

Volume 35, No. 2

Summer 2014

Patrick Epperly Hits 1,000, WVSD Sophomore Averaged 41.6 Points per Game

By Ed DeWitt, Review Staff, *Hampshire Review*, Posted Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Patrick Epperly has joined some rare company for the West Virginia School for the Deaf basketball team.

Only a sophomore, he eclipsed 1,000 points in a weather-shortened season and is poised to rise to heights not often achieved on the hardwood.

Epperly, a Slanesville native, scored 541 points in only 13 games this season for an astonishing 41.6 points per game average.

The team lost 7 games to cancellations related to the harsh winter that struck the area. Had those 7 games been played, his totals would be even more inflated.

He is the key offensive weapon for a Lions team that runs only 6 players deep. The lack of numbers allows for an abundance of playing time and Epperly is not shy when it comes to doing what he does best.

His skills allow him to drive the lane with ease, and he is also particularly fond of shooting 3-pointers and foul shots. He is also a gifted defender.

The scoring, however, is what is raising many eyebrows.

“We have had players in the past lead the PVC and the area in scoring,” said WVSDB Athletic Director Bob Haines. “From my count Patrick is the 6th or 7th player in recent memory to hit the 1,000-point mark.”

What sets him apart, however, is how quickly he has elevated to that plateau.

Epperly began his career the same way many local children do, playing Bidy Buddy basketball on weekends.

He also played 1 year for Romney Middle School when the Lions didn’t have enough players to field an entire team.

He is also a skilled archer and this year qualified for the state tournament in Charleston for the 3rd time. He will head to the Civic Center this Saturday to compete alongside 2 teammates and 2,000 other state students.

The hand-eye coordination skills he has developed have allowed him to excel at both archery and basketball.

This summer, Haines will put Epperly on a conditioning program and also push him to become more efficient with his left hand.

The skills and conditioning, mixed with a likely growth spurt, will make Patrick someone to keep tabs on through his junior and senior years.

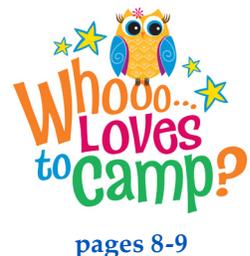
Once he graduates, he has hopes to play basketball at Gallaudet University.

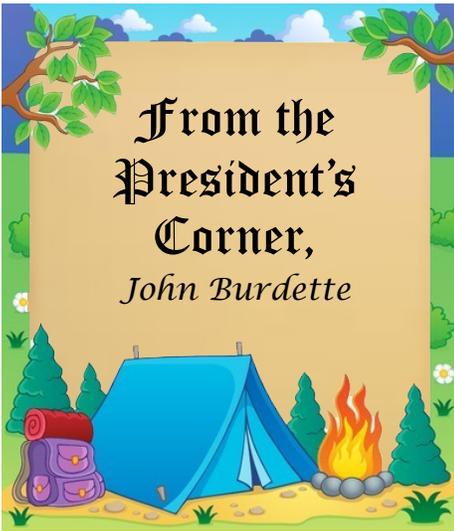


Patrick Epperly makes a shot against St. Marys basketball team.

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**From the
President's
Corner,**
John Burdette



**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

Greetings!

Summer season is coming soon. I hope everyone is busy starting summer activities such as gardening, swimming, planning a vacation, and many more.

First, congratulations to all seniors who graduated from West Virginia School for the Deaf. Myself, as the President, attended this year's graduation and presented an award from West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) to Valedictorian, Samantha Plum. Again, congratulations!

Tamera Deem and I will be representing WVAD at the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in July! We will have a busy week of meetings, workshops, and elections at the NAD conference. Watch for the next newsletter to hear about our experience in Atlanta!

I want to update everyone on things that have happened and will be happening in the coming months.

- I am pleased to announce the new change on the West Virginia Association of the Deaf website. Thanks to Andrew Kapaldo, son of Tamera Deem, for being the Webmaster of

the website. It is still work in progress. Please check out our "new look" website at www.wvad.net. For updated information, we also have the West Virginia Association of the Deaf page on FaceBook for you to check out. Please join that.

- On August 2, 2014, WVAD will be hosting the 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 be coming soon. Come out and join us for a day of fun and camp out with us that night too.
- WVAD is selling WVU vs. Towson football game raffle tickets. There will be 2 drawings for 2 tickets each. Drawing will be held on August 2, 2014, at the WVAD Summer Picnic. Raffle tickets are open to anyone and you do not need to be present to win. Proceeds will go to the WVAD 40th Biennial Conference and 100th Anniversary to be held in August 2015.

Please contact Veronda Harrison to buy the tickets (cash or credit card).

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 questions about membership, please contact Larry Hubbard, Membership Coordinator.

Have a safe summer and stay cool! Hope to see you at the WVAD Picnic!

John Burdette

WVAD President



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



WVAD Board Minutes

WVAD Board Meeting Held at Holiday Inn Express, Weston, WV, March 30, 2014

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, Larry Hubbard, and Tami Deem

Committee: April Hottle (Educational Advocate)

Visitors Present: Lois Devericks

The regular board meeting of WVAD was held at the Holiday Inn Express in Weston, WV on Sunday, March 30, 2014. Vice-President Jimmy Harrison called the meeting to order 10:45 a.m. while waiting for President John Burdette to arrive due to driving through snow.

The minutes from the October 13, 2013, meeting were sent via e-mail and approved and passed. These minutes were in the spring 2014 WVAD newsletter.

Vice-President Jimmy Harrison's Report:

- He has received a few VP calls complaining about WVAD communication. We need to communicate with others more regarding WVAD. We also need to respond quickly.
- Board meetings are public. Anyone can attend except when go into executive session.
- Storage has many pictures. Jimmy would like to have display of pictures at the conference. Maybe make a DVD of WVAD history to sell. We need to do fund raising projects.
- Need to start working on 100th Anniversary Conference—flyer,

registration, etc., early rather than later. Also, need to think of entertainer.

A motion was made to have a 10-minute break.

11:45 a.m. — Meeting resumed.

Treasurer Veronda Harrison's Report:

As of March 29, 2014, there is \$889.22 in the checking account; \$7,428.52 in the savings account; \$14,540.22 in the Mingo County Fund; \$2,181.00 in the Conference Fund; \$1,629.00 in the 100th Anniversary Fund; \$1,263.00 in the Deaf Youth Program; and \$12,003.63 in two Certificate of Deposits accounts. Total balance is \$39,934.59.

Veronda also reported that at the Christmas Party on December 14, 2013, WVAD made a profit of \$498.81.

President John Burdette's Report:

- Ramada Downtown Charleston—On November 14, 2014, John sent an e-mail to Paula Price, Paralegal with the WV Attorney General checking the status. He received a response from her saying that Mr. Jordan from Ramada Downtown Charleston requested the same documents again.

On November 16, 2013, John received a letter from Julie Boggess, Mediator with the WV Attorney General's office, informing John that Ramada Downtown Charleston has not responded to our letters.

On December 17, 2013, John received a copy of a letter Douglas Davis, Assistant Attorney General with WV Attorney General's

office, sent to Dale Jordan, General Manager of Ramada Downtown Charleston, about the failure to refund the \$683.48.

On January 10, 2014, John received another letter from Douglas Davis informing him that Dale Jordan has not responded to the December 16, 2013 letter. Mr. Davis also said he wish to pursue the claim; however, it would be best for WVAD to bring action against Ramada Downtown Charleston with the help of a private attorney.

- On October 15, 2013, John sent an e-mail to Nathaniel Peacock informing him that WVAD decided to have him be Webmaster for the WVAD website.
- On October 16, 2013, John sent an e-mail to Rudy Colombo, Conference Sales Manager at Snowshoe Mountain Resort, to inform him the WVAD Board decided to have the 2015 Biennial Conference at Snowshoe.
- On October 25, 2013, John received an e-mail from Kendal Nidy, school counselor at Shoals Elementary School. Shoals along with WV Hands & Voices celebrated Deaf Awareness Week. They raised \$264.50 to donate to WVAD to help not only their kids but others like them in WV. John will follow up on that e-mail.
- On October 28, 2013, John sent an e-mail to RID office requesting the RID Ethic Complaint form/DVD to be sent to him.

[\(See Board Minutes on page 4\)](#)

(Board Minutes from page 3)

- On October 28, 2013, John sent an e-mail to Howard Hurd asking him if he would be interested in being WVAD Legislative Advocate.
- On October 30, 2013, John received an e-mail from Fair Shake Network (FSN) with membership form attached. John completed the form and gave to Veronda Harrison to send with check on March 6, 2014.
- On November 6, 2013, John sent an e-mail to April Hottle to inform her that she was selected to be Educational Advocate for WV and WVAD.
- On January 18, 2014, John received a letter from Mary Ann Jividen, Co-chairperson for the WVAD Conference in Martinsburg, informing him and Veronda Harrison that after all expenses were paid on December 4, 2013, the final balance for the 2013 WVAD Conference was \$1,758.55. They closed this account on January 15, 2014.
- Received e-mails from NAD about State Association Affiliate Renewal—first reminder on 12/4/13, second reminder 2/19/14, and third reminder on 3/19/14.

Secretary Donna Williams' Report:

- On October 23-24, 2013, Donna attended the third annual State-wide Independent Living Council (SILC) Policy Summit (meeting) in Charleston representing WVAD. It was a good experience to work with other disabilities groups for a common goal. A report of this was in the winter newsletter.
- On March 27, 2014, Donna received a request from Missy Barie via Facebook asking if WVAD could donate to the Deaf Pink Warrior for WV Komen for Cure. The walk will be on Saturday, May 3, in Charleston.
- Received several e-mails from State Independent Living Council (SILC) asking for volunteers to apply to serve on their board. Since Donna lives in Ohio, she cannot apply. If anyone is interested, see her.
- Received VP call from one person complaining must have a hearing test to apply for the smoke alarm. And, hearing tests are very expensive. Many other state commissions provide smoke alarm free with no questions. Why not WV?

Donna spent many hours on the internet and VP calling about 20 audiologists. The average price for basic hearing test was \$65. Some insurance will pay but many will not. Medicare will pay only with a doctor referral. Saw in newspaper Miracle-Ear will give free basic hearing test. Called several Miracle-Ear stores and yes, they will give free basic hearing test with an appointment. Donna typed a list of all the Miracle-Ear stores within 30 miles of various cities in WV. She wants to get this information out. Gave a copy to Tami Deem for the next newsletter.

Also, if anyone went to West Virginia School for the Deaf, they can ask them for a copy of the last hearing test.

- Called 15 different places in Weston and Flatwoods for conference rooms to have the WVAD Board meetings. Best are Holiday Inn Express in Weston and Days Hotel in Flatwoods. Other places either do not have a conference room, close early on Saturdays or Sundays, or do not accept reservations. A list of places called was provided.
- Received several e-mails and VP calls regarding the chemical spill in Charleston complaining about the news not being captioned or interpreted. Also received several VP calls after the WVCDHH Community meeting in Charleston on February 28 asking questions about one slide in Executive Director Marissa Sanders' PowerPoint slides. Donna missed the slide because she was writing notes. After she saw the PowerPoint slides, she understood those questions and called them back to clarify the slide.
- February 28, 2014, attended the WVCDHH Board meeting in Charleston. Seven (7) visitors spoke after the Board meeting. A copy of these comments were sent to Board members.
- February 28, 2014 evening, attended the community meeting in Charleston.
- Regarding Pierre's position on the Board—Annette Carey told Donna someone on the Board will contact President John Burdette for five (5) names. John said he had not received any request.

- WVAD needs to continue to work with the WVCDHH.

Trustees' Report: None.

Jimmy Harrison's Membership Report:
Currently have 181 members.

Tami Deem's Newsletter Report:

Need more news and simplified minutes. The deadline for the next newsletter is June 1st.

April Hottle's Educational Advocate Report:

- On November 6, 2013, she received an e-mail from John Burdette informing her she was selected to be Educational Advocate for WVAD.
- November 22, 2013—attended the WVCDHH Board meeting in Romney, WV. Learned the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) is developing guidelines for educational sign language interpreters and reviewing requirements for them to become paraprofessionals. Also learned that language assessment is NOT part of the WVCDHH Code.
- November 22, 2013—met with Karen Hott, coordinator of the early intervention program through 8 full-time regional outreach specialists. She was told that West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind (WVSDB) has their own language assessment and they are beginning to work with Gallaudet. She stressed the importance of language fluency for every deaf and hard of hearing child.
- December 2013—sent e-mail to Annette Carey at the WVDE asking her if WVDE will assess the educational interpreters and sign support specialists in the public schools. She told April the interpreters will be evaluated after 2 years.
- January 2014— Dr. Homberg's office WVDE Office of Special Education, sent April a copy of the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) used for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. A copy of this was given to each board member.
- February 28, 2014—attended the WVCDHH board meeting and community meeting in Charleston. Again, emphasized the need to

(See Board Minutes on page 5)

(Board Minutes from page 4)

assess language of those students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

- Learned about the National Early Childhood Assessment Project (NECAP) directed by Dr. Christine Yoshinaga-Itano in Colorado and shared this information with various leaders in deaf education across the state. She was told West Virginia has a small number of deaf and hard of hearing children who would participate in the NECAP assessment. Therefore, the cost to use this program would not be cost efficient.
- Other people April has talked with include Pam Roush, WV Birth to Three/Early Intervention Director and Gwen Bryan and Christina Payne, Hands & Voices. Because of the privacy act and lack of parental involvement it is very difficult to get answers. Feel it is very important for deaf and hard of hearing children to learn ASL and have language from birth. Appreciate WVAD helping with this.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Jimmy Harrison moved to have the Biennial WVAD Picnic Saturday, August 2, in Bulltown (Donna seconded). Passed.

Veronda Harrison moved to charge \$20 for picnic admission (Jimmy seconded). Passed.

Veronda Harrison moved to have only one meal at picnic (Larry seconded). Passed.

Veronda Harrison moved to start eating at 2:00 p.m. (Donna seconded). Passed.

Larry Hubbard moved to purchase KFC and pick up in Flatwoods because less work (Veronda seconded). Passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved to buy mashed potatoes and gravy from Kroger (Worthy seconded). Passed.

Worthy Devericks moved to ask everyone to bring covered dish or dessert for one extra ticket (Jimmy seconded). Passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved to have corn hole tournament (Donna seconded). Passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved to have door prizes and sell tickets for other prizes (Veronda seconded). Passed.

WVAD Quarter News, Summer 2014

Officers' Contact Information

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VerApple@aol.com

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extraordinary45@comcast.net

Worthy Devericks, Trustee
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VP Number: 304-460-0683
sunflower10933@aol.com

Larry Hubbard, Trustee
572 Thompson Road
Culloden, WV 25510
VP Number: 304-397-5729
hubbardlarry18@yahoo.com

Jimmy Harrison moved to have one large grand prize, such as TV, to attract more people to come (Veronda seconded). Passed.

Worthy Devericks moved to kill \$20 admission and change to \$15 per adult (Larry seconded). Passed.

Veronda Harrison moved to charge children age 6-18 \$5.00 and children age 5 and under free (Donna seconded). Passed.

100th Anniversary Conference:

Veronda Harrison moved to increase the registration fee to \$30 (Worthy seconded). Passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved to give extra door prize ticket to those who pay the early bird combo (Worthy seconded). Four (4) tickets for first combo, 3 tickets for second combo, 2 tickets for last combo, 1 ticket at door. Passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved to sell raffle tickets for prizes—6 tickets for \$5 (Larry seconded). Passed.

Veronda Harrison moved to amend door prizes to give cash, free registration combo for the next conference; free membership or free admission to picnic (Tami seconded). Passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved WVAD send two (2) delegates to NAD conference July 1-5 in Atlanta, GA (Larry seconded). Passed. John Burdette and Tami Deem will go.

Donna Williams moved for WVAD donate to Komen Deaf Pink Warriors (Worthy seconded). Failed.

Jimmy Harrison moved WVAD join WV RID as affiliate and individual board members join WV RID (Donna seconded). Passed. Donna will contact Toni Vaughan.

Jimmy Harrison moved to ask Toni Vaughan if WVRID is interested in becoming affiliated with WVAD. Donna explained WVRID is still waiting for 25 voting members to become a chapter.

Jimmy Harrison moved WVAD become affiliated with Potomac Chapter Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PCRID) to provide interpreter workshops for CEUs (Veronda seconded). Passed.

Larry Hubbard moved WVAD pay mileage to Board officers (Donna seconded). Passed.

With no further business, by general consent, President John Burdette adjourned the Board meeting at 6:50 p.m. 🍀



PAUL E. NEALIS, SR.

Paul Eugene Nealis, Sr., 82, of Romney, WV, died on Sunday, April 20, 2014, at West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA. Paul was born on March 7, 1932, in Romney, WV, the son of the late William "Bill" Nealis and Myrtle Presgraves Nealis. He was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, Donna Lou (Hannas) Nealis, and several brothers and sisters.

Paul was a veteran of the Korean War, having served in the U.S. Army. He was an active member of the VFW Wappocomo Post 1101, Romney, having been Commander for 10+ years. Paul held numerous offices at the district, state, and national levels, representing the Post at many national conventions. He was instrumental in implementing the Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award at Hampshire High School, WV School for the Blind, and WV School for the Deaf. Paul made sure the VFW's Patriotism Program was presented to the 6th grade classes of all Hampshire County schools. Paul was responsible for the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the VFW held on the grounds of the WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and on numerous holidays, he and his family prepared meals for veterans without families. Paul was known for being an excellent cook, especially for his 5-star breakfasts.

Paul was a member of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church. He retired in 1995 after 24 years of service as custodian supervisor and Food Service Director at the WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind. Paul was the loving father of Paul, Jr., Becky Jo, and Barry and was blessed to have his daughter, Becky Jo, care for him in his last years.

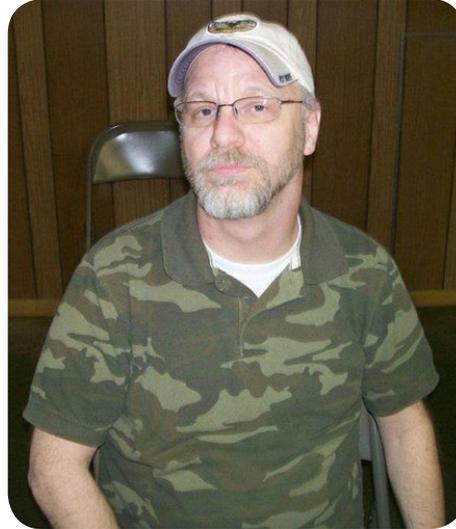
Paul is survived by two sons: Paul E. Nealis, Jr., Chester Gap, VA, and Barry A. Nealis, Romney, WV; one daughter: Becky Jo Nealis, Romney, WV; and two sisters: Betty Bradfield, Woodstock, VA, and Nancy Bowman, Romney, WV.

The family received friends at the Shaffer Funeral Home on Thursday, April 24, 2014, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. The funeral service was held at the Ebenezer United Methodist Church on Friday, April 25, at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Kenneth D. Caplinger officiating.

Friends were received from 10:00 a.m. until time of service. Interment with military honors was at the Ebenezer Cemetery, Romney, WV. 🍀



"In Memory of Loved Ones"



SHANE C. SHAFFER

Shane Camden Shaffer, 49, of Fairmont, passed from this life Sunday (April 20, 2014) at Ruby Memorial Hospital, after a brief illness. He was born in Fairmont on Jan. 9, 1965, the son of Robert C. and Judith Nichols Shaffer.

He graduated from the West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney in 1986. He was Methodist by faith. He had worked as a computer operator at Azimuth for 10 years.

He traveled to Germany, which he enjoyed very much. He also enjoyed working out at the gym, working on his computer, and doing things with his nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Shaffer is survived by his brother-in-law, Dale Whitten of South Carolina; nieces and nephews TSGT. USAF John and April Garnish of Florida, SSGT. USAF Robert and Katie Rowley of South Carolina, Jacklyn Rae Rowley of North Carolina, Nicholas Clay Whitten of South Carolina, Amber and Tommy Clifford of North Carolina, and Tiffany and Eric Miller of North Carolina; also several great-nieces and -nephews; his aunt, Joan Audia, and aunt and uncle Richard and Joann Nichols, all of Fairmont.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Kimberly Ann Whitten, and uncle, Anthony Audia.

Shane's parents would like to thank the nurses and doctors at Ruby CCU Room 16 for their very kind and professional services.

At his request there was no visitation or funeral services for Shane and his body was cremated. There will be a memorial service at a later date, to be announced. Condolences may be sent to the family at either fhff320@aol.com or www.freyhomeforfunerals.com. See more at: <http://www.timeswv.com/obituaries/x493470493/Shane-Camden-Shaffer#sthash.TOykkZjM.dpuf>. 🍀



Previous WVAD Quarter News



IS ONLINE

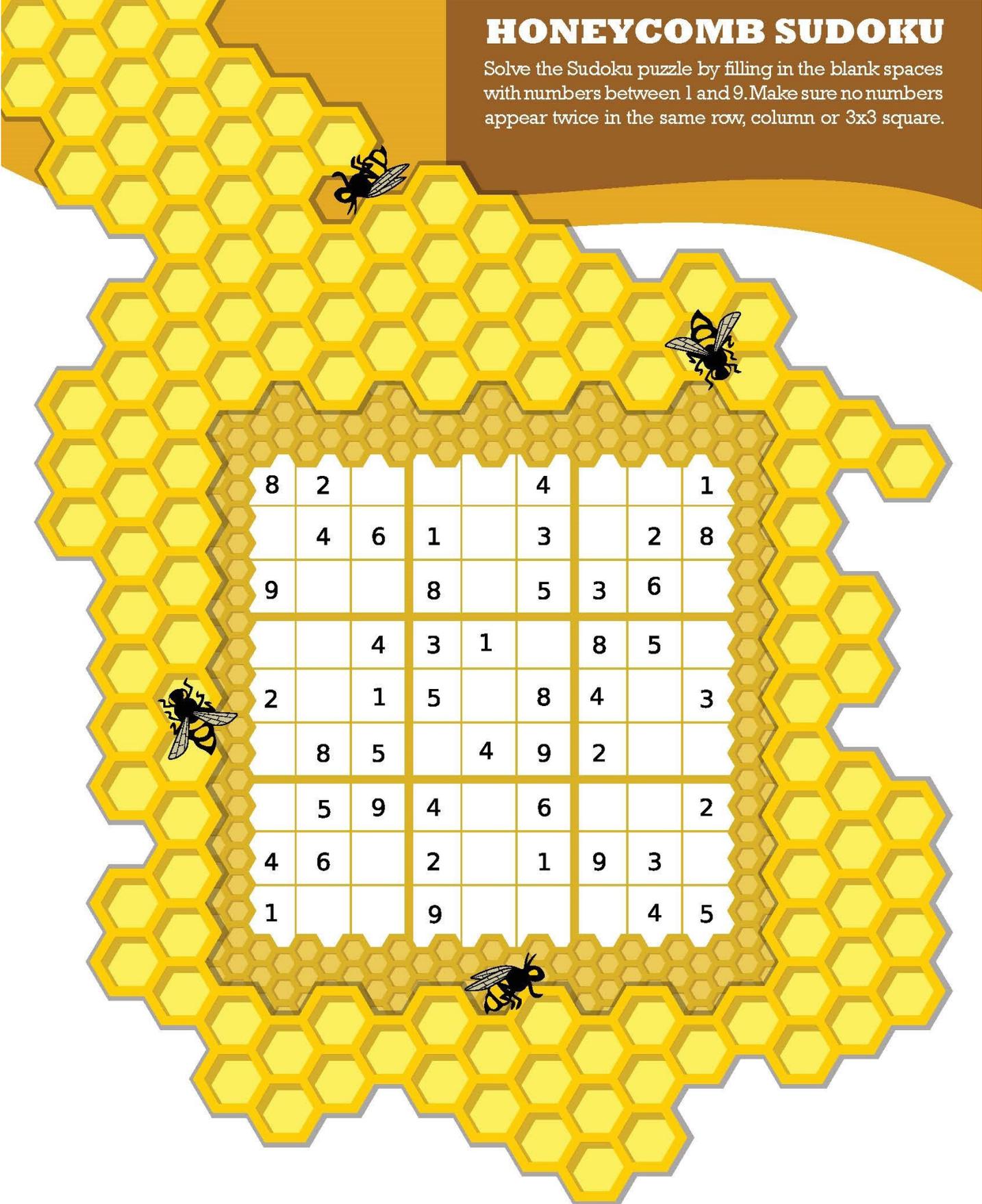


<http://www.wvad.net>

SUMMER FUN PAGE

HONEYCOMB SUDOKU

Solve the Sudoku puzzle by filling in the blank spaces with numbers between 1 and 9. Make sure no numbers appear twice in the same row, column or 3x3 square.



8	2				4			1
	4	6	1		3		2	8
9			8		5	3	6	
		4	3	1		8	5	
2		1	5		8	4		3
	8	5		4	9	2		
	5	9	4		6			2
4	6		2		1	9	3	
1			9				4	5

(See Fun Page Answers on page 15)

West Virginia Association of the Deaf

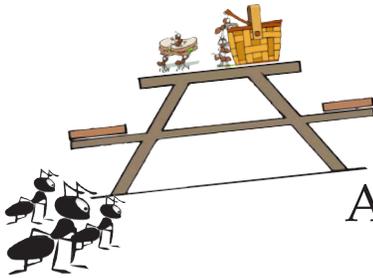
PICNIC



August 2, 2014

Burnsville Lake
Shelter #5

At Bulltown Day Use Area
Burnsville, WV



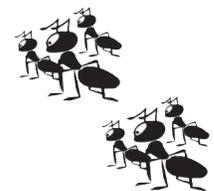
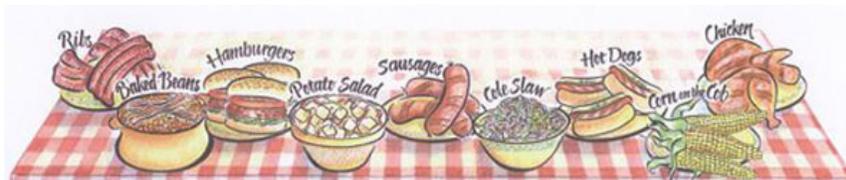
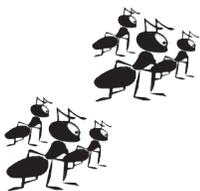
Open at 11:00 a.m. until Dark

\$15.00 per person includes meal and door prize

\$5.00 per child (6 to 18) includes meal

Children under 6 free

We will provide fried chicken and mashed potatoes/gravy.
Please bring covered dishes and desserts (for those who bring
will get additional door prize ticket). Drinks are \$1.00 each.



Cash Prizes Based on Number of Attendees

(Super Prize, Cash, and More — 10 Tickets for \$5.00/30 Tickets for \$10.00)



Games include:

Corn Hole Tournament (\$5.00 to play)

And More...



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.

Directions to WVAD Picnic, Burnsville Lake

Getting there to Shelter # 5:

If traveling North of Charleston on I-79: Take Exit 67 (Flatwoods). Turn right after exit ramp. Turn left at the stoplight and proceed north on Route 19. Follow for 10 miles and look for a sign that says Bulltown Campground/Historical Area (Millstone Road) on the left.

If traveling South on I-79: Take Exit 91 (Roanoke). Turn right on Route 19 South. Follow for 28 miles and look for a sign that says Bulltown Campground/Historical Area (Millstone Road) on the right.

From Morgantown/Clarksburg: Take South I-79. Take Exit 67 (Flatwoods). Turn left at the stoplight and proceed north on Route 19. Follow for 10 miles and look for a sign that says Bulltown Campground/Historical Area (Millstone Road) on the left.

GPS Info (Latitude, Longitude):

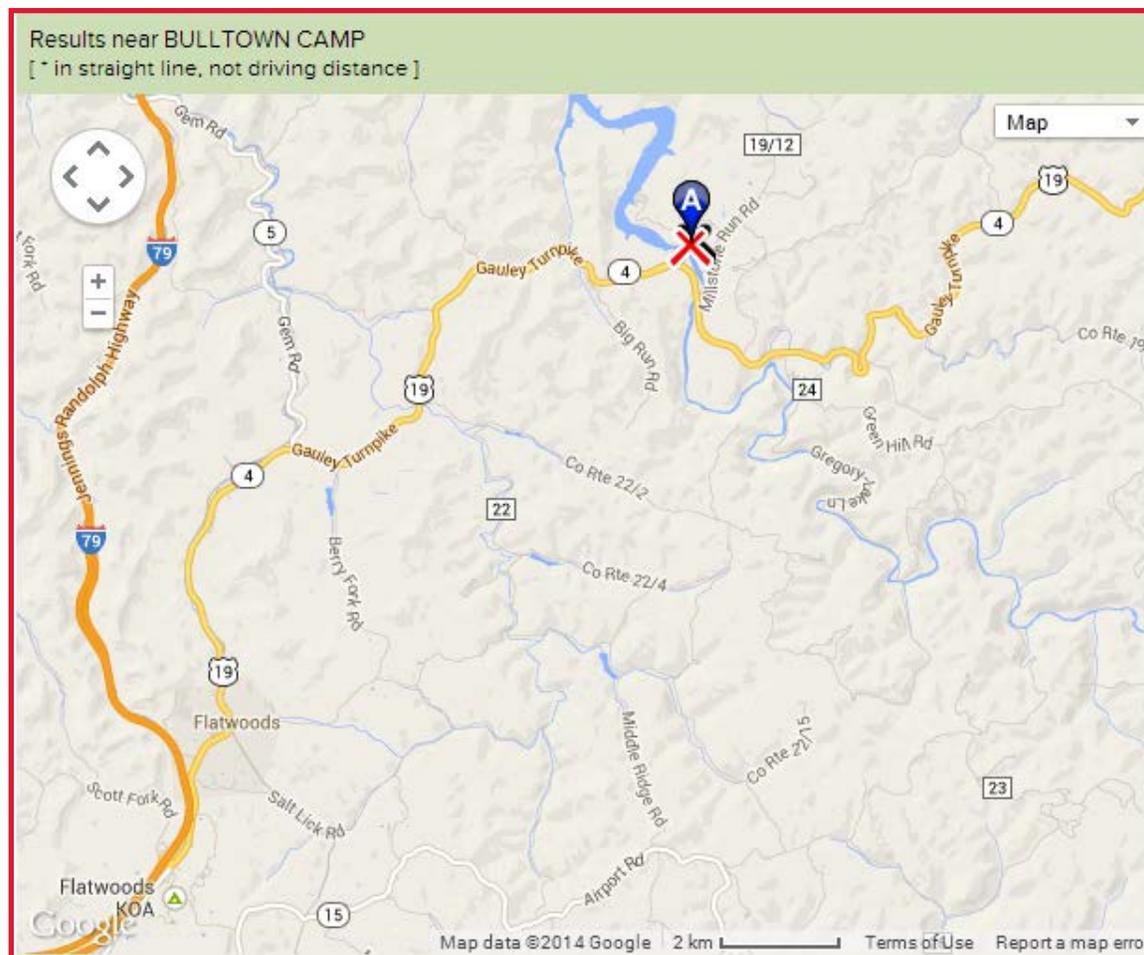
38.79167, -80.56639

38°47'30"N, 80°33'59"W

Camping Areas:

Bulltown Campground: Call (304) 452-8006 or to check out the campground, go to <http://www.reserveamerica.com/camping/bulltown-camp/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=73106>.

Riffle Run Campground: Take Exit 79 (Burnsville). Follow Route 5 East to campground (<http://www.wvcommerce.org/travel/travelplanner/destination/Riffle-Run-Campground/3030/default.aspx>).





In the News



Employees Speak Out Against Deaf and Blind School

By Marla Pisciotta, *Cumberland Times-News*, <http://www.times-news.com/local/x334193944/Employees-speak-out-against-Deaf-and-Blind-school>, Posted: March 7, 2014

ROMNEY, WV — Eleven child care workers at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind are upset, saying their jobs are in jeopardy due to their education.

A mandatory meeting was called this week by superintendent Lynn Boyer.

The child care workers, who wished to remain anonymous, said they were under the impression that the meeting was to get input regarding changes on the campus.

"We've been told all along that no one would be losing their job," said one worker.

"Then when we went in to the meeting we were told after 2015 there would be no child care workers."

The current child care worker position would be phased out on July 1, 2015, and replaced with the position of residential care specialist, according to paperwork handed out at the meeting.

The replacement jobs will require an associate degree in child development, psychology, social work, or related fields, or an employee's written intention to acquire the degree within three years of being hired.

According to the workers, Boyer said existing child care workers can apply for the new position. They can start taking courses beginning this summer or write their intention to get the degree after being offered a new job.

Many of the workers say they either can't afford to take college classes or are too old and don't feel they could handle going to school again.

Some say they will look into the classes.

"Even if we get a degree, from what we're told if someone comes in off the street that is blind or deaf they will get the job over us," a worker said.

Concern for the feelings of the children and length of tenure is also an issue with the workers.

"I don't know what burns me up the most — losing my job or the suffering of

the kids losing people that have cared for them so long," another worker said.

"This is the most disgusted I've been with this school in all the 18 years I've been here."

Other workers said they had been blindsided and lied to. Several have called the union to see what could be done and some say they will have to leave their job and move away from Romney.

Other workers say because of their age they will have to retire.

The workers were given a copy of the new job description that includes a list of general responsibilities, qualifications, functions, and duties.

The recommendation to change from child care worker to residential care specialist will be going before the West Virginia Board of Education on Wednesday.

Boyer said the focus is to improve the quality of the total experience the student has at the schools.

"We focus on improving the educational process of the children in addition to ensuring they are safe and secure," Boyer said.

"What we are asking of the persons in these new positions is to bring a higher level of knowledge and skills in literacy and math, and a greater understanding of child development, behavior management, impact of deafness or visual impairment on learning and social development, and communication among others."

Boyer said Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College has developed classes that would take four semesters to complete and would begin this summer.

"Each of the new positions will get approximately an \$8,000 increase from where the child care workers are being paid now," she said.

"This salary will be applied immediately upon hire. An employee would not have to wait until the degree is completed. The 60-hour program at Eastern

is \$4,300, but many staff already have course credits which will reduce that cost over time."

Boyer said Eastern is working on ways to help with tuition and books.

"Experience to date will always have an impact on hiring," she said. "The work the child care workers have done has not been done for nothing. What they have learned and done in the past will help them when they apply for the job."

Boyer said because of changes at the campus enrollment is up 20 percent.

"Because of our emphasis on improving education experience of the children, we began to extend instruction into the residential program," Boyer said.

Boyer said children come to WVSDB behind. "We have to work at every opportunity to progress."

"We need a skill set in our residential staff that is not necessarily present there now, but we are willing to work over the next three years to make that happen."

The State Board of Education will meet Wednesday where a discussion regarding the change is already on its agenda.

Another WVSDB issue on the agenda is the 2012-2022 comprehensive educational facilities plan.

Boyer said recently the state legislature chose to transfer WVSDB's request for \$8.4 million to the School Building Authority.

"We are resolving that the SBA will fully fund the proposal," the resolution said.

The first phase of the proposal is \$21 million, which includes construction of the residential cottages on campus and a student center that includes a cafeteria, infirmary, media center and offices for occupational therapists, audiologists and physical therapists.

Contact Marla Pisciotta at marlapisciotta@frontier.com.

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Schools for the Deaf and Blind to Restructure 40 Positions

By Samuel Speciale, *Daily Mail Staff*, <http://www.charlestondaily.com/News/Education/201403130092>, Thursday, March 13, 2014

CHARLESTON, WV — West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind will restructure its residential program by eliminating 40 child care worker positions and hiring residential care specialists to replace them by July 1, 2015.

Superintendent Lynn Boyer brought the motion before the state Board of Education Wednesday.

Both child care workers and the new residential care specialists work during non-instructional hours with students who live in the dorms.

The new position comes with an \$8,000 pay raise, but at a cost. It requires a degree that most child care workers do not have.

Because residential care specialists will have increased responsibilities, current employees and new applicants will be required to have a degree in child development, psychology, social work, or a related field. If they don't have a degree, they must commit to obtaining one within 3 years at their own expense.

State Sen. Donald Cookman, D-Hampshire, did not oppose the motion, but expressed concerns that the 40 employees will be displaced.

Cookman asked the board to table the motion so a grandfather clause protecting current employees from losing their jobs could be considered.

"It's a matter of fairness," he said.

Cookman said he doesn't have a problem with requiring additional education or training as long as employees are guaranteed to keep their job if they pursue a degree.

Current employees may apply for other jobs on campus or be placed into an applicant pool where they will have to interview for the job. Boyer said no one is guaranteed to make it through the process though.

"It's not my intention to shed people," Boyer said. "There is value in using the experience and expertise we already have."

The schools' child care workers have between 1 and 36 years of experience, but seniority will end when the position is eliminated next year.

While seniority will not be a factor in the hiring process, current employees

who are willing to obtain a degree and have previous work experience with students, sign language and braille will have hiring preference over an external applicant with a degree without experience in a residential setting.

A document delivered to the board explaining the new position says there will be no guarantee any current employee will be rehired. It says "the option of hiring the most qualified candidate to work with our students needs to remain open."

Boyer said it is important to have the best quality employees because they will do more than just "tuck kids in at night."

She said her goal is to make the school a blue ribbon school of excellence with the finest quality housing children can have.

The changes come after years of neglect, underfunding, and uncertainty whether the school will remain in Romney, Hampshire County.

The board applauded Boyer's work at the school, saying she has turned it around, but board member Wade Linger said he was not ready to vote on the motion until he had a better understanding.

He asked if the motion could be approved with a stipulation that no one will lose their job if they go through with the training and obtain a degree.

"This is people's livelihoods," Linger said.

Board President Gayle Manchin said she sympathized with the employees but encouraged them to pursue a degree. She said it can be scary going back to school later in life but the employees have a support system in place if they do it together.

"They have the support and reassurance that they can do it," she said. "They have a wonderful opportunity, and as the conversation continues, I think they won't see this as punitive but as an opportunity to bring more to these children."

After much deliberation, the board voted to approve the motion.

All of the required general education classes are offered online. The school will work with the Eastern West

Virginia Community and Technical College to reopen a computer lab on campus.

The degree's technical core component will be offered on campus and sessions will be catered to employees' work schedules. Technical and occupational specialty classes are already offered on campus and are free of charge.

Current employees who apply for the new position and obtain a degree will receive the \$8,000 raise. While seniority is no longer considered, the employees' years of service at the school will remain intact and will be reflected in their pay.

Current pay ranges from \$20,000 to \$32,000, depending on experience. The new salary range will be \$29,000 to \$42,000.

The board also discussed the state legislative session, which ended Saturday.

Nothing has been signed into law, but the board is considering asking Tomblin to veto a bill that prohibits principals from requiring a teacher to attend any work-related event during their planning period.

State Superintendent Jim Phares said the bill strips power from principals and diminishes their ability to be effective administrators.

Phares said the board has been asked to do a county-by-county review to see if there will be any costs associated, namely if there will be a need for substitutes to cover a teacher's instructional time.

He said that need could be offset by a bill from 2013 that includes substitute teaching for at least 3 instructional days as a job duty for all central office personnel except for the superintendent or those without a teaching or administrative certificate.

The bill (Senate Bill 477) completed legislation Saturday. The Senate clerk's office said the final draft is still under review and should be available by the end of the week.

Contact writer Samuel Speciale at sam.speciale@dailymailwv.com or 304-348-4886. Follow him at twitter.com/wvschools.

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WV BOE President Speaks on Issues at WVSD, Manchin says Schools are not Moving

By Marla Pisciotta, *Cumberland Times-News*, <http://www.times-news.com/local/x1535572705/W-Va-BOE-president-speaks-on-issues-at-WVSD>, Friday, April 18, 2014

ROMNEY, WV — West Virginia Board of Education President Gayle Manchin responded to issues at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind during an interview with the Times-News Wednesday morning.

Manchin confirmed that the state intends to keep the schools in Romney despite concerns of child care workers that Schools Superintendent Lynn Boyer was hired to move the schools.

"We are fortunate to have this quality of schools. It's a wonderful school," Manchin said.

"She (Boyer) has made dramatic improvements in terms of raising the bar and looking at the facility."

Manchin said the schools have not been properly maintained for many years.

"Now everything has to be done at once — repurposing the buildings for the best convenience and safety of the children," Manchin said.

Manchin said prior to the board meeting in Hampshire County last fall, they looked at options to move the schools because of the financial outlay in some form or another.

"We looked at the best use of money, whether it would have been more financially feasible in another area of the state," Manchin said.

"We did our research and what we found was it was financially not even close to moving the schools."

Manchin said Romney is the best location for the schools and that is in large part due to the commitment of the community.

"After the town forum, we felt the community sort of pledged to partner with the schools," Manchin said.

She said the board was very pleased and thrilled with the attendance and the meeting overall.

"We felt that everyone shared genuine support and caring. It rather alarms me when we hear rumors that we still plan to close the schools," Manchin said.

"Whoever these people are with these misconceptions are feeding this frenzy."

Manchin said the planned additional education for child care workers is necessary to give children who undergo 24/7 care the best quality of care possible.

But Sen. Donald Cookman disagrees. "Because of a recently implemented policy at WVSD, the school is no longer a 24/7 school."

Cookman said students go home every weekend, which means they are with the teachers roughly the same amount of time they are with their child care workers.

Manchin said that accomplishments have been made following changes in curriculum and the next step is to look at those who care for the children after school hours.

"Which means those care takers should have the highest quality of trained individuals in those positions," Manchin said.

"These people have to know how to deal with social behaviors, appropriate and inappropriate behaviors."

Manchin said because someone has been around children for many years does not necessarily mean that person is highly qualified.

The state board has approved the transition of child care workers to residential care specialists to take effect in July 2015.

Child care workers are being asked to take English and math classes to earn an associate of arts degree.



Gayle Manchin, State BOE President

"We will work with these workers for a three-year period. As soon as they sign the papers saying they want to improve their skills, they will receive an \$8,000 a year salary increase," Manchin said.

Cookman wonders if that statement is actually correct.

"Can this be true when the job description indicates that individuals who are deaf or those with superior ASL skill will be given preference during the hiring process?" Cookman asked.

"Even if the child care workers agree to obtain the required AA degree ... they would still have to have a successful interview to get the job."

"My question is when would the decision to hire be made, when the applicant agrees to obtain the AA, when they are interviewed or after the AA degree is completed," Cookman said.

Manchin said the schools are working with Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College to assist and will be giving classes on the campus and online.

In the interim, the child care workers are asking for a guarantee to retain their jobs.

Anita Mitter, organizational development specialist with the West Virginia Education Association, said, "Having an associate degree doesn't mean you can do the job."

Mitter said she and a small group met with Boyer last week to discuss the status of the transition.

"Our sticking point is we feel the current child care workers should be given priority to be chosen for the jobs because of their experience, seniority and commitment to the kids," Mitter said.

Mitter said the child care position is not a teaching job but a parenting job.

"I do feel that Dr. Boyer is going to try working with us to come up with some way that would be acceptable to everyone," Mitter said.

There are 35 child care workers' jobs at stake.

(See In the News on page 13)

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Manchin said, "What concerns me is some of the individuals complaining the loudest never talk about the benefit to the children. I would never encourage Lynn Boyer to guarantee those jobs."

Cookman said his goal is that the child care workers who have dedicated their lives to and developed a bond with the students be treated fairly.

Manchin said the board and Boyer are not doing anything different than other schools.

"Most schools are held to a high standard if they have a good superintendent. To expect less would be to say we don't want our West Virginia children to have the best education," Manchin said.

State Declines to Fund Schools for Deaf and Blind Project

By Marla Pisciotta, *Cumberland Times-News*, http://m.times-news.com/CTN/db_279560/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=axXi8o42&full=true#display, Posted: April 29, 2014 2:00 PM

ROMNEY, WV — Although the West Virginia School Building Authority has declined to provide any funding to the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind to begin building new residential learning centers, SBA Executive Director Mark Manchin said construction plans are not ditched.

The 2014 proposal request was for \$7.1 million with the WVSDB contributing another \$750,000.

"I'm disappointed," Lynn Boyer, superintendent, said.

Boyer said she had several conversations with Manchin last week and was

prepared for the decision, but hoped, nevertheless, that a last-minute change would occur.

"That did not happen," Boyer said in a letter sent to the leadership on the campus.

Boyer said Manchin encouraged the WVSDB to maintain its momentum to implement its Comprehensive Education Facilities Plan.

Manchin said in a phone interview Tuesday morning, "The plan to build is not ditched, just postponed pending funding."



Workers Picket at WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind

By Marla Pisciotta, *Cumberland Times-News*, <http://www.statejournal.com/story/25412429/workers-picket-at-wv-schools-for-the-deaf-and-the-blind>, Posted: May 2, 2014 9:51 AM EDT; Updated: May 4, 2014 1:00 PM EDT

ROMNEY, WV — Although several meetings have taken place to discuss the employment situation for child care workers at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind, Sen. Donald H. Cookman, D-Hampshire, and union reps joined workers to picket the schools the morning of April 22.

"We weren't satisfied with the meeting we had with (Superintendent) Dr. (Lynn) Boyer," one worker said.

More than a dozen workers have begun walking up and down the sidewalk next to the schools along Rt. 50 in Romney two times a day.

Another worker on the picket line said we just want to make the public more aware of the situation. They should know that we are losing our jobs, she said.

"We feel the public is only getting one side of the story."

Gayle Manchin, President of the West Virginia Board of Education, recently said she was pleased with Boyer's progress with the schools. And although union organizer Anita Mitter with the West Virginia Education Association said she thinks Boyer will try to work things out and come up with a solution acceptable to everyone, picketing started. Workers said the decision was made by Mitter.

Cookman joined the picket line to protest the threat of child care workers losing their jobs.



Senator Donald Cook, D-Hampshire, pickets with unidentified staff next to the schools along Route 50 in Romney, WV. Donald's quote: "I'm glad to do it. I believe it is important for all of you, for the school, and the community. Just doing my job. — Don"

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(In the News from page 13)

Child care workers have been asked to earn an AA degree. Boyer has given them three years to earn the degree and a promise of an \$8,000 increase in their annual pay in return.

Manchin said Boyer "is raising the bar for the students, for the faculty, and for the administration" with that decision. The child care workers position will be replaced by "residential care workers" beginning July 2015.

In the interim, child care workers are being asked to take classes in both English and math to begin the work of earning the AA degree. But Cookman said he is concerned the schools will not give the child care workers a chance to

retain their jobs. Some workers have been at the schools for more than 25 years.

"Even if the child care workers agree to obtain the required AA degree and no one that is deaf or has superior ASL skills apply for the position, they would still have to have a successful interview to get the job," he explained.

Cookman said he doesn't understand why it is necessary to interview an employee for an opening when he or she has been working for the schools for years.

"My question is, when would the decision to hire be made — when the applicant agrees to obtain the AA or when they are interview or after the AA degree is completed?" Cookman asked.

The child care workers are asking for a guarantee to retain their jobs.

"Having an associate degree doesn't mean you can do the job," Mitter said.

Mitter said she and a small group met with Boyer last week to discuss the status of the transition.

"Our sticking point is we feel the current child care workers should be given priority to be chosen for the jobs because of their experience, seniority and commitment to the kids," Mitter said.

Mitter said the child care position is not a teaching job but a parenting job.

"I do feel that Dr. Boyer is going to try working with us to come up with some way that would be acceptable to everyone," she said. "We're working on it." 🖊️



Information About Free Fire Alarms Provided by the WV Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) by Donna Williams

Hello! I wanted to let you know that I did some research and called many places about free hearing tests.

I learned that most places charge \$60 or more for a basic test. Some insurance will pay part or all and some will pay nothing. Medicare will pay only with a referral from a doctor. Many people told me they cannot afford the test. Then, one Sunday, I saw in the local newspaper that Miracle-Ear will give hearing tests free. I called most of the places on this list and explained about WVCDHH providing free smoke alarms to deaf and hard of hearing home owners but they need to provide a copy of their hearing test for proof. I also explained that most of you have been deaf all your lives, do not have copy of test for proof, and cannot afford \$60 or more for a simple test. They were all very nice saying "sure, we can give them simple hearing test and a copy of the test free." I know some of these places are not near your home. If you prefer to go to a local hearing test place, you need to ask them if your insurance will cover it or ask your insurance company.

However, you must call the hearing aid place and make appointment. You cannot just walk in and tell them you need hearing test.

For more information, go to http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh/asap/smoke_alarm_app.pdf.

I hope this helps you to get the free smoke alarms. If you have any problems or questions, please contact me at dmwilliams49@yahoo.com or 740-314-4387 VP.

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Vienna, WV 26105
304-602-3505

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Cumberland, MD 21502
301-729-0090

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Winchester, VA 22601
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Westover, WV 26501
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304-324-4358

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Roanoke, VA 24012
540-362-2770

Miracle-Ear Center
100 Arbor Drive, Suite 111
Christiansburg, VA 24073
540-381-4327

Miracle-Ear
17318 Valley Mall Road (Mall – Sears)
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-582-6200

(See Information About... on page 15)

(Information About... from page 14)

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1850 Apple Blossom Drive (Mall – Sears)
Winchester, VA 22601
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Miracle-Ear Center
2081 E Main Street
Waynesboro, PA 17268
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Miracle-Ear Center
5100 Buckeystown Pike, Suite 182
Frederick, MD 21704
301-696-9757

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144 S 8th Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
866-495-8321

Miracle-Ear Center
701 Park Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-729-0090

Miracle-Ear Hearing Aid Service Center
50 Martin Street
Elkins, WV 26241
304-205-9946



From The Kitchen of
The 100th Anniversary
Committee

RECIPES WANTED!

The 100th Anniversary Committee is looking for recipes to create a cookbook as a fundraiser 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!



(Fun Page Answers from page 7)

8	2	3	6	7	4	5	9	1
5	4	6	1	9	3	7	2	8
9	1	7	8	2	5	3	6	4
6	7	4	3	1	2	8	5	9
2	9	1	5	6	8	4	7	3
3	8	5	7	4	9	2	1	6
7	5	9	4	3	6	1	8	2
4	6	8	2	5	1	9	3	7
1	3	2	9	8	7	6	4	5

RAFFLE TICKETS – 2 TICKETS (2 DRAWINGS) FOR WVU FOOTBALL GAME, WVU VS. TOWSON, 9/6/14

WVAD is selling raffle tickets for 2 tickets (2 drawings) to the WVU vs. Towson football game, scheduled for September 6, 2014 (home game), time to be determined. Proceeds will go towards the 2015 WVAD conference. If anyone is interested in buying any raffle tickets, please contact any of the Board members. For credit card purchases, please contact Veronda Harrison at 304-964-6025 VP. Feel free to let your family and friends know about this as they are welcome to participate in the drawing. Drawing will be held on August 2, 2014 at the WVAD summer picnic (need not be present to win). There will be 2 drawings. For more information, please contact any Board members.

1 Raffle Ticket for \$2.00 OR 6 Raffle Tickets for \$5.00

West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.
2015 WVAD Biennial Conference

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 **2 Drawings on August 2, 2014** 
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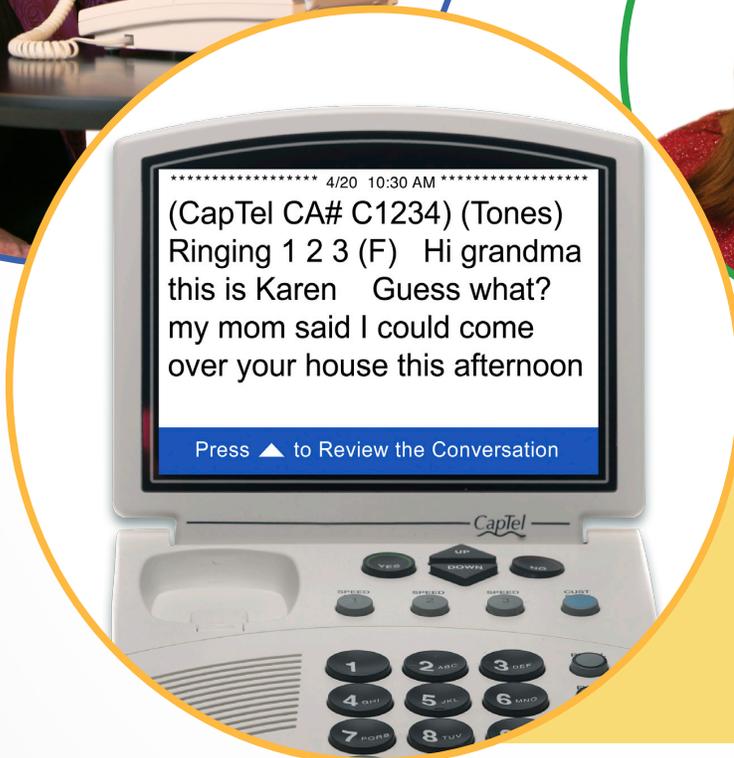
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CHEESE TORTELLINI SOUP

My daughter-in-law made this and this is VERY good!! I really enjoyed it!

1 (19 oz) bag of frozen cheese tortellini
2 (14.5 oz) cans of Italian style diced tomatoes, drained
1 block (8 oz) of cream cheese** (softened)
3-4 cups of chicken broth (start with 3, add 1 more if it looks like it needs it)

1 small bag of fresh spinach (I used about half of a 5-oz package, but more is better!)
1 lb of ground sausage or chicken/turkey sausage

Brown the sausage (she used pork sausage with sage) and drain when done. Put all ingredients together except the tortellini and cream cheese. Let it simmer for 30-40 minutes. Add the cream cheese and tortellini, cook until tender, 10 minutes. Serves 4-6.

* Keep an eye on your tortellini, it may be done sooner.

* For a vegetarian version, omit sausage and use vegetable broth instead.

** If you use neufachtel (1/3 fat of cream cheese), be prepared that it doesn't melt as well and leaves little curds.



PEANUT BUTTER CUSTARD BLAST

My daughter-in-law's sister made this for Memorial Day cookout and this was very good!

Crust:

2 cups cream-filled chocolate sandwich cookie crumbs or Oreo cookie crumbs

2 Tbsp sugar
1/3 cup butter, melted

Filling:

1-1/2 cups sugar
2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
6 cups 2% milk
1 cup creamy peanut butter

1/3 cup cornstarch
1/2 tsp salt
6 egg yolks, beaten

Topping:

2 cups heavy whipping cream
6 peanut butter cups, chopped
2 Tbsp chocolate syrup

1 Tbsp confectioners' sugar
1/2 cup chopped salted peanuts



Preheat oven to 375°. In a small bowl, combine cookie crumbs and sugar; stir in butter. Press onto bottom of a greased 13x9-inch baking dish. Bake 8 minutes or until set. Cool on a wire rack.

For filling, in a large saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch, flour, and salt. Stir in milk until smooth. Cook and stir over medium-high heat until thickened and bubbly. Reduce heat; cook and stir 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir a small amount of hot mixture into egg yolks; return all to pan, stirring constantly. Bring to a gentle boil; cook and stir 2 minutes.

Remove from heat. Stir 1 cup into peanut butter until smooth. Gently stir peanut butter mixture into the pan. Pour over crust. Cool to room temperature. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours.

In a large bowl, beat cream until it begins to thicken. Add confectioners' sugar; beat until stiff peaks form. Spread over peanut butter mixture. Sprinkle with peanut butter cups and peanuts. Drizzle with chocolate syrup.

To Make Ahead: After peanut butter custard is poured over the crust, refrigerate overnight. Before serving, top with the sweetened whipped cream, peanuts, peanut butter candy, and chocolate drizzle.

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE DRINK

1/4 cup frozen strawberries, thawed
1-1/4 fl oz amaretto liqueur
2 (1/2 cup) scoops vanilla ice cream
1 dash vanilla extract

1/2 cup crushed ice
1/4 fl oz vanilla-flavored vodka (optional)
1 Tbsp whipped cream
1 fresh strawberry

Place thawed frozen strawberries, amaretto liqueur, vanilla ice cream, vanilla extract, crushed ice, and vanilla vodka into a blender.

Cover and blend until smooth.

Pour into a glass and garnish with whipped cream and a fresh strawberry.

(http://allrecipes.com/Recipe/Strawberry-Shortcake-Drink/Detail.aspx?event8=1&prop24=SR_Thumb&e11=strawberry%20shortcake%20drink&e8=Quick%20Search&event10=1&e7=Video&soid=sr_results_pi1)



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West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.
Larry Hubbard, WVAD Membership Coordinator
572 Thompson Road
Culloden, WV 25510
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Your membership fees and donations make it possible for WVAD to protect the collective interests of West Virginia's deaf and hard of hearing community through advocacy efforts with our policy makers.

JOIN WVAD TODAY!