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# Charlotte

NEWS-PRESS\*\* FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1988

## JOE WORKMAN

### Poor and plump Mountaineers? Fat chance of it

Work out for surveys. Some of them might bring dirty linen to the truth. But a lot of them are irresponsible, inconclusive, inaccurate, simply guessing games.

They've just released a study on overweight people that reads conclusions shakier than a politician's promise on election eve. This report on fat people in 25 states found that 24 percent of West Virginians survived in the 1986 study by the National Centers for Disease Control were overweight.

A nutrition specialist at the center blamed the habit of West Virginians on severe pockets of poverty in the state.

"Poor people in this country have the greatest problems with overweight and obesity," he said.

**IF YOU DON'T FIND** some of that statement strange you might as well skip the rest of this column and turn to your horoscope or the Jumble puzzle.

I've written what the news says about West Virginia having pockets of poverty. I spent the first 23 years of my life in the state and I understand a little bit about the place.

But his reasoning that West Virginians are fat because they are poor tends to play a little loose with logic. The state is 13 times wealthier than the rest of the country with an easy terrain to scratch a living from and poverty had chased its people from settlement days.

But I've seen lots of pictures of poor people who live off corn meal mush, blackberries and wild game. They're poor, but a lot more than that chubby.

Cool mining and farming are big back there. Almost all the miners I know are as skinny as their pick handles and hard as the coal they worked.

The small farmers who bought tractors, rats and rocks for a living still carry much on their bony frames, either. And those who consider I had the fat get over it and we'll help you will allow.

**I WONDER WHAT PART** of West Virginia the disease control center people visited for surveys. They might have checked into a hotel in the capital city of Charleston.

If they conducted their study in the Capital Building that would make the conclusion more understandable. Charleston is full of home-estate fat cats, just like the most state capitals.

Maybe the researchers popped some of their questions at restaurants and gas stations along the highways. If that's the case, they probably were forming their opinions on interviews with some pompous tourist from Ohio or Michigan pointing through on their way to Florida.

Kentucky men were rated as roly-poly as West Virginians. The reason isn't explained in the story but Kentucky also has a lot of poor hills and I suppose the same theory applies. Just some more people porting out in poverty.

New York's men got a low obesity rating of 11. But poverty had the state's largest city teetering on the edge of bankruptcy a few years ago. If the researchers are correct, shouldn't the poor people of New York be bulging the body also?

The story also explains that part, but I am not in the dark as well as the disease control center and probably come as close to the target. I would say that New Yorkers reported not being obese because they spend so much time running.

**NEW YORKERS ALL WAYS** seem in a hurry to get somewhere. They're either running to catch a subway train, to beat the "Don't Walk" light or to get away from a smogger.

And in the District of Columbia, 28 percent of the women were obese while only 18 percent of the men were overweight. Maybe the researchers made their calls when all the slender women were at abortion clinics.

Maybe they called when the bulk of the fat men had most of the ladies with the visible figures out on the town. Or maybe a lot of people just like to pick your comment out of the air. I believe some of the researchers do.

If you think I'm being unduly hard on the survey, get this. When West Virginia's men supposedly have an obesity rate of 22 percent, the researchers say only 19 percent of Florida men are porters.

I've been in this state for 23 years, presumably long time to shake off the poor fat of West Virginia and become Florida slim, under the disease control center's reasoning. But has my figure followed the theory?

Back to, I didn't see an obese, instead, I pumped up another 20 pounds.

See? There's nothing a researcher.

Joe Workman is a News-Press columnist. His columns appear Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

## Kirloff still in running for Clearwater city manager post

By LOUISE HENGMAN News-Press Staff Writer

But several commissioners showed an interest in looking through all of the more than 100 resumes submitted for the job rather than rely only on a Tampa consultant to narrow the field.

As a result, the commissioners postponed a decision until next week.

Commissioners plan to schedule a special session during the next two weeks during which they hope to decide which applicants will be among the finalists.

The 10 finalists recommended by Frank

Walker and Associates Inc., a Tampa-based industrial psychologist consulting firm, are as follows: Kirloff; Russell Abell, city manager of Silver, Ore.; Gary Heat, assistant city manager of Austin, Texas; Ronald C. Jack, county administrator of Los Alamos, N.M.; C. Ray Jackson, city manager of Long View, Texas; Peter A. Kohn, former city manager of Rochester, N.Y.; Robert Laskin, chief assistant county administrator of Pinellas County; Joseph Miesner, former city manager of Edmond, Okla.; Ron Rabala, former county administrator of Manatee County; and Gerald Seals, city manager of Springfield, Ohio.

Kirloff has also submitted his resume for the position of county administrator in Martin County, Fla.

The county-appointed selection committee for the Martin County position has yet to begin reviewing the resumes received. Deadline for resumes was Dec. 31.

The selection committee hopes to have a decision by March, said Dee Vessary, Martin County personnel secretary.

## Defense: Shell in Scott's car may not be victim's

By JANE MUSGRAVE News-Press Staff Writer

Bradley Philip Scott's defense attorneys Thursday told investigators that a shell casing discovered under the back seat of his car Scott said in 1979, would connect James Earl Ray, Scott's alleged assassin, to the assassination.

Scott's defense attorneys said the shell casing was found in a car Scott drove could have been from a broken necktie — which James Earl Ray used to wear — and was found near Philip Scott's body, a crime report testified that his autopsy was subject to error.

A shell such as the one found in a waist holster that Scott drove could complete the broken necktie, testified Scott Ryland, a macroanalyst with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

However, when questioned by the defense, Ryland said various factors could change his findings.

And, he said, one of the reasons he is convinced that another shell

likely source, he said, is Scott's mother. When the defense presents its case next week, they projected that the shell said a strand of Philip's hair discovered under the back seat of his car Scott said in 1979, would connect James Earl Ray, Scott's alleged assassin, to the assassination.

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## Council urges OK for park

### Golf course, mobile homes part of project

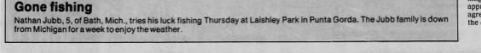
By JUDITH NYGREN News-Press Staff Writer

A Charlotte County mobile home park and a 18-hole golf course should be granted a preliminary development agreement, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council decided Thursday.

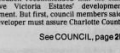
Keith Hagg Enterprises plans to build Victoria Estates along Kings Highway. It would be adjacent to Port Charlotte Village — a mobile home park the company plans to buy.

The development is designed to hold 1,700 mobile homes. A 18-hole golf course would surround the site of the park.

In its monthly meeting, the regional planning council recommended that the state approve Victoria Estates' development agreement. But first, council members said, the developer must secure Charlotte County



Gone fishing: Nathan Jobb, 5, of Bath, Mich., tries his luck fishing Thursday at Lashley Park in Punta Gorda. The Jobb family is down from Michigan for a week to enjoy the weather.



DECE SMITH/News-Press

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## Public safety chief plans to resign to head EMS

By LOUISE HENGMAN News-Press Staff Writer

Charlotte County's Acting Public Safety Director Don Landy plans to resign Feb. 3 to return to his former position as director of emergency medical services.

"All five of my departments are running rather smoothly now," said Landy, who doesn't foresee any problems with the gap that will be caused by his absence. "There doesn't appear to be a need for me to remain public safety director."

Landy said he chose Feb. 3 to return to EMS because a new 60-hour training coordinator, with whom he will be working closely, is scheduled to begin work that day.

"I'd like to get back to what I'd like to do," said Landy, who has served as public safety director since Ron Devine resigned in September. "The really enjoyed being public safety director. I can't say it's been peaceful and peaceful, but I've been pleased with it."

But his heart's really in EMS.

Landy resigned County Administrator William Kirloff's decision in late Jan. 11. Kirloff is currently reviewing applications for the position.

As public safety director, Landy oversees the divisions of EMS, animal control, fire prevention, disaster preparedness and the fire department.

Current EMS director Max Lopez will return to his former position as EMS supervisor.

## Funds to fight drugs available if county kicks in 25 percent

By LOUISE HENGMAN News-Press Staff Writer

for use on matching funds scheduled upon the grant's approval.

Commissioners are scheduled to consider Sapp's request at their Tuesday meeting.

Commissioner Chairman David Schaub said Thursday that he would see no problem in granting the request, provided that the program is instrumental in tracking drug problems within the county, rather than outside the county lines.

"If we hear that a drug ring is headed to our county, that's fine, then we'd have the ability to handle it," said Schaub. "But if a drug ring is headed from here to other counties, it would be better that we alert that county than to send our men after them."

## AAA official: Seatbelt use is down

By PETER WEST News-Press Staff Writer

Fewer Fort Myers drivers probably are using seatbelts this year, while the state began enforcing the mandatory seatbelt law in a Pensacola Motor Club official said.

The state American Automobile Association completed its semi-annual, 14-city seatbelt use survey Thursday. Volunteers stood at busy intersections and recorded how many drivers and front-seat passengers were wearing their belts.

The association will release its findings

until Monday, but has tabulated the numbers, but Ted Alford, Fort Myers chapter manager of the Pensacola Motor Club, has a guess.

Only about 50 percent of the 7,000 vehicles in 10 volunteers observed were complying with the law, he believed. More than 70 percent of the vehicles watched last January were compliant, he said.

He had no explanation for the drop in seatbelt use.

"Lack of education is a part of it," Alford said, adding he thinks more should be done wearing their belts.

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FROM THEATER TO THRIFT SHOPS, SEE WHAT'S UNDER THE SUN/4B