



Volume 38, No. 1

Winter 2017

## 5th Annual WVAD Christmas Party by Tamera Deem

WVAD held its fifth annual Christmas party at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Clarksburg, WV, on December 10, 2016. The party was a success and everyone had a good time, meeting old and new friends, catching up on news and reminiscing memories that brought joy to their faces.

Ninety-one (91) people came from far and near. The weather was great which was a blessing so that everyone could get home safe, without worrying about the snow.

The main dishes were provided by WVAD, which consisted of ham, chicken breast, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green beans, corn, yams, rolls, etc., plus covered dishes and desserts that people brought to complete our meal. Veronda Harrison, being the chef, and several volunteers were a big help in the kitchen and they cooked a wonderful meal for us. We also want to thank those who brought covered dishes. It was very much appreciated.

Thanks to those who pitched in, in the kitchen and helped with the clean up

after the party and also we want to thank Robert Stewart for making reservations at the VFW for us earlier in the year.

There were prizes that included \$900 in cash giveaways from admission, \$400 cash giveaways from the cash prize, a 40-inch Smart TV, Samsung tablet, gas smoker, blu ray DVD player with streaming capability, and ASL wall clock.

We want to emphasize that the attendees are the ones who makes the party a success for us and want to thank you for coming to our Christmas party. We look forward to seeing everyone again at our next Christmas party.

The WVAD Board wants to wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year! 🍀



*L-R: Board members Larry Hubbard, Donna Williams, Veronda Harrison, and John Burdette at the admission table.*

(See more photos on page 3)

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## 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 (January, April, July, October). 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

Welcome to our Winter newsletter!

I hope you had a fantastic holiday with your family and friends this past Thanksgiving and Christmas!

WVAD held its fifth Christmas party at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Clarksburg, WV, on December 10, 2016. The party was a success with 91 people in attendance. We also want to thank everyone who helped with little chores and made the party a success! It was very much appreciated.

A friendly reminder, If you haven't registered to renew your Kroger's rewards card, you would need to go in the Kroger's website and choose West Virginia Association of the Deaf again and every year after that in the month of September. This is a program where our organization receives 0.5% donation from Kroger every time you purchase groceries in any of their stores using your rewards card at no additional cost to you!

For those who had attended and participated in WVAD's 40th Biennial Conference and 100th Anniversary Celebration at Snowshoe Resort, Snowshoe, WV, WVAD is selling 40th Biennial Conference group photo (see page 8 for order form). Proceeds will go towards the WVAD organization. If anyone is interested in purchasing photos, please see one of the Board members. For debit/credit card

purchases, please contact Veronda Harrison (Treasurer) at 304-964-6025 Videophone or e-mail at [verapple.com](mailto:verapple.com).

Please save the date August 3-5, 2017, to attend the WVAD Biennial Conference at Glade Springs Resort nearby Beckley, WV. Our conference theme is "Collaborating Leads to Creating Connections Together!" Please see the registration combo form on page 4, along with lodging information on page 7. It is also posted on the WVAD website. We hope you will attend our conference!

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

- WVAD Education/LEAD-K Committee has been busy trying to create WV's LEAD-K bill to have it submitted into 2017 WV Legislature Session. Stay tuned from the WV LEAD-K Committee.
- West Virginia Deaf Awareness Day at the Capitol, in partnership by WVCDHH and WVAD, will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. See page 20 for flyer and directions.

A quick reminder for those who have not paid for expired membership (see page 23 for membership form), please send the form and payment to our Membership Coordinator, Larry Hubbard. WVAD accepts debit and

credit cards for membership fees, etc. We are currently accepting Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. If you are not a member of WVAD, please join. If you have any questions about membership, please contact Larry Hubbard, Membership Coordinator. Your support and dues help keep WVAD going. This would be a good way to give someone a membership as a gift.

In closing, please check the WVAD website ([www.wvad.org](http://www.wvad.org)) or WV Association of the Deaf page on Facebook for any information about WVAD.

On behalf of the WVAD Board, we wish you all a Happy New Year 2017!

Warmly,

*John W. Burdette*

WVAD President



WVAD Quarter News, Winter 2017



(WVAD Christmas Party from page 1)







“COLLABORATING LEADS TO CREATING  
CONNECTIONS TOGETHER!”



**WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF**  
**41st Biennial Conference**  
**Glade Springs Resort ~ Daniels, WV**  
**August 3-5, 2017**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:**

**Registration Rates:**

- Full combo includes registration, workshops, business meeting, Friday night social, and Saturday banquet and entertainment.
- WVAD membership is NOT included in the combo registration fee. Each WVAD member will be responsible for their own membership renewal when it's due. It may be renewed at the conference if desired.

**Accessibility Request:** Accessibility requests must be received no later than June 30, 2017. Please contact Jimmy Harrison at JHarrison5@aol.com or Veronda Harrison at Verapple@aol.com.

**Cancellation Policy:** We will refund the combo except registration fee if there is death in the family or health reasons (written documentation is required from the doctor).

**Chairperson:** John Burdette, jwburdette90@gmail.com

**Co-Chairperson:** TBD

**Advertising Chairperson:** Tamera Deem, extraordinary45@comcast.net

**Exhibition Chairperson:** TBD

**Desktop Publishing Coordinator/Editor:** Tamera Deem, extraordinary45@comcast.net

- You may make arrangements with Veronda Harrison (VP # 304-964-6025 or e-mail Verapple@aol.com) to make payments.

**HOTEL INFORMATION:**

Glade Springs Resort  
255 Resort Drive  
Daniels, WV 25832

**For Reservations:**

Telephone No.: 877-814-7316

**Group Code: WVAD**

\* (Group Code Applies to ALL Rooms; Cut Off Date is June 30, 2017)

- Prices are \$99.00 + taxes and fees (\$121.37/night) for ALL lodging unit types per bedroom (The Inn, Executive Suites, Manor Houses, etc.). For handicap accessibility rooms, the rooms are at the Inn. People can share and split the cost of a room.
- FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LODGING, see page 4 or see <http://www.gladesprings.com/west-virginia-lodging.php>.
- Rotunda breakfast buffet (inside the Inn hotel) is \$10.00 + tax and gratuity. Must identify that you are with WVAD.

**NOTE:** WiFi is available in all rooms, conference rooms, lobby, and restaurants.



## INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION

(Please print clearly. One form per person. You can make a copy for second person. Make personal check or money order payable to WVAD and write **"CONFERENCE"** on check memo line. Mail to Veronda Harrison, WVAD Treasurer, 5 Cordoba Drive, Hurricane, WV 25526.)

First Name, Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Member (☐ New; ☐ Current) ☐ Non-Member

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Video Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (Text) No.: \_\_\_\_\_

E mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Or complete the credit card information below:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover Card

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Account No.: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVS (Security Code Number on Back): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

AT DOOR RATES				
MEMBER, NON-MEMBER, OR STUDENT	REGISTRATION (WORKSHOP, EXHIBIT, AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY)	FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL	SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS, BANQUET, AND ENTERTAINMENT	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55.00	\$125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Member (Senior Citizen Age 55+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45.00	\$105.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00	\$140.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member (Senior Citizen Age 55+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00	\$115.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student*	<input type="checkbox"/> FREE	—	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00	\$40.00

MEMBER, NON-MEMBER, OR STUDENT	REGISTRATION ONLY	SATURDAY NIGHT — ENTERTAINMENT ONLY (DOES NOT INCLUDE BANQUET)	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Member (Senior Citizen Age 55+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member (Senior Citizen Age 55+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student*	<input type="checkbox"/> FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00

EARLY BIRD COMBO				
MEMBER, NON-MEMBER, OR STUDENT	1ST COMBO (1/1/16 – 12/31/16)	2ND COMBO (1/1/17 – 4/30/17)	3RD COMBO (5/1/17 – 7/15/17)	AT DOOR (7/16/17 – 8/3/17)
<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$95.00	\$105.00	\$115.00	\$125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Member (Senior Citizen Age 55+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85.00	\$85.00	\$95.00	\$105.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120.00	\$120.00	\$130.00	\$140.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member (Senior Citizen Age 55+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$95.00	\$105.00	\$115.00	\$125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student*	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00

\* Students must show proof of student status (valid student ID from high school or college required).

# DIRECTIONS TO GLADE SPRINGS RESORT, DANIELS, WV

The Resort at Glade Springs is located in Daniels, WV, with convenient access from I-64, I-77, and Route 19.

Martinsburg, WV (265 miles — 3 hours, 55 minutes)

Morgantown, WV (175 miles — 2 hours, 56 minutes)

Parkersburg, WV (147 miles — 2 hours, 18 minutes)

Huntington, WV (123 miles — 2 hours)

Baltimore, MD (341 miles — 5 hours, 15 minutes)

Pittsburgh, PA (247 miles — 4 hours, 7 minutes)

Romney, WV (219 miles — 4 hours, 17 minutes)

Clarksburg, WV (144 miles — 2 hours, 27 minutes)

Charleston, WV (71 miles — 1 hours, 11 minutes)

Beckley, WV (7 miles — 14 minutes)

Youngstown, OH (330 miles — 4 hours, 54 minutes)

Altoona, PA (314 miles — 4 hours, 58 minutes)

**\* Some routes require toll fees.**

For GPS / Navigation Systems: Address is 2400 Ritter Drive, Daniels, WV 25832.

Check out Google maps or <http://www.gladesprings.com/west-virginia-directions.php> for directions to Glade Springs Resort, Daniels, WV.





# LODGING INFORMATION FOR GLADE SPRINGS RESORT, WV

**ALL LODGING — CHECK IN: AFTER 4:00 P.M. / CHECK OUT: 11:00 A.M.**

**(Guests arriving prior to 4:00 p.m. will be accommodated as rooms become available.)**

**All Rooms per Bedroom are \$99.00/Night plus Taxes and Fees (\$121.37)**

**The Inn (\$121.37/night per Bedroom):** Handicap accessible. These traditional rooms and suites connect to the Conference Center and Rotunda restaurant. Each room sleeps up to four people, with two queen beds or one king bed and a sofa bed, and features granite bath surrounds. Suites feature a gas log fireplace, wet bar, and DVD player.

**Manor Houses (\$121.37/night per Bedroom):** Flexibility is the hallmark of the Manor Houses – you design the floor plan to sleep from four to twenty guests. The Manor Houses feature up to four bedrooms with two queen beds each, four baths, a spacious living area, and a fully-equipped kitchen.

**Chestnut Hill Lodges (\$121.37/night per Bedroom):** These contemporary, roomy lodges can sleep up to 32 people with a variety of bedrooms, sofa beds, and bunk rooms. These stand-alone cottage accommodations feature full kitchens, dining rooms, and living rooms with fireplaces.

**Oak Lane Villas (\$121.37/night per Bedroom):** These 3-bedroom units feature beautiful views of the fairways from spacious screened-in porches, fully equipped kitchens, and fireplaces. Each bedroom has an adjoining private bath. Oak Lane Villas sleep up to twelve people.

**Stone Manor (\$121.37/night per Bedroom):** The ultimate in luxury living, Stone Manor has more than 4,000 square feet of living space. This 4 bedroom, 3 bath, home sleeps up to nine people, and features a stone terrace with an outdoor grill, Jacuzzi, and surround-sound entertainment system.

## **TO RESERVE:**

Reservation Telephone No.: 877-814-7316

Times to Call to Reserve: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday, Closed

Group Code: WVAD (Applies to ALL Rooms; Cut Off Date is June 30, 2017)

## **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

1. **RESERVATION PROCEDURES:** Individual guests will be responsible for making their own reservations. Reservations may be made by calling (877) 814-7316 and ask for the West Virginia Association of the Deaf room block. This toll-free number is specific to WVAD group. A major credit card will be required upon reserving individual rooms and a seven (7) day cancellation period would apply, whereby an attendee cancelling their reservation within seven (7) days of arrival will be charged one night's lodging at the group rate.
2. **First night deposit is not required at time of reservation.**
3. The more people you share the room with, the cheaper it cost because you can split the cost of the room.
4. The conference and all WVAD events will be held in various rooms at The Inn hotel.
5. WiFi is available in all rooms, conference rooms, lobby, most restaurants, etc.
6. You can also bring food from home for the kitchen if you reserve a room with a kitchen. There are 4 restaurants on the Resort if you want to eat out or you can go to restaurants outside the Resort.
7. **FUN PASSES:** Individuals lodging through Glade Springs Resort will receive fun passes during their stay at Glade Springs. Fun pass activities include the following: 1 scavenger hunt per person, 1 geocaching card per person, 1 round of disc golf (includes scorecard and disc rental) per person, 1 complimentary game of bowling per person, 1 hour boat rental at Lake Mallard per person, and 1 bucket of driving range balls per person. A fun pass is awarded for each person staying in the room on the Resort. The fun pass is good for your entire stay at Glade Springs Resort.
8. For more information on activities, see <http://www.gladesprings.com/west-virginia-adventure-activities.php>.



**WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF**  
**40th Biennial Conference and 100th Anniversary Celebration**  
**Snowshoe Resort, WV**  
**August 6-9, 2015**



**GROUP PHOTO FOR SALE**

WVAD is selling 40th Biennial Conference group photo. Proceeds will go towards the WVAD organization. If anyone is interested in purchasing photos, please see one of the Board members. For credit card purchases, please contact Veronda Harrison (Treasurer) at 304-964-6025 Videophone or e-mail at [verapple@aol.com](mailto:verapple@aol.com).



**WVAD 40<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONFERENCE**  
**PHOTO ORDER FORM**

*Please print clearly. One form per person. You can make a copy for second person. Make personal check or money order payable to WVAD and write "CONFERENCE PHOTO" on check memo line. Mail to Veronda Harrison, WVAD Treasurer, 5 Cordoba Drive, Hurricane, WV 25526.*

First Name, Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Video Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (Text) No.: \_\_\_\_\_

E mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Or complete the credit card information below:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover Card

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Account No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVS (Security Code Number on Back): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	SHIPPING AND HANDLING—\$5.00 EACH	TOTAL
11 x 14 Photo With Frame	\$20.00			
11 x 14 Photo Without Frame	\$15.00			
<b>TOTAL</b>				



## Hometown Hero: Ernest and Vickie Williams

By Dan Klein, WSAZ News Channel 3, <http://www.wsaz.com/content/news/Hometown-Hero-Ernest-and-Vickie-Williams-405690005.html>, Posted: December 9, 2016, 6:32 p.m.; Updated: December 9, 2016, 9:14 p.m.

HUNTINGTON, WV (WSAZ) — For many families, going to see Santa Claus is an annual tradition.

But what if St. Nick didn't speak your language? Could you ever believe he can bring you the items on your wish list?

Imagine a world without sound. Santa Claus may visit every good little boy and girl, but it may be tough to believe if he doesn't understand sign language.

But for almost a decade in Huntington, no such barriers exist.

"Oh it's the best, number one thing in the world, to be Santa with deaf children and sign with them. I love them," Santa Claus relates through a translator.

Ernest and Vickie Williams come every year to Mountwest Community College for Brunch with Santa Claus.

Right before the big entrance, hands go up in the air, shaking with anticipation and excitement.

For dozens of kids and their families, Santa and Mrs. Claus are the first to speak their language.

"I saw Santa Claus and he's real. You know why? He signed," said Callie Smith, a deaf interpreter and teacher to students who have attended. "That explains it all."

You can see in a child's eyes, and some adults too, the legend of Saint Nick bridges all barriers. A particular hand sign is constantly repeated all over the room — a thumb, index, and pinky fingers outstretched. In American Sign Language, it means 'I love you.'

"Really, it touches my heart," said Santa. "It excited me to see those kids and let them know there is a deaf Santa for them."

Always faithful at his side, Mrs. Claus is deaf and blind.

It's a special connection for 10-year-old Ray, a special friend of Smith's. He was so excited about the day, he was up till midnight talking with his brother about meeting Santa Claus.

"For him especially, with Mrs. Claus being deaf/blind, it's just that connection that you can't break with these kids," Smith said. "I'm just so thankful they do this for these babies."

Ray's dreams are coming true, with lots of red fire trucks, even some that make noise.

He's not the only one whose Christmas list is coming to life.

Santa's daughter Laura Williams is sharing her father with the crowd. But she doesn't mind.

"I'm proud of him, just proud of him," she said. "I'm a daddy's girl and I'm very proud of him."

She said this is the highlight of Santa's year. This event means more to her than even Christmas Day spent with the whole family.

"It's a big deal, a very big deal in my family," Williams said.

This year is even more special.

Last year, Santa had triple bypass heart surgery and couldn't make an appearance. But he's back — a boy who never got to meet Santa growing up, now making sure that so many don't have the same experience.

"I love being with them," said Santa. "That truly is what keeps me alive. It keeps me going as Santa."

Bringing children's dreams to life, that's a Hometown Hero worth celebrating.

"I cried," Williams said. "He's a very humble man, and I know this means the world to him."

"I definitely see a hero, definitely see a hero," adds Smith.

The Deaf Santa Brunch has been at Mountwest Community College for about a decade. 🇺🇸



An unidentified child tells Mr. and Mrs. Deaf Santa what she wants for Christmas. Photo Credit: Grover Tadlock, WSAZ Staff





## HAZEL MAE LaGRECO

Hazel Mae LaGreco, a resident of Glen Burnie, MD, passed away June 23, 2016. Born in West Virginia she was the daughter of the late Elmer and Edna Nester (nee Sutphin). Hazel enjoyed quilting, stitching, bowling, and spending time with her pet birds.

She is survived by son James Czyzia and his wife Gwenn; daughter Marsha Forgacs and her husband Brian; grandchildren Richard and Harlee and two great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents Hazel was preceded in death by her husband Angelo LaGreco and siblings Guy, Paul, Earl, Leslie, Helen, Edith, and Faye.

Hazel graduated from WV School for the Deaf in 1952 and attended Gallaudet University for 2 years (1952-1954). Her brother was Guy Nester who was the WVSD Primary Building housefather. He graduated from WVSD in 1950 and passed away in 1988. Her sister Edith passed away in 1974.

Family received friends from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Thursday, June 30, 2016, at Kirkley-Ruddick Funeral Home, 421 Crain Highway S.E. Glen Burnie, MD 21061. Graveside service was at 10:00 a.m., Friday, July 1, 2016, at Glen Haven Memorial Park.

For more information, see <http://www.kirkleyruddickfuneralhome.com/m/?p=memorial&id=1816193#>.



## MICHAEL GEORGE PRECOPE

Michael George Precope, 61, of Niles, Ohio, died Saturday, October 8, 2016, at Trumbull Memorial Hospital, after an extended illness. He was born July 21, 1955, in Warren, Ohio, the son of Michael Joseph and Barbara Dorick Precope.

Michael was a graduate of Western Reserve High School, Class of 1975, and was a lifelong area resident. He worked for Wheatland Tube, retiring in 2009, after 17 years of service and also worked in the construction business.

He was a member of St. Stephen Church. He enjoyed wood working. His passion was making grandfather clocks.

Michael is survived by his long time friend and companion, Joyce DeGarmo; son, Christopher Precope of Pennsylvania; daughter, Toni Precopi Marcis; stepson, Jonathan Bellow; stepdaughter, Amy Jo Bellow of Howland and her fiancée, Matthew Gilmore; and nine grandchildren, including Samantha Bellow, Daniel Leggett, Davinity Gilmore, Alex Nalepa and Lilly Rayne Gilmore. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services was at 11:00 a.m., Friday, October 14, 2016, at the Holloway-Williams Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 611 Robbins Ave., Niles, OH. Calling hours were from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 13, 2016, and 10:00 a.m. until time of service Friday, at the funeral home. Interment was at St. Stephen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that material contributions be made to the funeral home to defer funeral expenses.

Family and friends may view the obituary and send condolences by visiting [www.hollowaywilliamsfuneralhome.com](http://www.hollowaywilliamsfuneralhome.com).

## *"In Memory of Loved Ones"*



## ARTHUR EARL ELLIOTT

Arthur Earl Elliott, 81, of Parkersburg, WV, passed away November 30, 2016, at Worthington Manor.

He was born September 11, 1935, in Wood County, WV, the son of the late Albert W. and Beulah Kimball Elliott.

Arthur was a 1955 graduate of the WV School for the Deaf, Romney, WV, and he loved all sports.

He is survived by two brothers, David Elliott (Jennifer) of Parkersburg and Charles Elliott of Wheeling, WV, plus several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by four brothers, Harry, Albert, Robert, and John and sisters, Betty and Wanda.

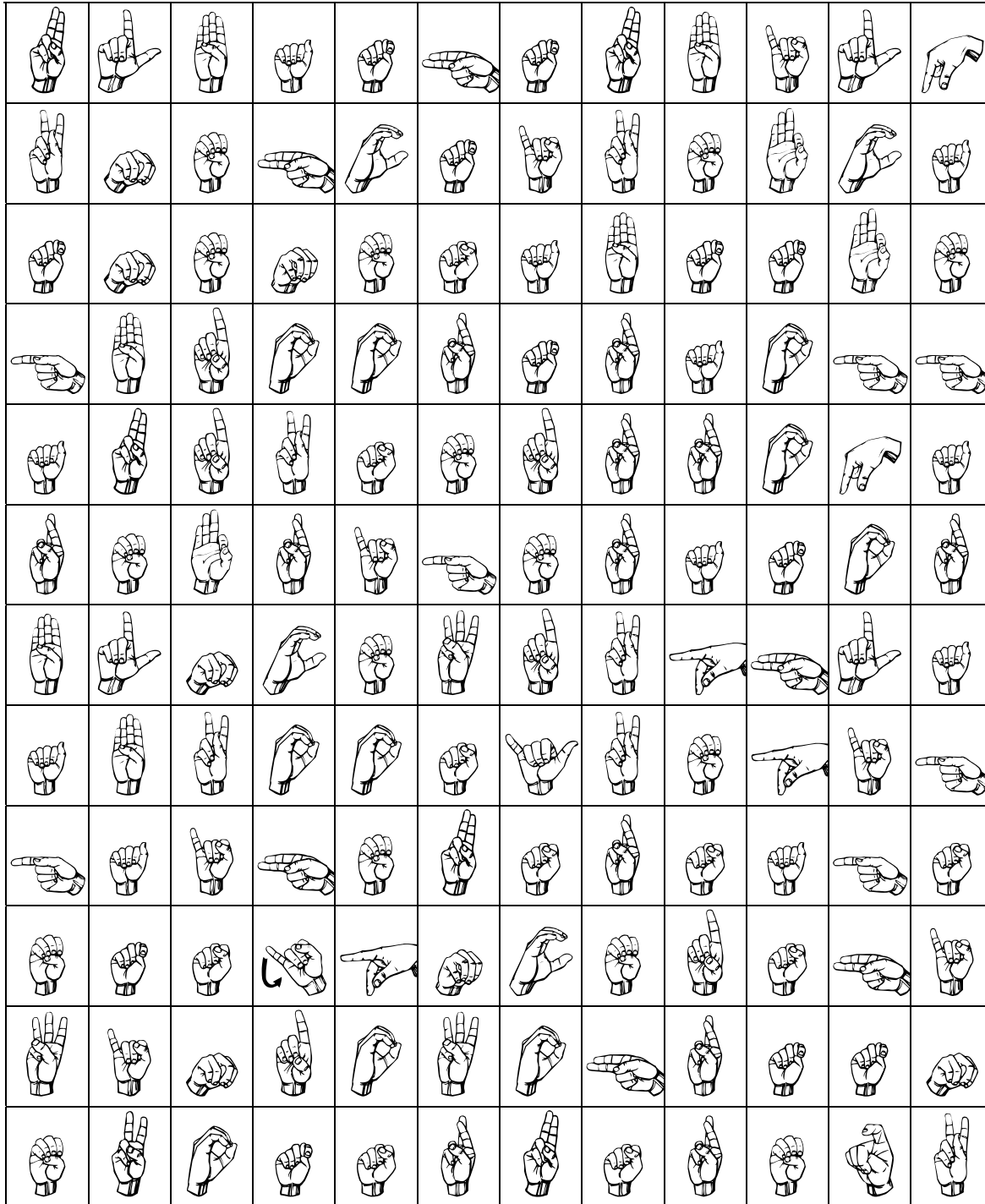
Funeral services was held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, December 2, 2016, at Lambert-Tatman Funeral Home, 3005 Grand Central Avenue, Vienna, WV, with Jim Lynch officiating. Interment followed at the Riverview Cemetery. Visitation was from 1:00 p.m. until time of services Friday at the funeral home.

For more information, see [http://www.lamberttatman.com/memsol.cgi?user\\_id=1885217](http://www.lamberttatman.com/memsol.cgi?user_id=1885217).





Words may be in any straight line including diagonally and backwards. Have fun!



Basement  
 Bathtub  
 Couch  
 Desk  
 Door  
 Dresser  
 Dry  
 Garage  
 Garbage  
 Kitchen  
 Light  
 Refrigerator  
 Separate  
 Shower  
 Sink  
 Someone  
 Stove  
 Table  
 Toothpaste  
 Window





# In the News



## WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind Help Isolated Students Communicate

By Anna Patrick, *Charleston Gazette-Mail* Staff Writer, <http://www.wvgazettemail.com/life/20161120/wv-schools-for-the-deaf-and-blind-help-isolated-students-communicate>, Posted: November 20, 2016

*Charleston Gazette-Mail Writer's Note:* The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB) are the only schools of their kind in the state, dedicated to the education of deaf, hard of hearing, blind and low-vision students. The schools have been located in Romney since their opening in 1870. They offer free education to West Virginia students throughout the state and provide residential housing during the school week for students who live far away.

Because the schools have been in operation for more than 100 years, some of their facilities are aging and in need of repair. Martin Keller, Superintendent of the schools, said some of the needed renovations include new roofs on some buildings as well as the School for the Blind needing a new HVAC system.

Due to age and a long list of repairs needed, some of the school's facilities are no longer in use, such as the cafeteria for the School for the Blind. The schools' Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan not only includes repairs to existing structures, but contains plans for new additions, like a new auditorium.

In recent years, the WVSDB have made news for just that — their long list of infrastructure needs and a high price tag to go with it. (WVSDB originally asked for more than \$82 million for repairs. Over time, that number has decreased to approximately \$16.5 million).

Because the schools are under the control of the West Virginia Board of Education, they lack the ability to raise their own funds through bonds or levies, and, instead, receive most of their funding through legislative appropriation.

A bill in 2015, vetoed by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, would have allowed the WVSDB to be eligible for more funding from the School Board Authority, which awards \$50 million for school construction and renovations yearly. In Tomblin's veto message, he requested the West Virginia Board of Education commission an independent, objective assessment of WVSDB to analyze the schools' viability.

A similar bill in 2016, HB 4147, would have given WVSDB access to more SBA funding, but it died in the Senate Finance Committee. It's likely a similar bill will be proposed in the 2017 legislative session, as the WVSDB has yet to secure the necessary funds to begin infrastructure improvements.

Before the 2017 session begins, here's a look at what life is like at the WVSDB. *Gazette-Mail* photographer Sam Owens and I spent three days at the schools, following students from classroom to classroom, being a fly on the wall for lunch time and observing after-school activities like robotics and swimming. Here's part one of what we found, check back on November 27 for part two.

ROMNEY, WV — Sarah Armstrong didn't know sign language when she entered West Virginia's School for the Deaf.

Growing up in a hearing family, the people in her life didn't know sign language. They knew how to speak. They could hear. And after receiving surgery in her left ear, and then, three years later, in her right, cochlear implants allowed Sarah to hear, too.

"What's that in your ears?" people would ask.

She got used to answering the question. Growing up in Southern West Virginia, Sarah got used to living in a community where people only spoke to her, never signed. She got used to being the only deaf person in school.

"I thought I was the only one in the world who was deaf," she said.

Feeling isolated and misunderstood in a family of hearing people isn't uncommon. According to a study released by Gallaudet University, approximately 95 percent of deaf children are born to hearing families, like Sarah, creating an inherent language deficit for many deaf children.

Sarah's cochlears (that's what she likes to call them) helped the brown-haired, brown-eyed girl blend in. They helped make the teachers think everything they said, she heard. It gave the appearance that she was independent, that she didn't need an interpreter for her first-grade class, that she could figure it out on her own.

But the blending in didn't support Sarah's development.

Some advocates for the deaf believe starving a deaf student of American Sign Language is like starving a hearing student of sound. All children need language input — deaf children just need it in a different form.

Trying to operate in the hearing world, put Sarah behind. In her classroom, there were a lot of things she couldn't make out. The implants pick up background noise. If a lot of people are talking at once, it's hard to distinguish voices.

"I was paying attention, but I can't hear," she said.

Getting placed in the care of foster parents helped Sarah find the West

Virginia School for the Deaf. She was 8, about to start the second grade. Before she arrived on the Romney campus, the list of deaf people she knew had only slightly grown from one — herself — to two.

Martin Keller had the grades to qualify for the National Honor Society. But when he got to the part on his written application that asked for leadership experience, he had nothing to write down.

What could he tell the application reviewer? That he was a deaf teenager swimming in a giant school of hearing people? That thanks to the communication barrier, there was no way he was going to make the basketball team, let alone get a leadership role?

Out of 1,000 kids or so, Martin and his brother were the only deaf students in his Wisconsin high school. The only person they could talk with, besides each other, was their interpreter.

"In a mainstream program, the interpreter was my teacher/best friend/ (See In the News on page 13)



**(In the News from page 12)**

friend. So many hats for an interpreter," Martin said. "I had some friends, but really it was superficial."

He's now Superintendent of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

Martin spent the first six years of his education in a private, residential school for the deaf, similar to West Virginia's. He sat in quiet classes as Martin and his peers watched their teacher explain the day's lesson in sign language. He saw role models in his deaf teachers, examples of what he could be one day.

But then his school closed, and he transferred to a mainstream public school.

He went from understanding everyone in his old school to needing an interpreter to ask his teacher a question or to talk to a friend in the hall.

"Yes, it was lonely," he said. "And there was no sense of belonging in the school."

Faith Grissinger still calls Sarah by her old name, McKayla. It's the name Sarah was given when she was born, the name she went by when she first started at the school, the name Sarah had before she was adopted. Every time Faith says the name, she's paying homage to how long the pair have been friends.

That's why they stick together, they said, because of their long history. Like most students at their school, the pair's communication is bilingual, a blend of speaking and sign language, but mainly sign language.

Faith, 13, is a year older than Sarah, who is 12. Faith started getting bussed to Romney in the eastern panhandle from her home in Charleston when she was only 3. She's made a lot of friends in her 10 years on campus. She's watched some students come and then leave for public school. She's watched others, like Sarah, come and never leave.

Between the two of them, Sarah is the snappy leader, and Faith the devoted follower.

If Sarah asks Faith to do something, Faith might start to sign a contradictory response, but she easily gives in. When Sarah beelines away from her class to meet the school's audiologist on a recent school day, it's Faith who yells, "Bye, Sarah!"

And it's Faith who's quick to call out Sarah's love interest when a cute, dark-

haired boy passes them in the hallway.

They sleep across the hall from each other in the residential dorms on campus during the school week. They eat lunch at the same table. They participate in after-school activities together, like joining the school's new FIRST LEGO League robotics team.

On a recent cool, October day, when Sarah is finished with her auditory rehabilitation session, she rejoins her class in the gymnasium. She sees Faith on the basketball court alone. She's jumping rope. Sarah throws down her things and grabs a long rope.

The pair start jumping, ropes spinning. Sarah's brown hair is flying.

Their classmates look on from the bleachers until its time to go. Sarah grabs her books and chases after Faith. When she catches up to her, Sarah gives Faith a nudge with her right shoulder. It's the kind of nudge that could easily push Faith off the sidewalk, except, this time, it doesn't. It just brings them closer together as their shoulders touch, walking to their next class.

Across campus, that same day, Martin is meeting with the schools' advisory board. Its members have traveled from across the state and even surrounding states to be there for the two-day meeting.

The group is working to form the schools' five-year plan. And in it, one of the board's main objectives is to increase enrollment numbers.

Deaf and blind schools across the country have seen a decline in enrollment in recent years, Martin said, including the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

Currently, both schools combined have a total of 125 students, plus 12 students enrolled in their short-course program, Martin said. At its height, both schools had a total of 409 students from 1939 to 1940, according to a 2015 report prepared by the West Virginia Board of Education.

The cause of the decline is complex. The rubella virus, which spread across the U.S. from 1964 to 1965, caused a larger number of children to become deaf, which increased enrollment in deaf schools. That increase lasted for 20 years or so, and then fell.

Congress then enacted the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 1975, which ensured that "children

with disabilities have the opportunity to receive a free appropriate public education, just like other children."

This created a greater push to integrate children with disabilities, including those who are blind and/or deaf, into public school systems.

Improving enrollment, Martin said, means improving the marketing of the school, letting parents know of the personnel resources the schools have on staff like audiologists, occupational therapists, and orientation and mobility specialists for blind students.

It's about letting parents and county schools systems know West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind are free to any deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or low-vision students who live in West Virginia. And, in an effort to visit every school system in West Virginia's 55 counties, Martin is prepared to explain to principals and superintendents why he thinks integration isn't always the best choice when it comes to West Virginia's deaf and blind students.

"There's a misconception with LRE, 'least restrictive environment.' Some special education directors feel like they see an institution as the most restrictive environment, or they see the school for the deaf as the most restrictive environment. But it's not. It's just the opposite," Martin said.

"We're not saying they aren't going to get a quality education [in public schools], but it's a lot of the other things that allows a child to build self-esteem or makes them feel good about themselves," Martin added. "...When children feel a sense of belonging, they are going to thrive."

To help explain his stance, Martin often relates it to his days in public high school, when he couldn't play varsity basketball and when he couldn't write anything down in the leadership section of his National Honor Society application.

Except for the hum of the air conditioner, Sarah's afternoon math class is quiet on October 25. Her teacher, Rusty Crace, who is deaf, writes two fractions on the board:  $7/15 + 5/6$ .

Before the students can add them together, they need to find a common denominator, Rusty signs.

Sarah lets out a big "Ugh!" The pre-teen isn't a fan of fractions. And, fresh to middle school life, she isn't afraid to **(See In the News on page 14)**



**(In the News from page 13)**

tell you when she thinks something is “boring” or “dumb,” either. She feels free to be herself, teen angst and all.

She’s a good student, now, quick to turn in her work. And she’s not afraid to stand up for herself. If someone is speaking quickly in her school, Sarah said she’ll tell them “Excuse me. Excuse me. There’s deaf people in here.” They

know better than to speak instead of sign.

There are posters hanging around the school telling visitors to use ASL. Everyone uses ASL in Sarah’s school. The secretary, librarians, her deaf teachers, and the hearing ones. It allows for an open and even form of communication. It allows for a community of understanding.

Only when she goes home to Greenbrier County on the weekends, Sarah said, does she get the “What’s that in your ears?” questions.

She said it’s boring being the only deaf person in the family. She gets tired of having to explain herself and looks forward to Sundays, when she can get on a bus for Romney and go back to being like everybody else. 🐼



See more photos and photo captions in <http://www.wvgazettemail.com/life/20161120/wv-schools-for-the-deaf-and-blind-help-isolated-students-communicate>. Photo Credit: Sam Owens, Gazette-Mail.



(In the News from page 14)

## Monster Sounds and Math Problems Mark Day at WV School for the Blind

By Anna Patrick, *Charleston Gazette-Mail* Staff Writer, <http://www.wvgazettemail.com/life/20161127/monster-sounds-and-math-problems-mark-day-at-wv-school-for-the-blind->, Posted: November 27, 2016

**NOTE:** This is Part 2 story from page 16.

ROMNEY, WV — Growls are coming from the music room.

From outside of the double auditorium doors, it sounds like Jack Black's character from "School of Rock" is leading green, hairy monsters as they rehearse for their next musical performance. It's October 26. Halloween's only a few days away.

Above the sounds of the music teacher's guitar, "grrrrs" and roars erupt. But the laughter that follows gives them away. There are no monsters practicing in the open, second-floor music room, only the first and second graders of the West Virginia School for the Blind.

To the tune of "The Ants Go Marching One by One," their teacher, Josh Hazza, sings: "The monsters tiptoe around the house. Hurrah! Hurrah! The monsters tiptoe around the house. Hurrah! Hurrah!"

"Hey, I don't see you tiptoeing!" he says.

Of the five students from Cassandra Park's first- and second-grade class, those with low vision, Kingston Chambers and Hunter Kesling, are up on the balls of their feet, tiptoeing around the house — or music room.

They use a lot of the tiled floor to perform, moving in time to the music. They get close to their music teacher, Josh, and start growling. They're big, scary monsters after all.

At the same time, Wyatt Kuncl and Shenora McFarlan stay close to their chairs. Both fully blind, they tiptoe in the same place. They keep their dance moves contained in a smaller area. But

just like everyone else, they get excited and jump up and down when it's time to scream "BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!"

Hunter Knotts, the fifth member of the class, isn't interested in tiptoeing today. He's upset about having to leave his teacher, Park, to go to music class. Instead of dancing, he sits at the end of a semicircle of blue chairs, rocking back and forth to the music. Sometimes, he smiles.

For the song, the students colored paper monster masks. Except for Knotts, they hold the masks up to their faces. Sometimes the masks get turned upside down. Some have cut-out holes to see through. But for others, there's only paper. The holes are unnecessary.

McFarlan's bright pink coat makes her stand out as she walks across campus. She's sweeping her red and white cane from side to side in front of her, walking with her classmates in a row. They're headed to the cafeteria. It's hamburger day.

To watch the first-grader move — she can jump and skip — you'd think she once had sight, said Jamie Vittorio, principal of the School for the Blind.

But that's never been the case. McFarlan was born with retinoblastoma, a cancer of the eye most common in young children. It's a genetic mutation, according to the Mayo Clinic, that caused the nerve cells in both of her retinas to continue to multiply, forming tumors.

When she was much younger, the 6-year-old had surgery, known as enucleation, to remove both eyes. It's often done when a tumor is too large to treat and/or to prevent the cancer from spreading.

McFarlan gets help going through the cafeteria line from a teacher, Donna

Brown, who is also blind. Together they hear the lunch ladies list the food for the day — hamburgers, baked potatoes, corn, apple sauce — and McFarlan tells them what she wants on her tray.

By the time McFarlan sits with her class to eat, the cafeteria is starting to fill with elementary students from both the School for the Blind and the School for the Deaf. Like most of her peers, she doesn't need help, but she uses touch to feel around the edge of her burger before she picks it up and takes a bite.

It's a quiet independence.

Park's classroom is a constant swirl of noise and motion.

Just like kids in any first- or second-grade class, Park's five students have trouble sitting still for long. Some get distracted easily, some become whiny when they're tired of doing math, and some might break out into "Frozen's" "Let it Go! Let it Go!"



Park uses her clear, booming voice to project over their sound. She keeps timers running, some to let students know when it's time to switch to the next subject, some to keep her on task. There are many auditory reminders, like a loud hallway bell, to let students know it's time to change subjects.

Park has to juggle between assisting her students with sight and those without sight, while trying to give each student, all at varying development levels, the support they need to understand and complete their work.

Sometimes Park splits the class. For math class on October 26, Hunter Kingsley and Chambers use their Visio-Book, placing their math workbook at [\(See In the News on page 16\)](#)

**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*.

<b>WVAD Quarter News</b>	
	
<small>"News brought to you by the West Virginia Association of the Deaf organization."</small>	
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### (In the News from page 15)

the base of the device, which magnifies the book on a screen. Chambers' nose is practically touching the screen to do his work.

At the same time, McFarlan and Knotts work on another project, rolling dice with the help of the group's aide, Bonnie Carter. The two take turns rolling the dice, adding up the numbers and coloring in the number they rolled on a perforated, gridded piece of paper.

In the afternoon, Park switches her approach, teaching to the entire class. The students find a seat on a big blue rug in front of their SMART board.

Knotts is curled into a little ball on the floor. McFarlan is facing away from the board, but listening as Park reads about the White House. When Park gets to a photo, she describes it to the group.

Kuncl missed half of the social studies lesson because he was taking his one-on-one braille class. When he returns, he asks for updates on what he missed before heading for his seat. But what he can't see is that there are a number of obstacles in his way, including his classmates on the floor.

"Watch out for Hunter. Hunter is on the floor," Park tells him.

"What Hunter?" Wyatt asks. There are two in his class.

"Hunter Knotts. And that's Shenora," Park says. Wyatt is about to step on McFarlan. "Go to your left, to your left, your left," Park instructs. "Go back towards the door."

Kuncl starts walking toward the rest of his class instead of the door.

"Now you're going towards the SMART board. Stop. Think about where you are," Park says.

He does. And he redirects himself, walking around the perimeter of the big blue rug, dodging his peers, until he slowly finds the low table sitting behind his class. He feels the name cards written in braille that have been taped to mark every students' seat. He circles all the way around the table, holding onto the edge and walking slowly. He runs his finger over every name card until he feels the letters that spell his name.

He takes his seat.

When you enter a room, you scan it, said Vittorio, principal of the West Virginia School for the Blind.

Think about it. You scan the furniture, the pictures on the wall. You scan

the path you need to take to get from the doorway to a comfy chair. You scan for any signs of danger.

"But a child who is blind," Vittorio said, "it's going to take hours. Especially those concepts that aren't tangible, like colors, large things, skyscrapers, feelings, emotions, abstract things."

To help understand what blind students require in their learning development, Vittorio quoted Bob Smithdas, the first deaf-blind man to earn a graduate degree.

"Deafness," he said "it separates you from people. Blindness separates you from things."

"So it's all about concept development," Vittorio said. "If they don't have a good understanding of concepts, they are going to be behind in all areas of academics."

It's the progression of concept development that will help students gain literacy and mathematic skills. It's those concepts that will help them navigate a busy sidewalk, cook a meal on a stove, or get themselves dressed.

To teach these concepts and skills, the school's curriculum takes the state's core content standards and combines it with an expanded, specialized curriculum that includes braille and orientation and mobility training, like using a cane to walk down sidewalks or climb stairs. In addition, the school has occupational, speech, and physical therapists on staff to support students' needs.

It's not uncommon for Park's classroom to be interrupted once, maybe even twice every class period for the school's braille teacher or occupational therapist to pick someone up for a braille lesson or occupational therapy session.

When the students in Park's classroom get older, they'll be able to wrestle, run track, play goal ball (a team sport designed for blind athletes). They'll be able to run the school's radio station or join the school's robotics team.

And no matter if a student is fully blind or has low vision, he or she is taught braille. It puts everyone on an equal learning plane. And it ensures a student will be able to maintain independence, even if his or her sight gets progressively worse.

Chamber's condition is progressive.

The 8-year-old is myopic, which means he has extreme near-vision. He wears thick, black-framed glasses with

a strap around the back to help him see. Sometimes when he's writing or reading a math problem, he'll put his left cheek on the paper so his right eye can see the page.

"As he ages, his sight will get worse," Vittorio said. "He's so young now, you can only imagine."

But that's the work of his teachers and therapists — to give the rambunctious boy with five missing front teeth the tools he needs to tackle the challenges he might one day face as young man with ever-worsening sight. It's preparing him for a future he's not yet concerned with.

He's 8. He's got far more important things to worry about for now, like making sure he remembers to grab everything he needs before getting on the bus to head home on October 26.

Waiting on his yellow bus to pull up to the curb, Chambers sits next to his "best buddy" and classmate, Kuncl, on a bench in the school's downstairs hallway. He hums with energy, drumming on his book bag in his lap, singing the words to one of his favorite games. "Bop it! Twist it! Pull It!" He picks up the pace after every verse.

When the bus arrives, Kuncl stands, and, as instructed, he uses his cane to walk himself out the door and to the bus. But Chambers lags behind, scrambling to get everything into his book bag and zipped, as more and more teachers say "It's time to go, Kingston."

Finally, he rushes down the hall and out the door in his green zip-up fleece, a little ball of energy. His teacher, Park, follows after to make sure he manages the transition safely. She ensures Kuncl gets up the stairs and into his seat and watches to see Chambers is safely seated next to his best buddy.

She turns to walk back to the school's entrance.

"Miss Cassie! My toboggan is not here!" Chambers shouts. He reappears at the top of the stairs. Park turns to face him.

"Am I going to get it back tomorrow?" he asks, concerned.

She assures him, yes, he'll get it back when she sees him tomorrow.

And then she turns and continues walking as Chambers disappears from the doorway to find his seat, the one that Kuncl saved for him. 🐼

(See Photos on page 17)



(In the News from page 16)



See photos and photo captions in <http://www.wvgazettemail.com/life/20161127/monster-sounds-and-math-problems-mark-day-at-wv-school-for-the-blind->. Photo Credit: Sam Owens, Gazette-Mail.



## Pierre Sevigny Memorialized at WVSD

By Milly Mullins, *Hampshire Review* Staff, [http://www.hampshirereview.com/news/local/article\\_65cc3e4e-8b2d-11e6-9567-4bf0b0fe19dc.html?mode=story](http://www.hampshirereview.com/news/local/article_65cc3e4e-8b2d-11e6-9567-4bf0b0fe19dc.html?mode=story), Posted: Wednesday, October 5, 2016, 2:56 p.m.

ROMNEY, WV — The West Virginia School for the Deaf has memorialized Joseph Pierre Alphonse Sevigny, one of the school's teacher and coach, as the namesake for their dedication of the West Virginia School for the Deaf's academic building.

The school's former Secondary School for the Deaf has been dedicated to Pierre Sevigny for his many years of dedicated service to the school as a teacher, a mentor, a coach and a friend.

As of this school year, what had been the Secondary School for the

Deaf, where the MultiPurpose Room is located, is now the academic building for all deaf students. Lower grades have been moved over from the old Elementary School for the Deaf on the east end of campus.

A ceremony in Sevigny's honor was held on Saturday, when faculty, staff, and students gathered to share their experiences with Sevigny throughout his years of work.

Former students and colleagues joked about his firm handshakes and how his favorite word was "exactly."

Likewise, they shared personal stories of his dedication to students' learning and his friendly presence within the school.

In attendance were Sevigny's family, who held a place of honor on the stage, as well as Delegate Ruth Rowan, who was present for the dedication. Superintendent Martin Keller also spoke during the ceremony and helped the family unveil the plaque that now hangs on the front of the building.



*Pierre Sevigny Memorialized at WVSD. With a hand from Dr. Keller, living family members unveiled the plaque that dedicates the new Academic Building of the School for the Deaf in honor to Pierre Sevigny. Photo Credit: Milly Mullins, Hampshire Review Staff*



*After a formal ceremony, audience members were invited to give their personal memories of Sevigny, which ranged from funny to inspirational. Photo Credit: Milly Mullins, Hampshire Review Staff*



*Pierre Sevigny's family attended the special dedication ceremony which would honor Sevigny's dedicated service as a teacher and coach at the School for the Deaf. Photo Credit: Milly Mullins, Hampshire Review Staff*



## Regional Robotics Competition at WVSDb

By WVSDb Staff, [http://wvsdb2.state.k12.wv.us/pages/WestVirginiaSchools\\_Deaf\\_Blind/News/Regional\\_Robotics\\_Competition\\_](http://wvsdb2.state.k12.wv.us/pages/WestVirginiaSchools_Deaf_Blind/News/Regional_Robotics_Competition_), Posted: November 5, 2016

WVSDb hosted their first ever regional First LEGO League (FLL) tournament on Saturday, November 5, 2016.

There was a total of 6 FLL Jr. teams participating from Berkeley and Pendleton counties as well as 2 teams from our schools - WVSD and WVSb. Each team chose an animal and built a LEGO model related to their topic. Their model had to contain at least one simple machine and a moving part. Elementary aged team members were interviewed by judges during which time they explained why they chose their particular animal, demonstrated how their model worked, and how it would benefit their chosen species.

The FLL competition teams came from Morgantown, Fairmont, and WVSDb. There were 3 components of competition for the FLL teams. First, they were to choose an animal that could possibly help them or that they could help, fully explain the

process, and design a supporting poster. Additionally, students had to understand and demonstrate use of FLL Core Values which promote team work as a result of helping and encouraging one another. Finally, the teams demonstrated, during a 2½-minute period, their robot completing a series of assigned missions related to moving animals into their appropriate environments.

The WVSD Lionbots Team coaches are Krystal Shelton-Dosch and Danielle Richardson. The WVSb Diamond Crushers Team coaches are Danielle Emerick-Engle and Lydia Moreland. The FLL teams will represent WVSDb at the State Robotics Competition at Fairmont State University on December 3rd, 2016.

Dr. Keller's Update on December 3rd, 2016 Competition: Dr. Keller would like to take this opportunity to share with you an update on the schools' recent participation in the State Robotics

tournament on December 3rd: First and foremost, kudos to our WVSDb First Lego League students. They were wonderful representatives of WVSDb and examples to all of what our students are able to accomplish. The WVSD 'Lionbots' were truly amazing considering this was their first time to compete at the state level. They were competing with other novice teams and also with teams who were competing for the 4th consecutive year. A total of 48 top teams from across the state competed, 3 of whom were selected to attend the national tournament which will be held in St. Louis. The WVSb Diamond Crushers did a wonderful job responding to the questions asked of them during an interview segment. A round of applause goes to our 4 teacher/advisors of the WVSDb FLL teams. It was indeed a wonderful learning experience for our students and their advisors. 🐾

## WVSDb Hosts Lego League Tourney

By Ed DeWitt, Hampshire Review Staff, [http://www.hampshirereview.com/news/article\\_b5275850-a6aa-11e6-a1a6-47420af46130.html](http://www.hampshirereview.com/news/article_b5275850-a6aa-11e6-a1a6-47420af46130.html), Posted: Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 1:31 p.m.

ROMNEY — The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind played host to the 2016 FIRST LEGO League Qualifying Tournament last

Saturday, as 6 teams squared off in a battle of robotics.

According to the event's program, there are 4 parts to the challenge, including

project, core values, robot design and robot game. The theme of the event was Animal Allies.

"As you work on the missions, pay attention to the many ways innovation and technology have enabled humans and animals to exchange learning, friendship, help, daily needs, protection, amusement and love," the instructions to the students read.

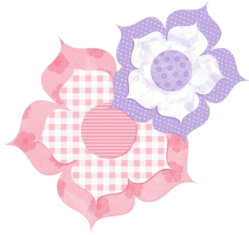
A total of 10 teams — between the junior league and the senior league — took part in the day's events, which included meetings, judging, lunch and the robot games. There was also a recognition ceremony and a closing ceremony.

The event was co-sponsored by the school and the NASA IV&V Robotics Alliance Program. Special thanks were offered to the judges and referees for volunteering their time, as well as to the coaches and mentors for "helping to make robotics happen" for area youth.

"It was an incredible experience for us to be able to host a regional FLL (See WVSDb Hosts Lego on page 21)



Students watch as their robot works to compete tasks. Photo Credit: Ed DeWitt, Hampshire Review Staff



Please join the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
and the West Virginia Association of the Deaf in celebrating

# West Virginia Deaf Awareness Day

**On March 13, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the  
State Capitol — Upper Rotunda  
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Charleston, WV 25305**

West Virginia Deaf Awareness Day has been created to promote awareness of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Join us for networking opportunities with exhibitors from various agencies, Deaf associations and other community resources focusing on services for people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened and Deafblind.

Enjoy a performance by WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind's Tapestry group!



West Virginia Commission for the  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing



West Virginia Association  
of the Deaf



**If you are interested in exhibiting or have any questions,  
please contact Sarah Lowther at [Sarah.B.Lowther@wv.gov](mailto:Sarah.B.Lowther@wv.gov)**

## Directions:

If you are coming from the north (I-79 and I-77), take I-64 East (toward Beckley) at the I-64 junction. If you are coming from the east or southeast (turnpike area), stay on I-64 West.

From locations west of Charleston, stay on I-64 East.

In Charleston, take the State Capitol – Greenbrier Street exit (Exit 99). The gold dome can be seen from the exit. Turn onto Greenbrier Street (Route 114), in the direction of the Capitol Building.

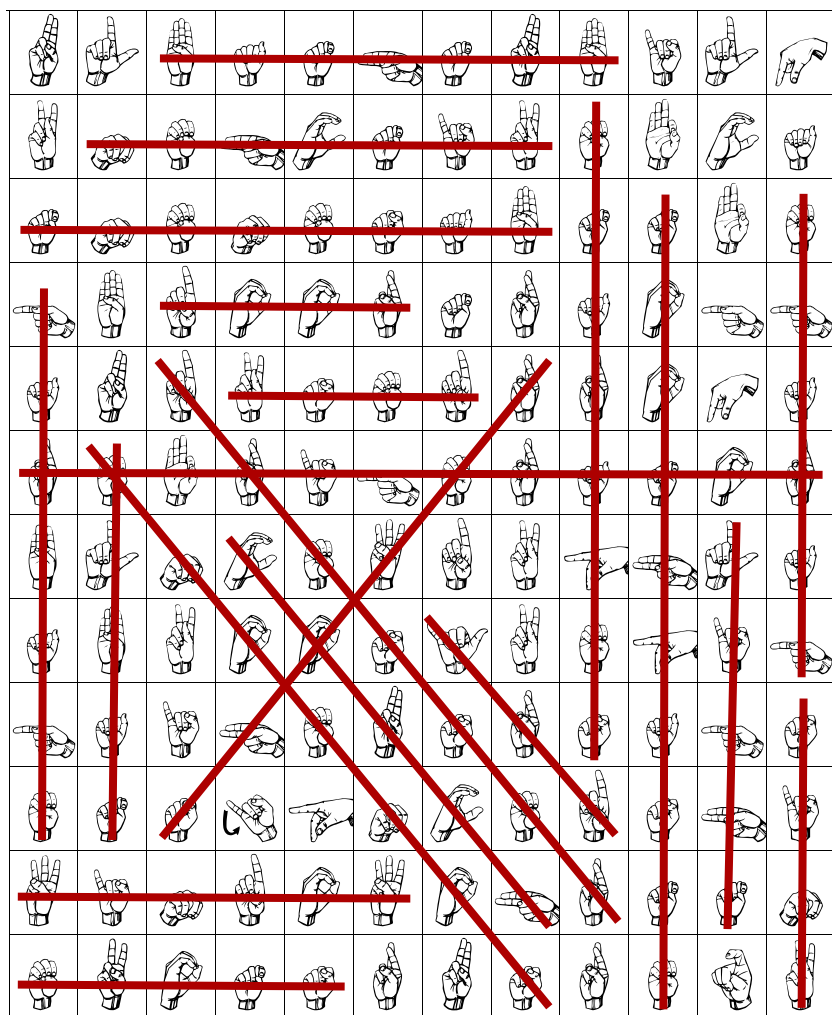
You may park in the 4-hour meter lots near the employee parking garage.

## Shuttle During Legislative Session:

The shuttle will operate every 10-15 minutes, departing Laidley Field at 7:00 a.m. through 5:30 p.m., when the shuttle leaves Building 5 for its final daily run.

Visitors are urged to use the Laidley Field visitor parking area or the metered parking spaces in lot at the Piedmont Road entrance when doing business at the State Capitol Complex. The shuttle service is provided free of charge.





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## Previous WVAD Quarter News



IS ONLINE



<http://www.wvad.net>

### (WVSDB Hosts Lego from page 19)

tournament," WVSDB Superintendent Dr. Martin Keller said. "There was an air of excitement from the beginning. Everything seemed to go very smoothly. The FLL staff were so very well organized with the setup and time management that we were able to take a step back and watch the day unfold."

The School for the Deaf team placed 2nd and earned an invitation to participate in the state championship tournament, which will be held at Fairmont State University on December 3. The School for the Blind team will also attend the tournament to do an exhibition of their model.

"We were so impressed with the teams who came for the competition, their level of competence and most especially their ability to interact with our students in a very genuine and unfettered way. It was heartwarming to say the least," Keller said.

"I eavesdropped on a conversation between participants from the Fairmont Team with one of our students from the school for the blind. They asked dozens of questions about cane use, lights, modifications in the robot building and programming process, etc."

"We simply cannot thank the FLL enough for the support they have provided to our students and team advisors this fall. It has been an amazing experience." 🐼

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REVISED: 9/28/2016

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E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

### You

- ☐ Deaf  
☐ Hard of Hearing  
☐ Hearing  
☐ Interpreter

### Dues for You

- ☐ \$15 for 1 Year — Regular  
☐ \$25 for 2 Years — Regular  
☐ \$20 for 2 Years — Senior (Age 55 and up)  
☐ \$10 for 2 Years — Student (Age 12 – 18)

### Spouse

- ☐ Deaf  
☐ Hard of Hearing  
☐ Hearing  
☐ Interpreter

### Dues for Spouse

- ☐ \$15 for 1 Year — Regular  
☐ \$25 for 2 Years — Regular  
☐ \$20 for 2 Years — Senior (Age 55 and up)  
☐ \$10 for 2 Years — Student (Age 12 – 18)

- ☐ **Yes!** Here is my donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ **Yes!** I want to donate to Deaf Youth Program: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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☐ I want to be a WVAD volunteer.  
☐ Spouse wants to be a WVAD volunteer.

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Mail with membership application to:  
West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.  
Larry Hubbard, WVAD Membership Coordinator  
572 Thompson Road  
Culloden, WV 25510  
Video Phone No.: 304-397-5729

*Your membership fees and donations make it possible for WVAD to protect the collective interests of West Virginia's deaf and hard of hearing community through advocacy efforts with our policy makers.*

## JOIN WVAD TODAY!

