

state & region

BRIEFS

State officials identify missing kayaker

PHILIPPI (AP) — Officials have released the identity of a kayaker who went missing along the banks of the Middle Fork River in West Virginia earlier this week.

Officials with the state Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety said Jamie L. Gray, 41, of Hacker Valley is presumed drowned after going missing on Feb. 9.

The agency was closing access to the Middle Fork River between Audra State Park in Barbour County and Tygart Valley River to bring in equipment to assist with the recovery of Gray. Rescue crews hoped to resume recovery efforts on Sunday but were monitoring water levels and conditions.

Officials said Gray was kayaking with nine fellow paddlers in the river last week. Her kayak capsized and she was swept downstream. She then capsized again and was swept under a large rock, where she never resurfaced.

Crews searched for hours but called off efforts citing darkness, water levels and the remote location.

Spatial analysis class series set for farmers

INSTITUTE — West Virginia State University (WVSU) Extension Service will host a workshop series on sustainable production management through spatial analysis beginning Feb. 29. The series includes five in-person sessions on the WVSU campus and self-paced online learning.

The schedule of in-person sessions runs between February and May at WVSU:

- Feb. 25 or March 2: Introduction to Spatial Mapping: Planning and Resources
- March 28 or April 11: Beyond Mapping Resources: Application and Implementation
- April 25: Preparing a Comprehensive Management/Production Plan
- May 1-2: Data Collection through Remote Sensing and Digital Mapping
- May 30: Pulling It All Together: Discussion of Case Studies

All sessions are free to attend and will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., except the May 1-2 sessions, which are part of the annual West Virginia Urban Agriculture Conference & Community Expo; times to be determined.

Registration is required and available at wvstateu.edu/extension.

Funding for the series is provided by the 1890 Universities Foundation. To learn more, contact Ericksen at annette.ericksen@wvstateu.edu or 614-271-3005.

LIVESTOCK

Narrows Livestock Auction Market in Narrows, Va., reported 235 total head sold Saturday, Feb. 15, amounting to \$147,511.01.

Stock feeder cattle, number of head, 142. Steers, 200 to 400 pounds, \$155-\$168; 401 to 600 pounds, \$106-\$171; 601 to 800 pounds, \$100-\$138. Bulls, 200 to 400 pounds, \$116-\$163; 401 to 600 pounds, \$50-\$156; 601 to 800 pounds, \$70-\$135; 801 pounds and up, \$42-\$79. Heifers, 200 to 400 pounds, \$29-\$132; 401 to 600 pounds, \$35-\$139; 601 to 800 pounds, \$49-\$129; 801 pounds and up, \$76-\$95.

Slaughter cattle, number of head, 53; cows, utility and commercial, \$20-\$82.50; canner and cutter, \$10-\$40; bulls, \$20-\$93.50.

Goats, number of head, 3, sold by head, \$100.

Sheep, number of head, 2, baby lamb by head, \$50; lamb by pound, \$110.

Hogs, number of head, 2, sold by pound, \$33-\$44.

Cow/calf pairs sold by head, number of pairs, 2, \$600-\$825; bred cows sold by head, number of head, 20, \$275-\$850; heifers sold by head, number of head, 1, \$700; baby calves sold by head, number of head, 8, \$40-\$140.

Special weaned calf sale Tuesday, March 10.

Beckley ARH nurse wins trip to Vegas

Candy Cooper said she always wanted to be a nurse.

"I love caring for patients and taking care of those who are unable to take care of themselves. I feel like that's what's in my heart. Nothing makes me feel better than when a patient comes in sick and I can send them home feeling good."

That's what Cooper has been doing for 25 years in the Telemetry Unit at Beckley Appalachian Regional Healthcare.

Not only does Cooper care for her community's critical chest pain and congestive heart failure patients every day, she also helps to mentor the region's next generation of nurses. When nursing students from the University of Charleston or Bluefield State College need to do clinicals, they spend all 180 clinical hours with Cooper, learning first-hand what it's like to be a telemetry nurse. When one of those nursing students expressed how much she learned from Cooper and that she'd like to continue working at Beckley ARH, Cooper encouraged her to apply after graduation.

After the student graduated, she applied and was hired at Beckley ARH. Beth received her \$5,000 sign-on bonus, Cooper received her \$1,000 employee referral program (ERP) bonus, and Cooper's name was also put into an ARH-wide ERP drawing with a very special prize: an all-expenses-paid trip for two to Las Vegas, Nev., including airfare, hotel and \$500 in spending money.

When Cooper's name was drawn, she was shocked. She'd never traveled far outside of West Virginia, and she'd never flown before. Cooper decided to take her son, who had just turned 21, along on the trip. Toward

the end of November, the pair arrived at the Yeager Airport in Charleston, ready to embark on the first leg of their journey.

"The flight was an experience," Cooper says. "I was excited but scared at the same time. My heart was beating fast, but I was trying to control my anxiety because I knew my son was really nervous too!"

Excitement won over nerves, and they boarded the small plane that took them from Charleston to Charlotte, N.C. They were thankful that their flight from Charlotte to Las Vegas was on a bigger jet.

"The bigger plane was better," she says, before repeating, "but for our first flight ever, it was an experience."

When Cooper and her son arrived in Las Vegas, they were dazzled by all there was to see and do. They were joined by Cooper's sister, who flew from Louisiana to Las Vegas to spend time with the family. "We had to learn how to get around, and then we got to see and do a lot of things." In the four days that they were in Nevada, they were able to go to the casinos and a nightclub, go shopping, and see three Las Vegas shows.

Cooper's favorite part? Seeing "Tenors of Rock," five singers and their band covering classic rock songs in an epic Vegas stage show. "I'm an '80s girl!" Cooper says, "so I really enjoyed that." She also enjoyed the experience of going to unique shops, like Hershey's Chocolate World and the Coca-Cola Store, and simply seeing the breathtaking sights along Las Vegas Boulevard.

"At night it was so beautiful with all of the lights," she says, mentioning the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Beckley Appalachian Regional Healthcare Telemetry Unit employee Candy Cooper's name was put into an ARH-wide employee referral program drawing for an all-expenses-paid trip for two to Las Vegas, including airfare, hotel and \$500 in spending money. Cooper and her son made the journey.

unmistakable facade of the Excalibur Hotel and Casino, and the famous water show at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino. Cooper's son's favorite part? The Gold & Silver Pawn Shop, home of History Channel's "Pawn Stars." "We didn't get to see the 'Stars' that day," Cooper says. "Chumlee had an earache. But my son really enjoyed getting to see the shop."

After an incredible three nights and four days, Cooper and her son landed safely back at home in West

Virginia, but Cooper feels forever changed. "It enhanced me to be able to explore other places. You just don't know what's out there until you get there. It's something that I'll never forget, and I'm so thankful for this experience that I probably would never have gotten in my lifetime and might never get again." Even so, Cooper would love to take another trip someday. "I would have to be prepared for the flight though... that's the scary part!"

Completed RISE homes still at 124

CHARLESTON — The number of completed homes in the RISE West Virginia program remains at 124 projects.

The West Virginia National Guard said Friday there are 83 homes in active construction through four dif-

ferent contractors. Demolition and construction related to the projects are ready to move forward.

Seven of the homes are mobile home replacements, 64 projects are reconstruction and one project is a re-

habilitation effort; the rest are slated for demolition.

There are 392 active cases covered in the RISE West Virginia program and 260 active cases in the Clearance and Demo program.

MetroNews

NEWS OF RECORD

The following calls were made to police agencies on **Feb. 15**; the call may have resulted in something other than what was originally reported.

BECKLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Burglar alarm: 309 Beckley Plaza, 224 Grove Ave., 112 S. Meadows St.

Burglary in progress: 108 N. Pike St.

Burglary not in progress: 2970 Robert C. Byrd Drive (Dollar General Store)

Chest welfare: 105 Truman Ave.

Chest pain: 105 Truman Ave.

Civil matter: 219 New Caledonia St.

Counterfeit: 2970 Robert C. Byrd Drive (Dollar General Store)

Domestic: 316 Barber Ave., 105 Truman Ave.

Fight: 1924 Harper Road (Quality Inn)

Follow-up call: 1710 Harper Road (Raleigh General Hospital)

Foot patrol: 100 block South Fayette Street

Harassment: 501 Neville St. (Beckley PD)

Magistrate detail: 222 Main St.

Motor vehicle accident: 1000 block North Eisenhower Drive, 4300 block Robert C. Byrd Drive

Motor vehicle accident in parking lot: 1018 N. Eisenhower Drive (Food Lion)

Reckless driver: 1200 block North Eisenhower Drive, 1100 block South Fayette Street

Residence check: 100 block Fairlawn Avenue

Shoplifting: 1330 North Eisenhower Drive (Walmart), 2893 Robert C. Byrd Drive (Sheetz)

Special assignment: 100 block Church

Street (2), 100 block City Avenue (3), 100 block Clyde Street, 100 block Earwood Street (2), 1330 N. Eisenhower Drive (Walmart), 600 block South Fayette Street, 100 block Granville Avenue, 1710 Harper Road (Raleigh General Hospital) (2), 1900 block Harper Road (2), 1909 Harper Road (Econolodge), 1939 Harper Road (Travelodge) (4), 2014 Harper Road (Super 8 hotel), 100 block North Heber Street, South Heber Street/Earwood Street, 100 block South Heber Street (4), 130 S. Heber St., 100 block Hunter Street, 100 block Hynton Lane, 100 block Main Street, 200 block Main Street, Neville Street, 500 block Neville Street (3), 503 Neville St. (Beckley Intermodal Gateway parking garage), 100 block South Oakwood Avenue, 100 block Orchard Avenue, 100 block Prince Street (2), Rails to Trails (6), 2893 Robert C. Byrd Drive (Sheetz) (3), 100 block Second Avenue, 100 block Wilkes Parkway, Woodlawn Avenue, 100 block Woodlawn Avenue (5), 300 block Woodlawn Avenue

Suspicious activity: 1909 Harper Road (Econolodge)

Suspicious person: 1939.5 Harper Road (Dairy Queen restaurant), 200 block South Heber Street, 320 S. Kanawha St. (Carter Hall), 200 block Main Street, 327 Neville St.

Suspicious vehicle: 306 N. Eisenhower Drive (Freedom Skate Park), 200 block South Fayette Street

Traffic stop: 100 Adair St. (New River Park), Beaver Avenue/South Fayette Street, South Eisenhower Drive/Armory Drive, 100 Ellison Ave., mile marker

48 on Interstate 77 northbound, South Fayette Street/Barber Avenue, South Fayette Street/Willow Lane, 2005 Harper Road (Little General/Burger King), 2044 Harper Road (Little General/Subway), 500 block Neville Street, West Neville Street/Ewart Avenue, 100 block Pine-wood Drive, Robert C. Byrd Drive/South Oakwood Avenue, 2800 block Robert C. Byrd Drive, 2893 Robert C. Byrd Drive (Sheetz), 2930 Robert C. Byrd Drive (McDonald's downtown), 3604 Robert C. Byrd Drive (Little General/Subway on Sprague Hill), 4036 Robert C. Byrd Drive (Burger King), 4291 Robert C. Byrd Drive (Cheddar's restaurant), 404 Third Ave. (Little General), Virginia Street/Ellison Avenue, 100 block Woodlawn Avenue

Unpaid cab fare: 613 S. Fayette St.

Unwanted person: 1909 Harper Road (Econolodge), 1939 Harper Road (Travelodge)

Warrant served: 130 S. Heber St.

RALEIGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Abandoned vehicle: Glen Daniel

Customer complaint: Bradley

Disturbance: Crab Orchard, Glen Daniel, MacArthur, Raleigh, Shady Spring, Sophia, Sprague

Four-wheeler complaint: Beaver

Larceny: Price Hill, Raleigh

Lost property: MacArthur

Motor vehicle accident: Beckley, Bradley, Clear Creek, Harper Heights

Shoplifting: MacArthur

Suspicious person: Calloway Heights, MacArthur, Mount Tabor (2)

Unwanted person: Glen Daniel

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