

WVAD Quarter News

“News brought to you by the West Virginia Association of the Deaf organization.”

Volume 35, No. 1

Spring 2014

2nd Annual WVAD Christmas Party by Tamera Deem

WVAD held it's second Christmas party at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Clarksburg, WV, on December 14, 2013. The party was a success and everyone enjoyed their time there.

Sixty-seven (67) people came from far and near; they brought covered dishes and delicious desserts to complete our meal. A tasty dinner, provided by WVAD, consisted of chicken, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green beans, yams, and rolls. Veronda Harrison and Charles Facemyre were a big help in the kitchen and they cooked a wonderful meal for us. We also appreciate the efforts of the other Board and WVAD members who pitched in with the cooks and cleaned up the kitchen. The food was delicious!

There were raffle tickets, door prizes, and mini stockings that were hung on the tree that consisted of cash prizes. Prizes included \$1,000 in cash giveaways, a 40-inch TV (Karen Booth), Craftsman bolt-on drill driver kit (Shawn Hecker), Keurig machine (Tami Deem), and Craftsman air compressor (Robert Stewart).

(See 2nd Annual... on page 3)

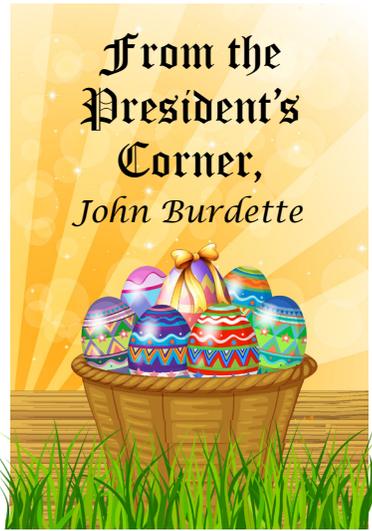


L-R: Stephen Daniels from Martinsburg, WV, paying for his basket that he won through the silent auction, Veronda Harrison, John Burdette, Larry Hubbard, and Jimmy Harrison.

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PUBLICATION INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING RATES

The *WVAD Quarter News* newsletter is a publication of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., published four times a year (March, June, September, December). Free subscription with paid dues. All advertisements must be paid in advance. The *WVAD Quarter News* reserves the right to reject any advertisement. Make checks payable to **WVAD**. Send ads with payment and any news to Tamera Deem.

Full Page, 7 5/8" x 10" \$100.00
 Half Page, 7 5/8" x 5" \$60.00

Happy Spring to Everyone,

I hope everyone stayed warm during these cold months of winter. Spring has finally arrived here. I am really looking forward to going out more and I am sure you are too!

Some of you have heard about my mom's passing away due to sudden illness recently. My parents became enthusiastic supporters of the resident program at the WV School for the Deaf (WVSD). My mom continued to support me at WVSD after my dad passed away in 1980. She also supported me for being part of the deaf community all my adult life. She was a wonderful role model and played the biggest part in my life during my grown up years until she left. She will be missed very much by me, and friends in the deaf community.

Due to winter weather conditions, the WVAD board meeting has been rescheduled to March 30, 2014, at the Holiday Inn Express in Weston, WV.

I announced in the last issue that Snowshoe Mountain Resort has been selected for the next biennial conference. Please save the date August 6-9, 2015, for the 2015 WVAD Biennial Conference.

I want to update everyone on the projects or things that have been happening in West Virginia.

- On August 2, 2014, WVAD will be hosting our Biennial Picnic at Burnsville Lake – Shelter #5 at Bulltown Area. WVAD will provide the meat. Please bring a covered dish. There will be a corn hole tournament and other games. More information about the picnic will come out in the summer issue. Come out and join us for a day of fun and camp out with us that night too.

For those who have not paid for expired membership (see page 19

for form), please send the form and payment to our treasurer, Veronda Harrison. If you are not a member of WVAD, please join. Your support and dues help keep WVAD going. If you have any question about membership, contact Jimmy Harrison, membership coordinator.

Check out the WVAD website (www.wvad.net) or WV Association of the Deaf page on Facebook.

John Burdette

WVAD President



Happy Easter!

This is a West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) non-profit organization newsletter for our WVAD family and friends.

It is the purpose of *WVAD Quarter News* to be an informative communications newsletter by all WVAD members and non-members, addressing WVAD programs, activities, issues, and member interests. *WVAD Quarter News* strives to maintain a balance between program and general interest news. Contact the *WVAD Quarter News* editor at **WVAD Editor** concerning material appearing in *WVAD Quarter News*. *WVAD Quarter News* will publish materials submitted by anyone, subject to editorial review and approval. Please remember to send references of any outside sources you may use. Authors' names will be withheld from publication at their request. The views and opinions expressed by contributors to *WVAD Quarter News* are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the staff of *WVAD Quarter News*.



<i>Editor:</i>	Tamera Deem
<i>President:</i>	John Burdette
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Jimmy Harrison
<i>Secretary:</i>	Donna Williams
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Veronda Harrison
<i>Senior Trustee:</i>	Tamera Deem
<i>Trustee:</i>	Worthy Devericks
<i>Trustee:</i>	Larry Hubbard

(2nd Annual... from page 1)

Everyone enjoyed meeting old friends and new friends, catching up on news and reminiscing old memories that brought out laughter. I know everyone had a wonderful time!

We want to thank Charles and Robert Stewart for making reservations at the VFW for us earlier in the year. We also want to thank everyone who helped with the little chores and made the party a success! It was very much appreciated!

Thanks to everyone who came and made this 2nd annual Christmas party a success! We look forward to our next Christmas party! 🍷





WVAD Board Minutes

WVAD Board Meeting Held at Days Hotel, Sutton/Flatwoods, WV, October 13, 2013

West Virginia Association of the Deaf's Mission Statement:

The West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., (WVAD) operated by, of, for the Deaf Community, advocates, and promotes to improve the quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing individuals including but not limited to deaf-blind individuals, parents of deaf children, interpreters, late-deafened adults, and children of deaf adults.

Members Present:

John Burdette, Jimmy Harrison, Veronda Harrison, Donna Williams, Worthy Devericks, and Tami Deem.

Visitors Present:

Lois Devericks.

The regular board meeting of the WVAD was held in the meeting room at the Days Hotel in Sutton/Flatwoods, WV, on Sunday, October 13, 2013. President John Burdette called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. with the secretary, Donna Williams, being present.

The minutes of the previous meeting (August 1, 2013) were read and approved as corrected.

The treasurer (Veronda Harrison) gave the financial report. As of October 11, 2013, there is \$36.27 in the checking account; \$5,761.63 in the savings account; \$14,538.42 in the Mingo County fund; \$1,969.31 in the WVAD conference fund; \$1,228.00 in the Deaf Youth Program; and \$12,003.63 in the two Certificate of Deposit accounts, all of which brings a total of \$35,537.26.

President Burdette reported the following:

- **Ramada Inn Downtown Charleston:** He received an e-mail from the Office of WV Attorney General asking if WVAD had received the refund from Ramada Inn Downtown Charleston. John replied September 4 saying WVAD had not received the refund. John e-mailed again on September 26 asking for the status. He received a response

saying they are still working on this and that the paralegal currently has the file. John received an e-mail and SignMail on September 27, from Paula Price, Paralegal with the WV Attorney General's office following up with Mr. Jordan of Ramada Inn. John e-mail Ms. Price on October 7, asking her if she has heard anything from Mr. Jordan. Ms. Price replied saying she had not heard anymore from Mr. Jordan; however, Mr. Jordan did tell her that he needed to send the request to their accounting department.

- **Letter from Nathaniel Peacock:** John received a letter from Nathaniel Peacock dated August 23, 2013, regarding the Website Design Proposal for WVAD for the next 18 months. The board needs to decide during the new business how and when to pay.
- **Snowshoe Resort:** On August 24, John sent an e-mail to Rudy Colombo, Conference Sales Manager at Snowshoe Resort, requesting a tour as a possible conference site. He, Tami, and Veronda visited and toured the resort on September 9. John showed some slides of their visit.
- **WVCDHH Board Meeting:** On August 28, John attended the WVCDHH board meeting at the Bridgeport Conference Center.
- **West Virginia Hands and Voice Chapter:** On August 28, John received an e-mail from Gwen Bryant inviting WVAD to an open

house picnic in celebration of Deaf Awareness.

- **West Virginia State Independence Living Council (WVSILC):** On September 9, John received an e-mail from Kathi Young inviting WVAD to participate in the Third Annual Disability Summit Policy.
- **WVCDHH Appointment for the Board:** On September 19, John received a letter from the WV Office of the Governor appointing him to serve on the WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH). John accepted and completed the necessary paper work.
- **Cedar Lakes Conference Center:** On September 26, John called and spoke with Gary Anderson to inquire if August 6-8, 2015, was available for the WVAD conference. They are booked due to band camps.
- **Letters Received:** From WVSILC inviting WVAD to the Disability Summit Policy and from Martinsburg Convention and Bureau thanking WVAD for hosting the conference in Martinsburg.
- **NAD Leadership Training Conference:** John and Tami attended this conference held in Omaha, Nebraska, October 3-5, 2013. They will write an article for the newsletter.

Officers' Report: Vice-president Jimmy Harrison's report: no report. [\(See Board Minutes on page 5\)](#)

(Board Minutes from page 4)

Secretary, Donna Williams' report: (1) called many places in Sutton/Flatwoods and Weston to have board meeting. A list was provided. Some restaurants are free if order there; (2) former secretary, Liz Leisure, will have major back surgery at WVU soon. Donna will send a card; (3) still trying to organize herself, WVAD e-mails, etc. Asked for patience; and (4) when responding to e-mails and motions, please click on "reply to all" so everyone knows who voted for what. This would be same as if in a meeting.

Trustees' Report: None.

Committees' Report: Membership coordinator, Jimmy Harrison, reported that the current membership is 149; newsletter editor, Tami Deem, reported that she needs more ideas, stories, and news to publish in the WVAD newsletter.

Bylaws Committee Report: Secretary, Donna Williams, reported that Linda Phillips resigned. Donna made the changes according to the minutes from the conference. However, Veronda said more corrections are needed. There was no discussion about who will replace Linda or be on the bylaws committee.

Unfinished (Old) Business:

Educational Advocate for WVAD: It was agreed to ask April Hottle to be the educational advocate for WVAD. John will send her an e-mail.

New Business:

Website: Jimmy made the motion to pay Nathaniel Peacock every three (3) months. Worthy seconded. Passed.

Third Trustee: Tami texted Doug Casto during the meeting and he declined the nomination. Jimmy said he would ask Larry Hubbard if he would be willing to be the third trustee.

Legislative Advocate: Jimmy made a motion to ask Howard Hurd. Veronda seconded. Passed. John will send an e-mail to Howard Hurd.

Disability Summit Policy Meeting: Donna Williams volunteered to go; therefore, there was no motion.

WVAD Biennial Picnic: Jimmy made the motion to have the biennial picnic in the southern part of the state the first Saturday of August. Worthy seconded. Passed.

2015 WVAD Conference Site: Veronda made the motion to have the 2015 WVAD biennial conference

**Previous WVAD
Quarter News**



IS ONLINE



<http://www.wvad.net>

at Snowshoe Resort. Tami seconded. Passed.

Announcements: None.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. because we needed to be out of the room by 6:00 p.m. 🐾

West Virginia Association of the Deaf

PICNIC

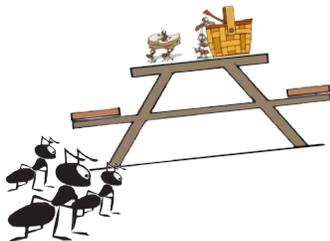
August 2, 2014

Burnsville Lake

Shelter #5

At Bulltown Day Use Area
Burnsville, WV

Open at 11:00 a.m. until Dark



More Information and Directions to Follow in Summer Newsletter!

Come Out and Join Us for Food, Games, and Good Times!

Plan to camp out Friday and Saturday nights with us.

For more information about Bulltown Campground, call (304) 452-8006.



28th Annual West Virginia Deaf Bowling Association Tournament, Grayson, KY March 7-9, 2014



Sorenson Held Its First Town Hall Meeting in Fairmont, WV on February 26, 2014, and Charleston, WV, on February 27, 2014

by Tamera Deem

Ron Burdett, Vice President of Community Relations at Sorenson Communications, came to present a Town Hall meeting in Fairmont, WV, on February 26, 2014, and in Charleston, WV, on February 27, 2014. It was his first time visiting West Virginia and he was impressed with our state.

Fifty-four (54) people came to the Town Hall meeting in Fairmont and 46 people in Charleston, WV. He was very pleased with the number of people that came to hear him give a presentation about Sorenson Communications and share with us what products are available through Sorenson. He also talked about working with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and other government agencies to ensure that Video Relay Services (VRS) are mandated to benefit the deaf community.

Ron explained the products that Sorenson offers, features of their products, and the benefits of Sorenson VRS (SVRS). He also explained how 911 works when dialing 911 on your SVRS. SVRS plans to open three new VRS centers in the U.S. and hire 300 new interpreters to meet our needs. The meeting ended with questions and answers session, and there was a small reception. They also had a drawing for an iPad and gave away hats and coffee mugs for those who have SVRS Mobile on their smartphones.

SVRS is reconstructing their system to save money as FCC has ordered them to cut their rates on their budget. FCC has already cut Sorenson's budget twice. FCC does not care about the deaf and their needs. They treat us like we are ants and tries to stomp on us and our services, then they look back and say "oops, sorry" and wipes us away. We are a very small number that doesn't matter much to FCC. Deaf people need to voice to FCC to let them know that we are here and we need accessibility to communications. You can make a big difference by going to https://esupport.fcc.gov/ccmsforms/form2000.action?form_type=2000C to complain about FCC cutting the budget for VRS and say NO to three things that FCC wants to change:

- FCC wants Sorenson to give their database to them so they can approve SVRS to ship the equipment



Ron Burdett, Vice President of Community Relations at Sorenson Communications

to the deaf community. That means we will have to wait longer for our equipment and services. Hearing people do not have to go through that same process to get FCC to approve cell phones for their use. So why should we have to wait for our equipment and services? We should not have to go through red tape to get accessibility to VRS.

- FCC wants SVRS to focus on only one thing: (1) VRS services only or (2) equipment development. We cannot do just one of those. We

need both to have accessibility to communications.

- Of course, FCC wants to cut our rates. They are not used to seeing money go to VRS because they have become accustomed to deaf people using TTYs and interpreters and not rely on FCC for funds. In the 20th century, the deaf community used TTYs and we did not tend to chat on TTYs for a long time because it was time consuming. In this 21st century, we are using VRS and we can visually communicate a lot quicker! We need to keep the budget as is now to keep qualified interpreters on board and have FCC provide more money to VRS for new technologies in the future.

FCC people have forgotten that the deaf community must have access to communications according to the Americans with Disabilities Act. It states that the deaf have rights to get an interpreter to communicate with the hearing world, therefore providing VRS services is Sorenson's top priority. Sorenson has us in their best interest and wants us to have the best technology there is for the deaf community. 🍌

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Ruby Feland-Miceli

Ruby Feland-Miceli (nee Lease), age 84, of Belleville, IL, born February 9, 1930, in Fort Ashby, WV, passed away Tuesday, February 25, 2014, in Belleville, IL.

Ruby grew up on a farm in the hills and hollows of West Virginia. She was a 1949 graduate of the West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney, WV. She spent one additional year there, taking college preparatory classes. In 1950-1951 she attended Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. There she met her first husband, Richard "Dick" Feland. They were married October 6, 1951, in his home state of North Dakota. They had four children, William, Debbie, Frank, and Robert. Dick passed away in 1987. They had been married 35 years. After several years, Ruby met and married Nicholas "Nick" Miceli of Rochester, NY. Nick passed away in 2008. They had been married 15 years.

Ruby worked at a number of different jobs over the years, but her greatest desire was always to be a good wife, a good homemaker, and a great mother. She was an active member of the National Association of the Deaf, ND Alumni Club of the Deaf, WV Alumni Club of the Deaf, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf (MN), Gallaudet Alumni, several deaf clubs in central Florida, and Senior National Association of the Deaf. She enjoyed sewing, crochet, cooking, baking, painting, Bible study, and, most of all, visiting friends and relatives across the country.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Adam and Gertrude (nee Waggoner) Lease; husbands Richard "Dick" Feland and Nicholas "Nick" Miceli; son



William "Bill" Feland; stepson Fred Miceli; sisters Alice Lease, Stella Stallings, Louise Nasser, and Etta Margaret "Maggie" Male; brothers George Lease, Arthur "Pete" Lease, and Oscar "Tom" Lease; sister-in-law Ruth Desilets; and brothers-in-law Ovalt "Junior" Feland and James "Jim" Overby.

Ruby is survived by her daughter, Debbie (George) Mills of O'Fallon, IL; her sons, Frank (Debbie) Feland of North Richland Hills, TX, and Robert "Bob" (Paula) Feland of Savage, MN; grandsons Mark Mills, Justin Feland, and Joshua Feland; granddaughters Jessie Mills, Julia Feland, and Jazmeen Clark; brother Harold "Mike" (Alice) Lease; sisters-in-law Emilie Reishus, Margaret "Maggie" Overby, and Johanna South; brothers-in-law John (Deanna) Overby and Leon (Linda) Overby; stepchildren Diega Miceli, Audrey DeBarr, Margaret "Peggy" Spinelli, and Nicholas "Nicky" Miceli. Ruby is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends in the deaf community.

Graveside service will be held at a later date at Morningside Memorial Gardens, 11800 University Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448. Memorials in Ruby's memory may be made to the Gallaudet University 150th Scholarship Fund, online at <http://giving.gallaudet.edu/> or by mail to Gallaudet University, Office of Giving, 800 Florida Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Send cards or letters of condolence to:

Debbie Mills, 119 Cornelius Drive, O'Fallon, IL 62269, or e-mail Debbie at debbieam@charter.net

Frank Feland, 205 Sil Cove, Leander, TX 78641

Bob Feland, 4314 McColl Drive, Savage, MN 55378



Mary Ruth Nazelrod Lambert

Mary Ruth Nazelrod Lambert, 83, Romney, WV, died Thursday, February 27, 2014, at home. Mary was born on June 23, 1930, in Jefferson County, WV, the daughter of the late Samuel Edward Nazelrod and Grace Alice Kesner.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Herman Lambert; one daughter Charlene; four brothers, Harry, Rudolph, Vernon, and Carl Nazelrod; and four sisters, Goldie Self, Bertha Whalen, Ruth Shanholtz, and Lena Martin.

Mary lived in the Springfield/Romney area most of her life, also living in Baltimore and Keyser. She worked in Keyser for the F&M Bank and for Whitehouse in Winchester, VA. She was very active in the deaf community in Romney and loved to visit with her neighbors and friends.

She is survived by one daughter, Pauline Marie Starnes, of Lynchburg, VA; one brother, Jonah Nazelrod of Romney; three grandchildren, Eric, Melissa, and Ryan; five great-grandchildren, Gabreille, Kirsten, Logan, Miles, and Bailey; and several nieces and nephews.

Mary enrolled at the WV School for the Deaf in 1938.

The family received visitors 1 hour prior to funeral services at Shaffer Funeral Home, Romney, WV. Funeral services was on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. at Shaffer Funeral Home with Rev. Dr. Roy Knight officiating. Interment was at the Ebenezer Cemetery, Romney, WV. 🌿

2014 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

Join us for the Susan G. Komen WV Affiliate Race for the Cure® May 3rd, 2014!

The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® Series, the largest series of 5K runs/fitness walks in the world, raises significant funds and awareness for the fight against breast cancer, celebrates breast cancer survivorship, and honors those who have lost their battle with the disease. Since its inception in 1983, the Komen Race for the Cure series has grown from one local race with 800 participants to a global series of more than 120 races with more than 1 million people expected to participate since 2009.

The Komen Race for the Cure is a unique event, designed and implemented to promote positive awareness, education, and early detection of breast cancer. It has proved to be an enormously effective way to reach many women and men with the message that



100th Anniversary Committee Wants to Share Your Old Program Books, Souvenirs, Etc.

The 100th Anniversary Committee is looking for old conference/convention program books, tablets, souvenirs, name tags, etc., to share with the attendees at the 100th WVAD Celebration scheduled for the summer of 2015. We want to share with everyone the history of previous conferences/conventions that have occurred over the years of 100 years.

Are your old conference/convention program books, tablets, souvenirs, name tags, etc., collecting dust in the closet or attic that would love to go to a "new" home (either permanent or temporary) and be on display at the 100th WVAD Anniversary Celebration? We would love to have them! If you want those items back, we will gladly give them back to you to go back in your closet or attic! If you do not want those items anymore, they will go into WVAD archives. Please send your items to either John Burdette or Jimmy Harrison. Their addresses are on the left.

This will show everyone what things looked like years ago and make the conference experience enjoyable and rich by seeing old things that were in previous conferences/conventions. We think that everyone would love to see them! Thank you! 🍀

WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2014

breast cancer is not necessarily fatal if mammography and breast self-exam become routine. As well as being a road race for runners, the Komen Race for the Cure is an emotionally charged event that attracts many first timers and recreational runners. The Komen Race for the Cure is an opportunity for thousands of women, men, and their families, running or walking, to spread the breast cancer message within their communities.

Every step counts! Your donation provides women and men in the Komen WV Affiliate with services that have literally saves lives. You help make the following programs possible:

- Free mammograms and diagnostics
- Medical treatment for qualified breast cancer patients who cannot afford care, including surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation
- Support services including support groups, assistance with finding financial resources, prescription refills, and transportation to medical appointments
- Education about the warning signs of breast cancer, methods of early

detection, and the latest treatment options

- Cutting edge research to find a cure for breast cancer

Up to 75 percent of net proceeds are used for local programs like those listed above, with 25 percent used to fund breast cancer research.

Komen WV Race for the Cure will held be on May 3, 2014, in Charleston, WV. The site opens at 7:00 a.m. for registration at the Capitol Complex Kanawha Blvd, Charleston, WV. The walk/run will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Get Involved! Keep the Promise! Please click on this website (<http://www.komenwv.org/komen-race-for-the-cure/>) for more information.

For the safety of all participants, rollerblades and pets are discouraged from participating in this event.

Theresa Pack is the team captain for the *Deaf Pink Warriors* team this year. Click on www.komenwv.org then click Komen Race for the Cure to register with the team.

If you have any questions or want to get involved with the team, please contact Theresa at sewingterri@gmail.com. 🍀



WANTED: 1900-1989 WVSD TABLETS

Does anyone have any old WVSD tablets from 1900-1989 tablets that are laying around collecting dust and you are wanting to get rid of them but don't know what to do with them?

Dallas Pack would love to give them a home and get them off your hands to give you extra storage space as he is collecting old WVSD tablets. He already

has over 400 tablets in his collection. He would be more than happy to pay for shipping costs.

Mail your unwanted tablets to:

Dallas Pack
P.O. Box 262
Oak Hill, WV 25901

Thank you! 🍀



From The Kitchen of
The 100th Anniversary
Committee

RECIPES WANTED!

The 100th Anniversary Committee is looking for recipes to create a cookbook as a fundrasier to raise money for the 100th Anniversary that is coming up Summer 2015! Please send your recipes to the WVAD Editor (extraordinary45@comcast.net) or Veronda Harrison (verapple@aol.com). Your help will make this anniversary a success! Thank you!





In the News



WVSDS Residential Overhaul OK'd Funding Needed for \$20.3 Million Project

Posted by Jim King, *Hampshire Review* Staff, <http://www.hampshirereview.com/blog/2013/12/11/wvsdb-residential-overhaul-ok/>, Wednesday, December 11, 2013

CHARLESTON — Version 2.0 of the facilities plan for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind received a green light Monday.

Now the hard work begins to find \$30-plus million to turn the 1st phase into reality.

The School Building Authority approved the school's amendment to its Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan as part of the consent agenda of its quarterly meeting Monday.

That sets the stage for the SVA to consider a funding request from WVSDS at its next meeting in April. The schools will be seeking \$11.4 million toward construction of a new residential complex that superintendent Lynn Boyer says step beyond the traditional concept of dormitories.

The plan calls for 6 to 8 "residential learning centers" that can each house 8 to 16 students. They will be clustered around a central building that will house a cafeteria and other common services.

"We're very much in pursuit of 24/7 learning," Boyer said. "That's absolutely what our kids need. They come in behind, they have huge challenges to overcome."

Even if the SBA signs off on \$11.4 million in April, don't expect to see construction – or demolition – immediately.

"We won't have shovels in the ground for a year or 18 months," Boyer said. "But it's important to get a commitment for the funds now."

To finish funding the residential overhaul, the school would be responsible for coming up with \$1.1 million and the final \$8.5 million would come from the State Legislature.

Boyer said WVSDS's \$1.1 million share would come from internal efficiencies, grants or some partnerships the school is forming.

After Monday's meeting, SBA Director Mark Manchin cautioned that the agency won't be in it alone.

"We're going to be watching very closely for participation from the West Virginia Legislature, as well as the state Board of Education," Manchin told the Charleston Gazette. "The authority does have the funds and may decide to appropriate them, but we want to see participation at the state level from people who directly have responsibility for the Schools for the Deaf and Blind."

Since the residential phase is scheduled over 4 years, not all the Legislature's \$8.5 million would have to be appropriated next spring, which could work in the school's favor.

"Our legislators understand this," Boyer said. She said delegates Ruth Rowan (R-57th) and Darryl Cowles (R-58th) and state senators Donald H. Cookman (D-15th) and Craig Blair (R-15th) are all working on the issue after a meeting with her in late November.

Manchin said the Legislature is the most likely source to provide the bulk of the funding that the SBA doesn't, despite a looming state deficit of around \$300 million.

The plan preliminarily puts the new construction between the new construction between the School for the Blind and the physical education building.

The Blue and Gold Café, the oldest building on campus, is almost certain to come down to make way for the new facilities.

"It's been clear for over a year that it's in such disrepair that it's not insurable," Boyer said.

She said the school hopes to salvage the materials from it to use in another building or historic marker.

Each residential learning center, or cottage, would house 8 to 16 students sorted by age and gender and whether they have vision or hearing loss.

The cottages would be connected to each other and the central building with walkways and lighting to create a community within the campus, Boyer said.

The central building wouldn't be just for residential use, though.

"We would have the dining hall, rec room, technology, infirmary, audiological clinic, things that children use every day," Boyer said, "It's designed for all students on campus to be interacting with it at some point."

Inside the cottages the plans call for open sight lines to aid use of sign language, small kitchens and eating areas, laundry facilities, common areas, and bedrooms. Each cottage would have adult supervision overnight.

The plan anticipates growth in the residential program from the current 80 students to around 115.

By the time the residential phase is completed in 2018, another phase will be in place, Boyer said. Plans call for all deaf students to be attending classes in what is now the Secondary School for the Deaf.

The Elementary School for the Deaf could be converted to a regional conference center.

At some point after the residential and cafeteria operations are relocated, Boyer anticipates Seaton Hall coming down to be replaced by a building that would be of benefit to the community beyond campus.

SBA: Romney could help out

Could the city of Romney help fund renovations at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind?

A powerful state official says his agency is studying the possibility.

Mark Manchin, director of the School Building Authority, told the Charleston Gazette Monday that his agency is researching whether the law [\(See In the News on page 11\)](#)



(In the News from page 10)

permits Romney to use its bonding capacity to help the schools.

Unlike the 55 county school systems, WVSDDB has no bonding capability. It is directly controlled by the West Virginia State Board of education, which also has no authority to issue bonds.

But under home rule laws, Romney might be able to issue a bond under the special projects provision.

Romney Mayor Dan Hileman said Tuesday that the question has been brought up for the city, but he also pointed out that the Hampshire County Commission also has bonding

capacity and the commission could raise more and spread the burden wider.

"A bond means that the residents of Romney would be taking on that kind of debt," Hileman said. "We only have about 1,950 population. We have limited financial capacity." 🖊



Roof Replacement Approved, New Roof for Old School

Posted by *Hampshire Review* Staff, <http://www.hampshirereview.com/blog/2013/12/11/new-roof-for-old-school/>, Wednesday, December 11, 2013

CHARLESTON — While long-term changes are still on the drawing board at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, the Elementary School for the Deaf will be getting a new roof next year.

The state's School Building Authority approved \$234,950 on Monday to replace the roof on about a third of the massive building that faces Main Street on the east end of campus.

The school will put in another \$19,050 of its own funds toward the \$254,000 project, which Superintendent Lynn Boyer said will start when weather permits this spring.

"It's just a fact of life that we need the roof replaced now," Boyer said, "it's leaking on beds and in classrooms."

The plan is to replace the roof over the portion of the building that houses classrooms and dorms for students in the multisensory programs, along with repairing parapets, repointing and gutter and fascia work. Inside, sprinklers will be installed and heat pumps replaced.

"It's a significant replacement project that we couldn't otherwise afford," Business Manager Mark Gandolfi said.

Although long-term plans are to move the elementary deaf classes to the building that now houses the Secondary Deaf School, Gandolfi said the current project is necessary.

"We need to continue to use this building for at least 4 years," he said. "Besides, it's a state property that needs to be kept up. And what if we end up not moving out in 4 years? We can't let the roof cave in."

WVSDDB is also spending \$26,000 to replace carpeting in the class and dorm rooms once the roof repairs are completed. 🖊



First WVSDDB Caucus Draws a Crowd of Politicos

Posted by Jim King, *Hampshire Review* Staff, <http://www.hampshirereview.com/blog/2014/01/29/there-was-a-lot-of-support/>, Wednesday, January 29, 2014

CHARLESTON — The first-ever gathering of the WVSDDB caucus left local representatives optimistic about the prospects of gaining funding for renovations at the Romney campus.

"There was a lot of support for 'yes, this needs to happen,'" said Mark Gandolfi, chief financial officer for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind. He was in Charleston to represent the schools because last Tuesday's snow prevented Superintendent Lynn Boyer from making the trip.

The "this" that needs to happen is finding \$8.5 million from the Legislature to pay for about 40 percent of the construction costs of a new residential life component on the 140-year-old campus.

The School Building Authority is being asked for \$11.4 million and WVSDDB has pledged to come up with the final \$1.1 million itself.

Last Wednesday's gathering brought together Gandolfi, SBA Executive Director Mark Manchin, and State Board of Education President Gayle Manchin with

delegates and state senators who represent districts that have children at WVSDDB.

"There were delegates and senators both in attendance, from both sides of the aisle," said Del. Ruth Rowan, the Points Republican who has spearheaded the effort.

Rowan and Gandolfi estimated that about 50 legislators stopped by to see a slideshow about the school, talk with the Manchins, and contemplate the moves that can be made to find funding this term.

The Legislature is about a third of the way through its 60-day session.

"This will require a very quick turnaround," Rowan said. Support, she said, "is going to hopefully grow exponentially."

Gandolfi called the turnout unbelievable.

"Everybody left with energy and confidence and ideas and perspective," he said. "Everything Ruth intended the meeting to be, it was."

He expressed the school's deep gratitude to Rowan and fellow Del. Daryl Cowles, who represents the east side of Hampshire County, as well as the two state

senators whose 15th District includes the school, Donald H. Cookman (D-Romney), and Craig Blair (R-Berkeley Springs).

Mark Manchin spoke for more than 5 minutes, indicating the \$21 million proposal has his personal support. WVSDDB will be making its case for SBA funding in mid-March and the authority will render a decision in late April.

Gayle Manchin indicated the support she and the state board of education have for the school.

Rowan noted that John Unger, the Senate majority leader from Berkeley County, showed up as did Larry Edgell, vice chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

"Bill Anderson, the minority finance chair, had some ideas, some very good ones we can take from here," Rowan said.

This won't be the only time WVSDDB is in front of the state's legislators. The choirs from the schools are scheduled to perform for the House of Delegates on February 19. 🖊

(See In the News on page 12)

(In the News from page 11)

House: SBA Should Pay for WVSDB Improvements

Posted by Nick Gaudio, *Hampshire Review* Staff, <http://www.hampshirereview.com/blog/2014/02/21/house-sba-should-pay-for-wvsdb-improvements/>, Friday, February 21, 2014

CHARLESTON — On Friday, officials with the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind got an important ally in their move to mend and improve the schools' Romney campus.

The state House of Delegates unanimously passed a resolution that states the WVSDB should not have to locally match funding for the building improvements they are seeking and those monies for the project should come from the School Building Authority's coffers.

The matter involves an original \$82 million master plan for the campus that was refined and amended last year to emphasize a \$21 million initial phase aimed at creating a new residential life experience at the campus.

WVSDB had been set to ask the SBA for \$11.4 million of the total in a 2-step process. On March 16 or 17, the school's superintendent, Lynn

Boyer, will be in front of the panel for a "needs" project interview to explain the project.

Then on April 28, the SBA will meet to select which projects it will fund and for how much.

SBA Executive Director Mark Manchin has already said that his organization will be keeping a close eye on whether WVSDB can come up with the rest of the money.

Boyer said last year she would request that the Legislature put up \$8.5 million, possibly spread out over 3 or 4 years.

Boyer has said that the final \$1.1 million will come from WVSDB, either through grants and other fundraising or economies from the operating budget.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 92 requests that the state SBA "waive local matching requirements

and fund all needed improvements" for the WVSDB.

To bolster the resolution's argument, facilities at the school are described as "outdated," and "do not meet all the life and safety codes and are not compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act, yet serve a population most in need of compliant classrooms and quarters."

"No residential or educational facility on its campus has undergone significant renovation during the past 30 years and no residential construction for instructional or student purposes has been undertaken in the last 40 years," the resolution says.

Children from counties across the Mountain State attend the school, the resolution argues, "yet these counties are neither responsible for the cost of their educations nor the maintenance of these facilities."

The resolution passed with 95 yeas, 0 nays, and 5 no-votes. 🖊️



Delegates Surprise WVSDB, SBA with Funding Resolution

Posted by Jim King, *Hampshire Review* Staff, <http://www.hampshirereview.com/blog/2014/02/26/delegates-surprise-wvsdb-sba-with-funding-resolution/>, Wednesday, February 26, 2014

CHARLESTON — Last week's bombshell resolution from the House of Delegates is sending shockwaves through the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind's renovation plans.

When the schools' student choirs made their annual pilgrimage to sing in front of the House of Delegates last Wednesday, the legislators responded by unanimously passing a resolution that the state's School Building Authority waive local matching provisions and fund all the costs of campus renovations itself.

"Every delegate was in favor of this. Every delegate loves our school," said Delegate Ruth Rowan, the Levels Republican who represents the 57th District.

The show of support floored WVSDB staff, parents, and supporters who made the trip to the Capitol.

"This is something I hadn't expected," Superintendent Lynn Boyer recalled saying to Mark Manchin, the SBA head, who was standing next to her at the back of the chamber. "It was a wonderful expression of support."



Photo by Perry Bennett WV Legislative Photography — Connie Lewis, an aide at the Elementary School for the Deaf, reacts as the House of Delegates unanimously passes a resolution for funding renovations at the school's Romney campus.

Manchin said Monday it was a mandate that carried a hidden message.

"They're not going to put any money in themselves," he said of the Legislature.

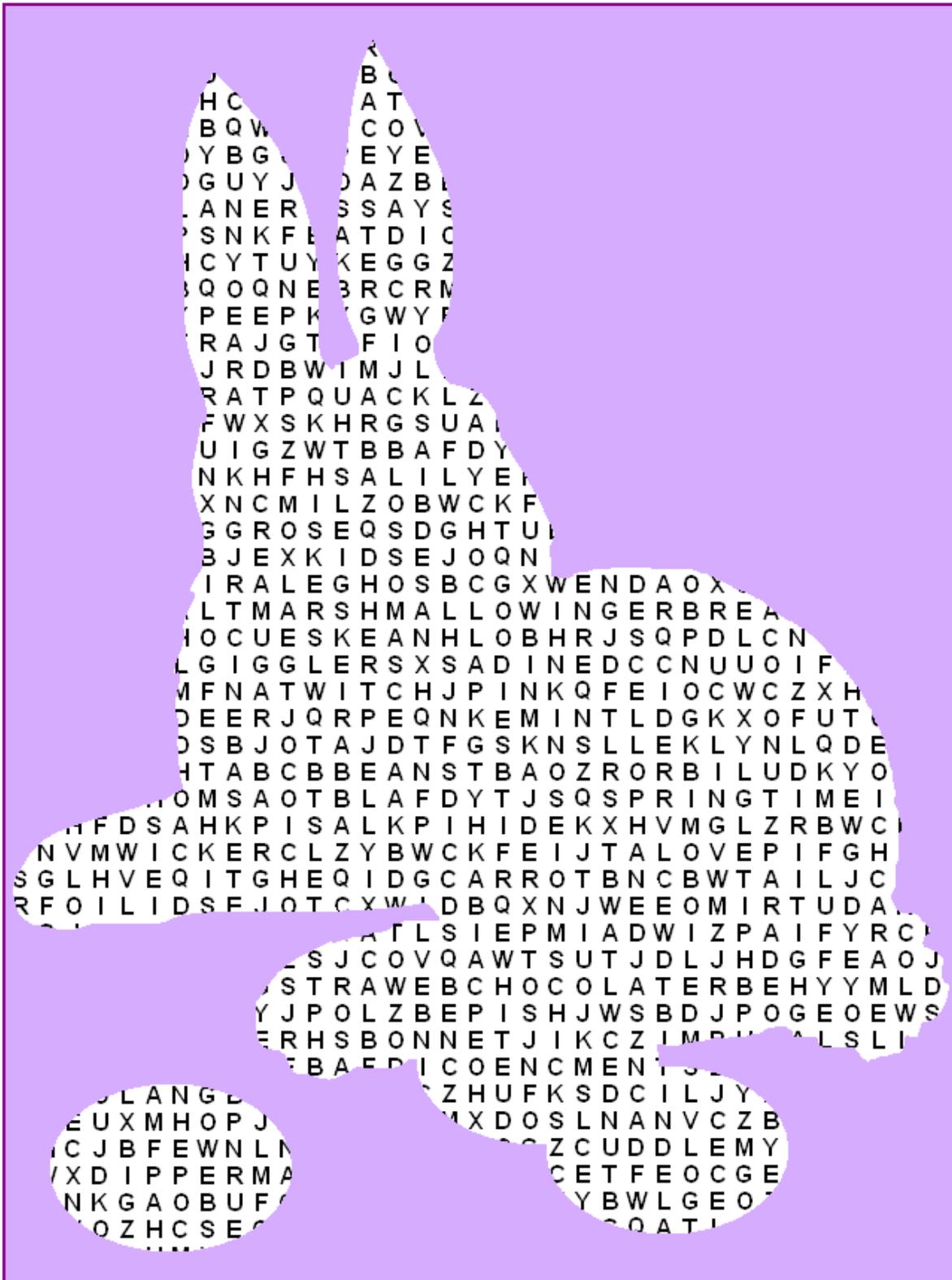
The key clause of House Resolution 92 – which is headed to the State Senate for expected overwhelming approval – says:

(See In the News on page 16)

WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2014

EASTER BUNNY WORD FIND PUZZLE

Find as many words as you can in this Easter bunny puzzle from the Words List on the side. Remember, the correct words can only go vertically (top to bottom) or horizontally (left to right). Have fun!



WORDS LIST

- big dipper
- blossom
- boiled
- bonnet
- bunny
- caramel
- carrot
- cellophane
- chicks
- coconut
- cream
- cuddle
- duckling
- dye
- ear
- Easter egg
- fluffy
- foil
- goodies
- hide
- hop
- jelly beans
- lily
- marshmallow
- nut log
- parade
- quack
- peep
- pink nose
- springtime
- straw
- tail
- twitch
- white chocolate
- whiskers
- wicker basket
- yolk

(See Answers on page 17)

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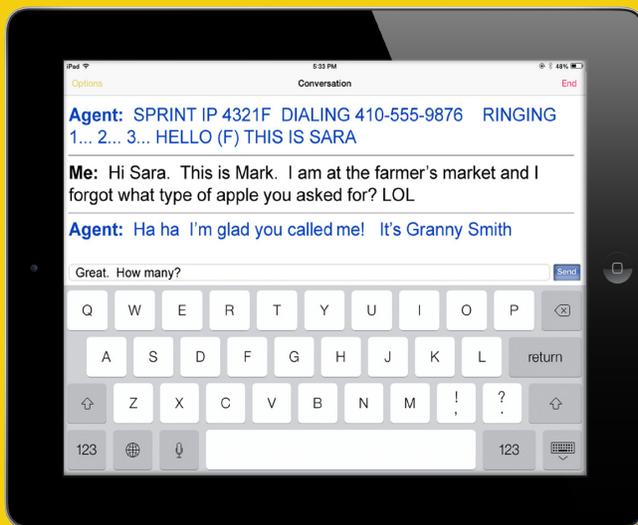
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A-FM20-0610

(In the News from page 12)

"...The Legislature hereby requests that the School Building Authority waive local matching requirements, which are irrelevant to these schools that are operated exclusively by the State, and fund all needed improvements to the West Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind in accordance with its expertise..."

The resolution scrambles funding plans just 3 weeks before Boyer was to go before the SBA to make the case for \$11.4 million of a \$21 million project to develop new residential life facilities on the Romney campus.

In December WVSDDB submitted an amendment to its Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan outlining the \$21 million project and splitting its costs 3 ways. The SBA was being asked for \$11.4 million, the school was pledging to pay its local match of \$1.1 million through cost cutting out of its own budget or fundraising, and the Legislature was targeted to provide the final \$8.5 million.

The resolution not only relieves WVSDDB from squeezing out funds, it also does the same for the Legislature.

Manchin said that as a former legislator, he understands the political realities of the resolution.

"This is a very tight budget," he said of the fiscal challenge the state faces this year. "I spoke with the Governor and the Governor would love to do something to help the children."

That the sponsor of the resolution is Brent Boggs, a Braxton County Democrat, is telling. He is the Chairman of the House Finance Committee. He presented the resolution to Rowan, asking her to round up support for it.

Now that it has passed the House of Delegates, Rowan said she has sent the resolution to state Senator Craig Blair, the Morgan County Republican, whose 15th District includes Hampshire County. He will shepherd it through that chamber.

"My guess is that the Senate will pass it too," Manchin said. "Any time the Legislature speaks, we listen."

Manchin did not say whether the SBA has the legal authority to waive the local match requirement. The authority was established to float bonds that fund school building projects for all 55 counties, as well as facilities directly operated by the state.

The SBA board will dole out around \$45 million in April, choosing among \$175 million in projects submitted, including WVSDDB's. Manchin said that 10-year projections show \$1.9 billion worth of bonds are needed for school buildings in West Virginia. The state will likely be able to fund about a quarter of that based on this year's formulas, rules, and allotments.

The Legislature's resolution puts some pressure on the SBA to prioritize WVSDDB in the mix.

"No residential or educational facility on its campus has undergone significant renovation during the past 20 years and no new residential construction for instructional or student purposes has been undertaken in the last 40 years," it notes as one of the 7 "whereas" clauses leading up to a pair of "Be it resolved" conclusions.

Manchin said that in the next few weeks he expects to sit with the SBA's Finance Committee to discuss the legislative resolution.

He also plans to meet with Boyer, other WVSDDB representatives, and the project architects to try to break down the \$21 million request into phases that are more easily funded on a year-by-year basis.

Boyer said that the school already was assuming the project would not be completed until 2018.

"We won't have shovels in the ground for a year or 18 months," Boyer said in December. "But it's important to get a commitment for the funds now."

The \$21 million residential component is only the first phase of plans for a complete campus overhaul.

WVSDDB completed its Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan in 2012, the first in school history. Every county school system is required to have one in order to qualify for SBA funding.

The WVSDDB plan came in with a price tag of \$82 million and called for a sweeping reorganization of the campus, including the demolition of most buildings.

Its submission to the State Board of Education last January resulted in the board asking if building a new facility elsewhere might not be cheaper and directing Boyer to explore the possibility. She reported back that relocation could cost upwards of \$100 million.

When the State Board of Education met in Romney last September, a packed public meeting persuaded the panel

that the cost to relocate would have a human and educational toll that was incalculable but real.

That led to the State Board of Education voting in October that the schools belong in Romney. In turn that decision set the stage for WVSDDB to prepare the amendment to its facilities plan, targeting the \$21 million residential overhaul as the first priority.

Manchin said that the board's action to keep WVSDDB in Romney gives his agency a green light to invest in the school, although he stopped short of promising all the funding.

"We're going to prioritize. That's what we're going to do," he said.

Boyer said that's all the schools can expect.

"Nobody knows how it will end," she said. "But we know where our support is now where we didn't before." 🖊️



Letter to the Editor (*Charleston Gazette* Newspaper, www.wvgazette.com/Opinion/201401160058?page=2, January 17, 2014)

Deaf Need Captioning for News Conferences

Editor:

The Governor's Office held a news conference on January 11, which was probably informative for those who can hear. I was dismayed that no captions were available, and there was no sign language interpreter for the deaf who communicate only in signs and gestures.

Captioning in real time is possible. I am not sure how the system works, but obviously it is used for sports, presidential addresses, some live television dramas. I know that the Office of the Governor is deeply concerned about the present water crisis. I encourage his office to provide communicative assistance to the large number of people in West Virginia who are as severely deaf as I am.

Lawton W. Posey
Charleston 🖊️

(See In the News on page 17)

WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2014

(In the News from page 16)

Senate Ready to Endorse WVSDB Resolution

Posted by Jim King, *Hampshire Review* Staff, www.hampshirereview.com/blog/2014/03/05/senate-ready-to-endorse-wvsdb-resolution/, Wednesday, March 5, 2014

CHARLESTON — Sometime in the next 4 days, the State Senate will pass a resolution urging the state’s School Building Authority to fund all the campus renovations at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind.

The House of Delegates unanimously approved the measure 2 weeks ago when student choirs from WVSDB were at the Capitol to sing to the legislators.

State Senator Craig Blair (R-Berkeley County) is shepherding the resolution through the Senate. He had held it until

after “crossover day,” February 26th, the last day that legislation had to be approved in one chamber for consideration by the other.

This morning a representative from his office said that all but two senators have signed off on the resolution. It was awaiting the signature of Senate President Jeff Kessler. Senator Roman Prezioso (D-Marion) declined to vote on the resolution, citing a conflict of interest, Blair’s office said.

By law, the Legislature wraps up its 60-day 2014 session Saturday.

The resolution has a 2-fold effect.

It would waive the SBA requirement that the local school kick in some funds for any new building project. Legislators pointed out that the school is a direct branch of state government, unlike the 55 county school systems.

The resolution also says, in effect, that the Legislature itself will not be approving any separate funds to help with improvements on the 144-year-old campus.

In December the school presented an amended facilities plan that requested \$11.4 million from the SBA and \$8.5 million from the Legislature while promising to put up \$1.1 million itself. The \$21 million would go toward replacing the current residence halls and cafeteria with a new residential living cluster.

Now all that’s out the window as the SBA prepares to hear WVSDB make its pitch for funding on March 18. The authority will announce its allotments in April.

Other schools around the state also make their case for funding March 17-18 in Charleston. In all, SBA Executive Director Mark Manchin said \$175 million is being requested while his agency has \$45 to allocate.

In preparation, WVSDB Superintendent Lynn Boyer is scheduled to meet with Manchin and the school’s architects May 12.

“The intention will be to really determine how the cost can be prioritized or spread across years if possible,” Boyer said.

Her presentation to the SBA on March 18 is the last time slot on the 2-day schedule.

Technically, the school is allotted 5 minutes to present and another 5 minutes to answer questions.

“Because we’re plowing new ground, I think there will be a lot of questions that will go beyond 5 minutes,” Boyer said. “I appreciate that we’re last.”

(Answers to Fun Page on page 13)



FUN CAKE RECIPES

Here are a few self-explanatory recipes that you can make on your own, using your own ingredients and imagination that would make baking a lot of fun!



Instructions: Cut a small rectangle out of the top of the cream-filled cake (Little Debbie® Cloud Cakes™) about a third of the way back from the “front” of the car. Use the white decorator icing to attach the Bunny Peep®, mini pretzel for “steering wheel,” and large marshmallows in place for wheels. Use frosting and sprinkles to decorate your car. Allow to set. (<http://www.freefuneaster.com/easter-recipes/easter-bunny-racecars/>)



Ingredients: White cake mix (dye portions of cake to whatever color you want the caterpillar to be), white icing; after making the cupcakes and putting them together, as shown in the photo above, use gummy worms for legs, lollipops for antennae, lifesavers or any candy for eyes, cherries or red candy for nose, and strawberry licorice for mouth. (<http://thetwosavvysisters.blogspot.com/2010/07/cupcake-recipe-of-weekcolorful.html>)



How to Make a “Bird’s Nest” Cake: Make your cake (3 layers) (any flavor) or use a Bundt pan to make it easier. Let the cake cool before putting icing on the cake. If you make 3 layers of cake, cut a hole in the middle after icing layers together (see picture above on the left). Then put icing on the rest of your cake. Fill a piping bag with icing, using a #4 tip, begin piping lines in random directions and random lengths. Start piping inside the nest and then work your way to the outside top of the cake. (You can even use pretzel sticks instead of piping the icing.) Once your “nest” cake has been completed, fill the nest with your choice of colored candy Easter eggs such as M&M’s, M&M peanuts, or jelly beans. Then put a little inedible bird on top to finish the decoration of the “nest.” (<http://www.vanillabeanbaker.com/easter-bird-nest-cake/>) Have fun!

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 for 2 Years — Senior (Age 55 and up) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interpreter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 for 2 Years — Student (Age 12 – 18) |

Spouse:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 for 1 Year — Regular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hard of Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 for 2 Years — Regular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 for 2 Years — Senior (Age 55 and up) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interpreter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 for 2 Years — Student (Age 12 – 18) |

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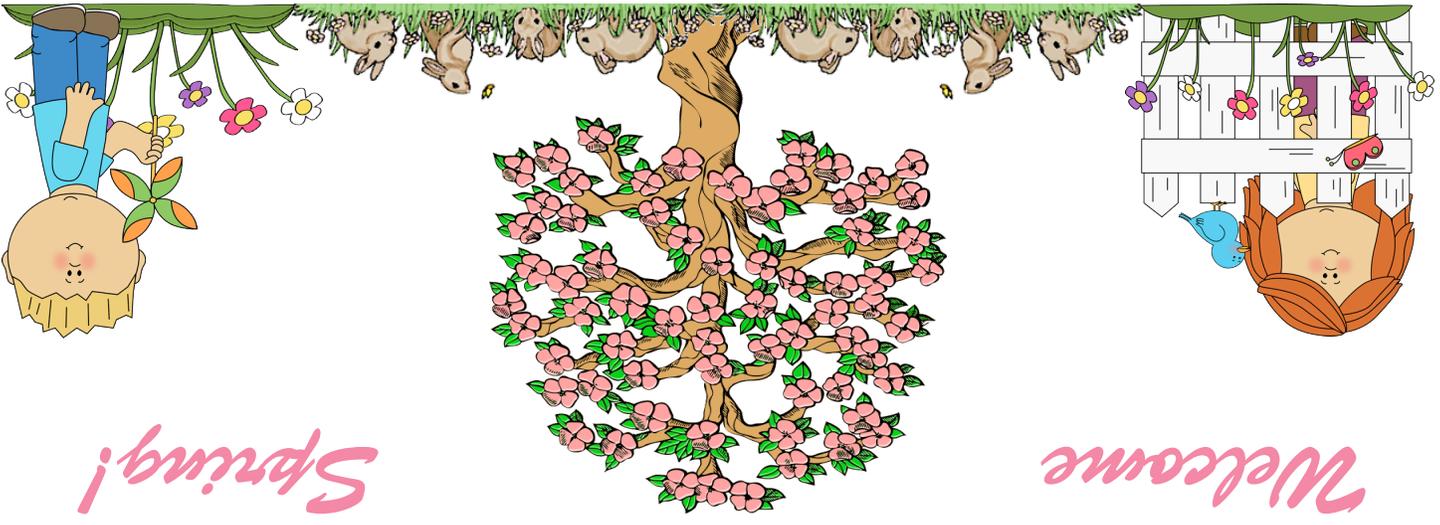
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Welcome



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The address block is enclosed in a decorative border of pink flowers. On the left side of the border is the logo of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf, which features a circular emblem with a hand holding a sign, the text "WEST VIRGINIA" at the top, "ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF" at the bottom, and "Est. 1911" and "Incorporated 1932" in smaller text.