Mountwest American Sign Language Student Association Hosted 3rd Annual Brunch With Deaf Santa by Leigh-Ann Brewer

On Saturday, December 10, 2011, Mountwest American Sign Language Student Association hosted the third annual Brunch with Deaf Santa. This year's event was a huge success with over 100 people in attendance and an excellent representation from the local deaf community. Deaf children from the tri-state area and beyond were greeted by Deaf Santa, Ernest Williams, and Mrs. Claus, Vickie Williams, of Hurricane, WV. Many of Santa's elves were deaf as well. Also, there was a surprise visit by the Deaf Grinch, Jeremiah Cruz, Mountwest ASL Student Association President. Currently, Mountwest Community and Technical College (MCTC) has seven deaf students enrolled at the college, with two more enrolling in the spring. MCTC has had four deaf graduates and is looking forward to having more deaf people enrolling in the future. For information about MCTC, you can visit our website at www.mctc.edu, or contact Leigh-Ann Brewer, brewer13@mctc.edu. Many thanks to the deaf community for your support of the MCTC ASL Program, our deaf students, and the Brunch with Deaf Santa Claus!

Deaf Mr. and Mrs. Santa with Jack Bryant who’s dreaming of a wonderful Christmas after telling Santa his wishes!

(See more photos on page 14)
**Seasons Greetings to Everyone!**

Hopefully you all are cooling off in the autumn season. Winter season is coming soon. Are you all ready for the cold and snowy weather?

The WVAD Board had its first meeting on October 22 in South Charleston, WV. All Board members attended except Bill Cash. As many of you know, he was in the hospital and then passed away at home on October 24, 2011. Not only the Board, but everyone, is sad to lose Bill Cash. He was elected as one of the trustees at the recent WVAD Conference in Charleston, WV.

WVAD is working on setting up several workshops in 2012. If you have any suggestions and/or ideas on topics for workshops, please let us know.

I want to update everyone on the projects or things that have been happening in West Virginia.

Because Douglas Casto was the third nominee for the trustees at the recent WVAD Conference, I asked him to replace Bill Cash. He accepted. Welcome aboard Douglas!

WVAD and West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) are partnering along with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), Center for Excellence in Disabilities (CED), and the State Fire Marshal’s office on smoke alarms project/program to provide free smoke alarms for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

First, the grant was approved and the money has been transferred to the SILC. There is still a lot to do to get the program up and running.

The WVCDHH Interpreter Task Force is still working on WV Registry of Interpreters and Transliterators (WVRIT). We will share more information as soon as we know.

Public Service Commission (PSC) is inviting Relay Service providers to apply to provide Telecommunication Relay Service (TRS) in West Virginia. Three Relay Service providers have applied and are waiting for PSC’s decision on who will be the next West Virginia relay provider.

WVCDHH has moved from Building 6 to a temporary office at 405 Capitol Street, Suite 800, Charleston, WV 25301 (for more information, see announcement from WVCDHH on page 8).

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**From the President’s Corner,**

**John Burdette**

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**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.

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**WVAD Quarter News**

**Editor:** Tami Deem
**President:** John Burdette
**Vice-President:** Jimmy Harrison
**Secretary:** Liz Leisure
**Treasurer:** Veronda Harrison
**Senior Trustee:** Jackie Sherrill-Robinson
**Trustee:** Worthy Devericks
**Trustee:** Doug Casto

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WVAD Board Minutes

WVAD Board Meeting Held at Ramada Inn Charleston Downtown, Suite 3, 600 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, WV, August 4, 2011

The West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc. (WVAD), operated by, of, for the Deaf Community, advocates, and promotes to improve the quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing individuals including but not limited to deaf-blind individuals, parents of deaf children, interpreters, late-deafened adults, and children of deaf adults.


Standing Committee Members Present: John Burdette.

Standing Committee Members Not Present: Caryn Keller.

Visitors Present: Doug Evans, Robyn Evans, Erin Fulton, Lois Devericks, James Ennis, Regina Ennis, Bill Cash, and Marty Blakely.

The regular meeting of WVAD was held in the in Suite 3 at Ramada Inn Charleston Downtown, on August 4, 2011. President Linda Phillips called the meeting to order at 9:45 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 that as of August 3, 2011, there is $3,282.88 in the checking account; $6,064.08 in the savings account; $14,516.46 in the Mingo County Fund; $7,377.95 in the WV AD Conference Fund; $753.00 in the Deaf Youth Program Fund; $12,003.63 in the Certificate of Deposit Accounts.

President Linda Phillips had no report to share for this meeting.

Vice-President Jimmy Harrison also had no report to share.

Secretary Liz Leisure reported that she gave a Policy and Advocacy Workshop in South Charleston Public Library on March 26, 2011, and again on June 4, 2011, in Martinsburg, West Virginia. She attended the Interpreter Task Force (ITF) meetings on March 28, 2011, in Nitro, April 6, April 20, May 9, May 25, and July 13, 2011, in Charleston, WV. The ITF has been working on the brochures for businesses, interpreters, and task forces and are ready for review and approval by the WVCDHH board before they can be printed and distributed.

On April 20, 2011, she (along with Marissa Sanders, Executive Director for the WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and John Burdette) met with Carol Nolte, Deputy State Fire Marshal, in Charleston, WV, to discuss fire alarms for deaf and hard of hearing people in WV. Ms. Nolte stated that their office works with many different groups to provide smoke alarms for low-income families, senior citizens, school systems, home health care, and etc. She has not looked into the fire alarms for deaf and hard of hearing people in WV. Ms. Nolte stated that their office works with many different groups to provide smoke alarms for low-income families, senior citizens, school systems, home health care, and etc. She has not looked into the fire alarms for deaf and hard of hearing people. She stated that she is sure that we can work out something to help. She provided us with some brochures, videotapes, information about the fire safety program, and a website link to the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants. On July 11, Marissa had a meeting with Deborah Lovely who is the Director of Division of Rehabilitation Services to discuss needs and concerns in the deaf community. When the need for smoke alarms was mentioned, Ms. Lovely said she would like to purchase them before September 30. Marissa is working on setting up a time to meet in the near future to discuss how we are going to do this.

Youth Program: Caryn Keller is in New Mexico this week and is not able to attend the meeting today. President Linda Phillips stated that Caryn does not want to run for Program Director this year but she would be happy to assist with the Youth Program and Deaf Pageant, if requested.

Deaf Driver Law Enforcement Officer Safety (DDLEOS): John Burdette, Chairperson, stated that he does not have any new information to give on this project. He reported that while he was in Virginia, a friend showed him a new deaf driver’s placard that was created by the Virginia Association of the Deaf. It is smaller than ours and on the back of their placard have many logos and icons. John is hoping some day, after we gave away our placards, we can create a new one.

Storage Committee: John Burdette, Chairperson, reported that he and (See Board Minutes on page 19)

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.
“In Memory of
Loved Ones”

David Norman Carlson

David Norman Carlson, 84, of Meadow Bridge, passed away Saturday, November 5, 2011.

Born June 25, 1927, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to the late Oscar and Mabel Woodbury Carlson.

David loved football, Boy Scouts, and wrestling. He graduated from the Wisconsin School of the Deaf, also a 1954 graduate of Gallaudet College in Washington DC. He taught and was a coach at the WV School for the Deaf, the South Dakota School for the Deaf, and the Maryland School for the Deaf.

He attended the Church of Christ in Springdale.

In addition to his parents, David was preceded in death by a brother, Orville Carlson.

Those left to cherish his memory include his loving wife, Bettie Carlson of Meadow Bridge; a sister, Greta Queen of Milwaukee, Wis.; a niece, Laurie Graebert of Milwaukee, Wis.; he is also survived by many of his wife’s family and a host of students and friends.

In keeping with his wishes he was cremated and there were no services.

Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.blueridgefuneralhome.com.

Blue Ridge Funeral Home, 5251 Robert C. Byrd Drive, Beckley was in charge of the arrangements.

Shirley Mager

Shirley Ann Pearl Magers, 77, of Robinson Creek, formerly of Dallas, WV, died Wednesday, September 21, 2011, at Pikeville Medical Center. She was born in Dallas, August 9, 1934, the daughter of the late Roy E. Kimmins and Wilda Tilton Kimmins. She was a homemaker and a member of the Dallas Presbyterian Church. She was a 1952 graduate of the WV School for the Deaf.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Bob Magers. She is survived by three daughters, Cindy (Mrs. Brian) Thomas, Barb (Mrs. Brian) Roberts and Donna (Mrs. Jim) Simmons, all of Robinson Creek; two brothers, Lloyd E. Kimmins (Mary Kay) of Valley Grove, WV, and Calvin E. Kimmins (Betty) of Dallas; one sister-in-law, Rose Mary Kimmins (Richard) of Elm Grove, WV; and four grandchildren, Robert Shawn Little (Deborah Hunt), Brianna Nicole Roberts, Hailee Brooke Simmons, and Ashley Jo Thomas.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, September 24, in the Kepner Funeral Home Chapel with Cindy Murphy officiating. Burial followed in Mount View Cemetery, Dallas, WV. Arrangements were under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home of Robinson Creek. Visitations were from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday in the Kepner Funeral Home Chapel, Dallas, WV. (See Obituaries on page 5)
“Lucy” (Scarff) Moreland

Nancy Lucetta “Lucy” Moreland, 45, of Capon Bridge, WV, died on Tuesday, October 25, 2011, at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, WV. Lucy was born on September 15, 1966, in Clarksburg, WV, a daughter of James and Evelyn Hawkins Scarff. She worked for Acosta and formerly at Wal-Mart, both in Winchester, VA. She enrolled WV School for the Deaf in 1973. She and her husband loved riding their motorcycle. Lucy married James D. “JD” Moreland, Jr. on July 15, 2000 in Capon Bridge, WV. Surviving with her husband are three daughters: Connie Conrad of Morgantown, WV; Ashley Moreland of Hagerstown, MD; Samantha Ashbury of Capon Bridge, WV; one son: Jamie Moreland of Augusta, WV; four brothers: James Scarff of Augusta, WV; David Scarff of Clarksburg, WV; Wayne Scarff of Sistersville, WV; Steve Scarff of Georgia; and grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Giffin Funeral Home in Capon Bridge, WV, on Saturday, October 29, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. Officiating was done by Rev. Michael Funkhouser and Rev. Jack Wardrope. Interment was at the Green Lane Cemetery in Delray, WV.

Family received friends at the funeral home on Friday, October 28, 2011, from 6-8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Moreland Family, c/o Giffin Funeral Home, P.O. Box 100, Capon Bridge, WV 26711. www.giffinfuneralhome.com.

Matt Allen Heater

Matt Allen Heater, 46, of Clarksburg, went to be with the Lord at 11:31 a.m., Thursday, November 10, 2011, at the United Hospital Center. He was born in Clarksburg, April 18, 1965, a son of Richard Lee and Patty Ann Heater Layfield of Clarksburg.

Also surviving are two brothers, Isaac Quinn and his wife Michelle, Leavenworth, KS, Richie L. Layfield, Jr., El Salvador; one sister, Tracie Yates and her husband Troy, Lambert’s Run; five nieces, one nephew, and several aunts and uncles.

He was also preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Offie and Nelly Bunnell Heater, paternal grandparents, Coy and Mable Hawkins, one brother, Charles Quinn in infancy, one aunt, Linda Riley, and one uncle, Russell Heater.

Matt graduated from the WV School for the Deaf in 1984. He loved to attend the Judson Baptist Camp every summer and make crafts and give them away. He enjoyed his books on log cabins, trains, and trailers and loved Coca-Cola memorabilia. He attended the Gypsy Community Church.

Friends visited the Perine Funeral Home, Rt. 19 South, Shinnston, from 3-9 p.m., Monday where funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Tuesday, November 15, with Pastor Jeff Perine officiating. Interment was at the Shinnston Masonic Cemetery. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home was honored to serve the Heater/Layfield family.

William D. Martin, Sr.

William D. Martin, Sr., 84, of Rittman died Saturday, August 13, 2011, at his residence. He was born February 14, 1927, in Preston County, WV to Fuller C. and Laura A. (Nine) Martin and lived in the Creston-Rittman area since 1983.

He enrolled WV School for the Deaf and Blind in 1933. He was a tire builder at the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company for 36 years until retiring in 1981.

William enjoyed his family, animals, and was an avid sports lover. He attended the Akron Baptist Temple where he drove van for the deaf. He was a member of the Akron Club for the Deaf where he was president from 1977-1983. His wife, Arbelle M. Martin, died in 1983. His parents, seven sisters, and four brothers, died previously.

Surviving are his children, William D. Martin, Jr. of Cuyahoga Falls, Gloria Jean Perdue of Cambridge, and Brenda (Glenn) Moyer of Rittman; 12 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren; 6 great-great grandchildren; a sister, Katherine Christman of Morgantown, WV.

Memorial service were held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, August 19, at the Life Tabernacle, 9878 Krabill Rd, Rittman with Pastor Tim Jensen officiating. There were no calling hours. Following cremation, burial of the remains will be at Greenwood Cemetery in Mogadore. Gillman Funeral Home in Rittman handled the arrangements. For online register book, obituary, condolences, visit www.gillmanfuneralhome.com.

Wilbur L. Johnson

Wilbur L. Johnson, 99, of Keyser, WV, formerly of Headsville and Capon Bridge, WV, died Monday, October 17, 2011, at the Heartland of Keyser Nursing Home. Born on June 7, 1912, at Mount Nebo, WV, he was a son of the late James H. and Margaret E. (Hughes) Johnson.

On January 20, 1938, in the Beaver Run Church of the Brethren, he married the former Olive Geneva Shillingburg. She died on January 14, 2001. He also was preceded in death by a grandson, five brothers, and two sisters. Mr. Johnson was the last surviving member of his immediate family. Mr. Johnson was retired from the O’Sullivan Rubber Company.
Mildred M. (Sapp) Snyder

Mildred M. (Sapp) Snyder, 78, of Brunswick, passed away on October 8, 2011. She was born June 8, 1933, in Moundsville, WV to Hugh and Grace (Allison) Sapp. Mildred was a member of the Cleveland Association of the Deaf.

She graduated from the WV School for the Deaf in Romney, WV in 1955. She worked for the government as a file clerk, loved her family and her cat Dash. She leaves behind her loving husband, Terrill; children: Orren (Stephanie), Terri, Jonathan (Janet), and Roderick (Karen); grandchildren: Aaron, Ashley, Brandon, Shanna, Brianne, Tyler, and nine siblings.

She was preceded in death by her parents and five siblings. Friends joined the family for visitation on Thursday, October 13, 2011, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Carlson Funeral Homes and Cremation Services, 1642 Pearl Road, Brunswick. Funeral services were held on Friday, October 14, 2011, at 10 a.m., at the funeral home. Interment followed at Eastlawn Memory Gardens, Keyser.

Interesting Facts
1. If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. For when a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.
2. Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.
3. Your tongue is germ free only if it is pink. If it is white there is a thin film of bacteria on it.
4. The Titanic was the first ship to use the SOS signal.
5. The pupil of the eye expands as much as 45 percent when a person looks at something pleasing.
6. Dalmatians are born without spots.
7. Bats always turn left when exiting a cave.
8. Men’s shirts have the buttons on the right, but women’s shirts have the buttons on the left.
9. The owl is the only bird to drop its upper eyelid to wink. All other birds raise their lower eyelids.
10. The color blue has a calming effect.
11. Every time you sneeze some of your brain cells die.
12. Orren (Stephanie), Terri, Jonathan (Janet), and Roderick (Karen); grandchildren: Aaron, Ashley, Brandon, Shanna, Brianne, Tyler, and nine siblings.
13. The verb “cleave” is the only English word with two synonyms which are antonyms of each other: adhere and separate.
14. When you blush, the lining of your stomach also turns red.
15. When hippos are upset, their sweat turns red.
16. Google is actually the common name for a number with a million zeros.
17. The attachment of the human skin to muscles is what causes dimples.
18. There are 1,792 steps to the top of the Eiffel Tower.
19. The sound you hear when you crack your knuckles is actually the sound of nitrogen gas bubbles bursting.
20. Human hair and fingernails continue to grow after death.
21. It takes about 20 seconds for a red blood cell to circle the whole body.
22. Most soccer players run 7 miles in a game.
23. The only two animals that can see behind itself without turning its head are the rabbit and the parrot.
24. Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
25. The human heart creates enough pressure while pumping to squirt blood 30 feet!

(See http://www.hemmy.net/2006/04/30/50-interesting-facts/ for more interesting facts.)
Charleston Association of the Deaf

Happy New Year Social
Saturday, December 31, 2011
St. Albans City Hall
St. Albans, WV

$2,000 Door Prize Giveaway
( Depends Upon Attendance )

Chance to Win
Cash Prizes
10 tickets for $5.00 or 30 tickets for $10.00

$30.00 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 (limit 2) for door prize.
( No chips, ice bags, pop )

Handicap Access

Door Opens at 3:00 p.m. – Midnight
Dinner Starts at 5:30 p.m.
Prizes - 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

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 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 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: Jimmy Harrison, President
(304) 964-6025 VP or E-mail: JHarrison5@aol.com

Menu
Ham, Turkey, Corn, Green Beans, Rolls, Mashed Potatoes, and More
In November, WVCDHH moved across the hall in Building 6 into temporary work space. They are doing construction in our old space and another office is moving in, so we had to move before our new office space was ready.

Sometime in December we will be moving to new space in Downtown Charleston, but we don’t know the exact date yet. We will post the date of our final move on our website as soon as it’s available. Our new office address will be:

405 Capitol St., Suite 800
Charleston, WV  25301

*Note: Marissa’s email address has changed and is now Marissa.J.Sanders@wv.gov (emails to the old address will still work).

All of our other contact information will remain the same. Please feel free to contact us anytime at the information below.

Marissa Sanders
Email: Marissa.J.Sanders@wv.gov
AIM: edWVCDHH
Phone: 304-558-1031
VP: 304-553-7384

Kari Preslar
Email: Kari.J.Preslar@wv.gov
AIM: secWVCDHH
Phone: 304-558-1675

WVCDHH is an office within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
Across

1. President
2. Observe
3. Discuss
4. "And ____ shall reign over the house of Jacob..."
5. Flock watchers
6. Satisfy
7. "The great I ____"
8. Mary's resting place
9. Mother of Jesus
10. "____ and search diligently for the young child"
11. Jesus is the ____ of God
12. The baby
13. "...and shall be called the Son ____ of the Highest:"
14. Destitute
15. "...and laid Him ____ a manger"
16. Bearded bunny
17. "And she brought her first born ____ ."

18. "...and ____ earth peace, good will towards men."
19. Wiseman gift
20. "And ____ ____ him with all the heart" (two words)
21. "...what have we to ____ with thee, thou Jesus, "
22. What the wisemen brought
23. Stepfather
24. Either
25. More accurate
26. "And all went to be ____ , everyone into his own city."
27. "For unto you ____ born this day"
28. "No room here"
29. Consume
30. Singing Cherubs
31. Present decorations
32. "For unto you is born, this ____ in the city..."
33. "Pro"
34. Way to win in boxing

Down

1. Jump
2. Birth city
3. Shepherds flock
4. The Holiday we observe
5. Brand of sugar
6. Mr. McMahon
7. "Hee shall be born of Mary, ____ Jerusalem..."
8. Baby's bed
9. Northwestern state
10. Hisses
11. Mid day
12. Happiness
13. What the angels did
14. "____ la la la la la la la"
15. Jehovah
16. Redeemer
17. "His name was called Jesus, ____ which was ____ named of the ange"
18. Illumination
19. "and it came ____ pass..."
20. "...and ____ , the star which they saw in the east..."
21. "When ____ his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph,"
22. "Master what shall ____ do?"
23. Sly canine
24. Decorated pine
25. "...behold, there came ____ men from the east."
26. Not Gentiles
27. Parable of the ____ tree
28. Mary's transportation
29. Father
30. Broadcast TV network
31. Christmas carol
32. Instructor's helper
33. Inquire

(See answers on page 19)
In the News

Schools for Deaf and Blind to Develop Proposal


CHARLESTON, WV – The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind have received the go-ahead to develop a 10-year comprehensive plan for their aging facilities and instructional methods.

After an audit by the state Office of Education Performance Audits in 2010 at the Romney campus, multiple problems were identified with the school’s administration, facilities and instructional practices. At one point, 26 students staged a sit-in to protest conditions.

Superintendent Patsy Shank stepped down in March and was replaced by Lynn Boyer.

On Tuesday, Boyer told state school board members of plans to hire an architectural firm to begin developing the school’s Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan.

Shank stayed on at the school as its director of finance and has worked with Boyer in identifying needs and finding a firm.

At Tuesday’s meeting, board members approved a contract with Charleston-based ZMM Architectural Firm for $185,000.

Boyer said the cost is higher than her initial estimate because she did not take into account the fact that most of the original blueprints for the school’s 18 buildings are outdated.

“We were not aware of the need of all of the drawings and surveys of the buildings; it is much more extensive than we anticipated,” Boyer said.

ZMM subcontracts to John Dickinson, a certified architect from New York who is deaf himself and specializes in architecture suited to deaf and blind students.

Boyer expects the plan will be ready one year from now. She said it would bring more technology to her campus, as well as better ways for students to maneuver through buildings.

She would also like to see more instructional opportunities for older students, like community college classes and work experience.

Since she took her post in July, Boyer has implemented weekend programs that help blind students practice walking with canes. Another weekend program helps deaf students learn to drive.

“We want to do more things that will bring students to our campus so that it becomes demystified and is a place with services and educational options students need, or may not even know they need,” Boyer said.

The school has 125 students and Boyer said she is trying to recruit more.

About 20 students were relocated at the end of the last school year because they did not meet criteria set forth by the state Legislature to qualify for the school.

Vocational education programs and residential outreach programs also are planned.

Boyer also has volunteered to work with the state school board’s committee on year-round schooling. Now referred to as a “balanced calendar,” year-round schooling offers the same number of instructional days, but the days are distributed differently than those on the traditional calendar.

Proponents of the balanced calendar believe a shorter summer break causes students to forget less of what they learned in the previous school year.

This is particularly important for Boyer’s students, many of who are learning American Sign Language or Braille for the first time, she said.

“To watch these students be in these classes with teachers who are using ASL, you come to know quickly how important it is to be in that environment and to be in that constant communication mode,” Boyer said.

Contact writer Amber Marra at amber.ma...@dailymail.com or 304-348-4843.

WV Schools for Deaf, Blind Plan Improvements


CHARLESTON (AP) – Officials at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind want to improve its aging facilities and expand educational opportunities.

The state Board of Education on Tuesday approved a $185,000 contract with an architectural firm to begin developing a 10-year plan for the school’s facilities, the Charleston Daily Mail reported.

School officials also plan to establish vocational education and residential outreach programs.

Superintendent Lynn Boyer told the board that she wants to increase educational opportunities and boost enrollment. The Romney school has 125 students.

Last year, the state Office of Education Performance Audits cited the school for deficiencies in leadership, curriculum, safety, and technology. Former Superintendent Patsy Shank stepped down in March and is now the school’s director of finance.

Boyer who replaced Shank in July has implemented weekend programs that help deaf students learn to drive and help blind students practice walking with canes.

“We want to do more things that will bring students to our campus so that it becomes demystified and is a place with services and educational options students need, or may not even know they need,” she said.

The facilities plan, which is expected to be completed in a year, will increase technology at the school and provide better ways for students to maneuver through buildings, she said.

Boyer also will work with the state school board’s committee on year-round schooling.

“To watch these students be in these classes with teachers who are using American Sign Language, you come to know quickly how important it is to be in that environment and to be in that constant communication mode,” she said.

(See News on page 11)
Hearing Impaired Student’s Case Sent to Mediator
The Charleston Gazette, Wednesday, November 9, 2011, by Zac Taylor

CHARLESTON, WV – The parents of a hearing impaired Capital High School student agreed Wednesday to let a mediator help settle a vitriolic dispute about where the teen should attend school, a move that may keep the battle out of a courtroom.

Regina M. Pine, the mother of Ariel Depp, 16, filed a petition in August demanding that school officials allow her daughter to attend nearby South Charleston High School, and alleged that an interpreter at Capital had repeatedly verbally abused the girl.

School officials had balked at previous requests to transfer Depp to South Charleston. Capital is the only high school in the county equipped to teach deaf children.

On Wednesday, during an injunction hearing, Kanawha County Circuit Judge Charles E. King suggested that the two parties allow an impartial mediator to help settle the dispute. Pine said she was having difficulties finding a lawyer to take her case.

Depp has been attending school at home for the past several months. Pine briefly faced truancy charges for removing her daughter from Capital, but the charges were dropped after she filed the proper home schooling paperwork.

“Home school is going awesome for my daughter,” Pine told the judge Wednesday. “But I’d prefer to have her in South Charleston.”

As part of the school district’s “cluster program,” Kanawha County’s 71 hearing impaired children must attend three different schools based on their grade levels, said Kanawha County special education director Sandy Boggs.

In her petition, filed in August, Pine alleged that a sign language interpreter had belittled and patronized her daughter on several occasions, including an incident in 2009 when the interpreter told Depp that she “was pulling dramatic overkill” after suffering a basketball injury.

The interpreter allegedly refused to provide the girl with a wheelchair despite a doctor’s order for her to stay off her feet until she could have surgery, the petition alleges.

Pine and Depp complained to school officials about other incidents of harassment and had a meeting with the high school’s assistant principals.

The principals allegedly forced Depp to use the interpreter during the meeting, who told her, “You are trying to make me look bad in front of the principals” and “You are trying to get me fired,” according to the petition.

Capital High School Principal Clinton H. Giles has previously told the Gazette that the meeting never happened, and that he had never heard the name Regina Pine. Giles strongly denied the allegations against the interpreter, and lauded him as an excellent teacher who holds students to a high standard.

Kanawha County Superintendent Ron Duerring did not respond to a phone call Wednesday seeking comment.

Pine reaffirmed the harassment allegations to reporters after Wednesday’s hearing, and said that other hearing impaired students have also been abused.

“I’m tired of it,” Pine said. “So are a lot of parents. I’m not the only one.”

Depp said that along with the alleged harassment, she had to spend upwards of three hours a day traveling by bus to and from Capital. The school district distributes a number of buses across the county, which only pick up the county’s hearing impaired students and drive them to Shoals, Stonewall Jackson, or Capital.

Pine said that if mediation does not provide a favorable result, then she would move Depp out of the state.

“What gets me is that all of our complaints are falling on deaf ears,” said Pine, who along with Depp’s father is also hearing impaired. “And we’re the deaf ones.”

Reach Zac Taylor at ZachTay@wvgazette.com or 304-348-5189.

(EDITOR’S NOTE: This is the continuation of the story from the Fall 2011 story on page 8, “Deaf Student’s Request for Interpreter Denied.”)
Senior in schools, says Brenda Schick, a professional interpreter, but allowed states to adopt standards for interpreters.

Which is why she terms the art as “its own language.”

“Many people just think it’s just English in sign form,” she said.

“But it’s its own language with its own syntax. It really is like learning a foreign language.”

Among goals of her agency for the 2012 legislative session is to offer sign language as a foreign language, offering credits at the college level.

Sanders also plugged a “bill of rights” for such students, the idea being to put them on equal footing for those with normal hearing.

“The bill of rights would hopefully improve the access to communication and education and services,” she said.

This would be fashioned after the one developed in 2005 by the National Association of the Deaf.

Sanders also wants legislators to consider reclassifying interpreters as “other professional employees.”

States requiring the EIPA have given interpreters a grace period to pass the test. But as that waiver expires, shortages of state-qualified interpreters have developed.

For example, New Mexico requires a score of 4.0, but because of a serious shortage of interpreters, the state is giving interpreters a grace period to improve their scores, said Ronald Stern, the Board President for the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf.

On the EIPA scale, 3.0 is intermediate, 4.0 is advanced intermediate, and 5.0 is advanced, Stern said.

Jeanne Prickett, the superintendent of the Iowa School for the Deaf, says many interpreters in Iowa didn’t pass the EIPA between the inception of the state requirement in 2005 and its full implementation July 1.

According to the Iowa Department of Education, of the 3,000 EIPA tests given in the past 6½ years, about 38% of interpreters have received a passing score of 3.5 out of 5.

“An individual who has passed with a 3.5 can convey about 80% of the classroom content to the child,” Prickett said. “It’s the individual student whose education may be compromised by less-than-qualified professionals.”

Carney says Nebraska also has a shortage of interpreters. “It is a national trend, particularly in rural areas. It’s often hard to find someone who is qualified,” she says.

Some states, such as New York, Washington, and Arizona, do not yet have set interpreter tests for schools, Schick says.

Schick says some schools are still unaware of why they need highly qualified interpreters.

“Schools are so pressed money-wise, and they are trying to cut costs. I am sympathetic for what these schools go through … But without a qualified interpreter, (deaf students) are just sitting in a seat.”

Big Reds’ Lewis Uses Deafness to Advantage

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel, October 7, 2011, by Dave Poe, dpoe@newsandsentinel.com

PARKERSBURG – He’s the most popular male at the state’s largest high school, as evidenced by his recent selection as Parkersburg High School’s Homecoming king.

He’s a hometown football hero with a knack of coming up with the big play when the Big Reds need it most.

Yet, senior Josh Lewis doesn’t always hear the cheers for him over his most recent accomplishment. He is deaf.

That’s why on a rare occasion when the action on the field has been whistled dead, Lewis keeps going. He can’t hear the whistle.

But don’t go feeling sorry for him. Lewis not only gets along fine, both on the field and in the classroom, but he also says he uses his deafness to his advantage.

It’s been said those who don’t have one sense often compensate by developing the others. That’s what Lewis has done.

In a power-point presentation, she noted that school nurses and interpreters may have earned bachelor degrees and have seven years of experience.

But there’s a disparity in pay — the nurse earns $33,950, while the interpreter pockets less than $25,000.

Sanders also asked the committee members to consider improved access to substitute interpreters and to technology, including the use of video phones for deaf students, or those with hearing impaired parents.
Josh Lewis was voted the Parkersburg High School Homecoming king by his fellow students. Selected as the queen was Ketelyn Weiford. (Photo by Jeff Baughan)

Although he can’t hear the snap count, when he is playing defense or defending a punt, he concentrates intently on the hands of the opposing center. The very instant he sees those hands move, he takes off.

Does it work? Does it ever.

Lewis is the Big Reds’ leading tackler. He’s been credited with 18 solo stops and 38 assists. His total of 56 tackles is 14 more than any of his teammates and is double every other player but two.

“Josh is one of the most athletic guys on the team,” said head coach Don Reeves. “Being hearing impaired doesn’t affect his game. He goes 100 percent on every play.”

Lewis has two blocked punts, three fumble recoveries, five tackles for loss, and one quarterback sack.

“We put him at outside linebacker to take advantage of his great speed,” said Reeves. “He has a knack for blocking punts and getting to the football.”

Lewis’ mother found out her son was hard of hearing when he was just 3 years old. He was fitted with hearing aids, devices he still wears today, although they have gotten much smaller and more efficient.

“I am proud to be deaf,” Lewis said. “I like to show everybody I can play despite my deafness. I put my heart into it. I love this football team. Big Red football is about pride.”

Lewis knows only one way to play the game – all out. He gives 100 percent on virtually every play. On the very rare occasion when that doesn’t happen, Lewis becomes his own critic. He refuses to accept anything from himself other than a maximum effort.

Lewis, who grew up playing defensive end until Reeves and the Big Red defensive staff made him an outside linebacker, carries a 3.3 grade point average in the classroom. He has the use of an interpreter, he sits in the front of the room, and he has become quite proficient at reading lips.

He wants to continue his studies – and his football career – in the collegiate ranks. He already has heard from Gallaudet University, a school for the deaf and hard of hearing, located in Washington, DC. He hopes that his play this season will lead to other offers.

Every athletic team has an inspirational figure, someone who all the players admire for their courage, their determination, and their ability to succeed in spite of overwhelming odds.

There’s no doubt who fills that role at Parkersburg High School – Homecoming King Josh Lewis.
Happy Holidays from Mountwest ASL Student Association!
Fair Shake Network
Training and Disability Advocacy Day

Twenty Years of Legislative Advocacy: Power in Unity
Workshops: (1) Legislative Process (Advanced and Beginners),
(2) Voting Rights & Responsibilities, and (3) Developing Leadership Skills
Tuesday, January 17, 2012, 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Charleston Civic Center
200 Civic Center Drive
Charleston WV  25314

Disability Advocacy Day at the State Capitol
Visit Displays/Exhibits and Legislators, Attend Floor Sessions/
Proclamations Read in Both House and Senate, etc.
Wednesday, January 18, 2012, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Stipend funds are being made available to people with developmental disabilities and their family members through a grant from the WV Developmental Disabilities Council.

Stipends funds are also available to people with other disabilities and their family members through grants from the Appalachian Community Fund and the Southern Partners Fund.

For more information, please see www.fairshake.org/images/LEG_TRAININGDADE_registration_2012_FINAL.doc.

For the safety and comfort of those with chemical and environmental illnesses and sensitivities, please refrain from using any perfumed grooming products such scented soaps and deodorants, perfumes, and colognes and smoke only in designated areas.
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WVAD Quarter News, Winter 2011 17
Greenbrier Valley Association of the Deaf
Announcement

GVAD will have an annual Ramp Dinner on April 2012. More information to follow later in next Spring issue.

FAMILY PHOTOS

Proud Jimmy Harrison and his 9-point buck that he bagged in Mason County, West Virginia, on December 2, 2011.

The Charleston Association of the Deaf had their deaf picnic on September 3, 2011. Joshua Simmons, son of Jeff and Julie Simmons, was the pie contest winner. He had to find four grapes inside the pie! He is a student at the West Virginia School for the Deaf.
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 5, 2012, in Charleston, WV. The site opens at 7:00 a.m. for registration at the Capitol Complex Kanawha Blvd, Charleston, WV. The walk/run will begin at 9:00 a.m.

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/) for more information.

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

Missy Barie, for the 3rd year, will be gathering up friends to continue the tradition of Deaf Pink Warriors team!

Missy is planning a team social dinner which will be held on May 4th. 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.

(Answers to Fun Page on page 9)

Jimmy Harrison went through the storage and found many calendars, pictures, and books that need to be scanned or filed in archives. He would like to recruit older WVAD members to go through the boxes with him to decide what to keep and not to keep. If anyone is interested in helping with this should get in touch with him.

100th WVAD Anniversary Committee: Jimmy Harrison, Chairperson, reported that the planning for the anniversary has not been started yet. He is looking for members to help him with the planning and organizing the anniversary.

38th Biennial Conference Committee: Jimmy Harrison, Chairperson, made some announcements on the conference schedule for Friday and Saturday. Veronda Harrison reported that to date, we have a total of 81 registrants for the conference. The total included the performer, exhibitors, and speakers.

Under the unfinished business, Veronda Harrison checked online for the costs of table skirts. She found that the table skirts are very expensive. She will keep looking until she can find a reasonable price.

The motion for a 15-minute recess starting at 10:55 a.m. was adopted.

New Business: Jimmy Harrison moved that we give away $500.00 for WVAD Feud game ($300 for first place and $200.00 for second place). The motion passed.

There being no further business, by general consent the President adjourned the board meeting at 12:08 p.m.
Sweet and Sour Meatballs
(Preheat oven to 325 °F)

1 lb hamburger
2 eggs (beaten)
2 Tbsp parsley
1 jar apricot preserves
Salt and pepper

1 lb ground chuck
1/2 cup chopped onions
1 pkg Wheatsworth crackers (crushed)
1 bottle of Kraft hickory smoked BBQ sauce

Mix and form meatballs. Brown in buttered skillet. Also mix 3/4 jar of apricot preserves and 1 bottle of BBQ sauce in a bowl. Pour mixture over browned meatballs in baking dish. Bake at 325 °F until bubbly. You can also put this in a crockpot if desired and let it cook slow for a while. (EDITOR’S NOTE: Wheatsworth crackers are found where the Saltine crackers are located.)

Awesome Broccoli-Cheese Casserole
(Preheat oven to 350 °F (175 °C))

1 (10.75 oz) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
2 eggs, beaten
2 Tbsp chopped onions
2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
1 dash of paprika (optional)

1 cup Hellman’s regular mayonnaise (not Miracle Whip)
1 cup melted margarine
2 (12 oz) pkg frozen chopped broccoli
Salt and pepper to taste
1 small bag of Pepperidge Farm (herb seasoned) stuffing

Butter a 9x13 inch baking dish. In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together condensed soup, mayonnaise, eggs, and onions. Mix frozen broccoli, soup, mayonnaise, beaten eggs, melted margarine, onions, shredded cheese together and mix well. Spread mixture into baking dish and smooth top of casserole. Season with salt, pepper, and paprika. Top with dry Pepperidge Farm stuffing. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour. (EDITOR’S NOTE: This sounds awful but it is very delicious!)

Hawaiian Wedding Cake

1 box yellow cake mix
1 pkg (8 oz) Philadelphia cream cheese
1 can crushed pineapple (drained)
1 bag coconut (optional)
1 jar of maraschino cherries (optional)

1 large pkg vanilla instant pudding
2 cups cold milk
1 large tub cool whip
Walnut halves or grated walnut for garnish

Prepare cake mix as directed on the box and bake in oven. Mix together pudding mix, cream cheese, and milk. Beat until thick. Pour over cooled cake. Mix pineapple and cool whip together and put on top of pudding. Sprinkle some coconut and fine ground walnuts on top. Garnish with cherries.
1. **How long have you worked for the WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) and what do you do?** I have worked at WVCDHH since May 2009.

2. **What motivated you to be involved with the deaf community?** When I was in first grade, someone came to my school and taught us some signs (ABCs, etc.) and I always wanted to learn more. Finally in college I got into an ASL class and really loved the language and the culture. I majored in Deaf Education, but then got more involved with advocacy and decided not to teach.

3. **Where are you originally from?** St. Paul, Minnesota.

4. **What can you share about your family?** I have one brother who is almost 10 years younger than me. My mom, brother, dad, and step-mom all live in Minnesota. My husband grew up in Boone County, WV. We have a dog and a cat.

5. **What accomplishments are you most proud of?** In 2005, I was hired to develop and facilitate a leadership conference for West Virginia youth with disabilities in Charleston. As a result of that conference, the youth wrote a bill that requires K-12 schools to teach students about the history of the disability rights movement (including deaf history), and they got the bill passed. West Virginia was the first state in the country to have this type of law and now 20 or more states are working on similar laws.

6. **What is your secret ambition?** I have always wanted to write some children's books.

7. **What person has been the biggest influence on your life?** There are A LOT of people who have been a big influence on me! If I had to pick one, it would probably be Justin Dart, Jr. or his wife, Yoshiko.

8. **Where is your favorite vacation spot?** I love lakes and “North Woods” spots…especially camping and canoeing.

9. **Where is the farthest place from home you’ve been?** When I was 3 my parents took me to Haiti to visit my aunt and uncle who lived there at the time.

10. **Name three things you can’t do without.** My cell phone, my computer, and my cat.

11. **What person, real or fictional, would you most like to meet?** Harriet Tubman or Martin Luther King, Jr.

12. **What movie could you see any time?** *The Princess Bride.*

13. **What is your all-time favorite TV show?** *Little House on the Prairie.*

14. **Name three things always found in your kitchen.** Cold water, snacks, and candy-making supplies.

15. **What would you do with a million dollars?** Buy a house, adopt a child, then set up a foundation to help people in need.

16. **What is an interesting, but little known fact about you?** I met President George W. Bush and former President Bill Clinton on the same day – July 26, 2002, the 12th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the day of Justin Dart, Jr’s memorial service.

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*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!

John Burdette

Jimmy Harrison

Jackie Sherrill-Robinson

Worthy Devericks

Doug Casto

Veronda Harrison

Liz Leisure

Tami Deem
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Name ____________________________  □ New  □ Renewal
Spouse’s Name ____________________________  □ New  □ Renewal
Address __________________________________________

City ____________________________  State _______  Zip _______
Phone ____________________________  □ TTY  □ Voice  □ Both
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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