

Volume 36, No. 3

Fall 2015

40th Biennial/100th Anniversary WVAD Conference at Snowshoe Mountain

Resort, WV by Tamera A. Deem

West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) held their 40th Biennial/ 100th Anniversary Conference at Snowshoe Mountain Resort, WV, August 6-9, 2015. It was the first time in history that a conference was held at a resort! The conference was a success and offered rich information for the deaf and hard of hearing. It consisted of a couple workshops: (1) Use of VRI in the Medical Setting, presented by Scott Eudy, Sales Director, Stratus Video Interpreting, and (2) WVCDHH: Past, Present, and Future, presented by Earnest Covington, WVCDHH Executive Director, and Rachel Torrence, Project Director.

A board meeting and two general assembly meetings were also held. There were crafters, exhibition booths, and a silent auction to raise money for the organization as well. The weekend was a fun and exciting weekend. There were 99 attendees over the weekend who came from near and far. The conference attendees were given a free 4-day pass from Snowshoe Mountain Resort to do fun activities on the premises such as unlimited zipline, ski



WVAD Officers of 2015-2017 (L-R): John Burdette (President), Tamera Deem (Vice-President), Donna Williams (Secretary), Veronda Harrison (Treasurer), Worthy Devericks (Trustee), Jeff Simmons (Trustee), and Larry Hubbard (Trustee)

lift, lake activities, rock wall climbing, eurobungy jump, and "Split Rock" pool use. Everyone had such a wonderful time doing these fun activities as well as going to the conference activities. A group photo with a beautiful mountainous background was also taken.

On Saturday evening, a banquet and an awards ceremony were held, as (See 40th Biennial... on page 6)

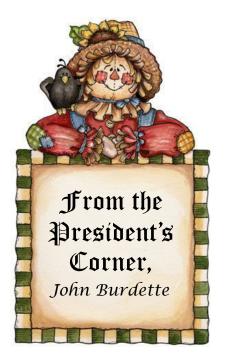
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WVAD Quarter News, Fall 2015



Greetings!

Autumn will soon be here! I hope you all had a great summer and wishing you cool, crisp fall season. I'm looking forward to the fall activities, as many of you are, such as going out to festivals, pumpkin patches, hayrides, and corn mazes; making apple butter; and hunting.

First, I want to thank everyone who attended WVAD's 40th Biennial and 100th Anniversary Conference at Snowshoe Mountain Resort. The conference was very successful. It was a wonderful experience for many of us having this conference at the resort. You'll be reading more information about this conference in this newsletter. (See story on page 1.) Congratulations to the new and continuing officers for the 2015-2017 term. I want to thank the co-chairpersons and the conference committee for doing a wonderful job with the conference. We, the board, will announce the next location for the 2017 conference soon.

I want to update everyone on things that will be happening in the coming months.

• WVAD is selling WVU vs. Oklahoma State football game raffle tickets. There will be 2 drawings for 2 tickets each. Drawing will be held on September 27, 2015. Raffle tickets are open to anyone and you do not need to be present to win. Proceeds will go to WVAD. Anyone interested in buying any raffle ticket,



please see any of WVAD board. For credit card purchase, please contact Veronda Harrison at 304-964-6025 videophone or e-mail at verapple@ aol.com.

- We are thrilled with this announcement about the 1st deaf superintendent of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind was appointed by the WV State Board of Education. Our new superintendent is Dr. Martin Keller. He will begin his position on September 16, 2015. Please give Dr. Keller a warm welcome to our state.
- WVAD will be sending Donna Williams and me to NAD Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) on September 24-26, 2015, at Birmingham, Alabama. The story about 2015 NLTC will be published in next (Winter) issue.
- The West Virginia Interpreters Retreat will be held on October 2-3, 2015, at Hilton Garden Inn, Clarksburg, WV. The theme is "Revive, Reinforce, and Renew." The interpreters will get the opportunity to earn RID Continuing Education Unit (CEU) and WV Department of Education (WVDE) Clock Hours. Check the link for more information at http://wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh/ pdf/WV%20Interpreter%20Educators%20Retreat.pdf.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING RATES

The WVAD Quarter News newsletter is a publication of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., published four times a year (March, June, September, December). Free subscription with paid dues. All advertisements must be paid in advance. The WVAD Quarter News reserves the right to reject any advertisement. Make checks payable to <u>WVAD</u>. Send ads with payment and any news to Tamera Deem.

Full Page, 7 5/8" x 10"\$100.00Half Page, 7 5/8" x 5"\$60.00

• On December 12, 2015, WVAD will be hosting a Christmas party at Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Clarksburg, WV. See our announcement/direction on page 10 for more information.

For those who have not paid for expired membership (see page 23 for form), please send the form and payment to our membership coordinator, Larry Hubbard. If you are not a member of WVAD, please join. Your support and dues help keep WVAD going. If you have any questions about membership, please contact Larry Hubbard.

In closing, WVAD is selling 100th Anniversary cookbooks and clothing wear with WVAD logo on them. If you're interested in buying a cookbook or any clothing, please go to the WVAD website (www.wvad.net) under Fundraising tab for the cookbook order form or logo wear order.

Please enjoy the fall season and the coming holidays.

John W. Burdette

WVAD President



WVAD Quarter News, Fall 2015



WVAD Board Minutes

WVAD Board Meeting Held at Snowshoe Mountain Resort, Snowshoe, WV, August 6, 2015

West Virginia Association of the Deaf's Mission Statement:

The West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., (WVAD) operated by, of, for the Deaf Community, advocates, and promotes to improve the quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing individuals including but not limited to deaf-blind individuals, parents of deaf children, interpreters, late-deafened adults, and children of deaf adults.

<u>Members Present</u>: John Burdette; Jimmy Harrison; Veronda Harrison; Donna Williams; Worthy Devericks; Larry Hubbard; and Tami Deem.

<u>Visitors Present</u>: There were thirty visitors present.

The regular board meeting of WVAD was held at Snowshoe Resort in Snowshoe, WV on Thursday, August 6, 2015. President John Burdette called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. with Secretary Donna Williams present.

President John Burdette made a few announcements regarding check-in, check-out, and maid services.

The minutes of the meeting held April 12, 2015, was sent via e-mail. It was corrected and approved via video phone and e-mail. The minutes of the meeting was published in the summer 2015 newsletter.

<u>Treasurer Veronda Harrison's Finan-</u> <u>cial Report</u>:

As of August 4, 2015, total expenses April 11, 2015 to August 4, 2015, total assets – \$9,011.80; total expenses – \$7,477.59; checking account – \$769.98; savings account – \$4,064.35; Mingo County Fund – \$14,541.95; conference fund – \$1,391.69; 100th Anniversary Fund – \$9,537.76; Deaf Youth Program – \$1,243.00; 2 Certificates of Deposits – \$12,003.63. Total balance in all accounts – \$43,552.36. Tami Deem moved to accept treasurer's report.

President John Burdette's Report:

- Still waiting on small claims court on the case against Ramada Inn. Will follow-up with them after the conference.
- Received e-mail from Donna Williams with sample letter to send to WV Representative David McKinley about the Alice Cogswell Act. After reviewing it and rewriting, the letter was sent June 20, 2015.
- Received e-mail from Sally Thompson from Virginia Association of the Deaf asking for sample conference schedule for their VAD 2017 conference. This was sent.
- Received e-mail from Ronald Williams announcing WVSD&B superintendent will retire June 30th. Mark Gandolfi, Chief Financial Officer, is acting superintendent until the new superintendent is selected.
- Received e-mail from April Hottle about Capital Heights High School having a school-wide event called Mayfair. She asked for donations such as ASL cards, pens, etc., to support the ASL Club. WVAD did not have anything at that time.
- Received e-mail from Donna Morris at NAD about opportunities to seek a Youth Ambassador Program applicant. Any organization affiliate or state association can sponsor an applicant. If anyone is interested, he/she can apply to NAD.
- Received e-mail from Paul See-WVCDHH board chairman-sharing information about Sarah Lowther being promoted to

permanent position as new secretary for WVCDHH.

- Also, the WVCDHH selected Rachel Torrence as program director/ interpreter.
- WVCDHH hosted community event at Power baseball game July 31 in Charleston. This was very successful.
- Received forwarded e-mail from Veronda Harrison about AmazonSmile. This is a program where Amazon donate 0.5% of purchase price of eligible products to charitable organizations selected by their customers.
- Spoke with Jenny Locy, ZVRS Regional Outreach Manager for WV via VP about sponsoring WVAD and providing a workshop. After trying to follow-up with her via e-mail several times, learned she will be attending another conference the same weekend.
- Sent e-mail to Penny Maphis at WVSDB to ask if there are any graduates from WVSD. She replied saying there were no graduates this year who are deaf. Next year WVSD will have eleven students who are deaf graduating.
- All board members received e-mail from Tami making motion to raise Andrew Kapaldo's salary to work on our website to \$100. This motion was passed via e-mail.
- Sent e-mail to Rachel Gill at DRS to follow-up about exhibit fee and asked if DRS could be a sponsor for WVAD. DRS will have exhibit but cannot sponsor.

(See Board Minutes on page 4)

(Board Minutes from page 3)

- Receive e-mail from Veronda about organization membership with PCRID.
- Sent e-mail attachment of letter to Gallaudet University requesting sponsor or donation. Gallaudet responded saying they can't sponsor; however, they sent several donations which will be used in the silent auction.
- Received e-mail from Region 1 representatives informing us about an NAD community survey to gather feedback from members and nonmembers. This was posted on Facebook. This survey can be done on line. Please do that.
- Received e-mail from Ruby Losh asking if WVAD can help sponsor the entertainer for the Interpreter retreat October 2-3. This will be held at the Hilton Gardens Inn in Bridgeport, WV. Replied informing her that this will be discussed at the next board meeting at Snowshoe.
- Received e-mail from Greg Haines, Sr. Sales Manager at Glade Springs Resort, asking about the possibility of having WVAD conference there for 2016. This is in the Beckley area. Replied that the WVAD conference is biennial and the next one will be in 2017.
- The WVCDHH announced today there will be a Deaf Awareness Day at the WV Capitol March 8, 2016.
- The NAD Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) will be on September 24-26 in Birmingham, Alabama. The next biennial NAD conference will be July 2016 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Vice-President Jimmy Harrison's **Report:** None.

Secretary Donna Williams' Report:

- Received a request from a deaf person to help her explain to a lawyer her rights to have an interpreter for a mediation meeting. Sent e-mail to that lawyer. No response so requested Earnest Covington at WVCDHH to help. Interpreter was hired.
- Researched WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources (WVECTCR) who contributed to April Hottle attending the Early

Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) conference. This is a statewide program to provide professional development opportunities for early care and education for young children and their families.

- In constant contact with Tawny Holmes, NAD attorney working on education for deaf and hard of hearing children, regarding the NAD's model of the Deaf Child Bill of Rights (DCBR) and improving services in WV. Met with Tawny May 13, while in MD/DC. She provided many suggestions. Some we are already working on. Others, I need to research more what other states are doing. Wrote an article about this bill for the last WVAD newsletter.
- Attended Kevin Myer's graduation from Gallaudet University. Also, wrote an article about this for the last WVAD newsletter.
- Received e-mail from Tawny Holmes (with a sample letter attached) requesting WVAD send a letter to WV Representative David McKinley, to request that he sponsor and support the Alice Cogswell Act in the U.S. Congress. This is a proposal amendment to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that will improve special education and related services for deaf and hard of hearing students. John, Tami, and I worked on that letter and it was sent. John received a response from that office thanking us for that letter. They might want more letters.
- Received a message on Facebook from a grandmother of a young woman who is deaf, asking how to help her find a job. Sent her all the information on WVAD, WVCDHH, DRS, and list of events.
- Contacted Allie Rice, NAD Youth Program Director, asking her for status of talking with WVSD about setting up a Jr. NAD chapter. She said she sent few e-mails to Principal Patsy Shank but no response. Since Dr. Shank is retiring, she and I agreed to start again early September after the new principal is hired.
- Continued to provide support to John and Tami preparing for this conference, reviewing and editing various documents.

- Still on the WVCDHH Interpreter Task Force. Making progress to improve the services for both the deaf/hard of hearing and interpreter communities. Currently working on an Interpreter Directory for hiring agencies listing community interpreters that will soon be sent out and put on the website.
- Constantly in contact with April Hottle, Education Advocate, and Antonia Vaughan, Legislative Advocate, answering their questions and providing support.
- Worked with April Hottle to draft • a letter to send out to eleven people representing various organizations and people, inviting them to join the WVAD Education Committee. April sent the first letter and received a few responses. Then I sent a follow-up e-mail and got a few more responses. Four people said yes, three people said no, and four people still have not responded. Those invited included a deaf mother of deaf children, teacher of the deaf, educational interpreter, representative from WVSD, WVSD Outreach specialist, hearing father of a deaf child, mother of a deaf child with a cochlear implant and using cued speech, WV Hands & Voices, recent graduate of Gallaudet University, WVCDHH executive director, and WVAD Legislative Advocate. April and I will discuss who to invite to replace those who said no or did not respond.

Trustees' Report: None.

Membership Chairperson Larry Hubbard's Report: This past April WVAD had 168 members. Now we have 188. Expect to get more members this weekend.

Editor Tami Deem's Report: Deadline for next newsletter is August 30.

Education Advocate April Hottle's Report:

• Thanked WVAD for support and help advocate for education for deaf and hard of hearing students. We must have high expectations of deaf and hard of hearing children.

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(Board Minutes from page 4)

- A woman I met at the Early Hearing Detection Intervention (EHDI) conference last March, Michelle Koplitz, asked me for WVAD to send a letter of support in her selection for the job as Director of the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Drafted that letter with Donna, John, and Tami.
- Assisted Russell Shepherd, teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing, interpreters, and the ASL Club at Capitol High School to arrange a booth for the 2014-15 Mayfair fundraising event in May. We raised \$200. The ASL Club plans to travel to VA for the Deaf Awareness Day at King's Dominion in the spring 2016 and is continuing to raise money for the trip.
- Continue to interpret at Capitol High School in Charleston and advocate for the students. Shared the Fall Odyssey Magazine with several staff members and as a result, one staff member stated that it is his goal to place deaf and hard of hearing students in regular classes rather than the special education classes as much as possible. This past school year Capitol High School had 12 deaf and hard of hearing students and 6 interpreters. This coming school year, Capitol High School should have 11 deaf or hard of hearing students.
- Worked with Donna Williams to set up an Education Committee of parent, teacher, educational interpreter, legislature advocate, WVSDB Outreach Specialist, etc. Letter and

e-mail sent. Out of 11 people invited, four said yes, three said no, and four did not respond. Still working on this. Want to meet with this committee soon after school starts.

<u>Legislative Advocate Antonia</u> <u>Vaughan's Report via E-mail</u>:

- Contacted Republican Representative David McKinney asking him to support the Alice Cogswell Act, a proposed amendment to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that will improve special education and related services for the deaf and hard of hearing students.
- Kept WVAD board informed about WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB) concerning HB 2160 relating to making WVSDB eligible to participate in any and all funding administered or distributed by the WV School Building Authority, HB 3022 relating to supplementary funding to the WVSDB, and Senate Bill 246 relating to establishing grandfather exception requiring certain School for Deaf and Blind child care workers to hold an associate degree.
- Waiting for NAD to develop the model DCBR to proceed with WV Legislative session 2016.
- On the Interpreter Task Force (ITF) and will be promoting changes to the Interpreter Code to add consequences.
- Looking for people to be on the Legislative Committee.
- Want to promote having a Legislative Workshop in WV by the NAD Legislative Advocate.

• Member of the WVAD Education Committee to help advocate for better education for deaf and hard of hearing children.

Conference Chairperson Jimmy Harrison's Report:

- Reviewed the schedule for the conference.
- Explained the Friday and Saturday evening events moved to the Expo Center due to a wedding reception in the big conference room. Working with the resort to provide shuttle service.
- Asked that everyone be on time.

There were no motions made at this meeting.

Comment from Visitors:

• Scott Hottle suggested WVAD board visit WVSD to share with students about Jr. NAD, WVAD, NAD, etc. Stay overnight, provide refreshments and some freebies, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m. 👉



This is a West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) non-profit organization newsletter for our WVAD family and friends.

It is the purpose of WVAD Quarter News to be an informative communications newsletter by all WVAD members and non-members, addressing WVAD programs, activities, issues, and member interests. WVAD Quarter News strives to maintain a balance between program and general interest news. Contact the WVAD Quarter News editor at **WVAD Editor** concerning material appearing in WVAD Quarter News. WVAD Quarter News will publish materials submitted by anyone, subject to editorial review and approval. Please remember to send references of any outside sources you may use. Authors' names will be withheld from publication at their request. The views and opinions expressed by contributors to WVAD Quarter News are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the staff of WVAD Quarter News.



President: Vice-President: Secretary: Treasurer: Senior Trustee: Trustee: Trustee: John Burdette John Burdette Tamera Deem Donna Williams Veronda Harrison Worthy Devericks Larry Hubbard Jeff Simmons

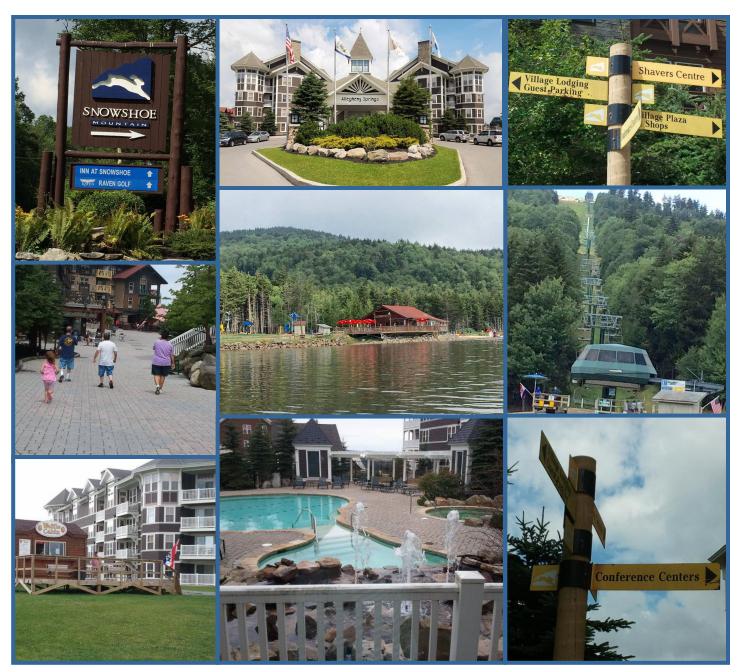
(40th Biennial... from page 1)

well as an entertainment show that was presented by Dan Cook and Jorge Mendez. The name of the show was "Test Your Knowledge Trivia Game Show."

Donna M. Williams was presented the President Award by the WVAD President, John Burdette, for all her hard work she had done as a WVAD Secretary and for trying to contact several people for information and communication purposes, make monthly lists of events calendar, etc. Tamera Deem received the Golden Hand Award from NAD/WVAD for her volunteer work creating the 100th Anniversary Cookbook, 100 Years History of WVAD, conference program book, newsletters, etc. April Hottle (Education Advocate) and Antonia Vaughan (Legislative Advocate) also received certificates for their undying passion to work as advocates for WVAD. Andrew Kapaldo also received an award for his volunteer work as a Webmaster for our WVAD website. The organization's conference committee received certificates and awards for organizing the conference. They did a wonderful job organizing the conference and for making it successful!

The WVAD members voted to send 2 officers to go to the National Association of the Deaf's (NAD) Leadership Training Conference in Birmingham, Alabama, to represent WVAD on September 24-26, 2015. For more information about this conference, see www.nad.org/2015nltc. In the next issue, we will share information about our educational trip. They also voted for 2 officers to go to NAD's 53rd Biennial Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, on July 5-9, 2016 (www.nad. org/phoenixlanding/nad2016.html).

For more information about the WVAD non-profit organization, see www.wvad.net.



(See 40th Biennial... on page 7) WVAD Quarter News, Fall 2015

(40th Biennial... from page 6)



WVAD Quarter News, Fall 2015



RUTH N. HENRY

Ruth N. Henry, 83, of Warren, OH passed away Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at Signature Healthcare of Warren. She was born August 23, 1931, in Petersburg, WV, the daughter of the late Jasper C. and Pearlie A. (Berg) Heavner. She married Kenneth Henry on July 3, 1953, and they shared 55 years of marriage until the time of his passing, March 28, 2009.

Ruth enrolled WV School for the Deaf in Romney, WV in 1937 and graduated in 1951. She was a homemaker. Ruth was an avid Cleveland Browns fan, but above all, she enjoyed her family and grandchildren.

Ruth's loving memory will be carried on by her children, Stanley W. Henry and his fiancée, Diane Hilas, and Sally L. Martin all of Warren, OH; and one brother, Richard Heavner of Youngstown, OH. Also surviving are her grandchildren, Joshua (Amanda) Martin, Ashley Henry, Brittany Henry, and Crystal Henry; two stepgrandchildren, Chris (Amber) Moyer and Mick (Sarah) Moyer; great grandsons, Tavon Martin, Kyler Martin, and Brady Metzinger; and three step-great grandsons, Isaiah Jones, Jackson Moyer, and Lincoln Moyer; one step-great granddaughter, Myleigh Moyer. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Kenneth Henry, three brothers and five sisters.

Services were held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 17, 2015, at Pineview Memorial Park Chapel where Rev. William Pinn officiated. The family received friends one hour prior to the service. Interment was at Pineview "In Memory of Loved Ones"



BRENDA SUE MATHEW

Brenda Sue Mathew, 67, of Jeffrey, WV, was born August 11, 1947 and passed away July 11, 2015 at CAMC General Hospital, Charleston, WV.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur Jones Napier and Francis Lucille White Napier; and brother, Clifton Jones Napier.

She is survived by brother, Arthur and Scherri Napier; son, Greg and Bella Napier; grandsons, Tanis, Garrett, and Landen; nephews, Chad and Wendy Napier and their children, Gage and Chase, Mark Napier and his children, Ali and MaKinley; nieces, Scherri Ann and David Posey and their children, Kaden and Kirsten, and Jennifer (Jimmy) Barker and her children, Heaven, Felicia, and Ashley.

Service was held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 15, 2015, at Handley Funeral Home, Danville with the Rev. Jim Butcher officiating. Friends called one hour prior to the service. To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Brenda Sue Mathew, please visit http://www.handleyfh.com/ store/?icn=desktop_memorial_obituary_link#.

Memorial Park, Warren, OH. Arrangements were handled by Carl W. Hall Funeral Home. Family and friends may view this obituary and/or send condolences to the family by visiting our website at www.carlwhall.com. See more at http://www.carlwhall. com/obituary/Ruth-N.-Henry/Warren-OH/1471384#sthash.DjuBakgl.dpuf.



PAUL J. MIDKIFF

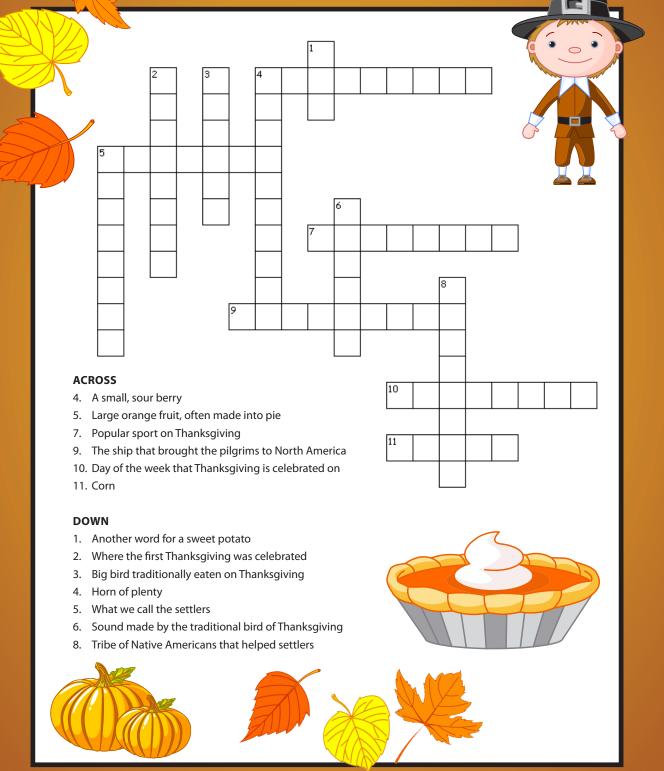
Paul J. Midkiff, age 77, went home to be with Jesus on February 7, 2015. Born on May 8, 1937 in Branchland, WV to the late Jennings O. and Maxine R. (Johnson) Midkiff, he was a resident of Doylestown for the last 20 years.

A 1956 graduate of the West Virginia School for the Deaf, Paul was highlighted many times in the Romney, WV newspaper for being an All State Football Star player and wrestler. He was employed at the Akron Beacon Journal for many years of service as a printer. Paul was a member of the Church on the Boulevard in Kenmore where he was very active in volunteering his time and being part of many activities. A very adept mechanic, he loved to work on cars, especially Toyotas.

Preceded in death by his brother, Ray, he is survived by his wife of 20 years, Ranice; children, Paul N. Midkiff, Christopher L. (Christine) Midkiff, Ronald Greene, Ricky Greene, and Robin Greene; grandchildren, Benjamin, Bradley, Rachel, Rosetta, Keith, Kendra, and Zachary; and brother, John (Lynn) Midkiff.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, February 14, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. at the Church on the Boulevard, 754 Kenmore Blvd., Akron, OH 44314, with Pastor Ron Mohlmaster officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Church on the Boulevard. Online obituary and guest registry are available at www.zakmonbarrenfh.com (Zak-Thacker & Monbarren Funeral Home).

Thanksgiving Crossword Puzzle







Saturday, December 12, 2015 Doors Open at 1 p.m. to Midnight

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 430 West Pike Street Clarksburg, WV 26301



\$1,000 Door Prize Giveaway

(Depends Upon Attendance)

\$20.00 per person includes Dinner and Door Prizes

Turkey, Ham, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Sweet Potatoes, Stuffing, Corn, Green Beans, Rolls, and Assorted Desserts

Please bring covered dish and/or dessert for an extra door prize ticket.

Age 18 and Above

Dinner Starts at 5:00 p.m. Prize Giveaways Starts at 8:00 – 11:00 p.m. Handicap Accessible

> Various Gifts/Cash Prizes (**TV**, **iPad Mini**, **and More**!) 10 Tickets for \$5.00 or 30 Tickets for \$10.00

Door Prize: Cash Ornaments

Come One, Come All!



Direction to Veterans of Foreign Wars 430 West Pike Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

Traveling from North I-79, go South I-79, get on Exit 119, turn right on U.S. 50 West/West Main Street. Exit on South 2nd Street toward downtown. Turn right on West Pike Street.

Traveling from South I-79, go North I-79, get on Exit 119, turn left on U.S. 50 West/West Main Street. Exit on South 2nd Street toward downtown. Turn right on West Pike Street.

Traveling from East I-68, go West I-68 and merge onto South I-79 and get on Exit 119, turn right on U.S. 50 West/West Main Street. Exit on South 2nd Street toward downtown. Turn right on West Pike Street.

Traveling from Parkersburg, go on U.S. 50 East toward Clarksburg, get on Exit North 3rd Street. Turn right on West Pike Street.





In the News



Fade Away? Not Yet – Barber Marks 70th Birthday at Shop

By Jake Jarvis, Staff Writer, Sunday Gazette-Mail, The Charleston Gazette, http://www.wvgazette.com/article/20150601/ GZ01/150609935/1419, Posted: Monday, June 1, 2015

At 5:15 a.m., Kay Wesley starts cutting hair and doesn't stop until her line of customers dissipates. Nowadays, that usually means 5 p.m., but when she started cutting hair about 50 years ago, it was much later.

Customers revere her. They'll tell you she isn't like other barbers you've been to, she doesn't talk on the phone or fiddle around when she works. She's focused. She's a hard worker.

On Monday, an intimate group of loyal customers helped Wesley celebrate her 70th birthday. Ask any of them and they'll say the same: Haircuts change, but Kay Wesley doesn't.

"When you walk out of this barbershop, you can look at anybody's hair and you know it's Kay's haircut," said Eloise Strum, friend and customer of 39 years. "Nobody uses razors, nobody uses scissors anymore — she uses that."

Wesley's shop is tucked between First Baptist Church and the Best Western hotel on Shrewsbury Street. It hasn't got a fancy name, just The Barbershop.

There, everyone seems to know everyone — and that's the way Wesley likes it. Once a customer starts coming to her, they keep coming back for years.

"They grow up, then they bring their kids in here," Wesley said. "The kids grow up, they bring their kids in here."

Even when a customer moves away, most eventually come back for at least a trim.

Wesley said she has customers from Columbus, Ohio, to Richmond, Virginia.

"They would get off the interstate and stop and get their haircut before they go home to see their mother or their wives," Wesley said. "I see them first before they do."

Ronald Calloway, 62, started coming to Wesley when he was 14 years old. He worked hard picking blueberries to save up the \$2 to buy a bus ticket to bring him from Chesapeake to Wesley's shop.



Barber Kay Wesley (left) celebrates her 70th birthday on Monday by cutting hair. Ron Calloway, a customer of 48 years, shares memories of the old days with Wesley. Photo Credit: F. Brian Ferguson | Gazette photo)

Others, like Eloise Strum, keep coming back because "no one does it quite like Kay."

In 2005, an illness caused Wesley to hang up her scissors. She had to turn away customers for a while, but folks like Strum wouldn't take no for an answer.

"When she got sick, we all tried somebody different," Strum said. "But it ain't the same."

Strum said she and five others hunted Wesley down at home, asking, "Kay, could we just come over to your house?" She couldn't say no.

Wesley's husband, Robert, set up a small room in the basement where she could cut hair. After more and more people discovered the secret shop, more wanted to come. She eventually had to come back to work.

More than once, Strum said she came to the shop at 4:30 a.m. to get

a haircut before work, only to find a line of people already ahead of her.

At Wesley's shop, cutting hair is a family affair. Wesley gave many kids their first haircut, including her greatnephew, Adam Craig, who now cuts hair in the chair beside her. In the 1960s, her sister talked her into going to barber school. There were 10 kids in the family, five cut hair and five worked in a chemical plant.

"We all made a living cutting hair." Wesley said, adding that if she could go back and try it again, she wouldn't change a thing.

When Wesley started cutting hair in 1966, everyone wanted an afro. "I was so glad when they went out," she said.

Now, everyone wants a fade. Regardless of what they want, Wesley is happy to make them look their best. (See In the News on page 13)

(In the News from page 12)

She got her first job at Kelly's Barbershop on Court Street, and then moved to a place on Washington Street.

Now, she works in a small shop on Shrewsbury Street.

Wesley said she and Ella Jean Martin, a woman who is deaf and cuts hair in the shop next door, have been close for years. During the birthday party, Wesley scurries next door, grabs Martin's hands and pulls her into the group.

Once inside, Martin is all smiles. Communicating with her hands, she holds up four fingers and a fist, then points to Wesley.

"Yes, we've been working next door to each other for 40 years," Wesley said. It takes her a minute, but she understands.

But what about retiring for good? Don't ask that too loudly. Strum, Calloway and others don't want to know.

"We'll see," Wesley said, smiling.

Reach Jake Jarvis at jake.jarvis@ wvgazette.com, 304-348-7905 or follow @NewsroomJake on Twitter.



Lee Lee Haley (left) and Eloise Strum (right), customers of Wesley, sing "Happy Birthday" to their favorite barber Monday. Like many others, Haley and Strum have continually gone back to Wesley for years. Photo Credit: F. Brian Ferguson | Gazette photo)



Kay Wesley (left) signs with fellow barber Ella Jean Martin (right) who owns the shop next door to Wesley. Martin is deaf, but the two understand each other. (<u>NOTE</u>: Ella Jean Martin is Emmit Robinson's sister.) Photo Credit: F. Brian Ferguson | Gazette photo)

(In the News from page 13) Administrator to Aid School for Deaf, Blind

By Samuel Speciale, Capitol Reporter, *Charleston Daily Mail*, http://charlestondailymail.wv.newsmemory.com/publink. php?shareid=419e39e3f, Posted: June 15, 2015

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind have selected a new administrator to help oversee day-today operations until a new superintendent replaces Lynn Boyer, who will retire later this month.

During a state school board meeting last week, Boyer said Mark Gandolfi, the schools' director of finance of two years, will assume administrative duties when she steps down on June 30.

"We're very pleased he's willing to take on this responsibility," she said. "He's knowledgeable about our budget issues and the governor's request to study our programs."

Gandolfi, a certified public accountant, will not be the schools' superintendent though, Boyer said.

The state Board of Education, which oversees the schools, currently is reviewing applications for Boyer's replacement. While she is not involved in the process, Boyer expects interviews to start next month.

The transition follows a period of school program and facilities improvements after years of neglect. In 2011, the school was cited by the state Office of Education Performance Audits for deficiencies in leadership, curriculum, and safety.

While many of those issues have been corrected, the schools still face uncertainty as attempts to increase funding to the remote Romney-based campus have failed. Architectural reviews of the schools have found the facilities need millions of dollars in work.

In April, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin vetoed a bill that would have allowed the schools to receive money from the state School Building Authority, which allocates special funding to school systems for construction and maintenance projects.

The bill, which received near unanimous support from both legislative houses, was pushed as a way for the schools to secure additional funding to fix lingering facilities problems.

Tomblin, in his veto message, said the bill was problematic because there is not yet a firm understanding of what the schools' needs are. Because of that, he asked the state school board to commission an independent study of the schools' facilities and curriculum.

That review still is ongoing. A spokesperson for the Department of Education did not respond to requests for comment.

Contact writer Samuel Speciale at sam.speciale@dailymailwv.com or 304-348-4886. Follow him at www.twitter. com/samueljspeciale.



Board Hires School Leader

By Ryan Quinn, Staff Writer, *Charleston Daily Mail*, http://charlestondailymail.wv.newsmemory.com/publink. php?shareid=38bc15dab, Posted: Saturday, August 22, 2015

The West Virginia Board of Education voted Friday to hire a new superintendent for the state Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

Education officials said evidence suggests Martin Keller Jr., who will begin leading the Romney schools September 16, is the first deaf superintendent in the schools' history, which stretches back to 1870. Keller, 45, will have an annual salary of \$110,000. State school board attorney Mary Catherine Tuckwiller said he'll take over from Mark Gandolfi, the schools' Chief Financial Officer, who's been serving as interim superintendent since the June 30 retirement of former superintendent Lynn Boyer. Tuckwiller said Boyer made \$120,000 in the position, and Gandolfi received a \$3,000 monthly supplement for serving as interim superintendent atop his roughly \$78,200 regular yearly pay.

Keller, who gave a telephone interview to the *Gazette-Mail* using a



The new superintendent, Martin Keller, Jr., who will be leading the WV School for the Deaf, Romney, WV.

(In the News from page 14)

sign-language interpreter, said he's spent 20 years in deaf education, including 14 as principal of various schools for the deaf. He resigned last week from his position as middle and high school principal of the Indiana School for the Deaf.

He grew up in Wisconsin and comes from a family of 10, and his parents and siblings are all deaf. He has five degrees, including a master's in deaf education from Western Maryland College, a master's in education administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a doctorate in deaf education from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. He said he'll focus on establishing an extra-year transition program that will help students better prepare for college or the workforce before they leave the schools, which serve students ages 3 to 21. He also wants to establish a STEAM program science, technology, engineering, arts, agriculture, and math — at the schools, alongside robotics and computer coding classes.

"I'm trying to stay in touch with what the future holds," he said.

Keller also wants to learn more about educating blind students, and will be visiting the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults in Long Island, New York, to learn to read braille.

Tuckwiller said 19 people applied for the position and she, state school board member Gayle Manchin, school board Director of Operations Donna Peduto, and Julian Woods, who is the state Department of Education's executive director of human resources, screened 10 candidates to select five for in-person interviews.

A committee — including Manchin, fellow board member Bill White, state Deputy Schools Superintendent Cindy Daniel, Hampshire County Delegate Ruth Rowan, and others, including teachers and alumni of the schools interviewed the finalists in Romney earlier this month, and the state school board interviewed Keller in closed session at its regular meeting last week.

The seven voting school board members who called into the teleconference meeting Friday — Tom Campbell and Beverly Kingery were absent approved Keller's hire in a voice vote with no nays heard.

Manchin, who headed the interview committee for the search, said Keller impressed her with his experience, vision, and ability to be a role model for students.

"We want to encourage every child to believe that, with hard work, you can accomplish what you want in life," she said. "I think, many times, parents and teachers lower expectations for some students, and he is a prime example of less was not expected of him than anyone else, and he rose to those challenges."

Earlier this year, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin vetoed a bill that had passed nearly unanimously in both houses of the Legislature and would have made the schools eligible to apply for grants under the state School Building Authority's "needs" fund, which is about 10 times larger than the fund the schools are currently limited to applying to.

The governor also vetoed \$1.5 million in one-time funding for the schools from a widely supported appropriations bill. Architects have said the schools need more than \$82 million worth of work, and Rowan and White, who also is a member of the schools' Board of Advisers, said the vetoes angered and surprised them.

In his veto message of the SBA funding bill, Tomblin said he didn't have "a firm understanding of what the Schools for the Deaf and Blind's needs are, to become financially viable well into the future." He asked the state board to "commission an independent, objective assessment of their needs, both facilities and curriculum-related." Manchin said Friday that the board has sent a report to the governor.

"I actually just found out about some of those issues," Keller said when asked about his plans to fix the schools' infrastructure. "And I'm looking at establishing a strategic plan with a planning committee so that we can show the value of the residential school program to the state."

Rowan, the Hampshire delegate, said the schools provide services for more than 700 students across the state, including more than 100 who live on the Romney campus.

Reach Ryan Quinn at ryan.quinn@ wvgazette.com, 304-348-1254 or follow @RyanEQuinn on Twitter.



Deaf Man Named WVSDB Superintendent

Hampshire Review (http://m.hampshirereview.com/news/article_be9c7030-4825-11e5-8343-d7af76277fad.html?mode=jqm), Posted August 21, 2015

CHARLESTON — The 1st deaf superintendent of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind was appointed by the State Board of Education this morning.

Martin P. Keller Jr., principal of the high school and middle school at the Indiana School for the Deaf was selected by a unanimous vote during a special meeting of the state board this morning with many of the members joining in by telephone.

WVAD Quarter News, Fall 2015

He will begin the position next month.

The board interviewed Keller in closed session on August 12, but took no action on his appointment.

"There were just some further questions that had to be answered and material information that had to be received," Board Member Gayle Manchin said late last week.

An Indiana native, Keller holds a doctorate in Deaf Education/Deaf

Studies from Lamar University and three advanced degrees including an Educational Specialist degree in Change Leadership from Gallaudet University, a master's degree in Deaf Education from McDaniel College, and a master's degree in Educational Administration from Xavier University.

"My leadership style has always been student-centered and I look forward to the opportunity to build on the (See In the News on page 16)

(In the News from page 15)

West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind's tradition of developing its students into the leaders of tomorrow," Keller said Friday following the WVBE vote.

Keller has worked with diverse groups of deaf and hard of hearing individuals for more than 16 years, including 14 years as an administrator managing student service programs, both at the elementary and secondary school levels.

"Dr. Keller brings innovative ideas, strong leadership skills, and a highly effective management style which I believe will take the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind to the next level," said Manchin, who chaired the hiring committee. "I am confident in his ability to outline a comprehensive strategic plan that will prepare students for the 21st century world of work."

Keller replaces Lynn Boyer, who retired June 30 after 4 years.

He was chosen from a field of 20 applicants, which was narrowed to 5 finalists who were interviewed by a large committee on campus August 4-5, 2015.



Sevigny to Receive Teacher Day Honor

Hampshire Review Staff, Posted Wednesday, August 19, 2015, 9:04 a.m. | Updated 9:15 a.m., Wednesday, August 19, 2015, http://www.hampshirereview.com/news/article_4594cca4-4655-11e5-b82d-2f9e816f47d7.html

ROMNEY, WV — A man who taught the deaf for decades and coached in the broader community will become the 2nd person acknowledged as Hampshire County's Teacher of the Year.

Pierre Sevigny was chosen by the Hampshire County Association of Retired School Employees to be acknowledged at a National Teacher Day ceremony at 10:00 a.m. Friday in Romney's Centennial Park alongside City Hall.

Sevigny, who died in 2013, taught for 44 years at the West Virginia School for the Deaf and also coached at WVSDB and Hampshire High.

Friday's celebration will include a proclamation presented from Delegate Ruth Rowan to Sevigny's widow, Christie.

Former WVSDB Superintendent Jane McBride will make remarks,

interpreted by former Secondary Deaf Principal J. D. Corbin.

McBride said the Hampshire County Commissioners should be present at the ceremony.

National Teacher Day was instituted here a year ago on August 28 at the behest of Norman Sites of Winchester, VA, who has been lobbying for the day to honor former educators.

In 2014, the County Commission designated Gordon Slonaker, who in his career served as principal of Romney High, academic dean at Shepherd College and executive dean of Potomac State College.

But operation of the day has changed for 2015.

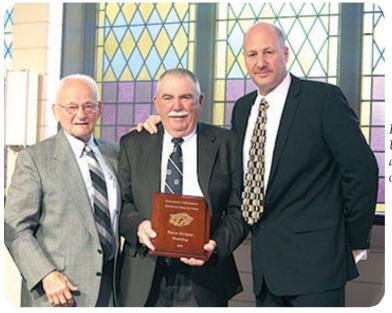
"The commission has stepped aside," said County Commission President Steve Slonaker. Rowan ushered a resolution through the House of Delegates last spring creating National Teacher Day for Hampshire, Hardy, and Grant counties.

"It had such good reception that I think next year I'll introduce a resolution to include the entire state," she said.

The commission handed over selection of the honoree to the Hampshire County Association of Retired School Employees, who put McBride in charge of this year's program.

"The commission is glad to see it continue," Slonaker said.

Officially, Sevigny is being bestowed the Richard C. Shickle Award, named by Sites' national organization in honor of the chairman of the board of supervisors for Frederick County, VA.



Pierre Sevigny (center) on his induction to the Gallaudet University Hall of Fame in 2010 with Dr. Frank Turk on the left and Gallaudet University Athletic Director Michael Weinstock on the right.

> (See In the News on page 17) WVAD Quarter News, Fall 2015

(In the News from page 16)

Teacher Tribute

Hampshire Review, http://www.hampshirereview.com/news/image_1b6f4f8c-516b-11e5-b319-5793646311c5.html, Posted: Wednesday, September 2, 2015, 9:03 a.m.



Herb Adrian, with the assistance of interpreter J.D. Corbin, pays tribute to Pierre Sevigny at Hampshire County's 2nd annual National Teacher Day last Friday.





Delegate Ruth Rowan presented a proclamation to Sevigny's widow, Christie, at the event held under a clear sky in Romney's Celebration Park.

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(Obituaries from page 8)



SHIRLEY F. SIMMONS

Shirley Florence Simmons, 81, of Parkersburg, WV, passed away August 5, 2015, at Columbus Colony Elderly Care, Columbus, Ohio.

She was born April 26, 1934, at Big Stick, WV, a daughter of the late Jake and Rhoda Shamblin Chamberlain.

Shirley was a 1955 graduate of the West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney, WV. She was retired from the Bureau of Public Debt with 20 years of service, a member of the Parkersburg Association Deaf Club and West Virginia Association of the Deaf. Shirley taught American Sign Language in the community for many years. She was a member of Walnut Street Church of Christ.

She is survived by her two sons, Ronnie L. Simmons (Patricia) of Parkersburg and Jeffery W. Simmons (Julie) of Cross Lanes, WV; three grandchildren, Jessica Withrow (Ronald) and Jordan and Joshua Simmons; four greatgrandchildren, Blake Withrow, Austin Bland, and Brenden and Cody Withrow; two sisters; two brothers; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Gene H. Simmons; and seven brothers and sisters.

Visitation was from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Funeral services was held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 12, 2015, at Lambert-Tatman Funeral Home, 400 Green Street, Parkersburg, with Dr. Ralph Hayes officiating. Burial followed in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. A guestbook for condolences is available at lambert-tatman.com.



(Fun Page from page 9)

Across:	

- 4. Cranberry
- 5. Pumpkin
- 7. Football
- 9. Mayflower
- 10. Thursday
- 11. Maize
- <u>Down</u>:
- 1. Yam
- 2. Plymouth
- 3. Turkey
- 4. Cornucopia
- 5. Pilgrims
- 6. Gobble
- 8. Iroquois

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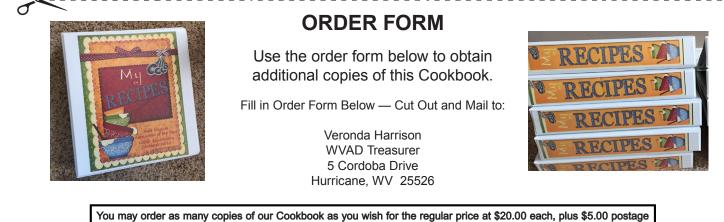
Jeff Simmons, Trustee 5327 Edgebrook Drive Cross Lanes, WV 25313-1724 VP Number: 304-759-8832 simmons8566@icloud.com

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 1, 2015 2:00 A.M.



COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

WV Association of the Deaf (WVAD) is selling cookbooks. They are \$20.00 a book (plus \$5.00 shipping & handling). The cookbooks are 110 pages long. This cookbook would make a perfect gift for Christmas, weddings, anniversaries, and birthdays. Proceeds will go towards the WVAD non-profit organization. If anyone is interested in buying a cookbook, please see John Burdette, Jimmy Harrison, Veronda Harrison, Donna Williams, Tami Deem, Larry Hubbard, Jeff Simmons, or Worthy Devericks. For credit card purchases, please contact Veronda Harrison (Treasurer) at 304-964-6025 Videophone or e-mail verapple@aol.com. Feel free to let your family and friends know about this as they are more than welcome to purchase a cookbook!



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WVAD Quarter News, Fall 2015

VEGGIE PIZZA Submitted by Evie Smith

For a pan pizza or small pizza, use 1 big roll of crescent roll. For a large cookie sheet of pizza, use 2 medium rolls of crescent roll. Spray PAM on the cookie sheet. Unroll crescent roll flat onto the cookie sheet. Bake at 350 °F for 10 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool.

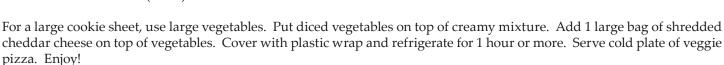
Cream Cheese Mixture

1 8-oz cream cheese, softened 1 bag (16 oz) Hidden Valley Ranch dip mix 1 cup of mayo (Hellman's mayo) or olive oil mayo

Mix all 3 ingredients to a creamy mixture. Spread creamy mixture onto the cooled crescent roll.

For a small cookie sheet:

One tomato (diced) 1 small broccoli (diced) 1 small cauliflower (diced)





PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE SNICKERDOODLES

3-3/4 cups all-purpose flour1/2 tsp salt1/4 tsp freshly ground ground nutmeg1 cup granulated sugar3/4 cup pumpkin puree2 tsp vanilla extract

Filling Ingredients:

8 oz pumpkin spice cream cheese

Cinnamon-Sugar Coating:

1/2 cup granulated sugar 1/2 tsp ground ginger 1 tsp ground cinnamon Dash of allspice

1-1/2 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

1/2 cup light brown sugar

1 large egg

1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature

In a medium bowl, whisk the flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg together. Set aside.

Beat together the butter and sugars on medium high speed until fluffy, about 2-3 minutes. Blend in pumpkin puree, beat in egg, and then add vanilla. Slowly add dry ingredients on low speed just until combined. Cover and chill dough for an hour. Preheat oven to 350 °F and line your baking sheets with parchment paper. In a small bowl, combine the sugar and spices for the coating and set aside.

To make the cookies, take a tablespoon of the cookie batter. Flatten it like a pancake and place a teaspoon of the cream cheese in center. Form another tablespoon of the cookie batter into a flat pancake shape and place on top of the cream cheese. Pinch the edges together sealing in the cream cheese and roll into a ball. Roll in the cinnamon sugar coating and place on the prepared baking sheet 2 inches apart. Repeat until the dough is gone and flatten the cookie dough balls with a heavy bottomed glass or measuring cup. Bake the cookies for 10-15 minutes or until the tops start to crack. Let cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes and transfer to a wire rack. Enjoy!

<u>NOTE</u>: If you cant find the pumpkin spice cream cheese, make the cream cheese filling by blending 8 oz cream cheese, 1/4 cup sugar, and 2 teaspoons vanilla together. Chill for an hour.







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