

Tourism Debuts Country's Most Advanced State Tourism Website and Database

Contributed by Matt Turner of the Division of Tourism.

The West Virginia Division of Tourism recently began using a customized tourism database system – the most advanced in the country, tourism officials said.

The system allows callers to the State's 1-800-CALL-WVA tourism hotline, as well as visitors to the division's website, to receive instant fulfillment of their information requests. The database generates the information and, with a few clicks, Division of Tourism travel counselors can send callers a personalized letter or e-mail that contains the information the caller requested.

The Internet-based database features more than 8,000 listings of statewide tourism facilities, events, and activities. Another unique feature is that the State's tourism companies and organizations can update their own information instantly via the web, ensuring that the most up-to-the-minute information is always available.

Gov. Bob Wise was on hand for the introduction of the new system and spoke personally with one of the first callers.

"This system is an exceptional example of the best West Virginia

can be," Wise said. "A public/private partnership worked together to develop a system that uses cutting edge information technology while emphasizing personalized, 24-hour customer service. The development and use of this system show the innovative and creative energy our government and our State businesses share."

According to Alisa Bailey, Commissioner of Commerce and Tourism, the new system is the result of

See TOURISM – Page 4



We're Sprucin' Up!!

General Services Director David Pentz and his staff are undertaking several projects around the Capitol Complex to beautify, restore, and accentuate the grandeur of the area. "The Capitol is a major tourist attraction for visitors to West Virginia. We want to present it in the best light possible," Pentz said. What better place to begin than with the grounds! General Services recently purchased several new pieces of equipment which will allow the Yard Crew to spruce up the lawns and flower beds. Pictured above with the new equipment are (L-R): Jim Bumpas, John Carter, Jason Blount, Danny Sizemore, Deputy Director Bill Pauley, Director David Pentz, Jeff Harbour, Donald Jordan, Carles Farley, Dennis Stewart, Jennings Ashby, and Greg Hubbard.

SNAKES ALIVE!!

Michael Loftus, an intern for Sen. Shirley Love, admires a ball python and corn snake, displayed by DNR employees Jeff Hajenga and Jennifer Wykle. These and other displays were in the Capitol Rotunda on WV State Parks Day, held March 28.



1 + 1 = Help for West Virginia Students

Information contributed by Lavetta McKnight of the Keep a Child In School Program.

Are you looking for an opportunity to do some volunteer work, but haven't found a program that is convenient to your schedule? You may want to consider tutoring and check out the following opportunities that are close to the Capitol Complex.

There is a desperate need for people to tutor area students. Tutoring one-on-one is an effective way of helping students improve academic performance and boost self-confidence.

Tutors need a good general knowledge in the subject area they are tutoring, but don't have to be experts. In general, a tutor needs to be a warm and caring individual who can establish a rapport with his or her student. And tutoring isn't just good for students. Tutors come away with a great sense of accomplishment as they share their time, talents, and skills.

There's still time to get involved – see the opportunities listed in the box at the right.

TUTORS NEEDED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

Community Development Outreach Ministries (CDOM)
 900 Washington St. (342-0029)
 Tuesdays, 4-5 P.M.

Friends of the East End
 169 Quarrier Street (925-3478)
 Wednesdays, 6-8 P.M.

Riverside School District
 For information, call Sharon Hemmings at 348-1996, ext. 320





Other locations are also available. For other Charleston area locations, call Keep a Child in School, Inc. at 348-6596. For volunteer opportunities statewide, call Helen Minogue with Connect WV at 1-800-WVHELPS.



Bananas - A Bunch of Goodness

They're a fun food - a favorite of kids and adults alike - and the most popular fruit in the world. So why promote bananas when everyone likes them already? Because they're **SERIOUS** food! Bananas should be more than an occasional snack, more than dessert, and more than pie filling. You should eat them on purpose. They're just that good for you.

Consider this bundle of benefits from "big yellow":

-  They're high in potassium, which means bananas can lower the risk of high blood pressure and related diseases like heart attack and stroke. If you already have high blood pressure, eating bananas may help.
-  Bananas keep bad cholesterol from oxidizing and sticking to your artery walls. One researcher at the University of Mississippi Medical Center says we should think of foods like bananas the same way we think of love and money: You just can't get too much!
-  They can assist in keeping your stomach in order. Bananas are a natural antacid. Eat one if you have heartburn and you may not need anything else. Some studies show bananas help to heal stomach ulcers and may guard the stomach against harsh substances.
-  They're "regular" food. After a bout with a stomach virus, they can replenish your vital fluids and nutrients.

The next time you get that twinge of hunger, grab a "naner"... and as an added bonus, you can recycle the peel. Roses love banana peels. Simply spread the peel sections around the base of your rose plants for natural fertilizer. The only thing you need to throw away is the brand sticker!

Women's Cancer Treatment Cost Fears Eased

A woman diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer goes through many emotions, not the least of which is fear. As of April 1, 2001, part of the fear may be alleviated. Uninsured women under age 65 who have been diagnosed with either forms of cancer under the CDC Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program or by a public or private provider approved by the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (BCCSP) can get coverage for treatment under the State Medicaid Program.

"A woman who is a mother, a wife, or daughter doesn't need go through the terror of cancer and the anxiety of being uninsured," said Governor Bob Wise, as quoted from the March 21, 2001 issue of the *Wetzel Chronicle*. Wise continued, "I'm sure every West Virginian will applaud the fact we're able to help

See **CANCER** – Page 4.

Final Cabinet Appointee, Other Agency Heads Profiled

Ann Stottlemeyer Bureau of Senior Services

The final Cabinet-level individual to be profiled is Ann Stottlemeyer, Commissioner for the Bureau of Senior Services. Stottlemeyer has an extensive background in health and government. She has served as Deputy Director of the State Health Department, Deputy Director of the Public Employees Insurance Agency, Executive Director of the Association of Mental Health/Mental Retardation Programs, and Commissioner of the Bureau for Medical Services for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. She worked as a consultant/lobbyist for MAMSI/Optimum Choice and as Director of State Services for the West Virginia Medical Institute.



Ann Stottlemeyer

Jane L. Cline Insurance Commission

The new Insurance Commissioner is Jane L. Cline. Cline is a past president of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators and has served on other driver/motor vehicle related committees and commissions. She held the position of Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles from 1989 to 1997. Prior to her current appointment, Cline owned and operated a government consulting firm.



Jane L. Cline

Ed Hamrick Division of Natural Resources

Having previously served as Natural Resources Director, Ed Hamrick has once again been appointed to that position. He is also a former special assistant to the DNR Director, Vice President for College Advancement at Glenville State College, and Executive Director of the Glenville State College Foundation. In addition, Hamrick held the position of Executive Director for the West Virginia Wildlife Federation and for the Independent Oil and Gas Association of West Virginia.



Ed Hamrick

Col. Howard E. Hill, Jr. West Virginia State Police

Col. Howard E. Hill, Jr. will serve as Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police. Col. Hill brings both law enforcement and military experience to the position. He is a former Fayette County Deputy, having served as Chief Deputy from 1987 to 1989. He is also a member of the West Virginia Army National Guard, in which he holds the rank of Colonel. During his time with both agencies, Col. Hill has



Col. Howard Hill

received continuous training in law enforcement and administration.

Ivin B. Lee Human Rights Commission

Ivin B. Lee has been reappointed to head the State's Human Rights Commission. Lee has 21 years service as a Charleston Police Officer, and served 2 years as the Police Chief in Dunbar before coming to State government. She first served with the Division of Juvenile Services before taking the position of Human Rights Commission Executive Director.



Ivin B. Lee

Nichelle D. Perkins Division of Personnel

Nichelle D. Perkins comes to Personnel from West Virginia University, where she developed, coordinated, and taught labor education courses. She has worked with the WVU Office of the Associate Provost, the Extension Services' Social Justice Committee, and the Office of Social Justice to advance professional development programs for faculty, staff, and volunteers. Perkins has a law degree and has worked for the Labor Center in Iowa City, Iowa and the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, D.C.



Nichelle Perkins

**Thanks to the profiled individuals
for providing their
brief biographies and photographs.**

TOURISM – Continued from Page 1


more than a year's work between the division and Citynet, West Virginia's largest Internet company.

"This partnership with Citynet gives us an incredible database system that provides the public with quick, customized West Virginia travel information and puts tourism businesses in control of the information we provide callers and website visitors," she said. "We think it's the nation's most advanced tourism information system, and it was built with no upfront cost to the State."

The new system can be used to respond to any inquiry regardless of origin – web, e-mail, telephone, regular mail, or fax. Visitors to the division's website (www.callwva.com), now have 24-hour-a-day access to the same information that tourism employees provide to those who call the division's 1-800-CALL-WVA hotline. Additionally, the system allows the Division of Tourism to gather more accurate caller information. This research is important in tracking the effectiveness of the State's advertising campaigns, Bailey said.

"We'll still be mailing travel guides and brochures to our callers, but that's in addition to the instant e-mails and faxes they'll receive. This system gives us the ability to offer a whole new level of fast and very personalized customer service."

Citynet will begin marketing the new product to other jurisdictions and has already received inquiries from as far away as Europe and Asia, said Citynet CEO Jim Martin.



All State government employees are invited to play in the 10th Annual WV Public Employees Golf Tournament. It will be held at Pipestem State Park on Monday, May 14 and begins with a 10 A.M. shotgun start. A \$40 fee includes greens fee, cart, and cook-out, and the deadline is May 4. Discount lodging is available. For info or to register, call Ed Henderson at 558-2764 or email him at ehender@dnr.state.wv.us.

CANCER – Continued from Page 2

these women. They need all the support they can get when presented with the diagnosis of cancer."

Diagnosed women will be given a confirmation card which identifies them as a BCCSP participant. The card will be signed by the medical provider and attached to a simplified Medicaid eligibility form. There is no income or asset testing; therefore, if the forms are accurately completed, the card should be issued in about 4 weeks. This will not delay treatment - eligible women may begin treatment immediately.

The card is valid for the duration of the cancer treatment. In addition to the treatments, the insured women will be eligible for any services included in the State Medicaid plan, allowing them access to routine and acute health care services, pharmacy services, and other covered items.

West Virginia is one of 3 states nationwide to implement this program. The estimated cost is approximately \$500,000 – money well-spent to save lives. For complete details, contact Constance Harvey, Director of the BCCSP, at 558-7180.

Pencil In ...




SEMINAR

The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing is sponsoring a **Professional Development Seminar** on May 16, 2001. Dr. Jackie Rankin, noted writer, speaker, trainer, and jury consultant will speak on *Stress and the Image of Success*. The seminar is free and there is a Dutch treat luncheon preceding. Lunch is at noon (\$11.88) and will consist of boneless pork loin or chicken breast, green beans, baked potato, salad, roll, brownies and cookies, and iced tea or coffee. The seminar is scheduled to be held from 1-2:30 P.M. Call Susie Teel at 558-1294 to register. Checks for the luncheon are due by May 9 and should be mailed to Sherry Hale, WVDEP, 10 McJunkin Road, Nitro, WV 25143-2506.

May 13-19 is **National Police Week** - celebrated since 1963. The **Peace Officers Memorial Day** is May 15.



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