WVSDB Celebrates 140th Anniversary by Ruby Losh

The celebration began on September 24, 2010, with a WVSDB 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 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)
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 (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
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.

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!
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 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 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.calfeefh.com.

Arrangements by Calfee Funeral Home, Beckley.

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, Just, 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 Roonoke, 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.calfeefh.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 East Main Street, Romney, WV, 26757. You may view this obituary and send online condolences at 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 Haught, of Romney, Charles and Mary Fisher, Mannington; a sister, Naomi Nicholson, Haleck Road; 5 grandchildren: Danny Haught, 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.

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

38th Biennial Conference

August 4th – 6th, 2011

Holiday Inn Charleston House

600 Kanawha Blvd East, Charleston WV

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**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 or by VP at 866-928-2834**
West Virginia Association of the Deaf

38th 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: ________________________________________________________________

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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

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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

Find the words in the list hidden in the puzzle grid below.

Advent Celebration Decorate Gold Jingle Naughty 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 Shepherd Tree
Bow Chocolate Friends Holiday Manger Ornaments Shopping Trim
Candle Christmas Fruitcake Holly Mary Package Sleigh Wiseman
Candy Cinnamon Gift Basket Icicles Merry Present Snowflake Wonderland
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.

Menu
Ham
Turkey
Corn
Green beans
Rolls
Mashed Potatoes and more

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
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.

“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 anytime 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)
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 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 WVSD, 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 WVSD. The report recently was presented to the state board.

Seal said he believes administrators at WVSD 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.

WVSD 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 WVSD.

Eighteen WVSD 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 WVSD 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


(From DeafDigest Blue – December 12, 2010; http://deafdigest.com/newsletter/deafdigest-blue-december-12-2010/)
WV AD 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 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

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.
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.

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 stick margarine
- 1/2 cup blackberry wine

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

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

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