programs reduced year by year, but the shrinkage rate is accelerating," Blackford warned. "The new 2009 federal budget recently proposed by President Bush seeks to cut another \$120 million from Violence Against Women Act programs. Two other proposals seek to cut \$122.6 million from the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and totally eliminate the \$2 billion Victims of Crime Act fund."

Pointing out that federal funds from these programs are funneled through state governments, Blackford added, "Mainstay is not the only local agency affected by these cutbacks. The Healing Place, our community's sexual assault agency, is also funded by the federal programs."

Funding from the Violence Against Women Act and Family Violence Prevention Act finances most of Mainstay's services to victims, Blackford said.

This includes salaries for Mainstay counselors, free support group counseling, free childcare and court advocacy helping to guide victims through court proceedings and the legal system.

Angie Alley, executive director of the Healing Place, said, "Reduction of the Violence Against Women Act will affect the services we are currently able to provide to rural victims of child abuse and sexual assault."

Last year, Mainstay assisted 120 abuse victims in court; of those, 56 were granted protective orders. One hundred seventy-two victims received education and counseling in a group setting. At the same time, 162 children received free childcare while the mothers attended group. Both Blackford and Alley predict the cuts will devastate domestic and family violence programs and endanger victims' lives.

Blackford noted that the president's proposed budget is only the first step in the appropriation process. "Citizens can and should contact their legislators to protest the cuts," she said.

The National Network to End Domestic Violence is coordinating a national call-in to senators and representatives to protest the cuts. Those interested in protesting the budget can call the toll-free number 1-888-256-7413, and ask to speak to Sens. Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr and Rep. Heath Shuler.

"Tell them you want the 2009 budget to fully fund the Violence Against Women Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act," Blackford said. "Also say you favor increasing the Victims of Crime Act Fund Cap to \$717 million and that you want to protect the Victims of Crime Act from elimination."

People can also write or e-mail their legislators at the following:

Sen. Richard Burr: www.Burr.senate.gov; 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Elizabeth Dole: www.Dole.senate.gov; 555 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Heath Shuler: www.Shuler.house.gov; 512 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Anyone who is physically abused or knows someone who is abused, or who is being sexually abused or knows someone who is being abused may contact Mainstay at 693-3840 day or night.



One place.
One price.

Hilton Escapes

4-nights stay including flights from only \$591. To the Caribbean and beyond.
hiltonescapes.com

Forums

Recent Forum Topics

- Hire a smart first step (Recycling)
 - What has happened to our hometown?
 - A tale of three popular local eateries
 - Costs of Groceries!!!
 - HCPSS Student Code of Conduct
- [more topics»](#)

Blogs

- Community Calendar
- Mills River Planning Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday in the Mills River Town Hall. [\(more\)](#)
- Daybook for Sunday, March 2
- Dance, Girl, Dance shows by the Hendersonville Film Society at 2 p.m. at Smokey Mountain Theater at Lake [\(more\)](#)
- Gamecocks take Round 1
- South Carolina pounded Clemson 10-1 on Saturday. [\(more\)](#)

[more blogs»](#)



[Submit Your Own Video](#)

Slideshows & Multimedia

- Biological Stream Monitoring Training Workshop
- Chocolate Day
- HonorAir Reunion
- Out and About
- Writing With the Stars
- Bowl for Kids Sake
- Flat Rock Middle School Beach Music
- Blacksmith George Matthews
- Frog Love in the Pink Beds
- Fifth annual Barnie Awards

[submit your photo»](#) | [more slideshows»](#)

Local Restaurants

SANITATION SCORES
Which restaurants made the grade?

Poll

Should a bear hunt be allowed in the DuPont State Forest?

- Yes
 No

[Most Read Articles Yesterday](#)

The Healing Place sexual assault crisis hotline is 692-3931. All communications with Mainstay and the Healing Place are confidential. Services are also free of charge.

Linda Burrell is the the family services coordinator at Mainstay.

Sponsored Links

Gang Violence Prevention

2008 Gang Training Conference Chicago, August 6-8, 2008
www.ngcrc.com

Threat Assessment

Workplace and School Violence Independent Security Consultant
www.whirlawaygroupplc.com

Shop at WebSpider.com

Save time and money by comparing all the online merchants.
www.WebSpider.com

- Town's drop out costly to county
- Space heater sparks fire; Tuxedo home consumed
- Hendersonville beats Highland Tech in 1-A sectional " finals
- Judy L. Bagwell, 67
- 2 people killed, 2 injured in Florida plane collision
- Federal lawsuit against CEP ends
- For the Record
- Center completely out of touch
- More stringent review is needed
- Darts & Laurels

Sitemap	Contact Us	Newsletters	Home Delivery	Place an Ad	Photo Reprints	RSS	Submit a Letter	Times-News Store	BlueRidgeNow.com Store	NIE
-------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------------	--	---------------------