



First Lady Gayle Manchin Launches WVPASS Website

Contributed by June Robinson of the Department of Education and the Arts.

On Friday, April 20, 2007, First Lady Gayle C. Manchin officially launched the WVPASS (Partnerships to Assure Student Success) website (www.wvpass.org). Mrs. Manchin said, "As a former educator and life-long community volunteer in West Virginia, I believe in creating the opportunity to bring a variety of people together to share

ideas, communicate, and network, which in turn allows programs at all levels to develop, grow, and become self-sustaining – that is WVPASS."

WVPASS is a State initiative of national and State partners that support West Virginia communities by providing training, technical support, and resources for youth and community development. WVPASS was initiated in 2003 by Mrs. Manchin. WVPASS also connects partners to help facilitate unprecedented collaboration and serve youth with far greater resources than

they would otherwise receive. "The WVPASS website contains a myriad of training programs and grant opportunities. It is a timely resource that benefits all West Virginians. This is a single site that connects people to many locations," said Jack Wiseman, WVPASS Director

WVPASS provides training and technical assistance to integrate America's Promise, Communities in Schools (CIS), Ruby Payne Train-

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File Photo: West Virginia
First Lady Gayle C. Manchin

Treasurer's Office to Offer 457 Plan Training

Contributed by Greg Stone of the State Treasurer's Office.

State Treasurer John Perdue's office will brief payroll clerks and some human resource directors on the State's revamped 457 Deferred Compensation Plan, from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. on May 14, 2007 at The Embassy Suites Hotel in Charleston.

Legislation passed during the 2007 session gives Treasurer Perdue's office permission to use unclaimed property fund interest to provide a four-year match program for 457 participants. Such plans are so named for their link to a section of IRS tax code.

Highlights of the revamped plan include participant fees cut by 30 percent and a better array of investment options. All 457 plans are tax-deferred – one is not taxed on the money at the time of contribution.

Perdue's office took custody of the plan in July of 2006. Employees already contributing \$400 per fiscal year may continue to do so and be eligible for the matching funds.

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Grave Creek Breaks Ground for New Research Center

Contributed by Terri Marion of the Division of Culture and History.

On Thursday, April 26, 2007, Grave Creek Mound Archaeology Complex in Moundsville held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new one-story research center to house West Virginia's archaeological collection. Governor Joe Manchin III, Culture and History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith, and other dignitaries led the ceremony.

The 9,600-square-foot wing will be added to the northeast corner of the complex's museum. In addition to a state-of-the-art collections storage area, the wing will feature a conservation laboratory for curators, study area for researchers, library, and an observation area for the public to view the activity in the lab.

The new addition will be used to house the archaeological collections currently stored at various other sites, some of which are out of state. It also will have ample room for more than 25 years of expansion to the entire collection. Currently, there are no State or federal repositories in West Virginia suitable for storing archaeological materials.

"This new wing at Grave Creek will provide a centralized location

for the State's archaeological collections," said Commissioner Reid-Smith. "We are excited to see the culmination of planning for the new addition which will accommodate both the current collection and its anticipated growth. Grave Creek will be the center of archaeological studies in West Virginia as well as the State's premiere archaeological museum and tourist destination."

The new wing is a \$3-million project, funded by the West Virginia Legislature and a Save America's Treasures grant supported by Senator Robert C. Byrd. Walters Construction Inc. of Wheeling will perform the actual construction, and Lisa Dall'Olio of Grove and Dall'Olio Architects in Martinsburg is the project manager. Construction is slated for completion in January 2008.

Operated by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Grave Creek Mound Archaeology Complex features one of the largest and most famous burial mounds built by the prehistoric Adena people. A massive undertaking, construction of the mound took place in successive stages from about 250-150 B.C., and required the movement of more than 60,000 tons of earth. Exhibits and displays in the complex's museum interpret what is known about the lives of these people and the construction of the mound.

The Museum is located at 801 Jefferson Avenue in Moundsville and is open Monday-Saturday from 10 A.M.-4:30 P.M., and Sunday from 1-5 P.M. **For additional information about the archaeology complex or the new research center, contact Susan Yoho, site manager of Grave Creek Mound Archaeology Complex, at 304-843-4128.**

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GATHERING**

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**On the grounds of the
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ALL EVENTS ARE FREE!

Schedule/info available on the web at:
www.wvculture.org/vandalia/vansched.html



IT'S TOURNNEY TIME!

CALLING ALL DUFFERS!

Two great tournaments!

Same week – same location.

**16th Annual
West Virginia Public Employees
Golf Tournament**

Monday, June 4, 2007
Shotgun start at 10 A.M.

For more information/entry form:

➡ **CLICK HERE** ⬅

or e-mail kencaplinger@wvdnr.gov

**Annual Concord University
Foundation Homer K. Ball
Scholarship Golf Tournament**

Friday, June 8, 2007
Tee time: 8:30 A.M.

For more information:

brogans@concord.edu
or 1-304-384-5358

AT PIPESTEM RESORT STATE PARK

Bd. of Medicine Offers Agreement for Alcohol/Chemical Dependency

Edited and reprinted from the West Virginia Board of Medicine's October-December 2006 newsletter (www.wvdhhr.org/wvbom/Newsletter/2006/december06newsletter.pdf).

In 1990, a law was enacted to encourage physicians with drug and/or alcohol problems to seek help. Specifically, pursuant to W. Va. Code § 30-3-9(h), the Board may enter into a voluntary agreement with a physician who reports to the Board his or her participation in a chemical dependency or alcohol treatment program, or who reports to the Board an alcohol or chemical dependency impairment and requests such an agreement for the purpose of seeking treatment, provided the following conditions are met: (1) The Board has not received nor filed any written complaints regarding a physician relating to an alcohol or chemical dependency impairment affecting the care and treatment of patients; and (2) There are no reports filed with the Board relating to an alcohol or chemical dependency impairment of a physician from a hospital or professional society or an insurer or a court (conviction of a crime involving drugs or alcohol).

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New hires are automatically signed up by payroll clerks, unless they choose to opt out. During the training, clerks will learn how to sign up and process employees for the new plan.

Those who contribute at least \$400 during the July 2007 to June 2008 fiscal year are eligible for the \$100 match on July 1, 2008. Any new hire must contribute to the fund for one full fiscal year to be eligible for the match.

Employees may receive a maximum fiscal year match of \$100 for a four-year period ending June 30, 2012, as funds are available.

For more about the payroll clerk training or other 457-related topics, call John Fisher at 340-5022.

The voluntary agreement is not considered a disciplinary action and is not public information. It is confidential. The voluntary agreement imposes certain limits on the physician's practice for the protection of the public and the physician, such as: no alcohol or controlled substances except those prescribed by another duly licensed physician; random drug screening; required attendance at AA, NA, or Caduceus meetings; supervising physician with whom the physician meets regularly and who files reports with the Board;

other conditions as appropriate to the individual problem.

These voluntary agreements, which the Board has entered into with physicians who have requested them, contain provisions similar to the conditions found in disciplinary orders – however, they differ in that the physician is not put on probation and the order is not disciplinary, and thus not public.

Physicians are encouraged to seek help by contacting the Board's Executive Director, Robert C. Knittle, at 304-558-2921, ext. 227.

What's That Buzz?

Spring has *finally* arrived, and you find yourself sitting on your porch, deck, or patio, enjoying the fresh air, when you notice a very large bee buzzing by. Then you immediately laugh, because as the bee buzzes back, you realize it's actually a tiny hummingbird!

Hummingbirds are very small birds – weighing between 0.05 and 0.75 of an ounce – with very high metabolisms – they eat about 50% of their body weight in nectar each day. The smallest, which is actually also the smallest bird on Earth, is the Bee Hummingbird (Cuba) at two inches in length; the largest is the Giant Hummingbird (South America), at around eight-and-a-half inches. Their wings beat between eight and 70 beats per SECOND, depending on the species, with an average of about 55. Nests are tiny, commonly around two-and-a-half inches in diameter. The female usually lays two eggs. For the Ruby-throated hummingbird, they're about the size of a pea.



There are 300+ species (a few of which are considered endangered), and all are found exclusively in North, Central, and South America. Even with their limited habitat, they're still the second largest bird species. In West Virginia, the Ruby-throated is the most common. You can expect to begin seeing the little scutters migrating back north in early April, with the numbers peaking in May, and they'll begin heading south in September.

Generally, when you see one hummingbird, there are at least 4 or 5 more nearby. If you enjoy watching them, there are two ways to attract them. Planting a hummingbird garden full of plants and flowers attractive to the birds will have them flitting around in no time. You can find information about how and what to plant by doing a Google search on the internet with the words "hummingbird" and "garden." Secondly, consider hanging a feeder. They're available commercially at many locations; most are red since the birds seem to be attracted to that color. It's not necessary to buy commercial feed – just mix up one part household cane sugar to four parts water. This mixture simulates the approximately 21% sucrose content of the flowers favored by North American birds. Fill your feeder and refrigerate any leftover mixture for up to two weeks.

ArcGIS Software Proves Valuable Tool for DEP

Contributed by Colleen O'Neill of the Department of Environmental Protection.

The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to promote a healthy environment. This mission is accomplished not only by rules and regulations, but also by evolutions in technology that make protecting the environment easier.

The computer software program ArcGIS provides agency scientists and engineers with another way to view data outside of the typical spreadsheet.

"Visualizing things is so powerful in itself," said Michael Shank, a member of DEP's Technical Applications and Geographic Information Systems unit. Shank explained that by being able to see something, people are better able to understand a situation. He spends time every day transforming ordinary data into pictures of sorts, allowing DEP professionals to make informed decisions in a different light.

"With ArcGIS, there are different categories and colors. So, for example, if you're in mining and you want to display the mining permits, you could colorize them based on the status of the permit, like the inspection status.

"You could make all active mines red and those being reclaimed green," he said. The program can pull data from other programs and overlap them. "For a lot of people, the ability to juxtapose information on top of each other is a very powerful tool."

Besides creating visual images, the software has the capability to set up the data to calculate scenarios that may be encountered in making environmental protection decisions.

Shank says that watersheds are a core concept in environmental management (a watershed is an area of land and water that drains to a common waterbody). DEP's environmental permits are issued on a watershed basis. Mining permits and water pollution control permits, among others, are issued together in the same drainage area so that the agency can see the cumulative effect of permits on a particular area of the State. Using the software's capabilities, Shank helps permit writers foresee potential issues.

ArcGIS also proves useful in processing topography changes, particularly with mining and reclamation activities.

"We can use this program to develop a valley fill inventory," Shank said. He explained that by comparing two sets of points taken from the same location but at different times, you can formulate different information. By subtracting one point from another, you see where they go. If there was high elevation but now it's low, that's where they mined to get at the coal. And if the elevation is now high but was low, that's where they put the overburden.

"There are many different toolboxes," Shank said. "How you arrange the tools to analyze and manipulate the data enables you find the answer you're interested in."

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ing, WV's Promise and WV-FAIR (Financial Aid Information Resources) in West Virginia's communities. The website will enable West Virginia communities, non-profits, civic organizations, State agencies, and individuals the ability to access State and national grants, training opportunities, and events that assist in community and youth development.

For more, contact Jack Wiseman or June Robinson at 304-558-2440 or by e-mail (jwiseman@wvosea.org or jrobinson@wvosea.org). You may also contact Robinson to post a grant opportunity or event on the website.

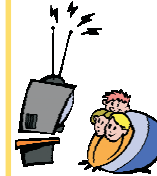
Pencil In ...



The **West Virginia Education and State Employees Grievance Board** has posted its FY 2006 grievance summaries online, found at www.state.wv.us/admin/grievanc/Reports/Summaries06.pdf.

Your TV could be a source of serious injury to your child.

Nationwide, over 3,000 children under age five are injured every year due to toppling TVs. Since 2000, about 100 people have actually been killed, and most of these were children. Take steps to stabilize and secure your television sets.



It's official - the **cost of mailing a letter or payment will rise** to \$0.41 on May 14, 2007. But the cost for mailing heavier pieces will see a decrease. For rates, see www.usps.com/rates/.




First class postage raises to 4¢ on May 14.



The way you treat yourself sets the standard for others.

Dr. Sonya Friedman



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16th ANNUAL WV PUBLIC EMPLOYEES GOLF TOURNAMENT

- Eligibility:** Must be a State, city, county, or public education employee.
Retirees Welcome!
- Where:** Pipestem Resort State Park
- When:** Monday, June 4, 2007 - Shotgun start at 10:00 a.m.
- Fee:** \$60 per person (includes greens fee, cart, cookout and pre tourney range balls)
- Trophies & Prizes:** Awarded in both Men's and Women's Division, Low Gross & Low Net (Callaway System)
Closest to pin, long drive contest and optional skins game plus door prizes

Need a practice on Sunday, June 3, 2007? If so, practice tee times are available on Sunday afternoon starting at 1:00 p.m. Call 304-466-1800 or 1-800-CALL WVA and ask for Pipestem State Park to make reservations.

Practice Greens fee and cart: \$25 (single rate)
Discount lodging: 20% off rack rate Sunday or Monday
Identify yourself as a tournament participant. Lodging reservations must be made by May 25 to take advantage of room discount.

Rain Policy: Tourney goes on rain or shine. In the unlikely event of a total tourney rainout (course closure before completion of 9 holes by all players), a partial refund equal to entry fee less fixed tourney costs (trophies, refreshments, cookout and any payment due Pipestem golf course) will be made. Since any cash refund will be minimal Pipestem rain checks will also be issued.

Cut here and return bottom portion to the address below.

=====

Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Address: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Name of Agency

Place of Employment

Please list name(s) & agency of preferred partners: _____
(Must all be public employees current or retired.) _____

Entry deadline is May 25, 2007. Field will be limited to the first 144 golfers!

Mail completed registration form along with your check (payable to: WVPEGT) to:

Ken Caplinger
WV State Parks
Bldg. 3, Room 714
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E. - Charleston, WV 25305
All entry fees must be enclosed!

If you would like to donate a door prize, please bring it with you to Pipestem. Thank you!!