

WELL DONE!!

**TO THE
WVU MOUNTAINEER
BASKETBALL TEAM**

for making it to the NCAA Elite Eight



A Newsletter For West Virginia State Government Employees

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Treasurer Sets 2005 West Virginia Money Conferences

The following article is reprinted from the State Treasurer's website (www.wvsto.gov).

State Treasurer John Perdue will kick off his West Virginia Money Conference series in April, with an offering of conferences that expands on the office's successful "Women & Money" events.

Once again, Boston-based financial advisor Dee Lee returns to lead the conferences, which are free of charge. In addition to three events aimed at women, one conference is tailored to the special circumstances of college students. A fifth is a mixed-gender offering for adult men and women.

The series starts April 21 at Fairmont State University, with the college conference, and ends Oct. 21 with a women-tailored event at Chief Logan State Park Conference Center in Logan.

This year's conference series represents a slight departure from Treasurer Perdue's "Women & Money" series, hosted by Lee. Eight previous "Women & Money" conferences, from Shepherdstown to Huntington and Morgantown to Beckley, have drawn more than 4,500 participants. Lee covers a gamut of financial topics, from personal financial organization to investments and retirement planning.

Those attending will receive a continental breakfast, free lunch, travel bag, and a copy of either "The Money Book" or "Women & Money," both written by Lee. Private sponsorships are raised to cover event expenses.

**Our congratulations to
State Treasurer
John Perdue**



**who recently began
serving a one-year term
as president of the
National Association
of State Treasurers!**

For a complete schedule of events and target audiences, see Page 4

Nominations Being Accepted for Governor's Service Awards

Nominations are being accepted for the 2005 Governor's Service Awards. The awards honor extraordinary service by individuals, organizations, groups, families, and businesses that are actively engaged in volunteer service benefiting the State. **Individuals who receive a stipend or salary for their service, and employees of the sponsoring agencies, are not eligible.**

"The Mountaineer spirit endures through the work that so many individuals and organizations do throughout West Virginia's communities," Governor Joe Manchin said. "By recognizing their efforts, we honor the best among us while encouraging others to make a commitment to improve the Mountain State."

The awards are sponsored by the Governor's Office and the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service. The deadline for nomination is April 18. Forms are available online at www.volunteerwv.org or by calling the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service at 1-800-WV-HELPS (1-800-984-3577).



**GOVERNOR'S
INTERNSHIP
PROGRAM**

Deadline: Apr. 30

The Governor's Internship Program, coordinated by the WV Division of Personnel and the WV Department of Education, offers high-achieving college students an opportunity to work in the "real world" to gain knowledge, skills, and experience.

Applications and information for both students and employers are available online at www.wvgip.org, or call Frank Chambers in the Division of Personnel at 558-3950, ext. 260.

DOH to Remove Martha Truss Bridge

Based on overwhelming public support, the Division of Highways (DOH) has decided to remove the historic Martha Truss Bridge carrying Cabell County 31/6 over the Guyandotte River. During the planning and environmental process, including a 2000 informational public meeting, leading up to the \$4.5 million replacement structure now nearing completion, the Division of Highways had committed to leaving the 123-year-old bridge in place after the new bridge was open to traffic. But great numbers of written comments expressing concerns for aesthetics, debris collection, flooding, and safety convinced officials to change this position.

Highways is currently working in coordination with the State Division of Culture and History, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to assure that the appropriate guidelines of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 are followed.

Written questions about the decision should be directed to Jim Sothen, P.E., Director, Engineering, West Virginia Division of Highways, Capitol Complex Building 5, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston 25305-0430.

Ginseng Season Ends March 31

The Division of Forestry announces the end of the ginseng root digging season. All ginseng diggers must have their harvests weighed and certified by the Division of Forestry no later than March 31, 2005. It's illegal to possess uncertified, unweighed green/dry root between April 1 and August 14.

For more information, call your local Division of Forestry Office.



On February 7, 2005, Governor Joe Manchin presented Pamela James with a check for \$10,000. James, a Department of Health and Human Resources employee, received the check as an award for a cost-saving idea she submitted through the Public Employee Suggestion Program. James realized that the Department was paying for phone lines that were no longer in use. She requested an IS&C printout showing accounts, numbers, and number of phones. After reviewing all telephone lines and verifying which were still used, those that were being paid for but not used were deleted. Her hard work has saved DHHR over \$200,000 annually. Congratulations, Pam!

Do you have a cost saving suggestion? Turn your great idea into CASH!
 Visit the Public Employee Suggestion Program website at
www.legis.state.wv.us/committees/interims/EMPSUG/esab.cfm.
 If you need more information, call 347-4900 or e-mail esab@mail.wvnet.edu.

Photo courtesy of Martin Valent of the WV Legislature Resource and Information Center.



Photo contributed by Joy Ferguson of the Wayne District DHHR Office.

Wayne District DHHR employees "go red" on National Wear Red Day, held nationwide on February 4, 2005 as part of the American Heart Association's effort to bring awareness to heart disease in women.



OPEN ENROLLMENT BENEFIT FAIRS

Mark down the date, time, and location for your area and take advantage of the information provided at PEIA's Benefit Fairs. Staff will be available as listed below to help answer your questions so you can select the best options for you and your family.

BECKLEY Apr. 19 3-7 P.M. Tamarack Conference Ctr., Ballroom A One Tamarack Park (I-77, exit 45)	FLATWOODS Apr. 14 3-7 P.M. Days Inn 200 Sutton Lane	MORGANTOWN Apr. 11 9 A.M.-1:30 P.M. Jerry West Mountaineer Room WVU Coliseum
CHARLESTON Apr. 11 9 A.M. - 3 P.M. State Capitol, Building 7, Conference Ctr. 1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.	HUNTINGTON Apr. 18 9 A.M.-1:30 P.M. Marshall Univ. - Memorial Student Ctr. 1 John Marshall Drive	MORGANTOWN Apr. 11 3-7 P.M. Ramada Inn U.S. 119 at I-79 and I-68
CHARLESTON Apr. 11 3-7 P.M. Charleston Civic Center, Parlor B 200 Civic Center Drive	HUNTINGTON Apr. 18 3-7 P.M. Workforce West Virginia Center 2699 Park Avenue	PARKERSBURG Apr. 13 3-7 P.M. Holiday Inn U.S. Route 50 and I-77
CHARLESTON Apr. 21 9 A.M. - 3 P.M. State Capitol, Building 1 Main Rotunda, Lower Level	LOGAN Apr. 26 3-7 P.M. Earl Ray Tomblin Convention Center Chapmanville, WV	RIPLEY Apr. 19 3-7 P.M. Best Western - McCoy's Inn & Conf. Ctr. 701 West Main Street
ELKINS Apr. 14 3-7 P.M. Days Inn 1200 Harrison Avenue	MARTINSBURG Apr. 12 3-7 P.M. Holiday Inn 301 Foxcraft Avenue	WEIRTON Apr. 19 3-7 P.M. Holiday Inn 350 Three Springs Drive
FAIRMONT Apr. 20 9 A.M.-2 P.M. Fairmont State College 1201 Locust Avenue	MOOREFIELD Apr. 13 3-7 P.M. South Branch Inn Route 22 North	WHEELING Apr. 18 3-7 P.M. Ramada Plaza City Center 1200 Market Street

Don't Leave Your Family in Limbo

Prepare a Living Will and Medical Power of Attorney

In the wake of circumstances surrounding Terri Schiavo, the brain-damaged woman at the center of a long life or death battle between her husband and parents, many people have decided to complete living wills and medical powers of attorney. Once signed, these documents can be changed or revoked by you, but note there are distinct differences between the two.

A living will specifies **YOUR** wishes if you become incapacitated and unable to speak for yourself. It dictates what treatment and lifesaving measures you want or do not want to be taken. Generally, a living will applies to terminal situations.

In a medical power of attorney, you designate someone to make medical decisions for you if you are unable to make them yourself. This document can be as limited or all-inclusive as you want it to be. Great care should be taken when naming the person, or agent, and the scope to which he/she can make decisions, especially since this document can apply to all types of care and treatment and not just terminal illness or injury.

Do you need both a living will and medical power of attorney? Yes! The living will designates your wishes; the power of attorney gives permission for an individual to carry out those wishes. If there is a living will, the power of attorney agent **MUST** follow your directives; however, all situations and circumstances cannot be predicted. A power of attorney also allows someone to make decisions for you if you are unable to do so and there is no directive. You should also consider naming a backup agent in the event the first is unable or unavailable to serve.

The box at the end of this article provides some websites for general information purposes only. While the internet can give you access to

information and forms, these are very important documents. You should seek the advice of qualified, trusted medical and legal professionals before signing your name.

INFO ON LIVING WILLS AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY

The following links are provided only as examples of information available. We make no claim or promise as to the accuracy of the information provided. If you are unsure, please consult a qualified legal and/or medical professional before signing your name to any living will or power of attorney document.

www.cbsnews.com/elements/2003/10/24/in_depth_health/whoswho579826.shtml

www.wings.buffalo.edu/faculty/research/bioethics/lwill.html

www.hsc.wvu.edu/chel/

www.wvlegalservices.org/medpoa.pdf

There's a Tax on What?!

No one *wants* to pay taxes, but they've been a part of life since the beginning of time. In fact, evidence exists to show that the property tax (one of the oldest types of tax) was used in ancient China. The first one in the U.S. appeared in New Hampshire in 1742.

Ah – and then there's the income tax. Did you know that for the first 85 years of America's existence, there was no federal income tax? The first one appeared in 1861 and was repealed in 1872. In 1894, the U.S. Congress tried to reinstate it, but the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional in 1895. Then came the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution:

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

With that, withholding on our wages became the norm. But even as unpleasant as paying taxes can be, things could be worse for those of us in the Mountain State. For instance:

- In Alabama, you'll pay an extra 10¢ for the purchase of a deck of cards.
- In Maine, anyone who grows, purchases, sells, handles, or processes blueberries must pay 1½¢ per pound. By the way, Cherryfield, Maine is arguably the Blueberry Capitol of the World.
- Want a soda from the fountain in Chicago? You'll pay a 9% tax on it, as opposed to a 3% tax for the same drink in a can or bottle.
- Thinking of a tattoo or nose ring? If you get it in Arkansas, add 6%.
- When buying fruit or candy in Ohio, buy it in a basket and not a crystal candy dish. It's not taxable in a basket; it is in the dish.
- If you get a craving for an apple in California, buy it from a grocer. If you get it from a vending machine, it includes a 33% tax.

Things aren't so bad after all, are they? Oh ... don't forget to file your income taxes by April 15. Free help is available from the State Tax Department of your State return. For information, visit www.state.wv.us/taxrev/deptinfo.htm on the internet (scroll down to the bottom of the page) or call 1-800-982-8297 (558-3333 in the Charleston area), Monday through Friday, 8:30-5:00. If you're interested in free e-filing for your federal return, you can find information at www.irs.gov/efile/article/0,,id=118986,00.html.

West Virginia Money Conference Schedule

April 21	Fairmont State University	anyone ages 18-28
June 10	Oglebay Park, Wheeling	women
July 15	WV Wesleyan College, Buckhannon	women
September 16	Charleston Civic Center	men and women
October 21	Chief Logan State Park, Logan	women

To register for any of the above events, call
1-800-422-7498 (558-5000 in Charleston)

or register online at

www.wvsto.gov/sites/education/adultfinedu/wmreg.asp

Pencil In ...



Are you interested in keeping up with the **latest in homeland security**? Visit the federal Homeland Security website at www.dhs.gov/dhspublic.

The **West Virginia State University Foundation, Inc.** is honoring all local graduates at its annual dinner on May 26, 2005. It's a great opportunity to get reacquainted with friends/classmates, so come out, be recognized, and get involved with the exciting things happening at "State." Festivities start at 6:00 P.M. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, and tickets are \$100 each. Contact Cynthia Rakes at 766-3130 for tickets or information.



Want something to do in your spare time? Check out **WV Public Broadcasting's West Virginia Arts Calendar**. It's full of concerts, theater performances, and other fun things to do around the State. See www.wvpubcast.org/events/calendar.asp.

