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# CHRONICLE & TIMES

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Appalachian Newspapers photos by Waylon Whitson

The Big Sandy DAV Chapter 18 of Auxier does the opposite of what many do on Memorial Day weekend and the day itself, staying quite busy with a more than a mile-long march through Paintsville seeking to raise awareness of the prevalence of veteran suicide and mental health issues and then traveling to Gethsemane Gardens in Floyd County to replace the flags on the graves of veterans.

## DAV Chapter 18 Auxier marches for Veteran Suicide Awareness

By **WAYLON WHITSON**  
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

PAINTSVILLE — The Big Sandy Disabled American Veterans Chapter 18 of Auxier stays fairly busy during Memorial Day weekend, when most others are focused on relaxing.

This year, they spent their time marching in the rain on May 29 and handing out pamphlets to



See **MARCHES**, Page 11A

## Floyd recognizes veterans for Memorial Day

By **TREVOR THACKER**  
STAFF WRITER

As Americans across the country hit the roadways for the Memorial Day weekend, Floyd County Judge-Executive Robbie Williams and a local group of veterans gathered at the Floyd County Shrine Club adjacent to the Beaver Valley Golf Course May 28 to honor the fallen and bring awareness to veteran suicide.

"To me, it's a day of inspiration. It's a special day for all veterans, to honor the ones who came before us, and the veterans now," said Williams, himself a veteran.

The event, which included a cookout with hamburgers and hotdogs and all the trimmings, was capped off by a flag raising ceremony and the playing of the national anthem.

Williams said he and the fiscal court were adamant about having an event to honor veterans despite the number of traditional event cancellations due to the pandemic. Williams said he

See **VETERANS**, Page 2A

## East Kentucky Remembrance Project seeks to preserve forgotten, little-known history

By **TREVOR THACKER**  
STAFF WRITER

The City of Wayland has a rich history of diversity, from the native peoples who inhabited the area long before the Europeans arrived, to the African Americans who worked in the coal camps of Wayland alongside Scots-Irish, German, Hungarian, and other immigrants whose blood runs through the hills of Eastern Kentucky.

As American's across the country gathered to

celebrate the Memorial Day weekend, members of the East Kentucky Remembrance Project (E.K.R.P.) met May 29 at the Wayland Community Center as they volunteered their time to clean up an historic and relatively unknown African American cemetery.

The East Kentucky Remembrance Project, according to its pamphlet, "exists to reckon with our local history of racial lynchings and

See **PRESERVE**, Page 10A



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Trevor Thacker

Emily Hudson, executive director of the Southeast Kentucky African American Museum and Cultural Center in Hazard, speaks May 29 at the Wayland Community Center as part of an event that was intended to help clean up a little-known African American cemetery in Wayland and begin raising awareness of lynching in the town and area.

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