

WVAD Quarter News

Happy Birthday America!

"News brought to you by the West Virginia Association of the Deaf organization."

Volume 32, No. 2

Summer 2011

Susan G. Komen Race for Cure 2011 Was a Huge Success! by Tami Deem

Missy Barie did it again! She was the success to the *Deaf Pink Warriors* team, organizing and planning for the "Susan G. Komen Race for Cure 2011" walk (held in Charleston, WV, on May 7, 2011, in honor of our dear friends, Phoebe Jo Richards, Patty Simmons, and a couple of hearing friends who are friends with Missy and Melinda Hurd (Terri Hanshaw and Dru Myers). Those four women battled breast cancer at some point in their life and beat the disease.

Missy spent long hours volunteering at the Susan G. Komen Race headquarters, getting the team packets ready for all the race participants that were coming to Charleston. Julie Simmons and Phoebe Jo Richards also volunteered whenever they could. The team's goal was to raise \$1,000 and we raised \$3,738.00! Way to go *Deaf Pink Warriors*!



The cross-stitch picture and frame was made by Terri Pack and the macrame ILY hand was made by Christie Seigny as an appreciation gift to Missy. Team members also gave her and Melinda Hurd gift cards and little pink tokens of appreciation for their work.

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Thanks to everyone who donated money for this worthy cause! We appreciate all your hard work.

Missy worked very hard for several months to organize our team. Melinda is also to be commended for designing our team t-shirts. They turned out beautiful! Everyone loved our team t-shirts! Even when I wear it to work or out on the street in Morgantown, everyone comments how they love my t-shirt. I am very proud of these two women who worked hard to make it a success this year!

Missy organized a "Pick Up Party/ Rally" at the Texas Steakhouse & Saloon restaurant on Friday night. Approximately 53 people attended the dinner, although we had 77 participants on our team. She reserved a special room for (See Susan G. Komen ... on page 3)



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 **WVAD**. Send ads with payment and any news to Tami Deem.

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

Hello!

WVAD is gearing up for our conference in Charleston, WV, at the Holiday Inn Charleston House this August 4-6, 2011! This year's conference theme is "Together We Can LEAD!" How? Through leadership, empowerment, advocacy, and diversity.

We have two exciting workshops planned, one by Tammy Ennis on "Do I Know My Rights" and another workshop on "Scamming and Identity Theft." Also for the weekend we will have entertainment, game night, and banquet.

A friendly reminder that conference combo tickets have been reduced, take advantage and be sure to send in your combo today so you can come enjoy an

educational weekend as well as a social weekend with old and new friends.

Sincerely,

Linda Phillips

WVAD President



 Find us on
Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=670803243&ref=name#/group.php?gid=136005551663&ref=mf>

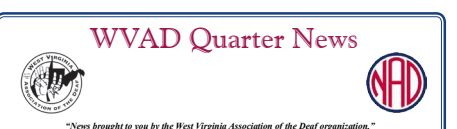
West Virginia Association of the Deaf has a Facebook group page which was started this past fall. You will be able to keep up with WVAD news and information every time you check your Facebook. You will also be able to post events and be involved in discussions.

Check out the West Virginia Association of the Deaf Facebook page today to see what's happening.

Many thanks to John Burdette for doing this for our organization!

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*.



Editor:	Tami Deem
President:	Linda Phillips
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Treasurer:	Veronda Harrison
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Trustee:	Worthy Devericks
Trustee:	Scott Hottle

(Susan G. Komen from page 1)

the party at the restaurant. The food was very good. People came from various states (VA, MD, OH, TN, and KY) to participate in our race and, more importantly, to support our own breast cancer survivors.

After our dinner, the breast cancer survivors spoke about how they battled the disease and how they appreciate life today. Many thanks to Jessica Streets for interpreting what the survivors had to say.

We had three different cakes for dessert (Julie Simmons' daughter Jessica made a layered cake and also Missy's son-in-law's mother Teresa Reids made the other two cakes, which were all donated for our party. They were beautiful cakes! We raffled off prizes to give away "pink" things to wear at our race the next day. Missy and Julie Simmons made a beautiful poster that identified people who are currently battling cancer, and those who lost their battle to cancer.

Missy presented gifts to Terri Pack for raising the most money and Debbie Lyne for bringing most of her families/friends to join in the walk. Terri received little gifts of appreciation and a book "Promise Me," written and autographed by Nancy G. Brinker, Susan G. Komen's

sister who survives. Debbie also received little gifts and a DVD "Living Proof."

As a result, the *Deaf Pink Warriors* won the Team Spirit from the "Susan Komen Race for Cure 2011" because we had a "pick up party" of our own Friday night with prizes for team members for fundraising purposes. We may have been silent but we were loud with proud team spirit!

Bright and early Saturday morning, we met again at the State Capitol for our race/walk, proudly wearing our team t-shirts! The organization had a few speeches to make on the steps of the Capitol and we want to thank Julie Barie for interpreting for us. We walked 3.1 miles (USA Track and Field certified) on Kanawha Boulevard. They had vendors around the Capitol grounds, giving away free things and offered free raffles for various prizes. Ronald McDonald mingled around with the crowd and some of us got our photos taken with him before the race.

We proudly displayed our team t-shirts at one of the tents. The displayed team t-shirts that raised the most money won the best t-shirt award. The money went to the Susan G. Komen

Previous WVAD Quarter News



IS ONLINE

<http://www.wvad.org>

breast cancer awareness fund. We also displayed our poster on the Capitol steps. There were only two posters displayed. It made us proud of Missy and Julie for doing that for the *Deaf Pink Warriors* team! Thank God we had a beautiful day to race or walk!

During the race, bananas and water were offered to those who either raced or walked.

The race raised \$340,000 (this number continues to grow with pledged and late donations coming in). The event brought over 7,000 people and there were numerous survivors participating in the event.

Because we had so much fun together and felt it was such a rewarding feeling, we are planning to do this again next year! Mark your calendar for May 2012! Come and join us! You will feel overwhelmed being at this race and it's a wonderful feeling that no one can describe! You have to be there to experience it!

The breast cancer survivors stressed the importance of checking your breasts faithfully, once a month (more often would be great), and have yearly mammogram check up because they do not want you to go through what they went through! "It's a terrible disease to go through and it's **NOT** fun," they said at the dinner when they presented their speech.

For more information, please go to <http://www.komenwv.org>. ■
(See Susan G. Komen photos on page 5)



Deaf Pink Warriors at the 2011 Susan G. Komen Race, Charleston, WV.



If you are submitting an article, please send any accompanying photos in a standard photo format, as a separate file. We cannot use photos that are embedded or included in a Word document. Photos with captions and articles should be submitted to the [WVAD Editor](#). Thank you.

WILLIAM "BILL" NEALIS

William "Bill" Easton Nealis, 81, of Romney, WV, died May 7, 2011, at Lion Center, Cumberland, MD. Bill was born on July 10, 1929, in Romney, WV, the son of the late William Garland Nealis and Myrtle (Simmons) Nealis Presgraves. Besides his parents, Bill was preceded in death by one stepson, R. Scott Shoemaker and several sisters.

Bill served in the U.S. Army during WWII and was a life member of the VFW Wappocomo Post 1101, Romney, WV. He was a member of the Community Assembly of God Church, Romney. He retired in 1994 from the WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind after 20 years of service as a security guard. Prior to working at the school, Bill was employed at Kinney Shoe Company, Romney, WV, and as a guard at the prison at White Post, VA.

Surviving are his wife of 40 years, Betty (Showalter) Nealis; one stepson: Harry "Billy" William Shoemaker, Jr., Long Beach, CA; two stepdaughters: Sonya Jean Racey, Falling Waters, WV, and Pami Ann Frazier, Warrenton, VA; and one brother: Paul Nealis, Romney, WV; one half-brother: Clifton "Buddy" Presgraves, Romney, WV; one sister: Betty Bradfield, Woodstock, VA; one half-sister: Nancy Bowman, Romney, WV; six step-grandchildren and eight step-great-grandchildren.

The family received friends at the Shaffer Funeral Home, Romney, WV, on Monday, May 9, 2011, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. The funeral was on Tuesday, May 10, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. at the Shaffer Funeral Home with Pastor Dan Denison officiating. Interment with military honors was at Ebenezer Cemetery, Romney, WV. Memorials may be made to either the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60601-7633 or your church. ■



"In Memory of Loved Ones"



TRISH (GARNER) LOVE

Trish Mae (Garner) Love, 47, of Vincent, Ohio, passed away March 12, 2011, at her residence. She was born May 31, 1963, in Wood County, WV.

She was active in the Deaf Club and a member of Hall of Fame at the West Virginia School for the Deaf, Romney, WV.

Trish was preceded in death by her father, Melvin Garner. Surviving family members include her daughter, Brooke Love; her mother, Kathryn Snyder; her special friend, Larry Taylor; three sisters; one brother; four nephews; and one niece. She is also survived by her childhood best friend, Donna McGee Keene.

Funeral services was at 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, at Lambert-Tatman Funeral Home, Belpre, OH, with Pastor Bob Lizer officiating.

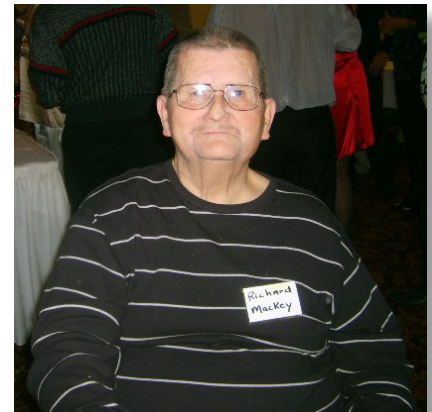
Interment followed at Evergreen North Cemetery, Parkersburg. Visitation was from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday March 14 at the funeral home.

An online guest register is available at www.lamberttatman.com. ■

RUBY M. BOHON

Ruby May Bohon, 74, of Rowlesburg, died Sunday, April 17, 2011, in Morgantown, with family by her side. She was born February 13, 1937, in Preston County, a daughter of the late Jeff and Susan Bohon.

Ruby graduated from the West Virginia School for the Deaf and was a homemaker. She is survived by her sisters,



RICHARD E. MACKEY

Richard Eugene Mackey, 82, of Belaire, Ohio, formally of Cameron, WV, passed away Monday, March 28, 2011, in Wheeling Hospital. He was born April 28, 1928, in Greene County, PA, a son of the late Burl and Margaret McClain Mackey. Richard was a retired employee of the former Cameron Tool and Supply with 42 years of service. He was a Methodist.

Preceded in death by his wife Phyllis Bolen Mackey.

Surviving are a daughter Peggy (Michael) Cornell of Waynesburg, PA; son John (Karen) Mackey of West Decatur, PA; two brothers Earnest (Jane) Mackey of Richmond, VA, and David (Helen) Mackey of Massachusetts; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; some nieces; and nephews.

Friends were received 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 31, with funeral service at 11 a.m. Friday, April 1, 2011, at Anderson Funeral Home, 39 Maple Ave., Cameron, WV, with Pastor Michael Dunn officiating. Interment at the convenience of the family. ■



Lena and Cherry Bohon, both of Rowlesburg, and several nieces and nephews. Ruby was also preceded in death by her three brothers: Ralph, Billy, and Charles Bohon; and three sisters, Edna and Agnes Bohon and Gladys Stemple. Family and friends were received at Browning Funeral Home, Burke Chapel, Rowlesburg, on Wednesday, April 20, from 9 a.m. until the 1 p.m. funeral service with the Rev. Roy Mick officiating. Interment followed at Red Rock Cemetery. Condolences may be made at brown-ingfuneralhome.net. ■

WVAD Quarter News, Summer 2011

West Virginia Association of the Deaf

38th Biennial Conference

August 4 – 6, 2011



Holiday Inn Charleston House

600 Kanawha Blvd East, Charleston, WV

ROOM TYPE	COST
Double Beds	\$89.00 per night
King Bed	\$89.00 per night

For Reservations: Call 304-344-4092 and inform this is for WVAD Conference.

DEADLINE IS ON JULY 15, 2011.

UPDATED — PRICE CHANGE!

West Virginia Association of the Deaf

38th Biennial Conference

August 4 – 6, 2011

Holiday Inn Charleston House

600 Kanawha Blvd East, Charleston, WV

WVAD Member	\$70.00
WVAD Member Senior Citizen	\$60.00
Non-Member	\$95.00
Non-Member Senior Citizen	\$80.00

Combo Price Includes:

Workshops for Two Days

General Assembly for Two Days

Friday Night Game Night

Saturday Night Banquet/Entertainment

Registration

Admission to Exhibits

**** Payment Plan available for combo prices; for more information, contact Treasurer Veronda Harrison at treasurer@wvad.org or by VP at 866-928-2834 ****

West Virginia Association of the Deaf
38th Biennial Conference
August 4 – 6, 2011
Registration Form

Your Information:

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____

Member _____ **Non-Member** _____ **Renewal** _____

Spouse Information:

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____

Member _____ **Non-Member** _____ **Renewal** _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ (VP/TTY/Voice)

E-mail: _____

WVAD STATUS	COST	HOW MANY	TOTAL
WVAD Member	\$70.00		
WVAD Member Senior Citizen (55 & Up)	\$60.00		
Non-Member	\$95.00		
Non-Member Senior Citizen	\$80.00		
Grand Total →			

Please make check or money order payable to WVAD
Mail this form and payment to:
Veronda Harrison, WVAD Treasurer
5 Cordoba Drive
Hurricane, WV 25526

Deadline is on July 15, 2011

West Virginia Association of the Deaf
Holiday Inn Charleston House
38th Biennial Conference
August 4-6, 2011

Meeting

Entertainment

Contests

Workshops:

“Do I Know My Rights?”

and

“How to Protect Yourself
from Scamming and Identity Theft”

Door Prizes

Mime
(Billy Carwile)

Games

Cash Prizes

Samsung Epic
and
\$\$ Cash \$\$

Banquet

Dingo —
\$1,500

If you pay your combo before July 15, 2011, you are eligible for door prize drawing at the conference.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

VP: _____

**West Virginia Association of the Deaf
38th Biennial Conference
Holiday Inn Charleston House
August 4-6, 2011
Tentative Conference Schedule**

Thursday, August 4, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon	WVAD Board Meeting
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	WVCDHH Board Meeting
4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Registration
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Reception with WVAD Board (Appetizers at 7:00 p.m.)

Friday, August 5, 2011

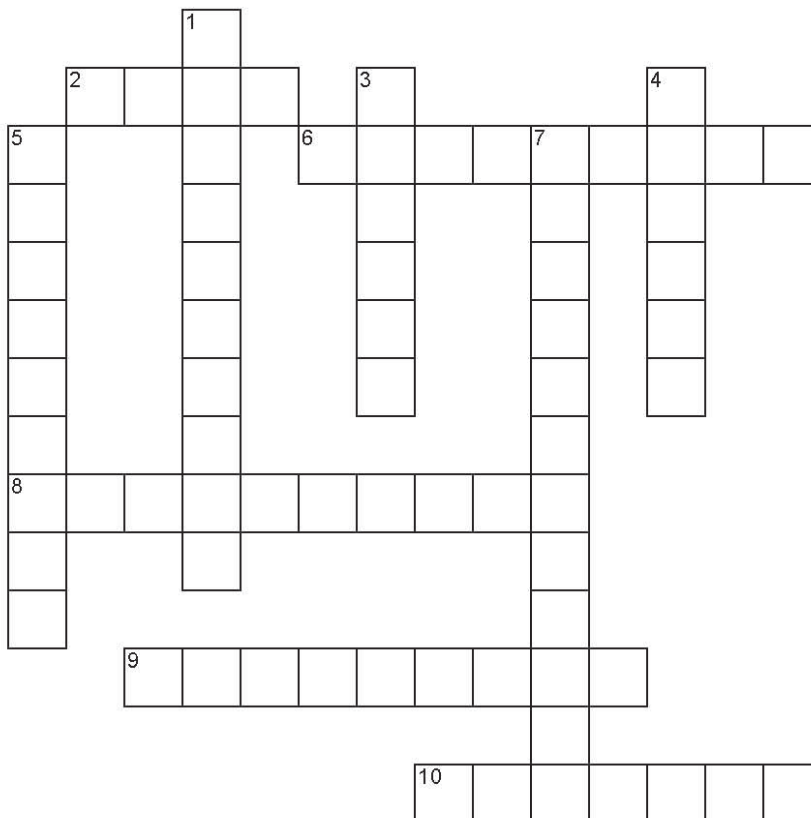
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast on your own
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m.	Doors open for workshops
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Address of Welcome
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Exhibitions and Crafts
10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon	Workshop #1 — "Do I Know My Rights?" by Tammy Ennis
12 Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	General Assembly 1
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Dinner on your own
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Registration
6:30 p.m.	Doors open for evening activities
7:00 p.m. - 11 p.m.	Game Night (WVAD Feud, Dingo, and Contests) – Appetizers (??)

Saturday, August 6, 2011

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast on your own
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m.	Doors open for workshops
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Exhibitions and Crafts
10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon	Workshop #2 — "How to Protect Yourself from Scamming and Identity Theft?" by Jill Mills, Deputy Attorney General and Chris Hedges
12 Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	General Assembly II
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Registration
5:30 p.m.	Doors open for evening activities
6:00 p.m. - Midnight	Awards Banquet and Entertainment by Billy Carwile

Dress: Casual (No Jeans)

FOURTH OF JULY FUN PAGE



ACROSS

- 2 The 50 stars version of the American _____ was adopted on July 4th, 1960.
- 6 The Fourth of July is considered a very _____ holiday.
- 8 During the American _____, the colonies wanted to separate from Great Britain.
- 9 John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both signed the Declaration of Independence and also became _____ of the United States.
- 10 Independence is a word that also means _____.

DOWN

- 1 George _____ was the first president of the United States of America.
- 3 The Star-Spangled _____ is the national anthem of the United States.
- 4 Independence Day is a holiday celebrated in the United _____.
- 5 It is fun to see the 4th of July parades and watch the _____ in the night sky.
- 7 The Declaration of _____ was adopted on July 4, 1776.

WORD BANK: Banner, fireworks, flag, freedom, independence, patriotic, president, revolution, states, washington.

(See answers on page 18)



In the News



New Superintendent Named for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

Posted: May 11, 2011 (<http://wvde.state.wv.us/news/2319/>, WV Department of Education Website)

CHARLESTON, WV – The West Virginia Board of Education voted unanimously on Wednesday to hire Dr. Lynn Boyer as the new superintendent of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

"We are excited to get Lynn back to West Virginia," said Board President Priscilla Haden. "Lynn impressed the entire interview team with her expertise and innovative ideas."

Boyer served as the executive director of the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Office of Special Programs, Extended and Early Learning from 2004 to 2010. She currently works as the assistant executive director at the Council for Exceptional Children located in Arlington, Va. Other professional experience includes time as the director of special education programs and services for Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia, and as an adjunct professor at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., and Marshall University in Huntington.

In 2010 the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind was cited by the Office of Education Performance Audits for safety, technology, curriculum, and

leadership issues. Since that time, the WVDE has developed an action plan to correct the deficiencies.

"I am honored by the West Virginia Board of Education's confidence in me and by the opportunity to build on the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind's tradition of serving the children and youth of the state," Boyer said. "My hope is to build a vibrant community of students, educators, parents, and other stakeholders that, together, prepare our students for a future that is rich in choices."

Boyer will take on her new responsibilities in a full-time capacity beginning on July 1, 2011.

For more information, contact the Communications Office at 304-558-2699. ■



NAD Condemns the Depletion of State TRS Funds by State Legislatures

(<http://www.nad.org/news/2011/4/nad-condemns-depletion-state-trs-funds-state-legislatures>, NAD Website)

Submitted by admin on Wednesday, 4/20/2011 - 12:36

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) is disturbed by a growing trend among state legislatures of taking funds from state telecommunications relay services (TRS) funds and using them for non-TRS purposes. These are intrastate funds that are used for TTY relay services, CapTel, Hearing Carry-Over, and Voice Carry-Over services and not IP-Relay or Video Relay Services. Most recently, the states of Alabama and Montana have passed bills to transfer state TRS funds to other non-TRS funds. These transfers are being made under special circumstances and will not necessarily happen on a regular basis in the future.

Under Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act, common carriers (telephone companies) are required to establish interstate and intrastate TRS 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TRS enables deaf and hard of hearing callers to communicate with non-deaf people through a third party communications assistant. To provide this service, common carriers pay into TRS funds which are used to provide this service. These payments are a form of taxation in exchange for the actual provision of telecommunications services in the United States.

A preliminary review of FCC rules and guidelines has not shown a definitive answer on the propriety of using TRS funds for other purposes, but NAD continues to research this issue. Nevertheless, NAD opposes this type of transfer when relay services are still not functionally equivalent.

While these state legislatures may believe that the "extra" funds are surplus funds and extra money that is not needed for intrastate TRS services, this (See In the News on page 13)

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2010-2011 West Virginia Deaf or HH Athletes (<http://deafdigestsports.com/category/mainstreamed-athletes/>, from DeafDigest Website)

Bridgeport HS – Corey Wagner, Sophomore, Football, Track
Capital HS – Andrew Supcoe, Senior, Archery, Soccer, Wrestling
Hampshire HS – Michael Jarvis, Senior, Football
Hampshire HS – Roddy Stickley, Junior, Football
Hampshire HS – Ethan Bolyard, Sophomore, Football (from WVSD)
Hampshire HS – DeSean Thomas, Freshman, Football (from WVSD)
Hampshire HS – Derrick Eversole, Freshman, Football (from WVSD)
Hampshire HS – Page Miller, Senior, Cross Country
Liberty HS – Patrick Gore, Senior, Basketball, Soccer, Tennis
Musselman HS – Luke Beavers, Sophomore, Wrestling
Roane County HS – Luke Hottle, Freshman, Football, Wrestling (WVAD Trustee Scott Hottle's son)
Roane County HS – Mitchell Miller, Junior, Football

(In the News from page 12)

could not be further from the truth. Deaf and hard of hearing Americans are still far from achieving functional equivalency in telecommunications. Problems continue with TRS calls ranging from subpar equipment, outdated video communication technology and unqualified communications assistants and interpreters. The day has not yet arrived where deaf and hard of hearing people can make TRS calls and feel confident in the quality of the calls. Further, we have a long way to go in improving equipment and services for deaf blind callers and deaf and hard of hearing callers who have other disabilities.

Instead of depleting these intrastate TRS funds for other purposes, these funds should be used to improve the quality of TRS for all deaf and hard of hearing Americans in their respective states. NAD stands ready to assist and strongly encourages its members and state organizations to contact their respective state legislatures and Public Utility Commissions (or whichever group oversees the state TRS fund) and explain to them the need to use all TRS funds for TRS. ■

Ski*Hi Preschool Program Offered for Deaf Children

The West Virginia School for the Deaf offers a free home-based education program for families of deaf or hard-of-hearing children ages birth through five called Ski*Hi. Ski*Hi focuses on language development and communication.

A parent advisor will make weekly hour long visits to the home. During the visits, the parent advisor will model language development activities with the deaf or hard-of-hearing child. The advisor also will spend part of the visit sharing information with parents to help them face the challenges and make informed decisions concerning their child.

The Ski*Hi program serves children who have mild to profound hearing loss and children with cochlear implants. Ski*Hi also assists children who have chronic otitis media (chronic ear infections) causing delays in speech and language development. The eligibility criteria for Ski*Hi is:

- Children ages birth to five who have a documented hearing loss are eligible for Ski*Hi home visits.

- The hearing loss may range from profound to fluctuating chronic otitis media.
- The child must be a resident of West Virginia.
- The Ski*Hi program is provided at no cost to parents.

If you would like to make a referral, please fill out a Ski*Hi referral form at <http://wvsdb2.state.k12.wv.us/referral.doc>.

For additional information contact:
WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind
Ski*Hi Preschool Program
301 East Main Street
Romney, WV 26757
Phone No.: 304-822-4843 or 304-822-4837
E-mail: skihi@access.k12.wv.us. ■



Mountwest Community and Technical College Commencement

Photo by Mark Webb/The Herald-Dispatch, May 13, 2011 @ 09:46 PM
MARK WEBB, Herald-Dispatch.com

Ashley Sever, the first deaf graduate of the American Sign Language Program, receives a certificate from Keith Cotroneo during the Mountwest Community and Technical College commencement ceremony held on Friday, May 13, 2011, at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center in Huntington, WV.

WVAD Quarter News, Summer 2011

New WVSD&B Superintendent Ready to be a Presence

May 18, 2011

BY MARLA PISCIOTTA, marlapisciotta@frontier.com, 304-822-3871

(Courtesy of Hampshire Review and Marla Pisciotto, Hampshire Review Staff)

ROMNEY — The new superintendent for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind says the schools have a vibrant future, but first she will be addressing issues at hand.

In a phone interview the day after being chosen for the position by the West Virginia Board of Education, Lynn Boyer said, "I appreciate being given this wonderful opportunity."

"My intention is to live on campus," said Boyer.

Boyer said she is looking forward to moving forward with the schools and the community.

"I need to be a presence among them and be a part of this campus. I don't know how they can come to know me and what I envision for the schools if I'm not in the midst," said Boyer.

"I fully expect to visit dormitories and read to the children at night."

Boyer talked about safety, reviewing the individualized educational plan (IEP), and her long-term vision for the schools, and outcomes for the students. Boyer said first on her list is to address the plans for campus security.

"I said in my interview (with the state BOE) that our basic promise with the families of the children that are residential is to educate and make sure the children would be safe," said Boyer.

"At the bedrock level children have to be safe. That's a very – not just important – but fundamental agreement with each family."

Boyer said she wants parents and the public to know that she takes the responsibility for the students at the schools "very strongly."

"Their physical and emotional well being is very near and dear to my heart."

Boyer will be reviewing the schools' access safety plan that has been developed by the DOE facilities department and is waiting for her approval.

Addressing the IEPs, Boyer said, "I think it's more important to plan for the emerging profile of children who need the resources at the schools."

Boyer said a lot of considerations have been made over the last several years regarding the schools population.

"In State code, it is very clear that the schools and their funding were

established for the blind and the deaf," said Boyer.

"With that in mind, I believe that the extensive resources at the schools should be considered for any student who is identified with a sensory impairment."

Boyer said the WVDE special education policy 2419 was revised several years ago to ensure that when that identification is made at a county level, the parent is informed of the presence of the WVSD&B as an option.

"That option can then become a part of the discussion of where the student's needs can be met most effectively," said Boyer.

Boyer said during the past years traveling throughout the state, she was surprised to learn that many of the directors of special education in the 55 counties had never been to Romney, and never considered the WVSD&B as an option to place children.

"I am surprised at how little is known about the schools and what they can offer," Boyer said.

"I do think what I will be looking at with staff is the profile of the educational needs of individual children and the appropriateness of the WVSD&B to meet those needs.

Boyer said she would prefer to wait until she evaluates student IEPs after she arrives at the schools in July before commenting further.

"It is important to know there may be a broader population in the state that may benefit from the schools. We will be exploring that with county directors of special education," said Boyer.

"The schools have good bones so to speak, with ample resources, good community support, and commitment from the WVBE, the WVDE, and the legislature. They have the potential to be the source of best practices for the whole state," said Boyer.

Boyer quickly squelched the "rumor" the schools are going to shut down.

"I worked with the state Department of Education for six years. There was never a suggestion that the schools be closed down," Boyer said.

Boyer said the state BOE, the DOE recognize not only the instructional

value of the schools but also their importance to the economy of Romney, Hampshire, and the surrounding counties.

Boyer said she wants to help the staff at the schools become energized by their own expertise.

"That is a goal I think can be achieved. It will take hard work but it can be done," said Boyer.

"The schools have to be seen as an incredible resource for the community and the state as the source of best practices for students with sensory impairments."

Boyer also talked about the number of buildings on the WVSD&B campus that are "underused" if not empty.

"To a degree the buildings that may not be used fully now can be repurposed so we have to look at our options for doing that, always with the employees of the schools in mind," Boyer said.

"What I discussed with the interview committee are trends I have seen nationally. Among the options for developing full use of buildings on the campus we can consider hot to build in to existing structures opportunities to continue the students' learning and to have post secondary situations as their peers do."

Boyer said consideration can be made whether the campus can accommodate a regional research center on best practices in instruction for students with sensory impairments.

"We can project the opportunities for the campus to incorporate professional development training facilities. There are lots of options — limited only by our capacity to be visionary," Boyer says.

Boyer said thought she would like to sit down with parents, teachers, members of the community, and planners to discuss the options at the campus.

"Understanding what the buildings are used for now and what the needs of the state are for services to students, I would like input on ideas, I want to engage the community, and engage the universities and ask for ideas."

Boyer said Romney and the schools are places that invite reflection.

"It is such a peaceful area, one that offers an environment to discuss ideas, (See New WVSD&B... on page 18)

WVAD Quarter News, Summer 2011

"People Need to Know This" — Teacher Speaks Up About Situation at WVSD&B

May 4, 2011

BY MARLA PISCIOTTA, marlapisciotta@frontier.com, 304-822-3871

(Courtesy of *Hampshire Review* and Marla Pisciotto, *Hampshire Review* Staff)

ROMNEY — The director of special education and compliance at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind is going on the record with his concerns about the issues at the schools over the past year.

Stephen K. Davis has been in that position for the past 37 years. Prior to that position he was a teacher at the schools for 3 years.

According to Davis the staff at the WVSD&B were not allowed to speak with the press.

"We were told that if anybody called, we were to refer the call to the superintendent," said Davis.

Davis said he is speaking up now to bring attention to this matter.

"I had to let people know the whole story even if it warrants reprimand," said Davis.

During those 37 years as director Davis worked closely with the state Department of Education.

As a result of Davis' responsibilities, he attended all statewide meetings related to special education and compliance.

"I was also test coordinator and attended all those statewide meetings as well," said Davis.

Davis is retiring in June. He said if he weren't leaving, "I would still have to say what I'm saying now even if it warranted reprimand."

According to Davis the school had an onsite monitoring by the state in Oct. 2008. Davis said, a result of that monitoring for the most part, we were not doing anything right.

"We were monitored without warning on issues that never in the past applied," Davis said.

Another audit in 1999 involved monitoring the WVSD&B compliance with the special education process including transportation, finance, certification and buildings and grounds.

"We did very well in the 1999 audit. There were some corrective actions in different areas. Basically we got an excellent report," said Davis.

Davis wrote a letter April 28, 2011 to Jorea Marple, State Superintendent of Schools West Virginia Department of Education.

WVAD Quarter News, Summer 2011

In the letter Davis writes, "Although it appeared in print that we had never been audited in the history of the school, let me clear this up. From 1980 until around 1999 we were audited on-site by the West Virginia Department of Education every 4-5 years."

Davis goes on to mention in the April 28 letter that Mike Valentine, assistant state superintendent of schools and Dee Braley, executive director of the office of special education, both served on the team that monitored the WVSD&B.

Regardless, Davis said on-site audits were pretty thorough. "We were on a cycle for auditing, just like the counties."

"I know. I lived it."

Davis fast-forwards to the Office of Education Performance audit (OEPA) that took place the last week of the 2009-2010 school year.

"The timing of this audit was a real disappointment to our staff because we did not feel they would see a true picture of our schools during the last week of the school year," wrote Davis to Marple.

Regarding the OEPA visit, Davis said, "The OEPA report did contain some valid and useful recommendations to improve our schools, but going this route was not necessary."

Davis said in his opinion the recent audits and on-again, off-again comments are part of the state's interest to close the schools.

For instance, Davis said the school was instructed to make a list of students to be exited.

To make a long story short, Davis said one instruction was to exit the students. The next instruction from the state was not to exit, then another exit.

"We had to explain these changes to the parents and it wasn't easy."

"When they (WVDOE) were confronted they said there had been a miscommunication," said Davis.

Davis is a parent advocate and an advocate for Dr. Patsy Shank, former superintendent.

"In my opinion Dr. Shank was never mentored by the state."

"No one helped her. Not Stephen Payne, the state superintendent of schools, the deputy superintendent

of schools, Jack McClanahan or Jorea Marple," said Davis.

"Dr. Shank was never given the assistance needed to be a superintendent."

Davis said Shank was the principal of the elementary school for the deaf prior to becoming superintendent.

In his opinion, Davis said, the WVSD&B needs a superintendent that is interested in the students, wants to move the school forward, and has the power and authority to do it without being influenced and dictated to by the WVDOE.

"Only one person at the state level is familiar or has limited expertise in deafness or blindness," said Davis.

"If they do to the new superintendent what they have done to Dr. Shank they are setting the new superintendent up for failure."

"In light of all the recent publicity we have gotten, we had 25 new students enroll this year," said Davis.

Davis said in his letter to Marple that if the agenda of the state was to close the schools, and he said, it certainly appears it was, he asked, "Has the agenda changed."

The letter to Marple concludes by saying, "If your intentions are to improve the services WVSD&B provides for the hearing impaired and or visually impaired youth of this state, you will receive full support from the students, parents, and staff. Your first step to prove your positive intentions for WVSD&B should be to allow the schools to adhere to Policy 2419 as it relates to enrollment."

"Given the right leadership the future could be good for our schools," Davis added.

To read the entire letter from Davis to Jorea Marple, see [pages 16-17](#). ■



Copy of Letter from Mr. Stephen Davis to Mr. Jorea Marple
Wednesday, May 04, 2011 - Hampshire Review

April 28, 2011

Jorea Marple, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools
West Virginia Department of Education
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6
Charleston, WV 25305-0330

Dear Dr. Marple,

I am retiring June 30, 2011 from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB) after 40 years of employment. I was a teacher my first three years and after that I spent nearly thirty-seven years responsible for special education and compliance activities. As a result, I have worked directly with the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) most of my career. I feel fortunate and blessed to have worked at such a wonderful place all these years so close to the home where I grew up. The school, as a whole, is a great facility with a great staff that loves and cares for the children they serve.

It has been very difficult for me to read and accept the negative articles in the local newspapers that contained mostly misleading and inaccurate information with no one being permitted to defend these schools. One newspaper has repeatedly put this same false information out to the public. What has occurred here has been an injustice to the students, parents, staff, and schools.

You claim that WVDE has no intention of closing WVSDB. It is my understanding that you claim basically that this rumor started up here. I want you to know that WVDE had everything to do with it as I will verify in my following comments.

Although it appeared in print that we had never been audited in the history of the school, let me clear this up. From 1980 until around 1999 we were audited on-site by the WVDE every 4-5 years. I remember the last time we were audited on-site that Mike Valentine, Assistant State Superintendent of Schools, and Dee Braley, Executive Director of the Office of Special Education, both served on the team that monitored us. You are probably aware that Mike Valentine had deaf parents and was a brilliant Deaf Educator. WVSDB did very well during this monitoring and met compliance in most areas.

Beginning around the year 2000, the WVDE stopped monitoring counties on-site on a rotating basis and only visited certain counties where there were known issues. From 2000 to the current date we have been monitored by way of the Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring Process (CIFMP). As part of this process, we are required to submit data, reports, improvement plans electronically and by mail to WVDE on a yearly basis. From 2000-2008, we continued to receive letters from WVDE verifying that our Comprehensive Self-Assessment Desk Audit/Annual Desk Audit was approved.

The above is a matter of record and can be easily verified. Then, in October of 2008, the special education monitoring team comes to our campus and according to them we were, for the most part, not doing anything right. We were monitored without warning on issues that never in the past applied. When questioned about this, one monitor stated "You are now on Charleston's radar and are required to meet all regulations. Get used to it." This team came here and did things that many felt were very unprofessional and unethical. At some point we did attend a meeting with WVDE officials in Charleston and discussed our concerns in this matter. It was a concern among many of our students, staff, and parents that one of the monitors did have a personal vendetta against WVSDB and her actions here did indicate it. However, against the school's wishes, you have continued to send this person to our campus to "help" us. You know who I am talking about and she does not value the services we provide. This issue was even discussed with Chuck Heinlein at a meeting with our administrative team.

Then OEPA comes the last week of the 2009-2010 school year. The timing of this audit was a real disappointment to our staff because we did not feel they would see a true picture of our schools during the last week of the school year. Let me say first in this matter, that the previous superintendent and I were both told that we would never be monitored by OEPA as we did not "fit the mix." We were also told that if this should ever change that they would come up and sit down with our staff to inform and train us on what the process would involve. However, OEPA came and wrote a report that was inaccurate, false, and misleading in many aspects and we were not able to defend ourselves. I would like to also say, that in my opinion, there was no one on the OEPA team that audited us who had knowledge of residential programming for hearing impaired and/or visually impaired children. I feel this speaks volumes.

Also, in regard to the OEPA monitoring, we were asked to provide a wealth of information and data that was to be available for the team to review during their visit. I personally was responsible for collecting a lot of this information. The information I gathered was never looked at by the OEPA team and they never took it with them. It appears they already had their minds made up on what was going to be in the report before they came. Please understand I am not saying that there was no legitimacy to the OEPA report as it did contain some valid and useful recommendations to improve our schools, but going this route was not necessary.

If you look at what happened during the special education monitoring and the OEPA it is no wonder why people think you have a hidden agenda to close the school. It was not necessary for these schools to be smeared and demeaned if you wanted to make positive changes as you via the West Virginia Board of Education are indirectly responsible for WVSDB. You could have simply guided us in the right direction.

In addition, you changed our enrollment procedures to make it more difficult for children to enter these schools. I would like to add that the enrollment procedures you gave us are not in line with Policy 2419 requirements and are not in line with what other state schools do. In fact, the three state school superintendents from Montana, Texas, and Pennsylvania, whom you sent to consult with us, highly questioned the enrollment criteria in a meeting with us and WVDE personnel in December 2010. Because of your change in our enrollment procedures, we continue to violate Policy 2419 in this matter to this date.

Also, the exiting of students has led individuals to believe that your intentions are to close these schools. WVDE said certain students had to leave, then they could stay, and then they had to leave. The back and the forth from WVDE left people wondering what was going on. What happened to the students and families in this matter was a severe injustice. One family who got legal assistance to fight to keep their child here was told by their lawyer in writing "I will share with you that I was told by someone who had been to WVDE recently that the WV School for the Deaf and the Blind is going to be

(See Continuation Letter on page 17)

WVAD Quarter News, Summer 2011

(Continuation Letter from page 16)

closed. I would think that faculty and staff are going to be phased out and let go. It is something to consider if you want your child to remain there." A similar thing also happened with another parent who was obtaining legal assistance to fight to keep their child here. According to the parent the lawyer indicated it would be a waste of money to spend \$60,000 to fight this matter as he was told the school was closing by WVDE personnel.

There are many similar examples as those listed above. Is it any wonder why people think that WVDE has an agenda to close these schools? WVDE, along with the help of newspapers, has smeared and torn apart these schools for reasons we do not understand. No one has mentioned all the good things that happen here. If you wanted us to change the way we were conducting business, you should have told us and helped us as you had an obligation to do so.

If the agenda was to close these schools and it certainly appears it was, has the agenda changed? If your intentions are to improve the services WVSDS provides for the hearing impaired and/or visually impaired youth of this state, you will receive full support from the students, parents, and staff. Your first step to prove your positive intentions for WVSDS should be to allow the schools to adhere to Policy 2419 as it relates to enrollment.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stephen K. Davis

Stephen K. Davis
Director of Special Education and Compliance
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind

cc: Members, West Virginia Board of Education

America's Unique Deaf Stories (DeafDigest Mid-Week edition, June 1, 2011, <http://deafdigest.net/mid-week-news/20110601/>)

A Fired Deaf Professor Wins \$500,000

Michael Collier, a deaf man that holds a doctorate, was dismissed from his job as professor of ASL and Deaf Studies at Texas Tech in 2006. He sued and won. The jury said the university discriminated against him. And even worse, he had no communications at all with the department chair! And he was never given a reason for losing his job; they just pushed him out the door. The university has not said if they would appeal.

A Deaf Post Office Window Clerk in Milwaukee

Scott Walker, who is deaf, is a front window clerk at a post office in Milwaukee. He handles all types of transactions – postage stamps, money orders, registered and certified mail, overnight and express deliveries, etc. And if the customer comes to him with a complicated order, he would give the customer a Ubi-Duo device, which permits two way communications. Customers have never complained about him over the years.

A Rotten Deal for the Deaf in Florida

In 2004, the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was founded as one of the nation's newest state agencies serving the deaf. Seven years later, this council is dead. The state governor, wanting to save a few pennies, had it killed. It did not matter to the governor that the state has a large deaf population, and many of them moved from cold-weather states to enjoy better lives. Chris Wagner worked very hard with his committee to have it established in 2004. He said:

Who will represent us now?

Hamill and Other Past Well-Known Deaf Fighters

Matt Hamill lost a big match last week. He was not the only deaf fighter to have lost a big match that had a lot of media publicity. We had two deaf boxers that were well known in the past. Hilton Fitzpatrick was the nation's #6 ranked lightweight boxer. He attended West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind. The other one was Eugene Hairston, who attended New York's 47 School for the Deaf, and was one of

the nation's best welterweight boxers. They fought during the 1940's but did not win boxing championships. Yet they were well respected among boxing fans and sportswriters. They are both in the U.S. Deaf Sports Federation hall of fame. In these days, boxing was one of the most popular sports in USA. Not any more today.

Deaf Filmmaker Charlie Swinburne's Latest Deaf Film "My Song"

The link, no charge to you, captioned in British Sign Language, is: <http://www.bslbt.co.uk/programmes/my-song/>.

National Deaf Black Advocates National Conference

National Deaf Black Advocates National Conference

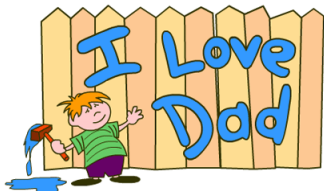
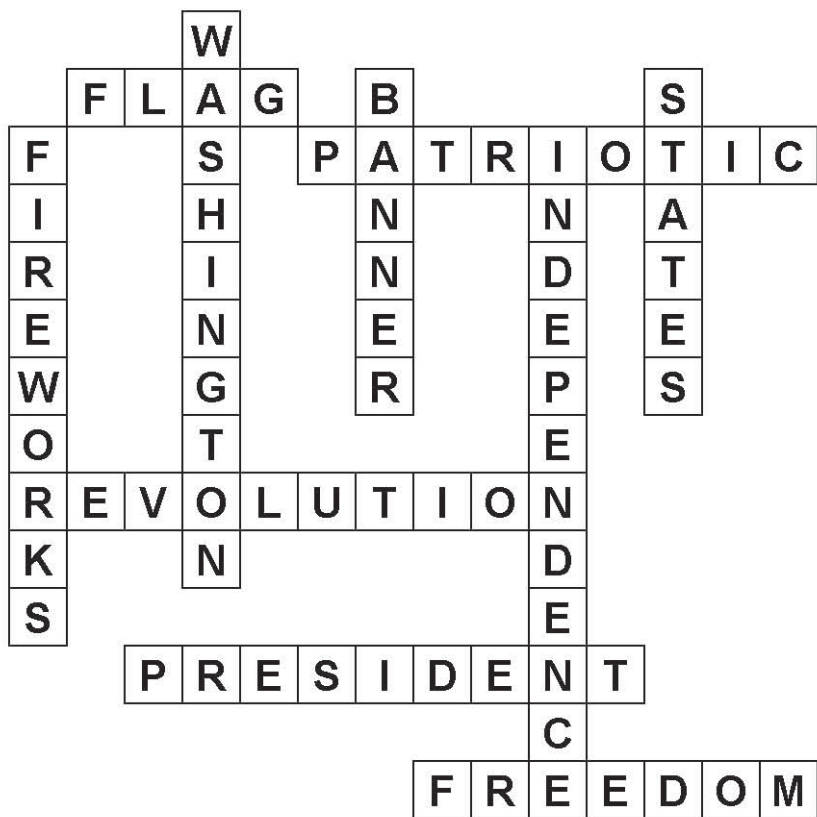
2011 National Conference
July 26-31, 2011

Charlotte, North Carolina

Registration deadline extended to June 15, 2011. Conference and registration information at: <http://www.ndba.org/2011>. Flyer at: <http://deafdigest.com/ndbaevent/>. ■



(Fun page answers from page 11)



Happy Father's Day!

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(New WVSD&B from page 14)

consider what's best for the students and the community, and go forward together with the best plan for all," said Boyer.

Boyer addressed the instructional planning for the students.

"We are in a very complex time that demands not only academic knowledge and skills but a sense of one's place in the larger world," said Boyer.

"What I want for every young person at the schools is a future that is rich in choices. I want each of them to have the skills to pursue what is appealing and the sense of purpose borne of confidence. I want each of them to have what is needed to form his or her own future in a way that promises a satisfying and productive life."

Boyer said she will have a better sense of what needs to be done once she moves to the campus. ■



***Dreams, Hope,
and
Encouragement***

WVAD Quarter News, Summer 2011

Charleston Association of the Deaf

Big Shelter, Valley Park
Hurricane, WV



63rd Anniversary Picnic

Saturday, September 3, 2011

Open at 11:00 a.m. til Dark



\$600.00 or More Giveaways

Plus One Gift

(Depends on Attendance)



Admission: \$20.00 per Person – Includes Meal and Door Prizes

\$10.00 per Child (6 to 17 Years Old) – Includes Meal

Children Under 5 – Free

Drinks: \$1.00 Each per Can of Soda, Bottled Water, Coffee

Different Color Tickets – 10 Tickets for \$5.00

32" or 40" or 42" LCD TV, Fire Pit,

Blu-Ray Player, Samsung Epic (?)

Cash Prizes



We will provide fried chicken, mashed potatoes,
green beans, rolls, and more.

Please bring covered dishes (for those who bring, will get extra door
prize ticket (limit 2). We will not give you an extra ticket
for bringing pop, chips, and bags of ice.

Not permitted to bring your own drink or cooler except for baby needs.

Corn Hole Tournament – \$5.00

Come and Have Fun!

For more information, contact:

Jimmy Harrison, President at 866-928-2834 VP

Veronda Harrison, Secretary at 866-928-2834 VP

Email: CADWV2006@aol.com





BABY PHOTOS



EVAN SCOTT BEASLEY

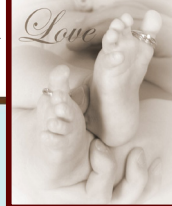


June 2, 2011 @ 1:20 a.m.

7 lbs, 7 oz ~ 20 1/2 inches long

Proud Parents: Corella and Tyler Beasley

Proud Grandparents: Jonathan and Robin Tackett



Hunter Owen Kapaldo

January 6, 2011 @ 9:38 p.m.

6 lbs, 10 oz ~ 19 inches long

Proud Parents:

Andrew and Jacklyn Kapaldo

Proud Mama: Tami Deem

Interesting Facts About Earth

1. The planet is 4.5 billion years old.
2. Oceans cover 70% of Earth's surface.
3. The last decade had the highest average temperatures on record.
4. Global temperatures may rise as much as 10.4 degrees by 2100.
5. Every square mile of ocean contains 46,000 pieces of plastic trash.
6. Extreme weather may force relocation of 150 to 200 million people by 2050.
7. Ocean temperatures have risen 1.4 degrees since 1970.
8. More than 70 million barrels of crude oil are produced a day.
9. The 806 million cars and light trucks in the world burn 260 billion gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel a year.
10. In the last 8,000 years Earth has lost 11,000 square miles of forest.
11. Since 1960, world automobile production has increased by 370%.
12. The average price of a gallon of gas grew from 25 cents to \$3.51.
13. The average cost of a new car rose from \$2,600 to \$27,958.
14. World oil consumption grew 401%, from 21.3 million to 85.8 million barrels a day.
15. Average U.S. house size grew from 983 sq ft in 1950 to 2,377 sq ft in 2010.
16. U.S. investment in solar power lowered the cost of clean, renewable energy.
17. Set your water heater at 120 degrees. Many are set to 140 degrees, which is both wasteful and hazardous.
18. Use your wood-burning stove or fireplace only on special occasions; the smoke pollutes both inside and outside air.
19. Reduce your time in the shower by 5 minutes and save 25 gallons of water a day.
20. Check out the Dept. of Energy's tips on maximizing energy efficiency while saving money. Go to energysavers.gov.

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CHECK OUT OUR QUARTER RECIPES!

REAL Crab Cakes

1 1-lb can crabmeat
3 tsp minced fresh basil
1/2 tsp dry mustard
3 Tbsp butter to sauté

1/3 cup breadcrumbs
1 tsp Worcestershire
1/2 tsp pepper

2 Tbsp mayonnaise
1/2 tsp salt
1 egg, lightly beaten

Drain and pick through crabmeat for any bits of shell. In a mixing bowl, add the breadcrumbs to the crab, tossing with a fork. Add the rest of the ingredients, and toss gently with a fork until combined well. Form into about 8 patties, not overworking the mixture but gently forming into the patties until they hold their shape. Melt the butter over medium heat being careful not to brown it. Sauté the crab cakes in the butter, until golden brown on each side. Serves 4, 2 patties each.

White Wine and Lemon Sauce:

1 Tbsp [olive oil](#)
1/2 cup white wine
1/2 lemon

1 shallot (other onion can be substituted – 2 Tbsp), minced
2 Tbsp butter
1 Tbsp fresh parsley plus additional for garnish

In a sauce pan, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Sauté the shallots until softened and beginning to color, about 1-1/2 minutes. Add the wine, increase the heat to high, and bring to a boil, boiling until reduced to 1/4 cup, about 3-5 minutes. Remove sauce pan from burner and pour into another container, such as a coffee mug, and through a small strainer. Strain out the shallot, and then discard the shallot. Whisk in the butter and parsley and a squeeze from the lemon half. Set aside, and keep warm until the crab cakes are done. Divide among four plates. Top with two crab cakes and garnish with a sprig of parsley.



Malibu Rum Cake

Prep time: 15 minutes, cook time: 50 minutes, total time: 65 minutes

Cake:

Nonstick vegetable cooking spray
1 cup Malibu® Rum
1 pkg (3.4-oz) vanilla instant pudding and pie filling mix

1 pkg (18.25-oz) classic yellow cake mix
1/2 cup vegetable oil
4 eggs

Rum Glaze:

1 cup (packed) golden brown sugar
1 stick butter

1/4 cup water
1/4 cup Malibu® Rum

Position rack in center of oven and preheat to 325 °F.

Spray a 10-inch (12-cup) bundt pan with nonstick spray. Using an electric mixer, beat cake mix, rum, vegetable oil, pudding mix, and eggs in a large bowl for 2 minutes. Transfer batter to prepared pan.

Bake until a toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean, about 45 minutes. Cool cake in pan for 20 minutes. Invert cake onto platter, and then carefully remove pan. Allow cake to cool completely.

Meanwhile, stir sugar and water in a heavy medium saucepan over medium high heat until sugar dissolves. Add butter. Simmer until mixture thickens and is syrupy, stirring often, about 5 minutes. Remove saucepan from heat and whisk in rum. Cool glaze completely. Drizzle glaze evenly over cooled cake and serve.

Yield: 1 large bundt cake, about 12 servings.



NORMA CZERNICKI



What motivated you to become a teacher of the deaf? I believe it was helping students at West Virginia School for the Deaf with their language in letters, homework, and so forth.

How long did you work at WVSD? 1969-2000, 31 years.

What degrees do you have? Bachelor's degree from Gallaudet in two majors, library science and education; Master's degree in education in the area of reading from Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD; and Master's degree in library science from the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

What was your most cherished teaching memory? I enjoyed teaching language to an 8th grade class which was also my homeroom. I accompanied the class to Florida for their senior trip. I also enjoyed a camping trip with the Girl Scouts tribe. We went to Maryland walking.

Do you remember anyone playing a prank on you when you were teaching at WVSD? If so, can you share this with us?

A male student brought a toy snake in the dark hall of the school building. I walked into the hall and since I could not see the snake well, I thought it was real. I yelled and teachers came out in the hall. Barbara Owens, the secretary, also came out and took the snake to the office.

Now that you are retired, what do you do with your spare time? My husband passed away in 2000 and I retired from WVSD. I saw an ad in the Hampshire Review that Hampshire County Public Library was interested in hiring a librarian with a Master's degree in Library Science. I applied and was given a part-time job cataloging books and doing genealogical research for people nationwide who requested it. I also do my housework and some of the yard work. I formerly had a boxer named Molly. When she was 13 years old, her back legs would not work. I had to have a veterinarian put her to sleep. Now, I have a little terrier named Angel who is great company to me.

Where are you originally from? I am a native of West Virginia. I was born in Lumberport, Harrison County, WV, and attended public school through the 6th grade. Then I entered WVSD at the age of 12 and enrolled in the 7th grade.

What can you share about your family? I have two daughters, Marla Kay and Paula Ann. Marla has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Speech Pathology from WVU. She is married and lives in southern Texas with her family. Her husband is a principal of a middle school there and Marla teaches speech at an elementary school. They have three children: a boy, Dmitri, age 12; a girl, Kyrie, age 11; and another girl Arianna, age 9. Her husband was formerly a captain in the U.S. Army. He also graduated from WVU. Paula taught English, Latin, computer work, and special education children on the Navajo Reservation in northeast Arizona. She is now a director of special education at her school. She received a Bachelor's degree in Latin and English at WVU and has a Master's degree from there in teaching special education children. She is not married. Both of my daughters sign well.

What accomplishments are you most proud of? I am proud of the fact that I have been a librarian in different kinds of libraries since I was 19 years old.

What is your secret ambition? I have none.

What person has been the highest influence in your life? First Troy Stuart, a hearing teacher I had in the fourth grade in public school. Also Irvadell Harbert, a hearing teacher I had in the sixth grade. She was a cousin of my mother's. Plus Rudolph Hines, a deaf teacher who taught me at WVSD.

What is your favorite vacation spot? I have many favorites. Some are Yellowstone Park in Wyoming, Glacier Park in Montana.

Where is the farthest from home you've been? I've traveled many states in our country plus New Zealand, Australia, Hawaii, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Czech, and several European countries, France, Switzerland, Germany, and others.

Name three things you can do without. Smoking, drinking, and using pot.

What person real or fictional would you like to meet? Anne of Green Gables.

What movie could you see anytime? I do not watch movies much. I like to read books.

What is your favorite TV show? Little House on the Prairie.

Name three things always found in your kitchen. Toaster, microwave, mixer.

What is an interesting, but little known fact about you? The librarian at Gallaudet University gave me some small jobs around the library and that led to my goal to become a librarian. I worked at Yellowstone Park as a maid for two summers while I was a student at Gallaudet. Several classmates, including Ed Czernicki, also worked there during the summer.

What would you do with a million dollars? Help my girls pay for their homes.

All members are encouraged to nominate a friend for the "Meet Me" column. Please submit all nominees to WVAD Quarter News Editor.

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