



Volume 31, No. 4

Winter 2010

## WVSD Celebrates 140th Anniversary by Ruby Losh

The celebration began on September 24, 2010, with a WVSD tour, speaking contest on "WVSD and Me," and playing DINGO. WVSD alumnus celebrated with their class reunion. Some of them had not seen each other for more than 20 years and it was nice to celebrate by seeing them again.

Saturday, September 25, 2010, WVSD alumni and WVAD and WVSD hosted a penny carnival at Seaton Hall recreation center. WVSD students did a fabulous job with the penny carnival. WVSD Class of 2011 hosted a car wash to fundraise money for their class trip. We had a class spirit contest and the winner went to the Class of 1996 to 2010. Congratulations on their best spirit contest. Thanks to the judges: Edna Quinby (ex WVSD, resides in Florida), Roy Forman (son of Joan and late Brinley Forman and Deputy Director of WV



*The WV School for the Deaf, Romney, WV. This building is the elementary school for the deaf children.*

Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing), and Ginny Seaton (guest from Virginia). We had a great performance

"Rumpelstiltskin" by Ronnie Epperly (Class of 1991), along with Christie (Clayton) Sevigny (Class of 1969), Pierre Sevigny (retired faculty), Elise (White) Holliday (Class of 1983), Jeff Holliday (Class of 1983), Mary (Ennis) Kesler (Class of 1996), Danielle (Surber) Richardson (Class of 2000), Keith Richardson (Class of 2002), and Tabitha (Kaplinger) Brown (Class of 2000).

The Hall of Fame inductees received a surprise by having their names engraved on a large plaque which will be posted at the gym once the gym is finished after being remodeled. Bob Smith told a story about football history.

As friends were saying goodbye to each other, the celebration ended with good memories. ■

[\(See 140th Anniversary ... page 3\)](#)

### In this issue:

CAD HNY Party Information	p. 11
From the President's Corner...	p. 2
Fun Page	p. 10
GVAD Announcement	p. 5
In the News	p. 12
Meet Me	p. 18
Obituaries	p. 4
Officers' Contact Information	p. 15
Recipes	p. 17
Susan G. Komen Race Update	p. 16
WV Deaf Expo...	p. 15
WVAD Biennial Conference...	p. 6
WVAD Membership Form	p. 9



page 16

## From the President's Corner,

Linda Phillips



Hello Everyone,

WVAD is wrapping up the year 2010 and gearing up for 2011! Are you ready? WVAD has had a quiet few months; however, we have stayed busy. Our last two board meetings have had to be rescheduled due to illness and budget reasons. But don't worry! We are still working via e-mail and videophone. We are continuing to prepare for our 2011 Conference which will happen on August 4th-6th in Charleston, West Virginia, at the Charleston House Holiday Inn. Be sure to reserve your room and send in your combo ticket (see page 6 for more information). If you cannot pay in full for your combo ticket, please talk with our treasurer, Veronda Harrison. She will work out a payment plan. It is important that each and every one of you are at our Conference. Your opinion matters.

I wanted to mention something that has been bothering me. Some people have stated that since WVAD does nothing, what is the point of WVAD? Every day we are receiving e-mails requesting

support, advocacy, and advice from many people all over the state of WV. Also, we work closely with the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to make sure the laws and legislation for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are passed or not taken away. However, if we do not hear from YOU and other WVAD members, we do not know what is needed and cannot act on it. WVAD needs to hear from our members and what you want. We take this very seriously and need members to take it seriously, too. Without WVAD and other organizations, Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in the state of WV will have NO support, NO advocacy, and NO leadership in OUR community. Without your help and your telling us what is going on in your area, we cannot do anything until we know something. Please share with us! Contact us through VP or e-mail to explain your issues. We are here for you.

A quick reminder for those that haven't paid for expired membership

### 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

(see page 9 for form), please pay to our treasurer, Veronda Harrison. Your loyalty and dues help keep WVAD going.

Happy Holidays from all of us at WVAD!!! Stay warm and safe throughout the holidays.

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** 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
Vice-President:	Jimmy Harrison
Secretary:	Liz Leisure
Treasurer:	Veronda Harrison
Senior Trustee:	Jackie Sherrill-Robinson
Trustee:	Worthy Devericks
Trustee:	Scott Hottle





## Previous WVAD Quarter News



IS ONLINE

<http://www.wvad.org>



Find us on  
**Facebook**

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=670803243&ref=name#/group.php?gid=136005551663&ref=mf>

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!

## REMINDER

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.





## Janet Carol Shepherd

Janet Carol Spears Shepherd, 62, of Man, went to be with the Lord Monday, November 8, 2010, from Logan Regional Medical Center after an extended illness.

She was born December 13, 1947 in Logan County, a daughter of the late Robert and Minnie Spears.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one son, Blair Shepherd; one sister, Irene "Pete" Butcher; three brothers, Butch, Ronald, and Donald Spears; and one sister-in-law, Betty Spears.

Janet was a home maker. She loved making crafts and spending time with her granddaughter, Kimmy. Janet was a graduate of the Romney School for the Deaf and Blind.

Those left to cherish her memory are one daughter, Dorothy (Jimmy Earl Blevins) Rexroad of Man with whom she made her home; three sons, Charles Shepherd Jr. of Martinsburg, Mark Butcher and Martin Butcher, both of Pecks Mill; three granddaughters, Christina Rexroad, Ashley Rexroad, and Kimberlee Vance; three great-grandchildren, Victoria, Alyssa, and Danny Jr.; one half-brother, Sonny Spears of KY; two nieces, Lisa Samson of Taplin and Terry Butcher of Pecks Mill; one nephew, James Allen Vance of Huntington; and one uncle, Charles Spears of Stollings, along with a host of other relatives and friends.

Visitation was held from 6-8 p.m. Friday, November 12, 2010, at the Krantz-McNeely Funeral Home at Man where a funeral service began at 6 p.m. with Rev. Charles Vance officiating.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Krantz-McNeely

## "In Memory of Loved Ones"



Funeral Home, 115 Market St., Man, WV, 25635 to help with funeral expenses.

At Janet's request her remains will be cremated.

Krantz-McNeely Funeral Home at Man served the Shepherd family. ■

## Evelyn Arleen Barron

Evelyn Arleen Barron, 90, of Williamsport, MD, passed away on Friday, October 22, 2010 in Williamsport Retirement Village.

Born December 31, 1919 in Leetown, WV, she was the daughter of the late William and Annie (Everett) Barney.

She was a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Hagerstown, MD.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by seven siblings.

She is survived by two daughters, Carolyn Adams, and her husband Leroy, of Takoma Park, MD, Ruth Ann Williams and her husband Roger of Ooltewah, TN, two sons, Jerry Barron and his wife Barbara of Greensboro, MD, and Sheldon Barron and his wife Merrie Lyn of Frederick, MD and a sister, Ruth Barney Strother of Boonsboro, MD.

She is also survived by eleven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held at 11 a.m., Sunday, October 24, 2010, at Rosedale Funeral Home, Martinsburg with Pastor James Hoffer officiating. The family received friends one hour prior to service. Interment followed in Rosedale Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Worthy Student Fund of the Hagerstown Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 11507 Robinwood Dr., Hagerstown, MD 21741.

Condolences may be sent to [www.rosedalefuneral.com](http://www.rosedalefuneral.com). ■

## Donna Grace Williams

Donna Grace Williams, 74, of Arnett, passed away Tuesday, September 28, 2010, at the Bowers Hospice House. Born November 9, 1935, in Mozer, WV, she was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. I. Calhoun. She graduated from the West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney, WV. Donna was a microfilm technician retiring from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Northeast, OH, where she was also a mentor. She was a member of the Cleveland Association of the Deaf. She had been a resident of Arnett for the past ten years. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of thirty years, Cledith Cleo Williams.

Survivors include a son, Jarvis Williams and wife Barbara of Arnett; daughters, Bonita Sarrett and husband John (Rusty) of Arnett, Orabelle Follmer and Spencer Riser of Arnett; son-in-law, Richard Follmer of Arnett; grandchildren, Savannah Sarrett, Jesse Follmer, Justin, Megan and Taylor Williams, Christina Donnan and husband Michael, and Nicole Jarrell and Brian; three great-grandchildren; brother, Allen Ray Calhoun and wife Eloise of Raonoke, VA; and sister, Georgiana Hamrick and husband Glenn of Rough Run, WV, and her beloved cat, Bonny.

The family would like to thank "Cookie" at Bowers Hospice House and Hospice of Southern, WV, for all their care and family friend Robin.

A celebration of her life was at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 9, 2010, at the Breckenridge Baptist Church in Bolt, WV, with Pastor Dewey Lowe officiating. Friends called one hour prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Bowers Hospice House, 454 Cranberry Dr., Beckley, WV 25801. On line condolences may be left at [www.calfefh.com](http://www.calfefh.com). Arrangements by Calfee Funeral Home, Beckley. ■



**With Deepest Sympathy**

(See Obituaries ... page 5)

WVAD Quarter News, Winter 2010



### Margaret K. McCabe

Margaret Kathryn McCabe, 93, formerly of Newell and most recently a three-year resident of the Nentwick Convalescent Home, died at the East Liverpool City Hospital on Wednesday

April 7, 2010, following a lingering illness.

Margaret was born on June 3, 1916, in East Liverpool to the late Charles Benjamin Evans and Estella Mae Redick Evans.

She had worked for 34 years as a ware dresser at Homer Laughlin China and was a member of the Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Pittsburgh.

Margaret graduated from the Romney School for the Deaf, in Romney, WV; and was a member of the Beaver Valley Association of the Deaf, West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Deaf Awareness which was sponsored by the Quota Club of Beaver, PA; and was awarded the Deaf Person of the Year in 1994 in Rochester, PA.

Margaret loved to sew, cross stitch, and quilt.

Two brothers, Wilbur Evans and his wife Thelma, and Robert Evans, one sister, Beryl Tray and her husband Mario, and one nephew, Gary Evans preceded her in death.

Surviving is her loving daughter, Ruth Fuller and her husband Joe of New Cumberland, two grandchildren, Stephanie (Tom) Sterling and their children, Taylor and Jenna of Richmond, KY; and Steven (Linda) Fuller and their children Grant and Ella of Prospect, KY.

In addition two nieces, Nancy (Jerry) Zackewicz and Deirdre (Sonny) Rice, and two nephews, Tom (Diana) Tray and Richard (Beth) Tray also survive.

Services were held on Monday April 12, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. at the Arner Funeral Chapel in Chester, WV; where the family was present to receive friends on Sunday from 12-3 and 6-8 p.m. Interment followed the Monday services at Shadow Lawn Memory Gardens in Newell. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the WV School for the Deaf Alumni Association at 301 E. Main Street, Romney, WV, 26757. You may view this obituary and send on line condolences at [arnerfuneralchapel.com](http://arnerfuneralchapel.com). ■

### Virginia Fisher

Virginia Fisher, 87, of Mannington, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at the Fairmont General Hospital. She was born October 10, 1923, in Monongalia County, a daughter of the late Sanford and Nina Tarleton.

Mrs. Fisher was a pleater for Decorator Industries in Mannington and also worked for Pierce Laundry in Morgantown. Born deaf, she attended WV School for the Deaf at Romney and was a member of the Fairmont Association

for the Deaf. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother and enjoyed reading, sewing, and quilting. She especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren. She was a Christian and a member of the former Bingamon United Methodist Church.

Survivors include 2 children and their spouses: Nancy and Dan Haight, of Romney, Charles and Mary Fisher, Mannington; a sister, Naomi Nicholson, Haleck Road; 5 grandchildren: Danny Haight, Amy McNeese, Jason Hendershot, Brandi Whitaker, and Charles "Chad" Fisher, III; and 3 great

grandchildren: Dalton McNeese, Austin and Braylyn Whitaker. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her husband, Charles Marshall Fisher, Sr., who died in May 1999, 1 brother, and 3 sisters.

Friends called at the Hutson Funeral Home, 500 E. Main St., Mannington, on Thursday from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. where funeral services were held on Friday at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Jonathan McNeese officiating. Interment was at the Mannington Memorial Park Cemetery. Online condolences may be sent to [www.hutsonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hutsonfuneralhomes.com). ■



## Greenbrier Valley Association of the Deaf Announcement

GVAD will have an annual Ramp Dinner on April 2011.  
More information to follow later in next Spring issue.



# West Virginia Association of the Deaf

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

August 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### Holiday Inn Charleston House

600 Kanawha Blvd East, Charleston WV

WVAD Member	\$90.00
WVAD Member Senior Citizen	\$80.00
Non-Member	\$115.00
Non-Member Senior Citizen	\$100.00

#### **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

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

WVAD STATUS	COST	HOW MANY	TOTAL
WVAD Member	\$90.00		
WVAD Member Senior Citizen (55 & Up)	\$80.00		
Non-Member	\$115.00		
Non-Member Senior Citizen	\$100.00		
Grand Total —→			

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

# 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.



## 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



## Christmas Challenge

C S  
 W L U A  
 R Y R I R L  
 E L I G H T S E  
 A I Y R E P L E H A  
 T G N U T C R A C K E R  
 H L N I F S E R X C A N D Y  
 F A M I L Y T W E E C B O W F S  
 T Z U R K M N A R S R I H C D D N P  
 H G E E C E R R S B N T D R H O L V  
 J K L O J Q E J E C O C L I Y D  
 S A T F B F E A L I W T O S  
 L H T S J P H N D N C A F P S T  
 D T O I S P E D O N N R I D L W Y M  
 H N A P V K H L K A L B I E C K A Z O A  
 F Z A D P E T E E M A E I C E O I Z K F T S  
 S T D B I S I L O P L C E D E R A S I E D C  
 L V J N X N N I E H M T S A E T R A O I  
 E G G U S B C G B E T I B Y E T E N  
 T N I R T E B A E D U R A U P J E O G T  
 V N T F G E L P R M N D B D L R N K T M I A  
 O P E P T S H G M U T A Y J A C F F A E I T F S  
 Y X I S J B N U U N S X L U C W Y C V B L R K D T X  
 H S D E H A O S S E A S R E L I E A Y T T T N H Z S  
 I Y R Q S B K H E D M E Y E S N R L T S E R C O  
 M P G K B C D R J K D L T E M O S T I H F W  
 R Z E I F A L B A N L T M I L V R M R R  
 E E N T R C M F O W O O E E H E F A S A A R  
 E N A T I V I T Y P G W H R N C X B T P E E H T  
 N R U D O L P H A O E T A R O C E D N P L V N D C U  
 N I G A J G R D A E R B R E G N I G E I G L X S L L E B  
 Y B H Y P P A H I V Y J V K Q L E Y M N N I X K W I N T E R  
 Q T C H O C O L A T E J O O X C R A G I S E L O P H T R O N  
 S E I K O O C Y R A M B S I R N P J B A E G A K C A P A  
 N E R A  
 M O P X  
 Z E V H  
 R S E F  
 B R P L  
 L U A E

Advent	Celebration	Decorate	Gold	Jingle	Naught	Ribbon	Star	Wrapping Paper
Baby	Charity	Elf	Green	Joseph	Nice	Rudolph	Stocking	Wreath
Bake	Chestnuts	Family	Happy	Letter	North Pole	Sale	Tinsel	
Bells	Chimney	Fireplace	Helper	Lights	Nutcracker	Santa	Toy Soldier	
Bow	Chocolate	Friends	Holiday	Manger	Ornaments	Shepherd	Tree	
Candle	Christmas	Fruitcake	Holly	Mary	Package	Shopping	Trim	
Candy	Cinnamon	Gift Basket	Icicles	Merry	Present	Silver	Winter	
Cards	Cookies	Gifts	Ivy	Mistletoe	Reindeer	Sleigh	Wiseman	
Carol	December	Gingerbread	Jesus	Nativity	Relatives	Snowflake	Wonderland	

(See answers ... page 16)

Charleston Association of the Deaf

# Happy New Year Social

Saturday, January 1, 2011

St. Albans City Hall  
St. Albans, WV

## \$1,000 Door Prize Giveaway

(Depends upon Attendance)

“Plus More”  
Chance to Win

Different Color Tickets: 10 tickets for \$5.00 or  
30 tickets for \$10.00

2 - 32" LCD TVs, GPS, and 15.6" HP Laptop and More  
Cash Prizes

\$25.00 per person includes meal with door prize

Ages from 5 to 17 - \$5.00 includes meal only

If you bring covered dish or desserts, you get extra  
ticket for door prize. (No chips, ice bags, pops)

### Handicap Access

3:00 – 11:00 p.m.  
Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m.  
Prizes – 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Ham  
Green beans  
Mashed Potatoes and more

### Menu

Turkey  
Rolls  
Corn

**Please Come One, Come All, and Have Fun!**

From I-64 East Charleston: Get off at Exit 54, MacCorkle Avenue (US Rt. 60). Turn left at the traffic light at MacCorkle Avenue and keep straight onto US Rt. 60 West for about 6 miles and you will see the St. Albans City Hall on left side near K-Mart store.

From I-64 West Huntington: Get off at Exit 44, St. Albans. Turn right at the traffic light at Rt. 817 and go about 3 miles. Turn left at traffic light at MacCorkle Avenue. Keep straight onto US Rt. 60 East for about 4 miles. You will pass the K-Mart store then you will see the St. Albans City Hall on the right side.

For more information, contact:  
Debby Steel, President

866-937-5954 VP or E-mail: [sassysassypearl@aol.com](mailto:sassysassypearl@aol.com)





# In the News



## Texting Eases Life for Deaf People

*"Handheld devices, such as Blackberries and iPhones, allow them to rely less on others"*

By Jay Reeves

*The Associated Press, Monday, September 20, 2010*

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Quietly over the last decade, phones that make text messaging easy have changed life profoundly for millions of deaf people.

Gone are the days of a deaf person driving to someone's house just to see if they are home. Wives text their deaf husbands in the basement, just as a hearing wife might yell down the stairs. Deaf teens blend in with the mall crowd since they're constantly texting, like everyone else in high school.

Visit the Alabama School for the Deaf, and it's impossible to miss the signs of a revolution that many hearing people simply never noticed. Most everyone at the school in Talladega has at least one handheld texting device, and some have two. At lunch, deaf diners order burgers and fries by text: Punch in the order and show it at the counter.

For the first time, a generation of deaf people can communicate with the world on its terms, using cell phones, BlackBerrys, or iPhones, of which some 260 million are in use in the United States.

Matt Kochie, who is deaf, has been texting his entire adult life and has a hard time imagining a day without it.

"We'd have to go back to pen and paper," said Kochie, 29, a teacher at the school. "We'd have to write back and forth to communicate."

Without his handheld, Walter Ripley said he would be back to relying on others for even basic communication. And texting is less work, said Ripley, 54.



Matt Kochie

"I don't have to depend on hearing people. It makes me a lot more independent. I don't have to ask people to call for me. Asking for people to call can be very frustrating," said Ripley, the school's athletic director.

Kochie and Ripley both used sign language and interpreters during interviews, and deaf people still generally favor signing when talking face-to-face. It's faster and more expressive than pecking out letters on a tiny keyboard.

For generations, deaf people communicated mainly by sign language, gesturing, lip-reading, and writing. Telephone lines then allowed for TTY machines that deaf people could use to send printed messages electronically.

"We had one in our house for all of us when I was a teenager, and we would have a line to use it," said Ripley, whose parents and siblings were also deaf.

Machines linked to landlines are still used, as are services involving operators who interpret for the deaf during phone conversations, plus e-mail and video phone calls. But advocates for the deaf say life began changing rapidly after 1999, when the first BlackBerry was introduced by Canadian manufacturer Research in Motion.

Rann Gordon, 54, got his first handheld texting device about seven years ago.

"It has certainly changed my life for the better," said Gordon, who also works at the school. "I can communicate any time I want to. Texting is very fast and very efficient."

Further advances in technology could make communication even easier. Many deaf people are eager to see if the video chat software on the new iPhone 4 works well for sign-language communication, said Daphne Keith, at a Verizon store near the Alabama School for the Deaf. Similarly, an engineering team at the University of Washington is working on a device to transmit

American Sign Language video over cell networks.

Meanwhile, deaf people with data-only cell phone plans are already some of Keith's best customers. Several U.S. cellular companies including Verizon Wireless and AT&T offer the plans that cater to the deaf. Verizon, the nation's largest wireless provider, has a text-only plan for \$54.99 a month that includes unlimited messaging, web browsing, data usage, and e-mail.

"Before I started working here I was ignorant to what was going on. I kind of just overlooked it," said Keith. "But then when I started here I realized ... cell service really is for everybody."

Partly because of the ease of texting for the deaf, a few cities including Cincinnati, have adopted texting as a way to accept emergency calls. Deaf and hearing-impaired residents must dial a special number rather than 911, however.

Neither deaf advocacy groups nor cell providers are sure exactly how many of the nation's deaf or hard-of-hearing people use texting.

A survey by a Washington-based trade group, CTIA-The Wireless Association, found that there were 257 million data-capable handheld devices in use in the United States last year, up from 228 million just a year earlier. Of those, some 50 million were smart phones or wireless-enabled PDAs.

Derek Schmitz, who graduated from the Mississippi School for the Deaf this year and is beginning Gallaudet University, said texting has made it easier for deaf people to form friendships with hearing people that would have been difficult just a few years ago.

"I do use texting to communicate with hearing people," said Schmitz, 19. "(Communications) between hearing people and deaf people are improving a lot by texting." ■

(See News ... page 13)

WVAD Quarter News, Winter 2010

(News from page 12)

## Movies – In D.C., A Truly Silent Film Festival

*"The WORLDEAF fest honors the best work in a little-known niche: Movies for deaf people"*

By Maria Puente

USA TODAY (11/4/2010)

WASHINGTON — It wouldn't be a film festival without a competition and prizes, so that's what's in store when the four-day WORLDEAF Cinema Festival 2010 opens at Gallaudet University here today.

Festivals to celebrate films by and for the deaf and hard of hearing are not new; such gatherings have taken place in such far-flung locales as Toronto, New Zealand, Milan and Hong Kong in recent years. But this festival will be the first time deaf filmmakers get to do what Hollywood does best: give each other awards, such as best documentary, best narrative and best film about the deaf experience by a hearing filmmaker.

More than 170 films by 132 filmmakers from 30 countries — some with audio, some not, all with subtitles — have been submitted for the competition, an opportunity to showcase the best of deaf films from around the world, says honorary chair and Oscar winner Marlee Matlin, 45, the world's most famous deaf actor. She'll receive a lifetime achievement award at the fest.

"It's an opportunity to make some noise and continue to break down barriers," Matlin says via email. "The hope is to highlight the long-overlooked richness and depth of talent among millions of deaf and hard-of-hearing filmmakers, screenwriters and actors."

Also in attendance: Shoshanna Stern, 30, a Gallaudet alumna known as the "next Marlee Matlin" who has had recurring roles in such TV series as



**Matlin:** Won an Oscar in 1987.



**Universal Signs:** Sabrina Lloyd and Anthony Natale star in the story of a deaf artist (Natale) who finds a new love (Lloyd) after tragedy strikes. The main characters speak in sign language, so the film is subtitled.

*Weeds, Jericho* and *Lie to Me*. She'll be a presenter and lead a panel discussion.

"There can be no more honest cinematic experience regarding the deaf community than one that is motivated and inspired by actual observation and/or participation," Stern e-mails.

In Hollywood, deaf filmmaking is a small niche and one not well-known by hearing audiences, but maybe they're missing out. "I believe any filmgoer open to a different kind of experience could find satisfaction in seeing a movie that may not be specifically targeted toward their market," Stern says.

### 'Visual-Centric' People

Certainly, it's a niche passionately embraced by deaf and hard-of-hearing people, says festival producer/director Jane Norman, an expert on deaf cinema and culture and a professor of mass communication at Gallaudet, the only liberal-arts university for the deaf in the world.

"Deaf people have a special affinity for filmmaking — it's a 'visual thing,' and we are a 'visual-centric' people," Norman e-mails. "We want to tell our stories in our own way while at the same time provide opportunities for our people to succeed in mainstream media."

So what's the difference between a film made for a hearing audience and one made for a deaf audience? Technically, not that much, says Matlin, who points out that filmmaking famously began without sound and the greatest early stars — Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, and others—appeared in movies without uttering a single sound.

"A main difference is shooting a story in a way that really captures the essence of a deaf person," Norman says. "In deaf film, the story is *all* about what you see, not what you hear."

One goal of deaf film fests is to spread awareness among hearing audiences of the quality of deaf films, says Gallaudet president Alan Hurwitz. Deaf people are fiercely proud of their history, language and culture, he says.

"Filmmaking allows us to preserve our language in ways that cannot be achieved through books, photographs or other art forms," Hurwitz says. "Like sign language, 'film language' involves much more than the spoken words of a script. An actor's facial expression and deliberate body movements, which are also essential elements for communicating in sign language, are critical in conveying the full meaning of a movie line or a scene."

### Uniqueness, Diversity

Hurwitz says Gallaudet has sponsored other international gatherings to celebrate deaf culture, including Deaf Way I in 1989 and Deaf Way II in 2002. Both events attracted many hearing people who, he says, got to see how deaf people's contributions to the arts enrich all lives.

"The best filmgoing experiences are those which reflect diverse perspectives and tell unique stories," Matlin says. "Those of deaf and hard-of-hearing filmmakers and story lines reflect that diversity and deserve to be highlighted and told." ■

(See News ... page 14)



(News from page 13)

## Audit Reveals Problems at Schools for the Deaf and Blind

Posted Thursday, October 21, 2010; 6:00 a.m.; Updated Friday, October 22, 2010; 7:13 a.m.

*A 13-member audit team found several issues at the Hampshire County school.*

**By Marla Pisciotta**

*For the State Journal*

A West Virginia Department of Education audit team identified numerous problems at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, or WVSDb, during an audit of the Hampshire County school.

The audit team reported problems with administration, lack of security, meals, dormitories, inadequate instructional materials, incomplete lessons, building lighting and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning, and teachers' credentials.

A 13-member audit team conducted the review in June. Kenna Seal, director of the office of education performance audits, authored the 51-page report, which highlights problems at the WVSDb. The report recently was presented to the state board.

Seal said he believes administrators at WVSDb will respond to suggestions offered in the audit and "become a better school."

"The state is not trying to shut the school down. That has never been considered," he said.

Priscilla Haden, president of the state Board of Education, said the audit was needed.

"Until now, the Schools for the Deaf and the Blind were operating outside of the pre-K through 12 accountability system. We recognize that as a problem and have taken steps to address it," she said.

WVSDb superintendent Patsy Shank declined to discuss the audit and referred questions about the review to the state Department of Education. Department spokeswoman Liza Cordiero said the state is going to make sure the right steps are being taken to "fix" the issues at the school.

"The state is looking at the issues short term, but long-term plans are being made already," Cordiero said.

Cordiero said although the school is governed by the Legislature, it ultimately will fall under the same rules as public schools.

"We feel it is very important that these issues are not going to be something that fall by the wayside.

These children deserve the same expectations as the children in the mainstream deserve," Cordiero said.

State Superintendent Steve Paine said: "It is unfortunate that the issues at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind have only recently surfaced. Nevertheless, we are taking bold and swift action to correct deficiencies and provide a thorough and efficient education to the students served by both schools.

The West Virginia Board of Education and the state Department of Education have a responsibility to all students in West Virginia."

To determine performance standards for adequate yearly progress, or AYP, the audit team compared spring 2010 WESTEST results statewide with WVSDb.

Eighteen WVSDb students were tested in mathematics, reading, science, and social studies.

The report shows 83.33 percent of the 18 blind, partially sighted and hard of hearing tested were not proficient in mathematics, while 16.67 percent were proficient.

Other issues addressed in the audit included:

- No student was taking any academic or career-technical courses at Hampshire High School.
- The high school graduate overall college-going rate for WVSDb was 7.6 percent.
- The dormitories lacked Internet access.
- Severe deficits existed with technology throughout the campus.



- Some instructional materials had not been approved, were outdated, were inadequate, and or were unavailable.
- Some students enrolled in fifth through 12th grades are neither hearing impaired nor visually impaired and will be graduating with a regular diploma.
- Sixteen of 53 teachers, about 30 percent, are employed on either an out-of-field authorization or first-class-full-time permit.

"Almost everyone hired does not come with card-carrying credentials," Seal said. "They are certified as a teacher but not with an endorsement to teach for the deaf and the blind."

The reports said the school has an administrative staff of one superintendent, eight directors, three principals, one assistant principal and three coordinators for about 160 students. The audit team said the direct student services were appropriate to support a high-quality curriculum and instructional services. However, the team's analysis of administrative staff revealed a high number of personnel for a small number of students. ■

## Introducing a New Book

*My Yesterdays*

*In A Changing World of the Deaf*

By Mervin D. Garretson

A lifestory of a totally deaf educator and advocate about growing up in an anti-sign world dominated by oralists and professional audists. Includes bits of deaf history, commentaries on ASL, deaf culture, presidents of Gallaudet University, and other notable people in the field. Available from Xlibris Marketing Service, 1663 Liberty Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403. Toll-free phone 888-795-4274. Hardback \$29.99; Paperback \$19.99.

(From DeafDigest Blue—December 12, 2010; <http://deafdigest.com/newsletter/deafdigest-blue-december-12-2010/>) ■

(See News ... page 15)

WVAD Quarter News, Winter 2010



(News from page 14)

## State School Board Approves Changes to School for Deaf and Blind

By Davin White

*The Charleston Gazette*, October 6, 2010

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — State Board of Education members voted Wednesday to make changes at the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind, after state education auditors found that some practices at the Romney school are outdated and the curriculum needs improved.

For at least two years, a team from the state Department of Education will monitor the school's progress. Administrators at the school must seek national accreditation and visit successful schools in states like Iowa, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

Also, they've been asked to create long-term plans to address building needs and become a formal partner with Hampshire County Schools to share programs. Also, they're asked to work with a national advisory board that will identify problems and recommend actions to help improve instruction for students.

Kenna Seal, director of the Office of Educational Performance Audits, said the Schools for the Deaf and Blind operate differently than other public schools and were not always asked to follow some state laws and policies.

Seal and State Schools Superintendent Steve Paine said the Schools for the Deaf and Blind need to be held accountable like other schools, but only for those rules that should apply to them.

The Schools for the Deaf and Blind are not used to audits, and Seal said it was a new job for education auditors, as well.

Seal wants the Romney school to improve lax security to its buildings and Paine is going to find out whether the state School Building Authority could help pay for building renovations.

Most importantly, Seal said, is that the Schools for the Deaf and Blind improve the quality of the content that students learn.

"We're concerned about the overall quality of the curriculum and the academic rigor," he said.

Paine also denied some rumors floating around in the Eastern Panhandle.

"There's a misnomer up there that we're trying to close the school," Paine said. "Absolutely not."

Patsy Shank, superintendent of the Schools for the Deaf and Blind, reviewed the auditors' findings and said she accepts them.

Jorea Marple, deputy state superintendent, said staff at the Schools for the Deaf and Blind have already made some changes and are working on other improvements.

Reach Davin White at [davinwh...@wvgazette.com](mailto:davinwh...@wvgazette.com) or 304-348-1254. ■

## WV DEAF EXPO

April 2, 2011

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Open to public for all ages

Free Admission

Pierpont Community &

Technical College

1201 Locust Avenue

Colebank Hall Gym

Fairmont, WV 26554

### For More Information:

Ruby Losh

Phone No. 304-816-0658

Email: [Ruby.Losh@pierpont.edu](mailto:Ruby.Losh@pierpont.edu)

NOTE: There is a flyer on the website <http://sites.google.com/site/wvsdaa/wv-deaf-events>.

If you are interested to do vendors, please feel free to fill out the form. The registration form will be posted in January. Please bring the registration form with you when you come to the WV Deaf Expo. ■



### Officers' Contact Information:

Linda Phillips, President  
910 30th Street, Apt. 3  
Parkersburg, WV 26104  
VP Number: 304-699-0164  
[lindajane04@verizon.net](mailto:lindajane04@verizon.net)

Jimmy Harrison, Vice-President  
5 Cordoba Drive  
Hurricane, WV 25526  
VP Number: 866-928-2834  
[JHarrison5@aol.com](mailto:JHarrison5@aol.com)

Liz Leisure, Secretary  
3302 Central Avenue  
Parkersburg, WV 26104  
VP Number: 304-699-0164  
[lizleisure@suddenlink.net](mailto:lizleisure@suddenlink.net)

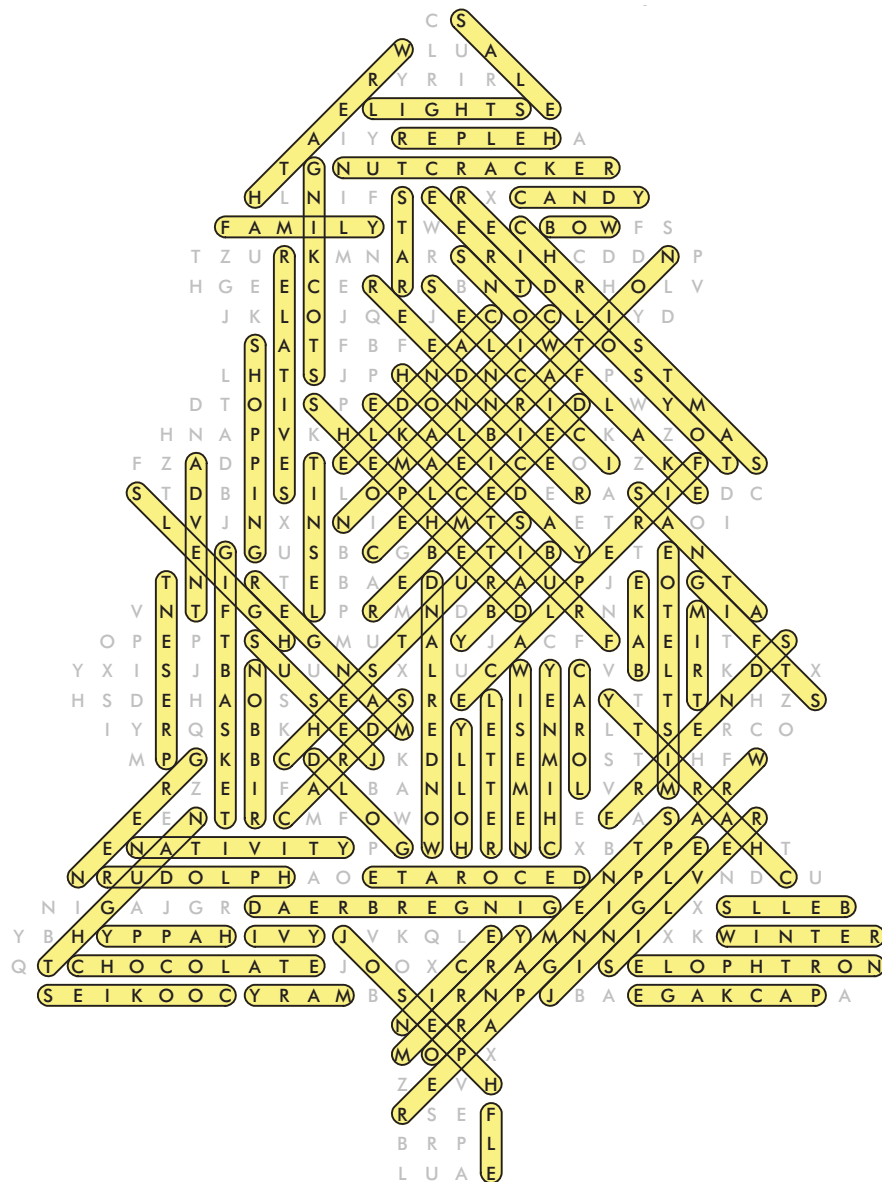
Veronda Harrison, Treasurer  
5 Cordoba Drive  
Hurricane, WV 25526  
VP Number: 866-928-2834  
[VerApple@aol.com](mailto:VerApple@aol.com)

Jackie Sherrill Robinson, Senior Trustee  
102 Roxalona Hills Drive  
Dunbar, WV 25064  
VP Number: 304-982-7056  
[jackielif2@aol.com](mailto:jackielif2@aol.com)

Worthy Devericks, Trustee  
811 Tarpon Glen Lane  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689  
VP Number: 866-552-9639  
[sunflower10933@aol.com](mailto:sunflower10933@aol.com)

Scott Hottle, Trustee  
RR 1, Box 28  
Gay, WV 25244  
[Hottle2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Hottle2000@yahoo.com)

Tami Deem, WVAD Editor  
2276 Meadows Drive  
Morgantown, WV 26505-2933  
[extraordinary45@comcast.net](mailto:extraordinary45@comcast.net)



## 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). ■



Parents  
John Burdette & Erin Fulton  
Announce with Great Joy  
the Birth of

**Jambi Emma Burdette**

November 15, 2010  
6 lbs, 15 oz | 20" Long

Proud Maternal Grandparent:  
Mary Ann Andrews

Proud Paternal Grandparents:  
Elizabeth "Betty" Burdette  
Late Plummer K. ("PK") Burdette



# CHECK OUT OUR QUARTER RECIPES!

## Blackberry Wine Cake (Submitted by Lois Devericks)



### Cake

1 box white cake mix  
1 cup blackberry wine  
3 oz box of jello (black/raspberry)

4 eggs  
1 cup chopped nuts  
1/2 cup vegetable oil

Grease and flour a bundt pan. Place nuts in bottom of pan. Mix wine with cake mix, jello, eggs, and oil. Pour the mixture over the nuts. Bake at 325 °F for 50 minutes or until done.

### Glaze

1 cup powdered sugar  
1/2 cup blackberry wine

1/2 stick margarine

Add 1/2 cup of wine to 1 cup sugar and margarine. Bring to a boil. Pierce holes on top of warm cake and pour on 1/2 of glaze. Let cake sit for 1/2 hour to absorb glaze. Turn cake out and cool. Add additional sugar to thicken rest of glaze. Pour over cake.



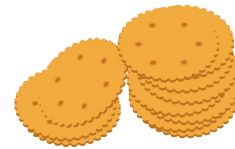
## Spicy Hummus (By Lois Devericks)

1 15-oz can chickpeas, drained and rinsed  
(reserve 1 Tbsp liquid)  
1 Tbsp lemon juice  
1 tsp cumin  
1/2 tsp cayenne pepper  
2 tsp minced parsley

1 Tbsp sesame tahini  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
1 tsp olive oil  
1 tsp coriander  
Fresh ground white pepper

Combine all ingredients in a blender or food processor. Use 1 Tbsp of reserved bean juice to moisten, if necessary. Process until smooth. Serve with your favorite chips or crackers.

## Black Bean Hummus (By Lois Devericks)



1 15-oz can black beans, drained  
4 garlic cloves, minced  
1 Tbsp lime juice  
Fresh ground pepper to taste

1 Tbsp sesame tahini  
1 Tbsp minced tomato  
1 tsp cumin

Combine all ingredients in a blender or food processor. Process until smooth. Serve with your favorite chips or crackers.







## RUBY LOSH

**What motivated you to be so active in the deaf community?** Being influenced by my parents to be involved with the deaf community and I feel that I can contribute my part to the deaf community.

**What is the name of your hometown?** Orlando, WV.

**Where do you work at and what do you do?** Pierpont Community and Technical College, Fairmont, WV. I am a teacher/coordinator of the American Sign Language Communication Program. I also teach two classes in Interpreter Training Program.

**How long have you worked there?** 13 years.

**What can you share about your family?** My family has great support.

**What is your most cherished childhood memory?** Lots of things with my sisters.

**What accomplishments are you most proud of?** Being a wife to my wonderful husband Michael and being a mother to my two beautiful children, Maddie and Calvin.

**What is your secret ambition?** I love getting a pedicure!

**What person has been the biggest influence on your life?** My parents.

**What is your favorite vacation spot?** Nags Head, NC.

**Where is the farthest place from home you've been?** Stayton, Oregon.

**What is your favorite thing to do in your spare time?** Play with my children, shopping, and chat with my best friends.

**Name three things you dislike:** Hunting, fishing, and shoveling the snow.

**What person, real or fictional, would you most like to meet?** Aliens, to ask them why they are a mystery to the world.

**What movie could you see any time?** Harry Potter.

**What is your all-time favorite TV show?** NCIS.

**Name three things always found in your kitchen.** My baby's foods, mail, and purse.

**What would you do with a million dollars?** (1) Pay off student loans, (2) invest in my children's education, and (3) provide charities to the deaf community and WV School for the Deaf.

**What is an interesting, but little known fact about you?** I have been in two different colleges: New River Community College and Fairmont State College, currently renamed to Fairmont State University.

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



*The WVAD Organization Staff  
Wishes Everyone  
and Their Families  
A Merry Christmas and  
A Happy New Year!*

*Linda Phillips*

*Jimmy Harrison*

*Jackie Sherrill-Robinson*

*Worthy Devericks*

*Scott Hottle*

*Veronda Harrison*

*Liz Leisure*

*Tami Deem*