

## Holiday Greetings From West Virginia's First Family

Gayle and I extend to you and your families the warmest holiday greetings. As we join with family and friends this blessed season, let us not only reflect on the past year but also toward the years to come. Certainly, as we watch our families grow, it's exciting to think about all the opportunities the future holds.

Gayle and I have always said that the greatest beauty of the Mountain State is its people. The hard work of State employees does not go unnoticed; we recognize your tireless efforts to provide fellow West Virginians with quality services. You work everyday toward bettering the lives of our State's residents, and we truly appreciate your dedication.

Working together during the past eleven months, tremendous strides in our efforts to address the most

critical issues affecting our great State have been made; I am confident that we can continue this success in the coming year. Looking beyond the New Year's holiday, it is important that we build on the strong level of cooperation and dialogue that has been forged.

West Virginia is a better place to work, live and raise a family because leaders representing all aspects of our State are working together like never before. I look forward to continuing this partnership with each of you to build a more vibrant quality of life for all West Virginians.

As we share and enjoy the breathtaking beauty of our State, may the true spirit of this season bring you and your family peace, joy and love, with the hope of a healthy and prosperous New Year!



*Governor and Mrs. Joe Manchin III*

*With Warmest Regards,*

## First Lady Promotes State at National Tourism Conference



*First Lady Gayle Manchin (R) discusses presentation details with Tourism Director Betty Carver (L)*

In early October, First Lady Gayle Manchin represented West Virginia at the U.S. Culture and Heritage Summit, held in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Manchin, with assistance from the West Virginia Division of Tourism, hosted a breakfast on October 8 where in the process of promoting culture, heritage, and tourism as a whole, she was able to highlight West Virginia as a haven of culture and heritage, making it the perfect spot for vacations, getaways, conferences, and location for businesses.

With the support of a video presentation prepared by Tourism and an accompanying musical tribute performed live by The Appalachian Children's Chorus, Mrs. Manchin spoke of tourism's link to culture, not just in West Virginia, but all over the United States. "Throughout our country, there is a rebirth in travelers' curiosity about cultural and heritage tourism ... Today's cultural tourism traveler wants to see what was, what is, and maybe, what will be."

## DPS Issues Security Reminder

Contributed by Jay Smithers, Division of Protective Services.

In continuation of its efforts to provide a safe and secure environment for all State employees and visitors to the State Capitol Complex, the Division of Protective Services (DPS) is issuing a reminder to all State employees to **prominently** display their State-issued photo ID cards at all times while in secured Capitol Complex facilities. Although an employee may be wearing his or her ID card, if it isn't prominently displayed, a DPS Officer may stop the employee to inquire of the individual's identity and nature of business on the complex. Wearing photo ID cards in a manner that allows for complete visibility negates the necessity to stop employees for identification purposes.

Employees are also reminded to **always** use their proximity cards when entering any Capitol Complex building requiring a proximity card. Don't to lend or permit another individual to use your card, and it is of utmost importance that you **never allow entry of other individuals (tailgating) when you are entering a building**. Allowing this to happen negates the efforts to provide for a safe and secure environment. If you forget, lose, or misplace your proximity card, you are required to undergo the same screening procedure that visitors and other non-employees must follow when attempting to enter secured buildings.

## TOURISM – continued from Page 1

The First Lady touched upon nearly all aspects of West Virginia's rich history. She spoke of Native Americans and pioneers, and their knowledge of the area's bountiful game, salines, and healthy spring waters. She moved the audience forward as she mentioned historical and cultural facts such as John Brown and Harpers Ferry, Independence Hall in Wheeling (where the vote to separate from Virginia took place), and the fact that West Virginia has the distinction of being the only state born from the Civil War. Mrs. Manchin noted that our Welsh, Irish, Scottish, and British heritage appears abundantly in our Appalachian music melodies and instruments such as the dulcimer and mandolin, and that our cultural diversity appears in music from other genres, including everything from symphonies to Gospel.

Advancing further forward, Mrs. Manchin spoke of West Virginia's mark in the glass industry, mining community, parks and natural resources, and the wonderful contributions made by our artisans and craftspeople. She praised both private industry and State agencies such as Tourism, the Division of Culture and History, the Department of Agriculture, and the Division of Natural Resources for helping visitors see the best in West Virginia and encounter a diverse cultural experience.

Mrs. Manchin reminded conference attendees that they are the custodians of the heritage for the areas they represent. "As the people who market these special places, sounds, and memories, you need to offer visitors heritage in a way they can relate to and appreciate." She further challenged them to find ways of keeping cultural and heritage tourism alive. "Take seriously your charge to keep cultural and heritage tourism exciting and available to everyone."

### PAID LEAVE FOR ORGAN DONATIONS APPROVED

This past April, Governor Manchin signed into law Senate Bill 240 which provides that all State employees hired for permanent employment of at least a 0.50 FTE (full time equivalent) schedule are eligible to receive paid leave for live organ donation.

During a calendar year, an employee who donates an adult kidney or a portion of an adult liver may be granted up to 120 hours of paid leave. An employee who makes an adult bone marrow donation may receive up to 56 hours of paid leave. For specifics, see the Division of Personnel's (DOP) proposed Interpretive Rule at [www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/rules/143CSR5Notice.htm](http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/rules/143CSR5Notice.htm). A separate form to request this leave is being developed and will be posted on the DOP website as soon as it is available.

For more information regarding security procedures, please contact the Division of Protective Services at 558-9911 and/or refer to the West Virginia Division of Personnel's Policy DOP-15, Workplace Security ([www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/emprel/POLICIES/Worksec2.pdf](http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/emprel/POLICIES/Worksec2.pdf)).

## PEIA's Face-to-Face Program Wins National Recognition

Reprinted from *Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes* (October 2005 issue: [www.state.wv.us/admin/qna/depoct05.pdf](http://www.state.wv.us/admin/qna/depoct05.pdf)), the Department of Administration's newsletter.

The West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) has been awarded \$2,500 by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for its Face-to-Face Program. The award falls under the NCQAs Quality Profiles: The Leadership Series – Focus on Diabetes, which examines barriers to effective care and highlights strategic interventions to help health care organizations and employers prevent diabetes and improve diabetes management. PEIA plans to offer the award money as a contribution for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

# West Virginia Genealogy Records Now Available Online

Contributed by Ginny Painter of the Division of Culture and History.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH), with FamilySearch Archive (Genealogical Society of Utah), has announced the launching of its Vital Research Records online database. The new online database features more than a million West Virginia birth, death, and marriage records – a valuable resource for genealogists and historians. According to agency officials, family history researchers can now search and view scanned images of the original birth, death and marriage records from six counties, as well as most statewide death certificates from 1917-54, on the WVDCH website at [www.wvculture.org/vrr](http://www.wvculture.org/vrr).

“We are very pleased to announce this project, which is of great value to anyone researching their family history in West Virginia” said Troy

O. Body, WVDCH commissioner. “Early indications from genealogists who have begun using this new online resource are extremely positive. I encourage anyone with roots in West Virginia to take time to check out our website and make a connection with their past.”

Fredrick H. Armstrong, the Division’s director of archives and history, added, “The ability to view digitized photographic images of the actual records rather than just the typed transcriptions is unusual in the online genealogy community. Having access to the actual record images contributes to increased accuracy in family research and we’re proud to move West Virginia into the forefront of this movement.”

Developed in collaboration with FamilySearch Archive, which mi-

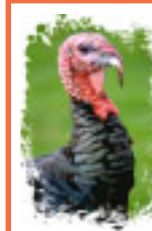
crofilmed, scanned, and indexed the records, the initial phase of the project includes county records for Calhoun, Gilmer, Hardy, Harrison, Mineral and Pendleton Counties. The database includes county birth records for the period 1853-1930, county death records for 1853 until the late 1960s, and county marriage records from the creation of the county until the late 1960s, all of which are searchable by name, county, and date. Records from additional counties will be added over the next few years, and statewide death certificates will be added annually as the records become 50 years old.

For more information, e-mail [wvrr@wvculture.org](mailto:wvrr@wvculture.org) or call Armstrong or archivist Debra Basham at (304) 558-0230.

## YOUR NEW FUTURE ... ... COULD START NOW!

The West Virginia University Institute of Technology’s Community and Technical College offers non-traditional delivery for the Public Service Option of its General Studies Associate Degree Program. This means that all courses required for this degree are offered evenings, on television, or over the world wide web every 2-4 years. Classes are offered at three locations statewide: Oak Hill, Charleston, and Montgomery. This program can directly transfer to Tech’s 4-year Bachelor’s in Public Service Administration. For information about times and locations for upcoming Spring 2006 Semester classes, call or e-mail Jan Young at (304) 456-0546 or [Jeanne.Young@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Jeanne.Young@mail.wvu.edu).

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According to Benjamin Franklin, “The turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird and withal a true original Native of North America.” Franklin wanted the turkey to be named the national bird instead of the bald eagle ...

*now there’s food for thought!*



*The WV Workers’ Compensation Division softball team won the Capitol League Cup softball championship this past summer.*

*The Capitol League Cup was donated by the Charleston Gold Dome Lions Club. An engraved plate for each winning team in this and past years adorns the base of the coveted cup.*

*Becky Neal from Workers’ Compensation is pictured holding the cup, surrounded by members of the Charleston Gold Dome Lions Club (left to right) Justin and Beth Southern, Charlie Varner, Roberta Duffer, Monte DeLopez and Darrell Jennings.*

*Congratulations to the great players at Workers’ Compensation!*

## WV School of Osteopathic Medicine Ranks Among Country's Best

Article and photo reprinted from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine's website ([www.wvsom.edu/About/USNews.htm](http://www.wvsom.edu/About/USNews.htm)).

The tradition of excellence continues at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine as the college finds itself ranked among the nation's elite medical schools for the seventh consecutive year by U.S. News & World Report magazine.

The Lewisburg institution is ranked ninth in Rural Medicine – the third straight year WVSOM has made the top 10 in that category. The college is also ranked in Primary Care Medicine and Family Medicine. The magazine examines both M.D. (allopathic) and D.O. (osteopathic) schools nationwide in compiling its rankings.



This year's rankings confirm WVSOM's reputation as one of the premier medical schools in the nation, according to WVSOM President Olen E. Jones, Jr., Ph.D. "It's quite a feat to have our college ranked among the top medical schools in the country year after year," exclaims Dr. Jones, pointing out that WVSOM has appeared in the prestigious rankings each year since 1998. "The teamwork and positive attitude shown by our faculty, staff, and students reflects the strength of our medical education program and this institution."

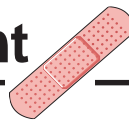
The rankings are based on expert opinion about program quality as well as statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research, and students. Opinions were gathered from deans, program directors, senior faculty members, and professionals in the field directly involved in hiring new graduates.

The U.S. News rankings follow on the heels of a University of Nebraska study released early this year which ranked WVSOM the best medical school in the entire world in terms of percentage of its graduates who practice medicine in rural areas.

"We are very good at what we do, and I think these rankings bear that out," says Michael Adelman, D.O., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean at WVSOM. "We supply top notch physicians to the rural areas of our state and nation while forging ahead with new ideas and initiatives which keep us on the cutting edge of medical education."

The rankings for "America's Best Graduate Schools 2006" are available in the U.S. News' "Best Graduate Schools" guidebook, and in the latest edition of the U.S. News & World Report magazine. You can also access the rankings online at the U.S. News website ([www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/med/medindex\\_brief.php](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/med/medindex_brief.php)).

## News From the Medical Front



Dealing with cancer is difficult at any time of the year, but often, the hubbub of the holidays compounds fears and feelings. If someone in your family is dealing with cancer during the holidays, contact the American Cancer Society for ideas on how to ease the strains of the disease so your family can enjoy the season. Call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

## Pencil In ...



The Red Cross will hold a **blood drive** in Building 7 on December 2 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Give the gift of life – be a donor! All donors will receive a free long-sleeved t-shirt! For eligibility requirements, visit [www.redcross.org/services/biomed/0,1082,0\\_557\\_00.html](http://www.redcross.org/services/biomed/0,1082,0_557_00.html).



The State Capitol's annual **Joyful Night** celebration will take place on the Capitol's North Plaza on Saturday, December 3, 2005 at 5:45 P.M. All citizens are encouraged to join Governor Joe Manchin and First Lady Gayle Manchin for an evening that will feature a message from the First Family and special holiday music by various local performers.



**The game of basketball celebrates its 114<sup>th</sup> birthday on Dec. 1.** James Naismith is credited with creating the game in 1891 in Springfield, MA using peach baskets for hoops.

