

## Sen. Byrd Named West Virginian of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

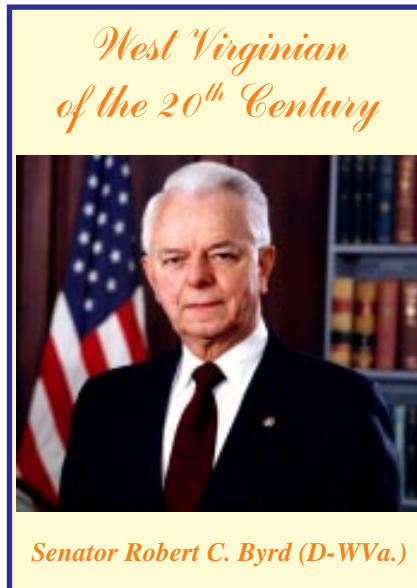
On May 31, West Virginia Governor Bob Wise, House Speaker Bob Kiss, and Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin joined U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller and Congressman Nick Rahall to recognize U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd as the *West Virginian of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*.

“West Virginians have given so much to me. Without your faith in me, I do not know where I would be today, but certainly I would not be here,” Byrd said at a ceremony honoring him in the West Virginia House of Delegates chamber.

“I am grateful to you for placing your trust in this adopted son of a poor coal miner. I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to serve our State and our nation; to stand in the midst of history, among men and women who have changed the course of destiny; at the pinnacle of power in the greatest legislative body ever to grace the Earth,” Byrd said.

The State’s senior senator repeatedly thanked the people of West Virginia for continually expressing their faith and confidence in him by electing him first to the House of Delegates in 1947, then to the West Virginia Senate in 1951, to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1953, and to the U.S. Senate in 1959. He is serving his 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive 6-year term as a U.S. Senator – the longest tenure in West Virginia history.

“Never having forgotten my roots, I continue to be aware that my highest duty is to West Virginia and to the people of our State, who have honored me with public office for



more than half a century,” Byrd stated.

In addition to the people of West Virginia, Byrd thanked his wife, Erma, to whom he has been married for 64 years.

“Erma has been God’s greatest gift to me,” Byrd told the audience at the State Capitol.

As the State moves forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Byrd encouraged West Virginians to “build their future on the development of the human mind and the rock of the human spirit.”

“I hope that West Virginians will continue to preserve and honor the old values that guided and sustained our fathers and mothers in their daily lives and in the life of our State from its earliest beginning,” Byrd said.

“Man is a spiritual creature. But if that spirituality is ignored – if man’s soul is allowed to starve – the result is spiritual death. And no task of national renewal will be possible

See BYRD – Page 3

## New Law Allows CETA Time for Retirement

Information provided by Terasa Robertson of the CPRB.

During the last Legislative Session, lawmakers passed House Bill 2080 which allows certain employees the option of purchasing retirement service credit for periods of employment with the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, commonly known as CETA. To qualify, a Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) member must:

- ★ Be a current, active PERS member.
- ★ Have moved from temporary employment with the participating employer to permanent, full-time employment with the same participating employer within 120 days following the termination of the member’s CETA employment.

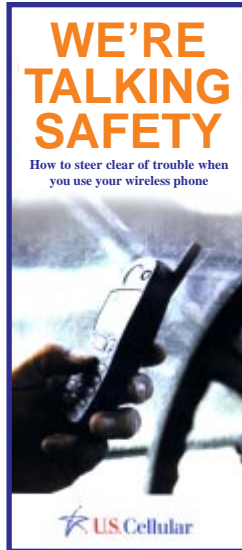
See CETA - Page 3

# WV State Police Address Cell Phone Safety Issue

Pamphlet information provided by Sgt. Michael Corsaro of the West Virginia State Police.

In today's newspaper headlines across the country, there are countless articles addressing the safety of cell phone usage while driving. Accidents resulting from distractions caused by cell phone usage have been on the upswing, prompting insurance companies, law enforcement agencies, and cellular providers to take a look at ways to reduce the danger and frequency of occurrence.

The West Virginia State Police and U.S. Cellular have entered into a cooperative effort to encourage people who use cell phones while driving to heed a few safety precautions. In a pamphlet provided by U.S. Cellular, they advise users to:



- ★ Pay attention to the road and changing traffic conditions; safety should always come first.
- ★ Make calls from your car only when necessary. If the call can wait, then wait.
- ★ Ask a passenger to place or take a call, or let calls go into voice mail and return them at a safer time.
- ★ Wait until you are stopped at a light or parked before placing a call.
- ★ **NEVER** take notes or look up information while driving. Make use of services offered by your wireless provider - directory assistance, call completion, etc. - these reduce distractions for motorists.
- ★ Use a hands-free device to help reduce distraction and maintain focus, leaving both hands free to operate the vehicle. (NOTE: You might consider using the hands-free device for all cell phone calls, whether while driving or not. This could possibly reduce the radiation concerns associated with cell phone usage.)
- ★ End the call if traffic becomes heavy or if road conditions become hazardous.

In addition to the above, we recommend the following:

- ★ Get to know your phone. Read the instruction manual and become familiar with its features. Most phones have speed dial, memory dial, and automatic redial, and many come with an automatic answer feature.
- ★ Position your phone within easy reach before you start driving. This eliminates searching for it when it rings or if you need it.
- ★ Do not engage in distracting conversations - these include conversations requiring detailed coordination of events, those requiring note taking, and yes, even arguments. Stressful or emotional conversations conducted while driving are dangerous. Save these calls for a safer time.
- ★ Lastly, and very importantly, **ALWAYS** turn off your cell phone when at the gas pumps. Evidence has been established that minute sparks from cell phones can ignite gasoline fumes.

Many U.S. cities and states have been considering and even imposed bans on cell phone use while driving. Some bans have been struck down by veto or in the courts (EX: Doylestown, PA and Jersey City, NJ), while others remain in effect (EX: Westchester County, NY). In addition, many countries, including Italy, Japan, and England, have instituted laws prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving. The best way to help avoid mandated bans is by using the stated safety precautions to help reduce the number of related auto accidents.

If you're interested, copies of the pamphlet are available at West Virginia State Police Detachments.

## PENNY FOR YOUR CHIP THOUGHTS ...



Chipping is one of the most important golf skills, but mastery of the art is elusive for most players. The editors of *Golf Magazine* say practicing the following coin drill will help ensure you're making a downward blow when you practice chipping. Place a penny on the grass an inch ahead of the ball, then hit the chip shot. If the club head is moving on the proper downward path, it will hit the ball, then the coin. If the coin doesn't move, you've made an upward strike and contact won't feel solid. Work to contact the coin on every practice shot. Your chipping will improve ... and your score will too!

## BUREAU OF SENIOR SERVICES WARNS OF PHONE SCAM

Bureau of Senior Services Commissioner Ann Stottleyer has issued a warning to senior citizens not to release any personal information to anyone claiming to represent SPAN

II. SPAN II is a program under the Seniors Prescription Assistance Network that provides certain Medicaid recipients with access to prescription drugs at prices available to the Public Employees Insurance Agency.

"No one will be calling you from the SPAN II program," Stottleyer said. "You should not provide information to anyone who represents themselves as the Bureau of Senior Services and asks for personal information."

Stottleyer said the Bureau was contacted by a woman who had received a phone call from someone claiming to represent the SPAN II Program. The caller asked for the woman's checking account number.






## Did'ja Know ...



Each year, the Division of Personnel (DOP) processes thousands of personnel transactions – these include new hires, salary adjustments, promotions, resignations, leaves of absence, merit increases, and a variety of status changes. Each transaction is reviewed and checked for accuracy and compliance with appropriate rules and regulations. How many were processed? In 1999, the DOP processed 76,263; in 2000, that number was 61,853.

## IS YOUR LAWN BUGGED?

Before buying pesticides, consider all the alternatives. The West Virginia University Extension Office has experts who can talk with you about how to establish and maintain your lawn. You can learn about:

-  Assessment of a site for planting suitability
-  Soil preparation and planting
-  Selection of grass species and varieties
-  Pest control using biological methods rather than chemicals
-  proper mowing and water

Call the WVU Extension Service (293-3911) or the Department of Agriculture (558-2212) for more.

## Legislature

# 2001

# FYI

Ever wonder about the number of bills during a Legislative Session? During the 2001 session, the numbers were:

	HOUSE	SENATE
INTRODUCED:	1,260	736
PASSED:	160	170
VETOED:	Total of 10 from both branches	

## BYRD – Continued from Page 1.

unless that effort is also a task of spiritual renewal,” he said.

The senator also urged a renewed commitment to high-quality education for the State’s young people.

“I hope that more West Virginians will understand the imperative of education and the value of our schools, and that we will restore education to its rightful position as the primary key that opens doors onto the classic American dream,” Byrd said.

“I hope that increased numbers of parents will become involved in monitoring their childrens’ progress, in encouraging better performance at all levels of their childrens’ schoolwork, and in applauding the achievements of good teachers,” Byrd stated.

“I also hope that increased numbers of children will rediscover the joys of reading, that more and more students will find unfathomed challenges in mathematics and the sci-

ences and in history, and that a new generation of well-educated, keenly-interested, and highly-dedicated and industrious students will emerge from our schools to assure our State’s preeminence in every field of learning, business, industry, and endeavor known to man, and many fields yet unknown but waiting for some blade-sharp West Virginia intellects to invent and open doors to them,” Byrd stated.

The packed ceremony included performances by the Capitol High School Band, the Kanawha Valley Pipes and Drums, and a 19-gun welcome salute by the West Virginia National Guard.

Wise commented that, “What Senator Byrd has achieved as a legislator secures him a place in the history of our State and our nation.”

Congratulations Senator Byrd, and thank you for your dedicated service to the citizens of West Virginia and those of the United States.

## CETA – Continued from Page 1.

- ★ Provide evidence that establishes, to a reasonable degree of certainty, that the member previously worked under CETA.

If you qualify under these provisions and wish to purchase this service credit, you must pay BOTH the 4.5% employee contribution AND the 9.5% employer contribution that would have been made during that time to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB), plus interest compounded annually at the rate of 4% through June 30, 2000 and 7.65% thereafter. Only a maximum of 2 years may be purchased, and the money must be paid to the CPRB no later than December 31, 2001. The actual amount you pay will be determined by several factors such as how much time you are purchasing, your wages during the period of time in question, and the date by which the money is paid. Terasa Robertson of the CPRB gives the following example:

To purchase credit for CETA employment from January 1976 through June 1977 (18 months), at a salary of \$700 per month, an employee would have to pay \$4,842.50, if the amount is paid by July 31, 2001.

Anyone who wishes to pursue purchasing CETA time for their retirement can obtain a CETA Service Request Form from his/her agency payroll coordinator. Also, for your convenience, a printable version of the form is available on the CPRB website ([www.state.wv.us/admin/cprb/formindex.htm#pers](http://www.state.wv.us/admin/cprb/formindex.htm#pers) and click on the CETA form link). If you have questions, call the CPRB at 558-3570 or 1-800-654-4406 (within WV).



## Volunteers Helping to Save WV Streams

Information contributed by Tim Craddock of the Division of Environmental Protection.

Due to the efforts of volunteers throughout the State, West Virginia streams are seeing the benefit of conservation efforts. The West Virginia Save Our Streams Program (WVSOS) is a citizen volunteer stream monitoring program designed to improve the quality of our streams by monitoring and reporting conditions.

The WVSOS Program teaches citizens how to monitor and become watchdogs of our wadeable streams and rivers. The program first began as part of efforts from the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) back in 1989. It was funded mainly from IWLA national grant program and was managed by the Office of Water Resources, which at the time was part of the Division of Natural Resources (DNR). After about 2 years, the program could not be funded and DNR had to drop the program.



*Students from Hamlin High School (right) assist Tim Craddock, WVSOS Coordinator (left) with collecting macroinvertebrate samples along West Virginia's Mud River.*

Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, the program has grown from about 200 volunteers in 1995 to over 1,500 active volunteers statewide!

The volunteers have placed monitoring stations in 53% of West Virginia's major hydrologic regions, covering more than 500 stream miles. Volunteer groups have taken information from these and submitted over 200 stream surveys during the past year, noting conditions like overall stream conditions, siltation and sedimentation statistics, erosion status, and land use and human impact figures.

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Give Tim Craddock a call at 558-2108 or drop him an email him at [tcraddock@mail.dep.state.wv.us](mailto:tcraddock@mail.dep.state.wv.us).



*East Hardy Middle School students do their part to collect water and organism samples for the WVSOS Program.*

## Pencil In ...

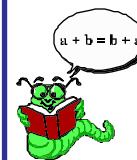


**The California Avenue Parking Building is being locked** at 10 P.M. each night and will be opened each morning at 5 A.M. If you are parked in the garage after 10 P.M. or need in prior to 5 A.M., you will need to contact the Capitol Police at 558-5715 or 558-6392. The Main Parking Building is accessible at all times for those who park at that location.



The Math Department at West Virginia State College is offering **math tutoring** in July for **children in grades K-8**.

It's open to any student, but preference will be given to students who have a reference from a teacher. Tutoring sessions will be in Wallace Hall, Room 225 from 1:50-2:50 P.M. on the following dates: July 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, and 19. Call Marie Claytor at 766-3267 for an application - deadline to apply is July 2.



**Stateline** is a publication of the West Virginia Department of Administration, Division of Personnel

**Bob Wise, Governor**  
**Gregory A. Burton, Cabinet Secretary**  
**Nichelle D. Perkins, Director of Personnel**

**Tari McClintock Crouse, Editor**  
**Jane S. Fouty, Assistant Editor**  
**Tamra Rogers, Writer**

State Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 416  
 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
 Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0139  
 Telephone: 304/558-3950, ext. 206  
 E-Mail: [jfouty@gwmail.state.wv.us](mailto:jfouty@gwmail.state.wv.us)  
[www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/](http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/)

**Approximately 65% of the monitored streams rate in the 'good' or 'excellent' categories!**