Commission for Deaf relocates to Romney

The West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) recently moved its office from Charleston to Romney.

The WVCDHH serves as a communication bridge between hearing persons and those who are deaf and hard of hearing.

"Our staff is working toward developing an environment in which all ages of West Virginia's deaf and hard of hearing have an equal opportunity to participate fully as active, responsible, productive and independent citizens," said Charity Reedy Hines, executive director for the commission.

West Virginia has approximately 268,000 people who are deaf or hard of hearing, said Hines.

Of those numbers, 133,488 senior citizens lose their hearing later in life.

"This can have a significant impact on their quality of life," said Hines. "Ninety percent of those senior citizens do not have hearing aids and may not realize the need for one."

Currently the director is working collaboratively with several state agencies, including the Bureau of Senior Citizens and AARP to collect data for possible legislation proposal to mandate insurance companies to cover expenses, such as hearing aids.

"The office receives many phone calls from senior citizens on Medicare with a need to purchase hearing aids," she said.

According to the director, being hearing impaired often isolates many people from the job place as well as, in many instances, their own families.

The WVCDHH was established in 1989 by the West Virginia Legislature, with the intent of breaking down barriers, promoting independence and providing access.

See WVCDHH on page 2

Rescue in the Woods

6-year-old Wyoming County boy saves his father's life

Child walks miles before receiving help

Sharon Smith didn't know what to think when she saw a little boy walking across the bridge near Prince all by himself Sunday afternoon, but she was concerned.

"I stopped the car, and he said that he wanted to find his mother," the Prince postmaster said.

The little boy was shy and upset, but Smith and her husband convinced him to get in their car so he could go call his mother.

As the New River rushed underneath the bridge, they turned their vehicle around and drove back to the Smith house, away from Beckley.

"He was crying, but the was in pretty good shape for a little six-year-old," Smith said. "He knew his phone number and his mom and dad's names."

The boy wasn't willing to provide much more information, but Smith learned his name was Matthew Day, his mother's name was Bobbie, his father's name was Mark, and they lived at Cabin Creek. But until she spoke to his mother, Smith and everyone else who got involved assumed Cabin Creek was the little community near Montgomery. Matthew's

See Young Boy on page 3
Continued from page 1

WVCDHH

to services for the deaf and hard of hearing, said Hines.

One area being looked at by the commission staff is to find ways to improve the quality of teachers and interpreters to assist the deaf and hard of hearing children who may be isolated in their public school educational setting, said Hines.

"Eighty percent of hearing impaired children are being mainstreamed into public schools due to the fact the Individuals with Disability for Education Act (IDEA) and other laws have enforced that as an option," she said.

That, according to the director, was part of the logic of moving the commission to Romney.

Hines said it was difficult to get people to work with the commission having to convince them to consider moving to Charleston.

However, with the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind being located in Romney, the community has more interest in the deaf culture and in-depth understanding of deaf and hard of hearing individual's language and communicative needs, she said.

"I was in Romney for a town meeting earlier in the year and was very impressed," said Hines. "I found that people here knew how to handle me, instead of me having to know how to handle them."

Hines is accustomed to the deaf culture because she grew up hearing impaired.

She came from a family of six generations of deafness. Hines' parents were deaf, but her father had worked in a complete hearing environment.

He taught her how to adjust in both a deaf and hearing culture, she said.

But even with the adjustments, Hines said she still needs the services of qualified interpreters.

"I wanted to go to a meeting the other night, but my interpreter had been overworked, and I just couldn't ask her to do another evening," she said. "And with no other interpreter available on short notice, I had to miss the meeting."

But Hines has compensated well in her life and her career.

She has learned to speak fluently, which she says makes it somewhat difficult for hearing persons to understand at times.

"Some people hear me speak, but they don't know that I am deaf," she said. "There are times when a person will speak to me and I don't hear them, so they think I'm ignoring them or that I don't want to talk to them. They don't understand that they need to tap me on the shoulder to get my attention."

It is those experiences that have helped Hines understand the need among the deaf culture.

Hines' husband is also deaf, as well as her two children, who are enrolled in the local school for the deaf.

"I have a big vision for Romney," she said during an interview at her office located off Depot Street.

Hines said she wants to see the deaf and hard of hearing given a window of opportunity for full-language access.

The major barriers associated with deafness relate to language and communication, said Hines.

"Many children who are deaf enter the educational system without a competent language base," she said.

According to the director, there is a need for highly-trained specialists who understand the fundamental principles of developmental psycho linguistics.

"Since reading is highly correlated with prior English language knowledge, many children who are deaf have difficulty in becoming proficient readers," said Hines. "A statewide reading/literacy program is very much needed to increase reading levels."

The WVCDHH works with, and for, individuals of all ages, assisting those who have a hearing loss with their unique communication needs as well as parents who have a deaf child or child of deaf adults, said Hines.

"The commission is designed to help hearing impaired individuals with problem resolution and assure them equal access to everyday aspects of life," she said.

According to Hines, 91 percent of deaf and hard of hearing individuals within the state reported developing a hearing loss either at birth or before the age of one.

The commission endorses aggressive preventive measures be put in place in the earliest possible stages.

"There are a lot of things I want to see happen to help West Virginia's deaf and hard of hearing to become more independent and more productive," said Hines.

The WVCDHH is proud to acknowledge its diverse staff members, according to Hines.

"Terri Richardson is a mother of a deaf son who attends WVSD and Kara Russell grew up in a home where both her parents were deaf," Hines said.

Persons interested in contacting the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing can call (304) 822-8565.

-From Hampshire Review
Continued from page 1

Young Boy
Cabin Creek, however, was even farther away from Prince - in Wyoming County near New Richmond.

When Smith got on the phone with Matthew's mother, she learned she had much more on her hands than a confused and scared little boy. Matthew's father, who is deaf and diabetic, was missing.

Maybe Matthew was so upset because something had gone wrong with his dad in the woods, Smith thought.

The 30-year-old father and son had been to the day use area near Prince many times to sount deer in preparation for bow season, but this time something bad had happened. This time, Mark Day needed help. His wife called 911.

"I was thinking the worst," Bobbie Day said.

So were the park service rangers who arrived on the scene at Army Camp Road, where Mark Day had parked the family vehicle.

"The father and son had gone into the woods Sunday afternoon," said Frank Sellers, a National Park Service ranger who led the search.

"Mr. Day began experiencing complications with diabetes. He had fallen in the woods and was unable to help himself get up.

"A few hours later, Matthew was picked up by locals...wandering around about two miles from the family car."

Marcus Day, a family member who lives at Prince, didn't think the outlook was good, either.

"We thought he was dead," Day said.

Smith had phoned Marcus Day on a hunch he might be a relative who could provide information. He turned out to be Mark Day's uncle and wasn't aware his nephew was in the area.

As family members from Wyoming County drove toward Prince, the park service began trying to find Mark Day. All they knew was what they had learned from a very shy little boy - he and his father had become separated and it was possible his dad had fallen and a worried wife who told Smith her husband was diabetic and deaf.

It became obvious to the rangers Matthew had walked quite a distance on his own - maybe in the woods, maybe on the road before the Smiths stopped for him. They weren't sure how long his father had been down.

"Matthew was hesitant to give any details," Sellers said. He was very shy talking to strangers, but when the family members came...he began to come forth with extra information, we were confident in where we might be able to find him.

Fifteen minutes after entering the woods that evening six or seven park rangers found Mark Day lying on the ground. He was still breathing.

They gave him glucose and radioed for an ambulance. Almost instantly, Mark Day was revived.

"With a little help, he was able to walk out of the woods," Sellers said.

The park rangers of the New River Gorge weren't the only ones who helped Mark Day on Sunday. If it hadn't been for his son, it's possible no one would have known Day needed help until dad and son didn't return home, Sellers said.

"I'd say (Matthew) acted bravely, and he helped," Sellers said. "He was crucial to helping to find his father."

Bobbie Day also said she is proud of Matthew, but she's especially grateful for the Prince couple who stopped on their way to Beckley to help her son, a Pineville Elementary School first-grader.

"To really believe that there's somebody out there like the people who found my son...We're just so thankful," Bobbie Day said.

Smith said she was thankful everything happened when it did.

"I was just so thankful that I came across that bridge at that minute," Smith said. "Had it been three minutes later, we might not have seen him, and had we not found the little boy, no one would have known."

Bobbie Day said her husband was home from the hospital Monday and doing well. Matthew, despite the level of fear he experienced Sunday, was also doing well.

"It scared him," she said. "He was terrified."

Matthew's mother said her husband and son had been scouting for deer many times.

"I'm hoping this doesn't scare (Matthew) from it," she said.

"They do it all the time. This is the first time anything like this has ever happened."

"We're just so thankful everything turned out the way it did."

-The Register-Herald
October 2000

Fire at NCSD caused $8,000 in damages

A fire in an office building on the North Carolina School for the Deaf campus caused $8,000 in damages early Monday morning.

Officers with the Morgantown Department of Public Safety responded to reports of heavy smoke around 6:15 a.m.
A report from the department said the fire was contained to a bathroom.

The report said a table placed too close to a wall heater was the likely source of the fire. The table held paper products.

-From The News Herald
Morgantown, North Carolina
December 6, 2000

Winter is what people go south during.

—Anonymous
Tibet's First Deaf-mute School Opens

Lhasa Xinhua, China - The first school for blind, deaf and mute children in the Tibet Autonomous Region was recently opened in the eastern suburb of Lhasa, capital of Tibet.

The school, occupying 20,000 square meters, was designed to hold 200 pupils. It was built at a cost of 4.5 million yuan provided by the central and regional governments.

Teachers of the school have been trained in Beijing. Lessons have been given in Braille and sign language. Apart from normal curriculum pupils will be taught to speak.

Currently, Tibet has 150,000 disabled people, of whom, one third are children living in rural and pastoral areas.

-From Xinhua News Agency

Obituaries

Marlene L. Gunn

Marlene Louise Gunn, 64, of Romney, died Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2000, at her son's residence in Manassas, VA.

Born on Aug. 3, 1936, in Shinnston, she was the daughter of the late Otto V. and Evelyn W. Jackson. She preceded in death by one brother, David Jackson.

Mrs. Gunn was retired from the West Virginia School for the Deaf, where she had been a Director of Student Living for the Elementary Department. She was housemother in the Elementary Boys for several years.

Mrs. Gunn was a member of the Romney First United Methodist Church, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 91, the GFWC of Romney, the CEO of Pleasant Dale, the Cancer Coalition of Hampshire County, the Hampshire Center Auxiliary, and the WV Retired Teachers' Association.

Survivors include her husband, Roscoe Gunn, Romney; one son, Allen B. Gunn and his wife Danette Gunn, Manassas, VA.

The body was cremated and interment was in Ebenezer Cemetery, Romney.

The family requests that memorials be made to the WV School for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation, Inc., 301 E. Main St., Romney, WV 26757.

Lucie S. Woods

Lucie S. Woods, 87, of Romney, died Nov. 8, 2000, in Retreat Hospital, Richmond, Va.

Born Feb. 18, 1913, in Romney, she was the daughter of the late Jacob W. and Eva Mae Shanholzer. She also was preceded in death by her husband, Julian C. Woods in 1952.

Mrs. Woods graduated from Romney High School in 1930. She attended Potomac State College for one year and transferred to Shepherd College where she received her standard teaching certificate in 1932. In 1955 she graduated from Shepherd College earning a bachelor of arts degree. Later in her career, Mrs. Woods attended Gallaudet College and became a certified teacher of the deaf.

Mrs. Woods taught fourth grade for 20 years at Romney Elementary School. In 1960 she began teaching at the West Virginia School for the Deaf. Mrs. Woods retired in 1975 but continued to substitute for many years.

Mrs. Woods was a member of the Romney First United Methodist Church where she taught Sunday School, director of Vacation Bible School, served on the administrative board, Council of Ministries and Worship Committee. She was a member of the United Methodist Women having served in all the major offices.

Editor's note: Mary Dallas Herrold, who had taught at WVSD for 24 years before moving to California, and was a very good friend of Lucie, said "Maybe you wonder how Lucie got her foot into WVSD-she taught Dr. Schunhoff's son John mathematics in her fourth-grade class. John showed a jump of several grades in his math skills which fascinated Dr. Schunhoff so he hired her. "My fourth-grade class" was a big joke among her friends. How we loved that title!

Lucie was saddened when Dr. Schunhoff had taken the new Superintendent's job at the California School for the Deaf in Berkeley a few days after Lucie accepted the offer. She was very scared but she found "the folks on our end" friendly. What's more she lived about only two blocks from WVSD."

Paul R. Adams

Paul R. Adams, 62, St. Augusta, FL, died Nov. 14, 2000, at his home. He was born in Bluefield,

See Obituaries on page 5
Obituaries
WV, and he had resided here for the past 39 years. He was a member of the Catholic church.

Mr. Adams, who lost his hearing at an early age, was a graduate of Gallaudet University, Washington, DC and he participated in the World Olympics in 1959-60. He was a coach at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind for 30 years, and in 1988 he was named Coach of the Year in track. He was also a sign language instructor at Flagler College, and he was a member of the Palms Club.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind Interfaith Chapel, with the Rev. Rene Robert officiating.

Survivors include his wife of 35 years, Barbara Adams, St. Augustine, FL; one daughter, Mary "GiGi" Adams, Raleigh, NC; sons, Paul Adams, Raleigh, George Adams, Clayton, NC; Victor Adams, St. Augustine, Maurice Adams, Tallahassee.

Editor's Note: Mr. Adams graduated at the WV School for the Deaf in 1956.

Basketball

Standing on the sideline and dressed in street clothes at the King Center, David Lamont was as much a part of Capital High's practice on Monday as the coaches and players.

The defending state champions were practicing at the King Center due to lack of gym time at Capital High.

At one point in the practice, assistant coach Steve Freeman walked up to Lamont and said, "Tell him to stop the ball on this next drill."

Lamont immediately started speaking in sign language to Capital High senior Nicholas Nau, who was looking his way in anticipation that instructions were coming. Nau nodded and took a spot near the foul line to defend against a fast break drill.

Nau is deaf. Lamont is an interpreter for hearing impaired people who actually was serving as a substitute interpreter on Monday.

"Usually his mom or dad do the interpreting," Capital coach Carl Clark explained. The player's parents are Mark and Kathy Nau. Kathy Nau is an interpreter at Stonewall Jackson Junior High.

No one, starting with Nicholas Nau, sees his hearing problem as a hindrance to playing basketball. "I played basketball for Shool Elementary and I got used to it then," Nau said with sign language to Lamont about his use of an interpreter. "I also read lips well. It's really not a problem."

Nau, who is 6-foot-2, has nice moves around the basket. "He's intelligent and he picks up a lot (about basketball) from lip reading and by watching," Clark said. "He pretty much knows what to do in practice. I do a lot of hollering during practice. I just have to remember to look at his interpreter if I want to say something specific to Nicholas."

When Clark talks to the team as a group, Nau's interpreter stands next to the coach and provides sign language to the athlete.

"He has a good vocabulary," Lamont said. "A lot of it probably comes from the fact that his mother is an interpreter and he is able to talk to her all the time with sign language."

-WVSD Wins ESDAA Division II Championship

The West Virginia School for the Deaf Lady Lions won seven games in two days to win the ESDAA Division II Championship Nov. 3 and 4, at Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick. The WVSD girls won all five of their games on Friday in the pool play and took the No. 1 seed play into Saturday's elimination round. The girls defeated Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf (NY) by sets of 15-2 and 15-0 to advance to the championship. Junior Danielle Surber led the team with 19 points. In the championship, WVSD beat the Delaware School for the Deaf 2-1 in sets of 15-10, 8-15, and 15-5. Senior Sylvia Adkins was the high scorer with 12 points. Junior Danielle Surber, freshman Holly Romanelli, and junior Tabitha Keplinger were named to the all-tournament team. WVSD finished the season with a 13-11 record.

-From The Lions' Tale

Editor's Note: We are all proud of WVSD Lady Lions volleyball team for being champions. Congratulations!

-WVSD Play Against Three Deaf Schools

On December 8 and 9, the basketball players (girls and boys) and the coaches and Marty Blakely went to Tennessee School for the Deaf to play against three deaf schools: North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee. The girls beat Virginia School for the Deaf and lost two other games. The boys lost three games.

Four basketball players received four attractive plaques.

All Viking Classic Players
Plaques - Danielle Surber, Holly Romanelli, Jason Wilson, and Marcus Leake.
Interesting Facts About West Virginia

1. West Virginia is the only state to be created from another state (Virginia in 1863).
2. Berkeley Springs, a resort town, has more massage therapists than lawyers.
3. Berkeley Springs is the only place in the U.S. to boast: "George Washington bathed here."
4. West Virginia has had the nation's lowest crime rate for the past 26 years.
5. During the Cold War, a sprawling 112,000 square feet bomb shelter was built to shelter members of congress in the event of a nuclear attack. It's located beneath the famous Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, WV.
6. White Sulphur Springs has the only private residence in the U.S. that is made out of coal.
7. The city of Bluefield, WV bills itself as "America's Air-conditioned City." They back up their boast by serving free lemonade anytime the temperature reaches 90 degrees.
8. St. Andrews Methodist Church in Crafton was the site of the first Mother's Day celebration in 1908.
9. Two West Virginia men have built castles for their wives. Stephen Elkins built "Halliehurst" in 1890 for his wife Hallie Davis Elkins...the only woman in American history to be the daughter of the wife, and the mother of a U.S. senator.
10. In 1885, whiskey distiller Taylor Stuart began building Berkley Castle for his new bride, Rosa Pelham, who was 31 years his junior. He died in 1908, a year before the project was finished. Rosa completed the castle but went on the squander her inheritance on extravagant living and wild parties and ended up losing the castle and living in a shack and raising chickens to make ends meet.
11. Philippi, WV was the site of the first land battle of the Civil War.
12. In 1921, West Virginia became the first state to have a sales tax.
13. The mother of Abraham Lincoln, Nancy Hanks, was born near Romney, WV.
14. The largest single shipment of matches...20 railroad cars full...was sent from Wheeling, WV to Memphis, TN in 1933.
15. In 1947, Chuck Yeager, a native of Hamlin, WV, became the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound.
16. The Stone Church, in Lewisburg, was built in 1796 while George Washington was President and has been in continuous service ever since. (It is Presbyterian).
17. At the end of the "Guided Age" in the late 1890's, the town of Bramwell, WV had more millionaires per square mile than any other city in the U.S. Many of their mansions have been restored and can be visited by the public.
18. With an average altitude of 1,500 feet, West Virginia is the highest state east of the Mississippi.
19. The first brick street in the world was laid in the city of Charleston in 1873.
20. The first concrete street in the world was laid in the town of Webster Springs, WV in 1903.
21. Indirect artillery fire (action against an unseen target) was used for the first time in military history at the Battle of Fayetteville on May 20, 1863 by a 19-year-old Confederate, Sgt. Milton Humphreys. Virtually all modern artillery fire is now indirect fire.
22. James Rumsey of Shepherdstown, WV invented the first steamboat. After he died suddenly in England, while raising funds for his project, his friend Robert Fulton took his plans and completed the work and is now credited with the invention of the first steamboat.
23. In 1956, Cecil Underwood (age 34) became the youngest governor in the U.S.
24. The hardwood flooring in the famous Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York was manufactured by the Meadow River Lumber Co. of Rainelle, WV.
25. West Virginia has the oldest shape of any state. This was because union officials, during the Civil War, arranged all the pro-Union counties of Virginia into a state which then seceded from that Confederate State. And may we add, Mingo County, WV, the Heart of the Billion Dollar Coal Field is home of the "Coal House," which holds the Chamber of Commerce. It is located in the county seat, Williamson and is constructed entirely of local coal cut into blocks.

West Virginia School for the Deaf Student of the Month

Student of the Month
1999-2000
Latasha Hachett
Ron Lake
Ashley Lease
Diana Delfosse
Corey Grace
Tracy Marcum
Stephanie Smallwood
Marcus Leake, Jr.
Jackie Fields
Joiame Shaffer
Billy White
Brian Cross
Paul Parent
Joe Cantrby

Student of the Month
2000-2001
Jason Wilson
Holly Romanello
Brad Grey
Sylvia Adkins
West Virginia Bible Study for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf/Blind

at
Fairlea Fire Department
Fairlea, WV

Every Saturday from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Swartz Ministries

The Lord is coming nearest (Rev. 22:7-21)
For all (people) have sinned and come short of glory of God
(Romans 3:23)

For the wages (payment) of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
While we were sinners, Christ (Jesus) died for us (Romans 5:8)
As many as received him...Because the sons of God...(John 1:12)
Also Christians or non-christians need to support to donate for
titles for God's sake (Malachi 3:6-15)

Come and join the group in prayer.
Please bring your pen, notebook, and Bible to study the Words of
God. Also we will be sharing in prayer.

For any more information, please contact, or write to:
Mrs. Kathy M. Swartz
PO Box 217
Rupert, WV 25984-0217
(304) 392-6392 TDD
(304) 392-5825 FAX
33rd Biennial Conference
June 14-16, 2001
at
Holiday Inn Express Hotel
I-70 Exit 11, Dallas Pike
Wheeling, WV

$1,000.00
Cash Prizes Giveaways

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Guest Speakers
Entertainment
Socialize with Old & New Friends
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Banquet
Workshops
Meetings
Ballroom

If you are an early bird and purchase a combo ticket before June 2, 2001, you will get two tickets per person for cash prizes. If you purchase a combo ticket after June 3, 2001, you will get one ticket per person for cash prizes.

Come one, Come all, and Have Fun!
Please Don’t Miss A Chance to Win!
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33rd Biennial Conference
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Wheeling, WV
Phone: (304) 547-1380
1-800-221-2222
FAX: (304) 547-9270

June 14-16, 2001

Event Fees

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Combo Tickets

NAME_____________________________________

SPOUSE_____________________________________

ADDRESS_____________________________________

CITY/STATE/ZIP_____________________________________

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $__________________________

*No Personal Checks Accepted after June 2, 2001*
Deadline on June 2, 2001 For Cancellation of Any Events.
Please make personal check or money order payable to WVAD and mail to: WVAD Conference, Elizabeth Leisure, Treasurer, 3302 Central Avenue, Parkersburg, WV 26104.
West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.

33rd Biennial Conference
Holiday Inn Express Hotel
I-70 Exit 11, Dallas Pike
Wheeling, WV
Phone: (304) 547-1380
1-800-221-2222
FAX: (304) 547-9270

June 14-16, 2001

Motel Reservation Request Form
Room Rates
Single $55.00
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33rd Biennial Conference
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Route 1, Box 258
Tridelphia, WV 26059

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ADDRESS ____________________________

CITY/STATE/ZIP ____________________________

ARRIVAL DATE ______________ DEPARTURE DATE ______________

No. of GUESTS: __________________

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______CREDIT CARD _______VISA _______MASTERCARD _______DISCOVER
______AMERICAN EXPRESS

CARD # ___________________ EXPIRED DATE ___________________

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Excitement!

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Chicken Wings

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Appetizers start at 6:00 p.m.
Door Prize & Cash Prize - 7:00 - Midnight

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and Have Fun!

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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM EDITOR
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Editor's Deadline..........................Feb. 12
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