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Thursday, June 19, 2008 Edition

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'Substance-free' party a big splash for area residents

Published: Thursday, June 19, 2008 8:11 AM CDT

As the summer heat index keeps climbing, residents in southern West Virginia are flocking to one of the area's most popular - and undeniably one of the coolest - destinations: WaterWays Pool.

Boone County residents were in for an extra treat as, on Friday, June 13, 2008 from 7 to 9 p.m., the Stop Watch Coalition of Regional Family Resource Network sponsored a free substance-free pool party at WaterWays in Julian.

Three hundred and forty-three Boone County residents, children, youth and adults, attended and enjoyed an evening of water fun that included water slides, a lazy river, Olympic-sized swimming pool, put-put golf, and plenty of splashes and smiles.

Special guests were the youth from the Big Ugly Community Center in Lincoln County who performed a prescription drug abuse skit.

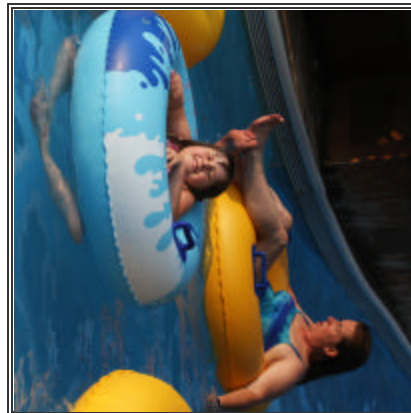
A complimentary dinner and informational materials were given to attendees. Information packets shared statistics on tobacco, drug and alcohol use in Boone County.

For instance, did you know that, according to the West Virginia Substance Abuse Indicator Profiles, Boone County is among a group of four counties that lead the state in the percentage of people 26 years of age and older that consume alcohol, or that Boone County has a high mortality rate related to tobacco use?

Stop Watch has been working on substance abuse prevention since 2006. Anyone interested in substance abuse prevention is welcome to attend the next coalition meeting on Thursday, June 19 at 12 Noon at Park Avenue Restaurant in Danville (lunch is Dutch treat). For more information about Stop Watch, log on to <http://regionalfrn.org/brochure.pdf>

Other area organizations scheduled to utilize WaterWays this summer include the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, several church youth groups and schools.

Contact Joanie Newman at jnewman@coalvalleynews.com or call 369-1165.



Emily Winans, foreground, smiles as she enjoys the lazy river at WaterWays on June 13. More than four hundred people were in attendance.

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