

THE MOUNTAIN STATESMAN



Family Resources gets \$30,500 donation

Funding will help with annual Secret Santa program

by Nicki Skinner
TAYLOR COUNTY EDITOR

GRAFTON, W.Va. (WV News) — Taylor County Family Resources received a grand donation, just in time for the holidays.

Family Resources Executive Director Cathy Coontz-Griffith said she was blown away when she learned the total dollar amount associated with the donation from The Farmer Family Foundation.

"I was contacted by Michelle Brown, HR generalist for Arsenal Resources, who told me that when look-

ing for charity to help support this year, they had settled on us," Coontz-Griffith said. "I told them we are always happy to receive donations, but I had no idea the awesome amount they were about to provide."

She said she received word that through Arsenal Resources LLC, in conjunction with The Farmer Family Foundation, that Taylor County Family Resources was the recipient of \$30,500.

"I was astonished! When I first saw the total, I thought that it wasn't correct," Coontz-Griffith said. "I was completely flabbergasted, but mainly I was touched."

In June, Arsenal Resources, along with The Farmer

Foundation, hosted its annual charity golf outing at Pete Dye Golf Club. That raised approximately \$60,000 that they then donated to three causes.

Brown told Coontz-Griffith that Taylor County Family Resources had been selected because Arsenal and the foundation took note of all the services the charitable entity provides for the residents of the county.

"She said they were pretty impressed with how many people we were able to serve and the things that we strive to do for the community," Coontz-Griffith said. "Because of our outreach, Michelle said that they thought that we were very worthy cause."

The funding came at a time that it was needed the most, as Coontz-Griffith reported there had been a delay in grant funding that provides money for the ma-

majority of the services offered at Family Resources.

"We were limited in funding due to a backlog in grants, causing strain on some of our services. We were really concerned that we may have to let some individuals go, but by the grace of God, we were able to keep things afloat," Coontz-Griffith said. "Through this generous contribution, we were able to get everything back on track. And since then, our grant funding has come through, too."

With the generous contribution from Arsenal and the foundation, Family Resources will be able to stock their food and hygiene pantries. And, in keeping with the magic and giving feeling of the season, the charitable entity also will be able to provide extra Christmas cheer to families this year.

"We are in our 10th year of hosting our Secret Santa program, and this year,



through this amazing donation, we are going to be able to serve 36 kids this Christmas," Coontz-Griffith said. "And on top of that, some of funds will be used to provide holiday dinners to 30 families."

She shared that Family Resources works alongside the schools in the county to assess which students are in the most need. Then, they provide them with a warm outfit, undergarments and socks, a coat, boots and something they are interested in, usually like art stuff, a little toy or some-

thing that they will like.

"We feel so blessed to have received this donation from The Farmer Family Foundation and Arsenal," Coontz-Griffith said. "We just want to say thank you to foundation president and president and CEO of the Greater Pittsburgh Region of Arsenal John Farmer for considering us."

Taylor County Family Resources offers assistance with food, pet food, clothing, essential needs and personal care items ranging from toilet paper and toothbrushes to feminine hygiene products, soap, shampoo and cleaning supplies through various pantries. There are no income guidelines to take part, although those seeking assistance will have to fill out an application.

To learn more, visit the Family Resource office at 105 Beech Street, Grafton, or call 304-265-6838.

International Mother's Day Shrine to host holiday open house

From Staff Reports

GRAFTON, W. Va. (WV News) — The public is invited to a Christmas open house at the historic International Mother's Day Shrine from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, December 17.

This National Historic Landmark structure, at 11 East Main Street, downtown, is where the first official Mother's Day service was conducted in 1908 at the request of the holiday's founder, Anna Jarvis.

The Shrine grounds feature the community Christmas tree and other holiday decorations. The interior of the Shrine is also decorated for the Christmas season.

While many visitors come

from outside of the community to visit the local historic landmark, it is surprising to International Mother's Day Shrine Board Member Marvin Gelhausen how many locals have never been inside the historic building.

"If you need a break from holiday shopping, visiting the Shrine's holiday decorations can give you a break from the rigors of the holiday season," he said. "Listening to familiar and favorite Christmas tunes played on the Shrine's pipe organ can be a relaxing retreat from holiday crowds packed into area shopping centers."

Gelhausen said individuals won't want to miss this

late-in-the-season opportunity to tour the Mother's Day Shrine.

"While Shrine tours can be scheduled throughout the year, the Shrine will not be open regularly until April 2024. The Shrine stops regular open hours from late fall through early spring," he explained.

The entry-level lecture room also features a large collection of historic Grafton photos, many reflecting how the city looked when Anna Jarvis was growing up in Grafton and was influenced by the work of her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, who taught Sunday School at the church for a quarter of a century.

Andrews Methodist

Episcopal Church was dedicated in 1873 and served as a house of worship until 1967, when the congregation moved to the Church of the Good Shepherd. A nonprofit was chartered in 1962 and took ownership of the former church building, transforming it into an international shrine to all mothers everywhere and a memorial to Anna Jarvis and Ann Reeves Jarvis.

No church congregation has met weekly at the Shrine since the Andrews congregation left in 1967.

Today, it is used for community events and functions, hosts the annual Mother's Day observance, and is a community treasure everyone should visit.



Staff file photo

The International Mother's Day Shrine has been transformed into a picturesque scene of Christmastime, with numerous trees and other decorations displayed throughout the historic building.

Judge Hoxie deems Grafton woman danger to the community

by Nicki Skinner
TAYLOR COUNTY EDITOR

GRAFTON, W.Va. (WV News) — After voicing that he felt like a defendant was playing a game with the court system, potentially putting the community at

risk, Judge Thomas Hoxie returned Sarina Lynn Frye to the Tygart Valley Regional Jail to await sentencing.

Frye, 19, of Grafton was present with her counsel, Dean Morgan, to enter a guilty plea to four counts

of driving impaired causing serious injury.

For each count, Frye is facing a potential sentence of 2-10 years in prison, a mandatory fine of \$1,000-\$3,000 and the loss of her driver's license for a period of five years, or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program.

The negotiated plea agreement requested that a presentence investigation be completed before the matter would be set down for sentencing.

Taylor County Prosecuting Attorney John Bord said the state would recommend that counts one and two would be served consecutively with one another, but they would be served concurrently with counts three and four.

In addition to the ordered



Frye



Staff photo by Nicki Skinner

Taylor County Prosecuting Attorney John Bord tenders a plea agreement to Judge Thomas Hoxie.

court that she had been underage drinking and smoking marijuana at a party the night before and had consumed approximately 10 beers and an unknown amount of vodka.

"When I woke up the next morning, I thought I was sober, but, clearly, I was not," she said.

She further revealed to the court that a Division of Corrections employee working at Pruntytown

court that she had been underage drinking and smoking marijuana at a party the night before and had consumed approximately 10 beers and an unknown amount of vodka.

After hearing numerous

that a report had been submitted to the court concerning bond violations that needed addressed. The report alleged that Frye had tested positive for alcohol use.

"The court received a report on Oct. 12 that you had tested positive on Oct. 3," he said. "It says that you denied usage, giving the reason for the positive because you had taken cough syrup, used mouthwash and drank a hot toddy. However, your blood alcohol was extremely high. Too high for the items you have claimed to have been using."

Frye told the court that she had used cough syrup to fall asleep because she was "going into a manic episode," and that while in the manic state, she could have consumed alcohol without knowing it.

"This court is concerned with your excuses and your honesty. This is not a game. You are 19 and should not be drinking at all. ... This court simply does not believe you, and it believes



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