

Volume 32, No. 1

Spring 2011

## Deaf Santa Pays Children Visit at Annual Brunch

December 18, 2010 @ 10:45 PM

DAVID E. MALLOY

*The Herald-Dispatch*

HUNTINGTON — For hearing-impaired kids, deaf Santa is the real deal.

Dozens of hearing-impaired children from West Virginia, along with others from Ohio and North Carolina, attended the second annual Brunch with Deaf Santa at the Mountwest Community and Culinary Institute in the 900 block of 3rd Avenue on Saturday. Some of the kids were students at the American Sign Language Program at Mountwest Community and Technical College.

Nine-year-old Franki Harrah of Ripley, W.Va., has been counting down the days for deaf Santa, according to her dad, Harlan.

"She's teaching me all the time," Harlan Ripley said. "Every day I learn something new. We came to this last year. It was pretty awesome. She signed



*Santa greets children that have come out to the annual "Brunch with Deaf Santa" on Saturday, December 18, 2010, at Mountwest Cooking and Culinary Institute in downtown Huntington.*

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to Santa exactly what she wanted for Christmas."

This year, Franki, who is deaf, will be asking for a Teddy Bear, clothes and paint.

"We try to attend as many functions for the deaf as we can," he said. "She's the only deaf child in her school. She has taught her friends to sign." His wife, Maria, insisted they learn American sign language around their house.

"I had to sign or I didn't eat," he said.

"I immersed myself in it," Maria Harrah said. "I wanted to be able to communicate with my daughter. We found another couple with a deaf child Franki's age."

**(See Deaf Santa ... on page 5)**

## From the President's Corner,

Linda Phillips



### 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 Tami Deem.

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

Hello Everyone!

Spring is just around the corner. I am really looking forward to it and I am sure you are too!

On Saturday, February 26, 2011, the West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) held a board meeting at the South Charleston Library. Five board members were present as well as one committee member. There were also 20 visitors. Several of them are members of a newly established group called the West Virginia Deaf Caucus (WVDC) and another group that is called West Virginia Interpreter Coalition (WVIC). They began sending e-mails demanding that Marissa Johnson Sanders resign from her position as Executive Director of the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) and that 51 percent representation on the board be deaf.

After the board meeting, the public comment period was started. It started about 3:30 p.m. and ended at 4:30 p.m. because we had to leave the meeting

room before the library closes at 5:00 p.m. During this time, several members from the groups expressed their concerns and issues about the WVCDHH. The WVAD explained to the groups that Marissa answers to the WVCDHH board and that they would need to share their concerns and issues with them. It is hopeful that in the future that WVDC, WVIC, and WVAD can work together to improve needs and rights for deaf in WV.

For those that have not paid for their expired membership, please send payment to our treasurer, Veronda Harrison. If you are not a member of WVAD, please become one to give us support we need to advocate on the behalf of deaf and hard of hearing citizens in West Virginia. If you have any questions about membership, please contact Jimmy Harrison. Also, the deadline to pay for the conference combo ticket is July 16, 2011. We also reduced the fee by \$20.00. Please check

the ad in this newsletter or on our website at [www.wvad.org](http://www.wvad.org).

As always, please e-mail me at [president@wvad.org](mailto:president@wvad.org) with questions, news, ideas, and/or suggestions and I will be happy to read them. Have a Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

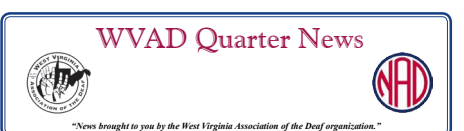
Linda Phillips

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](mailto: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*.



Editor:	Tami Deem
President:	Linda Phillips
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Secretary:	Liz Leisure
Treasurer:	Veronda Harrison
Senior Trustee:	Jackie Sherrill-Robinson
Trustee:	Worthy Devericks
Trustee:	Scott Hottle





# WVAD Board Minutes

## WVAD Board Meeting Held in Meeting Room (Suite 3) at Holiday Inn Charleston House, Charleston, WV, June 13, 2010

Members Present: Linda Phillips, Jimmy Harrison, Veronda Harrison, Liz Leisure, Jackie Robinson, and Worthy Devericks.

Standing Committee Members Present: John Burdette, Ruby Losh, and Caryn Keller.

Visitors Present: Lois Devericks, James Ennis, Roy Forman, Paula Forman, Erin Fulton, and Marissa Johnson

The regular meeting of WVAD was held in the meeting room at Holiday Inn Charleston House, on June 13, 2010. President Linda Phillips called the meeting to order at 11:16 a.m. with the secretary, Liz Leisure, being present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as distributed.

The treasurer (Veronda Harrison) gave the financial reports. She reported a balance of \$2,153.29 in the checking account; \$7,056.66 in the savings account; \$12,003.63 in the Certificate of Deposit Accounts; \$15,075.14 in the Mingo County Fund; \$5,000.00 in the WVAD Conference account; and \$618.00 in the Deaf Youth Program Account.

President Linda Phillips reported that we closed the safe deposit box at BB&T. She thanked Worthy Devericks for attending the graduation on June 11, 2010, at the West Virginia School for the Deaf to give out scholarship checks to the Salutatorian, Valedictorian, and Outstanding Student.

She reported that she has been receiving and answering the WVAD e-mails on the website.

Vice-President Jimmy Harrison reported that we currently have 190 WVAD members on the list.

Secretary Liz Leisure has nothing to report for this meeting.

There was no report from any of the trustees.

Ruby Losh, Chairperson for the West Virginia TRS, requested that the WVAD board members accept her resignation as Chairperson due to personal reasons. Her resignation was accepted by the board.

John Burdette, Chairperson for Deaf Drivers Law Enforcement of Officer Safety (DDLEOS) Program, has no report to give for this meeting.

Caryn Keller, Chairperson for Deaf Youth Program, said she will contact the man in Columbus, Ohio, to get some ideas and suggestions for our deaf youth program.

Ruby Losh discussed the events and program books for the upcoming 140th Anniversary to be held at the West Virginia School for the Deaf on September 24 and 25, 2010. She found a souvenir to give to all registrants.

The motion for a 15-minutes recess starting at 12:20 p.m. was adopted.

Liz Leisure moved that WVAD purchase a webcam for our website to use for V-log. The motion passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD starts using Pay Pal for future transactions. The motion passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD order tag holders from WV Relay. The

motion passed.

Veronda Harrison moved that WVAD ask Tammy Ennis to present a two-hour workshop on Self Deaf Empowerment at our WVAD 2011 Conference and pay for her flight and one-night lodging. The motion passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD have a ball toss game for the WVSD's 140th anniversary carnival. The motion passed.

Veronda Harrison moved that WVAD also have a ring toss game (using 20-ounce bottles) for the WVAD's 140th anniversary carnival. The motion passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD pay one half of the cost for souvenir for the WVSD's 140th anniversary. The motion passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD sell raffle tickets (for a 32-inch TV and \$300.00 cash prizes at \$100.00 each) for WVAD Conference fundraising. The motion passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that we have a dingo game (\$100.00 prize for each game) on Friday night at the WVAD 2011 Conference. The motion passed.

Liz Leisure moved that we sell tickets for cash prizes (\$5.00 for each arm length) at the WVAD 2011 Conference. The motion passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD have a bowl game on Friday night at the

[\(See WVAD Board Minutes on page 5\)](#)



If you are submitting an article, please send any accompanying photos in a standard photo format, as a separate file. We cannot use photos that are embedded or included in a Word document. Photos with captions and articles should be submitted to the [WVAD Editor](#). Thank you.



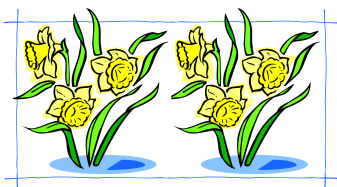
## VIRGINIA FAYE DEUEL

Virginia Faye Deuel, 77, of Romney, WV, died Monday, January 3, 2011, at home. She was born on October 2, 1933, in Campbell, MO, the daughter of the late Harvey Thompson and Ruby Stacy Thompson. She was also preceded in death by four siblings.

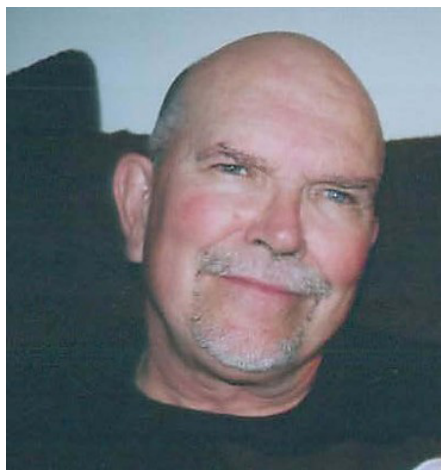
Faye moved to Romney from Columbia, MO, in 1972 with her husband and son and was employed as a houseparent and cheerleading advisor at the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind. She was particularly proud to have been selected to the West Virginia School for the Deaf Athletic Hall of Fame as a contributor. Faye enjoyed being a part of, and active in, the many organizations that support the deaf population of the State of WV. Her greatest joy was taking care of her son, Barry, and her husband John.

She is survived by her husband, John Robert Deuel, Romney; and her son Barry W. Deuel and wife Missi of Winchester, VA; three brothers, Ronnie, Jackie, and Eugene Thompson all of Campbell, MO; and a granddaughter Regan Faye Deuel.

Memorial services was at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, January 15, 2011, at the Shaffer Funeral Home, 230 E. Main St., Romney, WV 26757 with Dr. Roy Knight officiating. Interment will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Faye Deuel's memory to WV Association of the Deaf, C/O Veronda Harrison (Treasurer), 5 Cordoba Drive, Hurricane, WV 25526. ■



## *"In Memory of Loved Ones"*



## WILLIAM P. PARSLEY

William Patrick Parsley was born to Lyle Parsley and Thelma Burgette Parsley in Charlotte, West Virginia, and resided in Kermit, West Virginia. William was known to most people as Pat and to us as Dad. He became deaf after contracting meningitis at a very young age. Dad recovered and was very healthy and active during his youth. He was the second oldest of five brothers Bob, Lyle "Junior," Mike, and Tim. The brothers would spend their time playing in the woods of West Virginia and playing pranks. One time the brothers had an idea to climb an old tree that had overgrown one of the main dirt roads and put on acts that a person was hanging from the branch. After spending considerable time rigging the ropes, climbing the tree, and tying up Mike, the plan was set. The brothers waited anxiously for the next car that came down the road at which time they would push Mike off the branch and he would hang down in front of the car. As the car approached they heaved Mike

off the branch, plunging him down in front of the car. The car slammed their brakes, horrified at the site of a person who appeared hanging from a rope. They quickly pulled Mike up and ran to their beds. Their dad called the boys out to the living room where the Sheriff was waiting.

In his teenage years Pat's family moved to California and Pat remained at the West Virginia School for the Deaf to finish out his school years and his athletic games. Then he moved to California to attend Riverside High School for the Deaf. He was well liked by the other students and became a star athlete. He especially excelled in track, football, and basketball and would regularly compete with the other schools in the area. Recently, Dad made a trip back to California and visited his high school where he was able to relive his past experience. He was proud to show the pictures and stats from his days playing sports. His love for sports carried through as he grew older, playing on several deaf leagues in Spokane playing basketball, softball, and bowling, and eventually went on to win a league championship in softball.

While living in California he met Diana Day who became his first wife and they moved back to Diana's hometown of Spokane, Washington. During their marriage they had three children: two girls and a boy. The oldest Laura Kathleen Parsley was followed by Patricia Ann Parsley, and the youngest, a son James Patrick Parsley. Dad was loving and attentive, and for those who knew him can imagine how fun he was to have as a dad growing up. He always had a good idea on how to play a game whether it was playing hide and go seek in the house with lights off and all you had was a flashlight, to go sledding on his back during the winter months.

Later in his years Dad married the love of his life Charlotte Parsley. They spent a lot of their time involved in the deaf community and traveling the country.

Pat worked as a Government employee at Lakeland village, helping educate and care for developmentally disabled children and adults. He recently retired after 35 years of service and was spending his free time on fixing up his home and doing woodwork. [\(See Obituaries on page 5\)](#)

WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2011



### **(WVAD Board Minutes from page 3)**

WVAD 2011 Conference. The motion passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD pay mileage or lodging for the weekend of the 140th anniversary in Romney. Veronda Harrison moved that we amend the motion by removing "mileage or." Amendment passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD pay for one combo ticket for Worthy Deverick's registration to 140th anniversary for his hard work. The motion passed.

Worthy Devericks moved that WVAD pay board members for mileage to this board meeting. The motion passed.

### **Announcements**

The next regular board meeting will be scheduled for September 26, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room at the West Virginia School for the Deaf.

Roy Forman, Deputy Director for the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, thanked everyone for coming to the Deaf Tech Fair on June 12, 2010.

Caryn Keller announced that there is a multi-cultural festival at the Parkersburg City Park this weekend.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Marissa Johnson, Executive Director the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, announced that there will be a multi-cultural festival in Charleston, West Virginia, in August 2010. She also thanked everyone for coming to the Deaf Tech Fair and hoped that WVAD and the Commission will work together on future projects.

Jimmy Harrison announced that there will be Charleston Association of the Deaf picnic on August 14, 2010.

There being no further business, by general consent the President adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m. ■

### **(Deaf Santa from page 1)**

Their other child, Mani, 7, also has learned to sign.

"We were shocked when we found out he passed the hearing test when he was two days old," Maria Harrah said.

The Harrah's plan three or four trips per year out of state so Franki can interact with other kids who are deaf, she said.

"We wanted a good crowd, but we weren't expecting this kind of crowd," said Leigh-Ann Brewer, American sign language program coordinator at Mountwest Community and Technical College. "It's standing room only. We're going to need a bigger place next year."

Ernest Williams of Hurricane, who is deaf, dressed up as Santa while his wife, Vickie, who is deaf and blind, dressed up as Mrs. Claus.

"He never had a Santa when he was growing up," Brewer said. "It means the world to him to do this. The kids love it. They just light up."

Using sign language, Williams introduced himself and his wife.

"Look at all the deaf children," Williams signed. "Hurrah."

Mindy Grey, a Charleston resident, brought her 22-month-old daughter, Makayla, who is hearing impaired, to the brunch in downtown Huntington on Saturday. Mindy, who is deaf, didn't get the chance to communicate with Santa when she was growing up. She wanted her daughter to have that chance.

"She's familiar with Santa," she said. "She has about 120 words in sign. She's a smart cookie. That's what I want her to be." ■

## **Previous WVAD Quarter News**



**IS ONLINE**

<http://www.wvad.org>

## **Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure**

Whose life are you running for? Participate in the Susan G. Komen West Virginia Race for the Cure® and show everyone whose life you are running for. Are you running for your mother, your sister, a co-worker, a friend? Are you running for your own life? Or are you running for the future? No matter whose life you are running for, now is the time to get involved and run for their life!

Komen West Virginia Race for the Cure will be on May 7, 2011, in Charleston, WV. The site opens at 7:00 a.m. for registration at the Capitol Complex Kanawha Blvd, Charleston, WV.

All funds from the Komen Race for the Cure go to research, education, screening and treatment programs.

Get Involved! Keep the Promise! Please click on this website (<http://www.komenwv.org/komen-race-for-the-cure/race-for-the-cure-coming-soon.html>) for all the details!

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

They want 8,000 participants at the 2011 Race. Missy Barie, for the 2nd year, will be gathering up friends to start our own team! Look for more information about this upcoming event in our spring newsletter. If you have any questions or want to get involved with the team, please contact Missy at [missy1837@hotmail.com](mailto:missy1837@hotmail.com). ■



### **(Obituaries from page 4)**

Dad was also a grandfather and a great grandfather and he loved each of his 9 grandchildren.

Dad was preceded in death by his parents Lyle and Thelma, two of his brothers Bob and Mike. He is survived by his beloved wife Charlotte Parsley whose mother Rebecca "Betty" Egbert also passed away the same day, February 11th, 2011, his children, Laura Armstrong "Thad," Patricia Bracey "Marc," James Parsley "Judy," and step WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2011

children Darrell Campbell "Inna" and Donia Campbell "Erica" and his grandchildren. In order of birth Alex Parsley, Spencer Bracey, Luke Parsley, Kyle Parsley, Riley Bracey, Brooke Parsley, Braedyn Parsley, Marc "Max" Bracey, and great granddaughter Avah Fletcher.

A memorial service is pending and will be announced at a future date. Arrangements were made under the direction of Smart Cremation, Spokane, WA. ■



**UPDATED — PRICE CHANGE!**

# **West Virginia Association of the Deaf**

**38<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference**

**August 4 – 6, 2011**

**Holiday Inn Charleston House**

**600 Kanawha Blvd East, Charleston WV**

WVAD Member	\$70.00
WVAD Member Senior Citizen	\$60.00
Non-Member	\$95.00
Non-Member Senior Citizen	\$80.00

**Combo Price Includes:**

**Workshops for Two Days**

**General Assembly for Two Days**

**Friday Night Game Night**

**Saturday Night Banquet/Entertainment**

**Registration**

**Admission to Exhibits**

**\*\* Payment Plan available for combo prices; for more information, contact Treasurer Veronda Harrison at [treasurer@wvad.org](mailto:treasurer@wvad.org) or by VP at 866-928-2834 \*\***

**West Virginia Association of the Deaf**  
**38<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference**  
**August 4 – 6, 2011**  
**Registration Form**

**Your Information:**

**Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member** \_\_\_\_\_ **Non-Member** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse Information:**

**Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member** \_\_\_\_\_ **Non-Member** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ (VP/TTY/Voice)

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>WVAD STATUS</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>HOW MANY</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
WVAD Member	\$70.00		
WVAD Member Senior Citizen (55 & Up)	\$60.00		
Non-Member	\$95.00		
Non-Member Senior Citizen	\$80.00		
<b>Grand Total →</b>			

Please make check or money order payable to WVAD

Mail this form and payment to:

Veronda Harrison, WVAD Treasurer

5 Cordoba Drive

Hurricane, WV 25526

**Deadline is on July 16, 2011**

# West Virginia Association of the Deaf

## 38th Biennial Conference

August 4 – 6, 2011



## Holiday Inn Charleston House

600 Kanawha Blvd East, Charleston WV

ROOM TYPE	COST
Double Beds	\$89.00 per night
King Bed	\$89.00 per night

For Reservations: Call 304-344-4092 and inform this is for WVAD Conference.





## Scrambled St. Patrick's Day



How many of these St. Patrick's Day words and phrases can you unscramble?

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. ahMcr _____       | 11. rogaen _____        |
| 2. dogo kucl _____   | 12. iswh _____          |
| 3. oabrniw _____     | 13. eadcn _____         |
| 4. enрге _____       | 14. aurnclpeeh _____    |
| 5. cmhrakos _____    | 15. gpsrni _____        |
| 6. pto fo dglo _____ | 16. tasni _____         |
| 7. evlorc _____      | 17. igj _____           |
| 8. rpha _____        | 18. cramh _____         |
| 9. leardnI _____     | 19. aapedr _____        |
| 10. camgi _____      | 20. reBnaly otnSe _____ |



How many words did you unscramble?

1 - 5 words - Lucky the Leprechaun outsmarted you!  
 6-10 words - You're a chip off the old Blarney Stone!  
 11-15 words - You're clever as a leprechaun!  
 16-19 words - You've won a four-leaf clover!  
 20 words - You win all the gold at the end of the rainbow!



# In the News



## More Than A Meal

December 22, 2010 — *The Parsons Advocate*, Tucker County, WV, Newspaper

(Courtesy of *The Parsons Advocate* and *WVUncovered*, a Special Project of the WVU School of Journalism)

BY EVAN MOORE for the *Parsons Advocate*

Shawn Heckler is revered as the most reliable and hardest working meal deliverer at the Tucker County Senior Center. Heckler completes his 25-mile route through Parsons and the surrounding countryside with enthusiasm and dedication that is inspiring to others.

Add steady dependability, good rapport with the seniors on his route, and an infectious smile, and he sounds like the perfect employee. But that's not the only reason he is remarkable.

Heckler also faces challenges every day that make the most mundane tasks more difficult. Born with cerebral palsy, he is 85 percent deaf and has trouble walking, both common symptoms of the sometimes crippling disease.

That hasn't stopped him from excelling at his work, though.

"He knows how important that lunch is to those seniors, and he makes every effort to get there," said Roxanne Tuesing, executive director of the Tucker County Senior Center. "I'm just so grateful that he is so dedicated to his job."

Heckler started working for the senior center on a volunteer basis when extra help was needed delivering meals across the county. He was later asked to join the staff and work full-time.

"I suggested that maybe Shawn should try," said Faithe "Luanna" Bava, Heckler's mother and the registered nurse supervisor of in-home care at the senior center. "He tried and loved it. They loved him and that's been 12 years ago."

Heckler's inability to hear the seniors was a cause for concern when Heckler was originally hired, but he quickly proved it would not get in the way of his job regardless of the challenge.

"With the seniors it's mostly pen and paper," Tuesing said.

Heckler frequently brings requests on paper back to the senior center.

"He will bring us back grocery lists if somebody out on the route needs a gallon of milk and a loaf of bread to get them through the weekend," said Tuesing. "He'll bring those notes back and we'll take care of those things."

Heckler communicates with seniors in other ways, too.

Even though many of the seniors do not know sign language, that doesn't stop them from trying. Simple gestures such as rubbing one's stomach to indicate hunger, giving a thumbs-up as a thank you, or even a simple wave can be of great importance when you cannot rely on the spoken word.

Heckler also reads lips, which allows for short, simple discourse between him and the lunch recipients. For some seniors, that might be the only regular dialogue they have, which makes his job that much more important.

"He doesn't stop until he sees the person, and that's one of the critical aspects of our program," said Tuesing. "It's a safety check in addition to a meal. If somebody doesn't answer the door, he will come back right then, and we will start the process to find out where that person is."

Sometimes, Heckler discovers the seniors are home but in need of help.



Cheryl Greaver, Shawn Heckler's girlfriend of seven years, volunteers to ride along with him on his delivery route for the Tucker County Senior Center meal program. She assists getting the meals ready, sometimes delivers the meals herself, and even helps with Heckler's duties around the senior center building. Visit [www.parsonsadvocate.com](http://www.parsonsadvocate.com) for a video about Heckler.



This project was produced by students and faculty of the WVU Perley Issac Reed School of Journalism. (<http://wvuncovered.wvu.edu/>)

(See In the News on page 11)

WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2011

### (In the News from page 10)

"He found one lady that had fallen, and [he] went out and stopped traffic to get someone in there to help her because her head was bleeding. He communicates one way or another," Bava said with a smile.

Even though Heckler is plenty capable alone, it never hurts to have a helping hand in those situations.

"Just last week he went to deliver a lunch and an elderly gentleman had slid out of his mobile scooter," said Tuesing. "Shawn, with the assistance of his girlfriend Cheryl, who helps him deliver the lunches, somehow managed to get this very large gentleman back up into his chair."

Cheryl Greaver is completely hearing impaired but chooses to volunteer and ride with Shawn to help him deliver lunches. After meeting as teenagers at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in Romney, Heckler and

Greaver reunited seven years ago and have been together since.

According to Bava, Heckler and Greaver complement and understand each other better because they face similar communication barriers.

"She's kind of his right arm, so to speak," Bava said. "If there is somewhere he can't get the meal to, she will get out and take it. They kind of balance each other. It's almost like they read each other's minds."

It is particularly helpful to have another pair of hands during the winter months when Tucker County often finds itself under a coat of ice and snow. Since Heckler already faces a greater degree of difficulty walking, the challenges generated by wintry conditions are often compounded.

"If you saw some of the places he goes," said Bava, referring to the steep, hilly terrain common on Heckler's route,

"just put ice on those places, and it gets kind of hairy."

Although he takes his work seriously, Heckler's life doesn't stop once he gets home. He is also a photographer, hunter, and he avidly rides the Hatfield McCoy ATV trails in southern West Virginia.

"When you look at the problems he has had with his health in his lifetime, you would think that most people in that situation would just sit at home and watch TV or not go out and do things," Tuesing said. "He does a lot of things you would not expect him to do."

Tuesing claims she sees the same work-oriented, motivated attitude in Heckler's parents and grandparents as well. However, Heckler's mother is at a loss when it comes to the origins of his ambition.

"Where does he get the motivation? I don't know," Bava said with a laugh. "I really don't." ■

## NAD Action Alert: Preserve State Schools for the Deaf

Submitted by Admin on Wednesday, 2/16/2011 - 17:19 p.m.

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) is alarmed by a growing trend among some state governments seeking to cut costs by underfunding or closing state schools for the deaf across the country. These proposals by state government officials and legislators are often based on the following factors:

1. Drastically underestimating the financial costs of sending students to mainstream schools;
2. Lack of understanding of deaf and hard of hearing students' needs;
3. Lack of understanding about required support services and resources for deaf and hard of hearing students such as teachers for the deaf and qualified interpreters;
4. Lack of understanding of the availability of such resources and support services for deaf and hard of hearing students at their local school district.

These proposals by state government officials and legislators do not comply with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a federal law that protects students who are deaf and hard of hearing. IDEA requires that every deaf and hard of hearing student receive a free WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2011

appropriate public education (FAPE). For more information click on the [NAD Position Statement on Schools for the Deaf](#).

The NAD urges its members and supporters in states where schools for the deaf are threatened to contact their state legislators and Governors to advocate against closing or underfunding their state schools for the deaf. State legislators and Governors must be told that that such short term savings will not translate into long term savings and children who are deaf and hard of hearing will suffer tremendously as a result of the system's failure to meet their educational needs.

The state schools currently known to be in jeopardy by facing drastic budget cuts or closure are:

- Cleary School for the Deaf (NY)
- Kansas School for the Deaf
- Lexington School for the Deaf (NY)
- Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf (NY)
- New York School for the Deaf – Fanwood (NY)
- Oklahoma School for the Deaf
- Rochester School for the Deaf (NY)

- St. Francis De Sales School for the Deaf (NY)
- St. Joseph's School for the Deaf (NY)
- St. Mary's School for the Deaf (NY)
- Texas School for the Deaf

The known schools for the deaf that appeared to have survived threatened underfunding or closure are:

- South Dakota School for the Deaf
- Utah School for the Deaf

The NAD will attend the following rallies in support of state schools for the deaf:

Kansas School for the Deaf

March 2, 2011

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Kansas State Capitol Complex  
SW corner of 9th and Harrison St.  
Topeka, KS

Texas School for the Deaf

March 9, 2011

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

South Steps of the State Capital  
Austin, TX

(See NAD Action Alert ... page 12)



### (NAD Action Alert from page 11)

New York Schools for the Deaf  
March 10, 2011  
10:00 a.m.  
The Well  
State Capital Building  
198 State Street  
Albany, NY 12210

[http://www.deafnyaction.org/  
?page\\_id=11](http://www.deafnyaction.org/?page_id=11)

Preserving state schools for the deaf is the best option for deaf and hard of hearing children for the following reasons:

- State schools for the deaf are a centralized resource of qualified teachers and staff with the necessary skills to be able to communicate effectively with deaf and hard of hearing children. The vast majority of school districts do not have any staff knowledgeable about educating, or communicating with deaf and hard of hearing children.
- Closure of any state school for the deaf will force deaf and hard of hearing students to be served by their local school districts where they will be denied full access to the educational curriculum and to peers with whom they can communicate. The lack of direct access to the educational curriculum will set deaf and hard of hearing students way behind their hearing peers.
- Closing a state school for the deaf is not a cost-saving measure. The cost to adequately serve each deaf and hard of hearing child in the child's respective school district far exceeds the cost to send that child to a state school for the deaf.
- Closing state schools for the deaf eliminates a continuum option that is federally mandated under the IDEA and that is often the only educational placement appropriate for many deaf and hard of hearing children in each state. Litigation against the school districts for failure to provide FAPE under the IDEA would wipe out any perceived savings.
- Closure is not the only threat. Cuts in funding to state schools for the deaf require the schools to make severe cuts that compromise the educational needs of students.

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West Virginia Association of the Deaf has a Facebook group page which was started this past fall. You will be able to keep up with WVAD news and information every time you check your Facebook. You will also be able to post events and be involved in discussions.

Check out the West Virginia Association of the Deaf Facebook page today to see what's happening.

Many thanks to John Burdette for doing this for our organization!

- Deaf and hard of hearing children need to be assessed by qualified educational staff with experience and training in specific assessment tools and techniques required for deaf and hard of hearing students as mandated by law. Most school districts do not have staff qualified to assess deaf and hard of hearing students.
- School districts are already facing financial cutbacks yet are expected to provide the resources to serve deaf and hard of hearing students who would attend school in those districts. Such financial pressures will lead to inappropriate and lacking educational services to deaf and hard of hearing children.

Many state schools for the deaf were created in the early years of this country, and enjoy a long history of developing educated and productive deaf and hard of hearing citizens. State schools for the deaf are a smart financial investment for the state and required by law. Closure or underfunding of state schools for the deaf would not save states money but conversely would be extremely costly in the long run and significantly devastate education for deaf and hard of hearing children. This will also reverse the progress that deaf and hard of hearing children have made in the last 100 years.

Keep our state schools for the deaf open and fully funded! ■

WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2011

# Parents of Deaf Children Get Support

January 12, 2011

BY BEN CALWELL, [bcalwell@cnpapers.com](mailto:bcalwell@cnpapers.com), 304-348-5188

(Courtesy of Gazette-Mail Kanawha Valley Neighbors and Ben Calwell)

CHARLESTON — When Jamie Mallory's daughter was born profoundly deaf, the news hit her hard.

"You're devastated; you don't know what your child's future will be. It's almost like a death in the family. I couldn't see beyond her disability at that point," Mallory said.

Mallory didn't know what services, if any, were available to her as the mother of a deaf child. She said the hospital where her daughter, now 41/2, was born, offered little guidance to her.

"I didn't know where to go, or who to turn to," she said.

The Dunbar resident learned about sign language classes at the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center and started taking them. Due to a staff member's recent retirement, though, the center ceased offering the classes.

The Rehab Center also offered a support group for parents and family members of the deaf, but that, too, has been discontinued.

"I got involved in sign language at the Rehab Center, and through that got involved with the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing," she said.

It was through that commission, on which Mallory is a parent representative that she learned of a national organization called Hands & Voices that offers support to parents and family members of the deaf and hard of hearing.

"They presented this organization to me and asked me if I wanted to do something with that organization."

Last May, Mallory and her friend, Gwen Bryant of Nitro, who has a 5-year-old deaf son, contacted the national Hands & Voices organization to inquire about starting a West Virginia chapter.

"We started having informational meetings and getting interested families involved," Mallory said.

"We started with people we knew — those were our initial contacts," Bryant said.

Bryant and Mallory also attended a national Hands & Voices conference last July in Minnesota, where they received leadership training and learned more about the organization.

To attend the conference, though, they had to raise \$3,000. They did that in three weeks by having bake sales.

Their hard work paid off. On Dec. 17, Mallory and Bryant were informed by the national group that they had been approved as an "established chapter" of Hands & Voices.

Mallory is the director and Bryant is the chapter co-director, and they have established a board of directors. The chapter is now in the process of becoming a 501-3C nonprofit group, which will allow it to apply for various grants.

Without the nonprofit status, it's hard for the chapter to begin many of the programs it has planned, Bryant said.

This month, they plan to file the paperwork to become 501-3C certified.

"We've done what we can with what little funds we have," Mallory said.

Still in its infancy, the West Virginia Chapter of Hands & Voices has started an informal support group of parents and family members of deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

The group meets at the Daily Cup coffee shop, 246 Seventh Ave., in South Charleston. The next scheduled meeting is from noon to 2 p.m. Jan. 22. For more information, call Jennifer Boggess, 304-550-2588.

Bryant said Hands & Voices is "non-biased" in that it does not advocate one way of communicating with deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Hands & Voices represents people who use a variety of languages and approaches in communicating.

"What works for your child is what's right," she said.

Mallory said the goal of the parent-driven Hands & Voices is "to provide quality services and to fill in the gaps ... there's still a void that needs to be filled."

Part of Hands & Voices mission is outreach activities and seminars, parent-to-parent networking, parent/professional collaboration and advocacy efforts focused on enabling deaf or hard-of-hearing children to their highest potential.

"We want to provide better support than what we received. We don't want anyone to feel left out, but to feel supported," Mallory said.

Annual membership dues for WVH&V start at \$25. Scholarships are available for parents.

For more information about Hands & Voices, call Mallory, 304-741-2037 (phone or text), or Bryant, 304-389-5645 (phone or text). ■



Gwen Bryant, left, of Nitro, and Jamie Mallory of Dunbar have started the new West Virginia Chapter of Hands & Voices, a support group for the parents and family members of deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Metro photo by BEN CALWELL



# 6th Annual Ramp Dinner

Saturday, April 16 or 30, 2011  
(Contact John Burdette for correct date)

11 AM till ???

at

Alderson Community Center

## **Menu includes:**

Ramps  
Ham  
Scrambled eggs  
Cole slaw  
Desserts

Corns  
Fried potatoes  
Brown beans  
Cornbread or bread  
Iced tea & coffee

Carryouts are available.

## **Meal Price:**

\$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

Sponsored by  
Greenbrier Valley Association of the Deaf

For more information, e-mail [jwburdette@sprint.blackberry.net](mailto:jwburdette@sprint.blackberry.net) or call VP 304-707-3209



## Scrambled St. Patrick's Day



How many of these St. Patrick's Day words and phrases can you unscramble?

- |                |                    |                   |                      |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. ahMcr       | <u>March</u>       | 11. rogaen        | <u>orange</u>        |
| 2. dogo kucl   | <u>good luck</u>   | 12. iswh          | <u>wish</u>          |
| 3. oabrniw     | <u>rainbow</u>     | 13. eadcn         | <u>dance</u>         |
| 4. enrge       | <u>green</u>       | 14. aurnclpeeh    | <u>leprechaun</u>    |
| 5. cmhrakos    | <u>shamrocks</u>   | 15. gpsrni        | <u>spring</u>        |
| 6. pto fo dglo | <u>pot of gold</u> | 16. tasni         | <u>saint</u>         |
| 7. evlorc      | <u>clover</u>      | 17. igj           | <u>jig</u>           |
| 8. rpha        | <u>harp</u>        | 18. cramh         | <u>charm</u>         |
| 9. leardnl     | <u>Ireland</u>     | 19. aapedr        | <u>parade</u>        |
| 10. camgi      | <u>magic</u>       | 20. reBnaly otnSe | <u>Blarney Stone</u> |



*How many words did you unscramble?*

1 – 5 words – Lucky the Leprechaun outsmarted you!  
6–10 words – You're a chip off the old Blarney Stone!  
11–15 words – You're clever as a leprechaun!  
16–19 words – You've won a four-leaf clover!  
20 words – You win all the gold at the end of the rainbow!

## Charleston Association of the Deaf HNY Party

The Charleston Association of the Deaf had a Happy New Year Social at St. Albans City Hall in St. Albans, WV, on January 1, 2011.

There were approximately 120 people in attendance. People brought covered dish to get an extra ticket for the door prize.

Two 32-inch LCD TV winners were Eric Miller and Larry Titus, Jr. John McCann won a GPS. David Nichols won an HP laptop. Tana McCann won a Blackberry Curve 9930. Gerri Johnson won free admission for the 2012 Happy New Year party.

Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed socializing with friends.

Charleston Association of the Deaf is planning to have 2012 Happy New Year Social, to be held on December 31, 2011. More details to follow later. Please mark your calendar for this year-end party and some great time! ■





# **CHECK OUT OUR QUARTER RECIPES!**

## **Grandma's Green Bean Casserole**

(Preheat oven to 350 °F (175 °C))

2 Tbsp butter	2 Tbsp all-purpose flour	1 tsp salt
1 tsp white sugar	1/4 cup onion, diced	1 cup sour cream
3 cans (14.5 ounce) French style green beans, drained	2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese	French's fried onions

Melt butter and onions in a large skillet over medium heat until soft. Stir in flour, salt, sugar, and sour cream. Add green beans and half of cheese, stir to coat.

Transfer the mixture to a 2-1/2 quart casserole dish. Spread remaining cheese and French's fried onions over the top.

Bake for 30 minutes in the preheated oven or until the top is golden and cheese is bubbly. (<http://allrecipes.com/Recipe/Grandmas-Green-Bean-Casserole/Detail.aspx>)

## **Oatmeal, Chocolate Chip, and M&M Cookies**

(Preheat oven to 350 °F)

2 sticks margarine or butter, softened (I use Crisco butter flavor sticks, takes one stick)	1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
2 eggs	1/2 cup granulated sugar
1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour	1 tsp vanilla
1/2 tsp salt	1 tsp baking soda
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips	3 cups Quaker Oats, quick or old fashioned
	1 cup M&M mini baking chips

Beat together margarine and sugars until creamy. Add eggs and vanilla; beat well. Add combined flour, baking soda, and salt. Stir in oats, chocolate chips, and M&M's; mix well. Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls (I use an ice cream scoop and level the dough). Bake for 10 to 12 minutes. (I bake 10 minutes.)

## **Zucchini Bars**

(Preheat oven to 350 °F)

2 cups sugar	1/2 cup chopped nuts	1 cup of oil
2 cups shredded zucchini	1 tsp vanilla	3 eggs
2-1/2 cups flour	1 tsp cinnamon	1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp baking soda	1/2 tsp baking powder	1/2 tsp nutmeg
1/2 tsp cloves (ground)		

For frosting:

4 cups confectioners sugar	3 oz pkg cream cheese, softened
1 tsp vanilla	2-4 Tbsp milk

Grease jelly roll pan. Combine sugar, nuts, zucchini, oil, vanilla, and eggs. Blend well. Stir in dry ingredients. Mix well. Pour into pan. Bake for 25-30 minutes. Cool completely. Combine all frosting ingredients, adding enough milk til it spreads easily. Store in refrigerator. I omitted raisins – you can add 1/2 cup if you wish. I use canned cream cheese frosting because it's easier to take it to the campground.

Bon appetit!!





## DELORES PYLES

**Where were you born? Where is your hometown?** I was born and grew up on Elk Creek Road in Delbarton, WV, in Mingo County near Williamson, where the famous coal house is.

**What year did you graduate from WVSD?** 1952 as a Valedictorian.

**Did you go to Gallaudet College (now University)? If so, what was your major?** Yes, for 2 years (Prep and Freshman years — 1952-1954). I withdrew to get married in 1954, before I could reach my goal to be a home economics and physical education teacher.

**Where did you work at and how long did you work there?** Huntington National Bank in Charleston, WV, for 16 years before I retired in 1996.

**What was your first job?** Cleaned bathhouses and restrooms, and doing laundry for tourists as an extra job at Yellowstone National Park for one summer in 1953.

**Now that you have retired, what do you do in your spare time?** We have been snowbirding between WV in summertime and FL in winter since 1996, and we also enjoy our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**What can you share about your family?** Roy and I were married on NBC TV Program “Bride and Groom” in New York 57 years ago (July 22, 1954). We have 3 children: oldest daughter, Carla Campbell, second daughter, Kara Russell, and son Harlan. Carla and husband Larry have a daughter, Brittany; Kara has 5 children: Catherine Begley, Annie Monroe, Katie Lackey, Amber Begley, and a son, Casey Russell. We have three great-grandchildren: Owen and Ava Monroe and Cecile Lackey.

**What is your most cherished childhood memory?** Attending WV School for the Deaf in 1940, made new deaf friends, learned sign language, and received good education, which I had been very hungry for. My parents had 12 children, which I was the second oldest. We lived in a small house with a well and outhouse on a small piece of property. My father was an electrician for a coal mine; he always provided for us and made sure we were never hungry.

**What accomplishments are you most proud of?** I was one of the co-founders of WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and other organizations. I taught American sign language for many years and still do it now even in FL. I had volunteered my time for many deaf organizations such as WVAD as a secretary, trustee, and a newsletter editor for many years.

**What is your secret ambition?** Going to an exercise class at the clubhouse in FL this year but don’t dare to ask me if I lost any weight!

**What person(s) has been the biggest influence on your life?** The late Mrs. Wiltse, WVSD English teacher, who wanted me to go to Gallaudet College just for 1 year, and the former WVSD teacher, Rudolph Hines, who worked hard for 2 years to make it possible for me and other students pass our exams to go to college.

**Where is your favorite vacation spot?** Our own camping spots in Seebert, WV, for summer and in Port Richey, FL, for winter.

**Where is the farthest place from home you’ve been?** Alaska, where my daughter, Kara, her son Casey, Roy, and I flew for a 2-week camping and fishing trip in a rented motor home.

**Name three things you can do without.** Telephone, stress, and sex.

**What person, real or fictional, would you most like to meet?** Helen Keller.

**What movie could you see anytime?** *Gone With The Wind*.

**What is your all-time favorite TV show?** *Family Feud*, *The Price is Right*, *Wheel of Fortune*, *America Funniest Home Videos*.

**Name three things always found in your kitchen.** A microwave oven, a coffee maker, and a toaster.

**What would you do with a million dollars?** Help pay my family’s debts.

**What is an interesting, but little known fact about you?** At the age of 3 years old, I had spinal meningitis, which caused me to be 100% deaf and blindness in my right eye, which had been covered with a prosthesis shell for cosmetic reasons since I was 40 years old.

**What do you want to do in the future?** My long time dream is to use leftover fabric from sewing clothes and make quilts out of them.

*All members are encouraged to nominate a friend for the “Meet Me” column. Please submit all nominees to WVAD Quarter News Editor.*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ TTY ☐ Voice ☐ Both

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail/Internet \_\_\_\_\_

Video Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Yourself: ☐ Deaf ☐ Hard of Hearing ☐ Hearing ☐ Interpreter

Spouse: ☐ Deaf ☐ Hard of Hearing ☐ Hearing ☐ Interpreter

- ☐ \$25.00 for Two Years — Regular
- ☐ \$15.00 for One Year — Regular
- ☐ \$20.00 for Two Years — Senior Citizen (55 and up)
- ☐ \$10.00 for Two Years — Student (Age 12 – 18)
- ☐ \$20.00 for One Year — WVAD Newsletter Only

☐ **Yes!** Here is my donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Yes!** I want to donate to Deaf Youth Program: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Membership and Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make money order or personal check payable to **WVAD**.

Mail with membership application to:  
West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.  
Jimmy Harrison, Membership Coordinator  
5 Cordoba Drive  
Hurricane, WV 25526