

First Governor to Deploy

Manchin Deploys with USS West Virginia and Crew

Taken from a press release issued by the Office of Governor Joe Manchin.

Manchin joins crew members for three-day journey out to sea in the submarine.

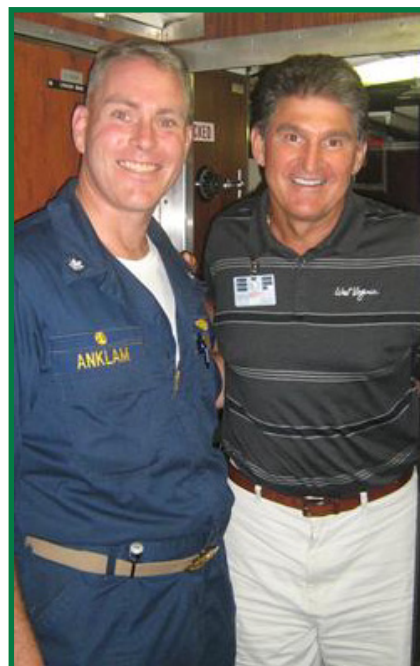
Governor Joe Manchin returned to West Virginia late on August 6, 2007 from a three-day visit on the USS West Virginia (SSBN-736). The Governor boarded the submarine at its homeport in Kings Bay, Ga. on the previous Saturday afternoon, where he joined crew members and set out to sea. He returned to port on the afternoon of August 6.

“The USS West Virginia crew is truly a remarkable group of individuals,” Manchin said. “They are extremely talented and very committed to their mission and this country. They might not all be native West Virginians, but they are all West Virginians at heart. They serve our State and nation proudly.”

The USS West Virginia (SSBN-736) is an Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine – a class of submarines that were specifically designed for extended deterrence patrols. The USS West Virginia has two crews, Blue and Gold, with each crew operating on a 100-day interval. The Blue crew was operating the sea craft during the Governor’s visit.

“I have met with several crew members of the USS West Virginia many times before, but to go to their location and watch them as they perform their job duties, it was an incredible experience. I recognize their efforts and thank each one of them for welcoming me on board the sub.”

The USS West Virginia is the first submarine and the third U.S. Naval ship to bear the name of this State. The crew has participated in several events in West Virginia, including parades and a visit to a children’s home in Elkins. This fall, several crew members are scheduled to volunteer in a Habitat for Humanity project in Charleston.



Governor Joe Manchin is greeted by the Blue Crew during his visit on the USS West Virginia. The sea craft’s Commanding Officer, Chris Anklam, gave the Governor a tour of the vessel. Photo and caption from the Governor’s website.

You can view this and other pictures of Governor Manchin’s visit at www.wv.gov/albumlisting.aspx?albumid=247&albumName=USS+West+Virginia

Justice Davis Signs Order to Establish Third Drug Court

Information taken from a press release issued by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

State Supreme Court Chief Justice Robin Davis has signed an Administrative Order to establish West Virginia’s West Central Drug Court Diversion Program to serve Wirt and Wood Counties.

“The American criminal justice system is fueled by alcohol and drugs. A June 2003 statewide sampling indicated that more than 41 percent of West Virginia’s regional jail inmates reported they have abused substances,” said

Cheryl Lantz Receives Latest Suggestion Award

Congratulations to Cheryl Lantz of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for her suggestion to save the DMV as much as \$9500 a year.

Lantz knew that the DMV purchased registration forms from NCR. She realized that the agency could save money if it produced these forms by computer, which would eliminate the cost of purchasing the forms from NCR and having to hand-file them.

Once Lantz's suggestion was evaluated and implemented, and the costs of implementation were deducted, it resulted in an initial savings of \$5,671. The amount should be higher in subsequent years.

Governor Manchin presented Lantz with a check for \$1134 at a ceremony in the Governor's Reception Room on August 20, 2007.



Gov. Joe Manchin presents Cheryl Lantz with her Employee Suggestion Award Program check. Photo provided by Steve Rotsch.

DO YOU HAVE A COST-SAVING IDEA?

Visit www.legis.state.wv.us/joint/empisug/esab.cfm to find out how **YOU** can cash in!

September is Adult Family Care Month

Contributed by Bonnie Pishner of the WV Dept. of Health and Human Resources.

The West Virginia Adult Family Care Program (AFC) began as a pilot project in 1971. Within the first year, 24 homes were developed and 35 residents were placed. The program was deemed a success and soon became a statewide effort. During the late 70's the political climate revolving around mental health care shifted from long-term institutional care to a community-based model of "least restrictive care." With the closing of several State institutional hospitals, literally hundreds of individuals were placed in the small community-based adult family care homes. The AFC program reached its peak in 1983. By this time, 818 homes were providing care for 1,138 residents around the State.

Throughout the late 80's and early 90's, the AFC program had to deal with private agencies that were also modeling their community-based programs to take advantage of the deinstitutionalization of the mental health program. The private agencies were able to utilize Medicaid funds and other sources to expand their programs. The result was a gradual decline in the AFC program overall.

The West Virginia Division of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) is currently recruiting families to open their homes and hearts to provide a loving, caring, and safe environment for the aged and disabled who can no longer care for themselves. **West Virginia has the third largest percentage of population of elder adults in the United States.**

There are increasing numbers of individuals who qualify for Adult Family Care, some with special needs who are in need of a compassionate, safe, secure, and stable family environment in Adult Family Care Homes.

Those who become certified providers and open their homes to adults in need may receive payment for up to three elderly or disabled adults. Homes must meet certain standards. The adults must have a clear criminal background and be at least 21 years of age. WVDHHR will provide all training at no cost to the provider. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an Adult Family Care Provider, please call the local WVDHHR Office to speak to an Adult Family Care Home finder.

Robin Perdue to Head New Grievance Board

Department of Administration Cabinet Secretary Robert W. Ferguson, Jr. has announced that Deputy Secretary Robin Perdue was selected by the West Virginia Public Employees Grievance Board to serve as its Executive Director.

Perdue has 17 years of State government experience. Prior to serving as Deputy Secretary, she worked for the Department of Agriculture, and later as Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Securities with the State Auditor's Office.

The West Virginia Public Employees Grievance Board (WVPEGB) was created as of July 1, 2007 with the passage of Senate Bill 442 and Executive Order 2-07 issued by Governor Joe Manchin. The WVPEGB replaced the Education and State Employees Grievance Board.

Perdue's appointment is effective as of August 31, 2007.



Robin Perdue (Photograph provided by Debbie Harrison)

Safe Routes to School Grants Awarded

Contributed by Rebecca Davison of the Department of Transportation.

Governor Joe Manchin has announced about \$1 million in funds for the West Virginia Safe Routes to School (WVSRTS) grant awards. West Virginia school children at 16 schools will soon have safer ways to walk and bicycle to school with projects such as construction and repair of sidewalks, and paint/stripping of pedestrian crosswalks.

“Sidewalks around schools need to be well-maintained and safe for our children,” the Governor said. “The WVSRTS program will help communities build, update and maintain a safe route for pedestrians. Not only will we encourage children to walk or bicycle to school, we will also improve safety and may even reduce traffic around schools. Put simply, this is a win-win for all involved – for teachers, school personnel, children and parents.”

In addition to construction projects, the grants fund activities such as a Safe Routes to School campaign to educate citizens, students, school staff, and parents during the school year about the benefits of walking to school; organized encouragement activities such as Walking School Busses and Walk/Bike to School events; community enforcement efforts such as training and safety equipment for adult crossing guard programs; and evaluation before and after interventions are implemented.

The West Virginia Safe Routes to School Program is designed to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to and from school; to make walking and bicycling to and from school safe and more appealing; and to facilitate the planning, development and implementation of projects that will improve safety, while reducing traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

The WVSRTS program is administered by the West Virginia Division of Highways. Applicants include any state, local and regional agency, including nonprofit organizations that demonstrate the ability to meet program requirements. School principals, teachers, school boards of education, nonprofit organizations, law enforcement agencies, city and county governments, and local transportation officials are encouraged to collaborate on projects and activities that promote walking and biking to school.

Projects awarded for FY07 are:

BERKELEY COUNTY: Berkeley County Safe Routes to School – Martinsburg North Middle and Opequon Schools Phases A and E

GREENBRIER COUNTY: Alderson Elementary Walk to School Program

JACKSON COUNTY: Ripley Elementary Sidewalk Project

JEFFERSON COUNTY: City of Ranson Safe Routes to School Grant Project: Phase 1, Ranson Elementary; Shepherdstown Elementary and Middle Schools Safe Routes to Schools

LEWIS COUNTY: Lewis County Schools Walk or Bike to School Program, Robert L. Bland Middle School

MARION COUNTY: Pleasant Valley Elementary, Safe Routes to School

MERCER COUNTY: Get Athens Children on the Move, Athens School

MORGAN COUNTY: Sidewalk and Crossing Guard Program for Paw Paw Schools

UPSHUR COUNTY: Buckhannon Safe Ways to School and Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety for Elementary Children, K-5, Academy Primary and Buckhannon-Upsalur Intermediate Schools

WEBSTER COUNTY: Bring Bicycles Back to School, Glade Springs Elementary and Middle Schools

Interagency Collaboration

Since WVSRTS seeks to reduce air pollution, fuel consumption and vehicle traffic in the vicinity of schools, discussions between the WVSRTS Coordinator and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), Division of Air Quality, led to collaboration between the WV Division of Highways SRTS Coordinator, the WVDEP, the WV Department of Education Office of Healthy Schools, the WV Department of Health and Human Resources Youth Prevention Programs, and the WV Asthma Coalition. The WVDEP is providing free “Idle-Free Zone” signs to the 16 FY07 WVSRTS schools to protect indoor health, save money in fuel costs, reduce wear on school bus engines and reduce air pollutant near the schools. Installation of free “Idle-Free Zone” signs at these 16 WVSRTS schools will eventually result in installation of signs at other schools in West Virginia, leading to a healthier environment for our children.

For additional information about the WVSRTS program contact Rebecca A. Davison, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, West Virginia Division of Highways, Program Planning and Administration Division, Grant Administration Section, Building 5, Room A-863, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, WV 25305-0430. You can also call her at 304-558-9600 or e-mail rdavison@dot.state.wv.us.

October 14-20 is Drug-Free Work Week

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has announced that its annual Drug-Free Work Week will be held October 14-20, 2007.

The week is highlighted to encourage the fact that being drug-free is vital to safety and health in the workplace, and to encourage individuals who have alcohol and/or drug problems to seek help. It also serves as a reminder to review policies and train or retrain supervisors.

The DOL offers suggestions on activities that will allow all organizations – not just those in State government – to participate in order to promote healthier, safer workplaces. There are several resources available to employers, including employee and supervisor training materials with ready-made PowerPoint presentations and handouts. Also available are self-screening tools to assess alcohol use and links to resources for employees.

For more information, visit the Department of Labor's website at www.dol.gov/asp/programs/drugs/workingpartners/dfww-introduction.asp.

**NEED TO BRUSH UP ON
THE STATE'S
DRUG- AND ALCOHOL-FREE
WORKPLACE POLICY?
YOU'LL FIND IT ONLINE AT:**

www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/emprel/policies/drugfree.pdf

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Davis. "I'm pleased to announce programs like this that show how the court system is trying to change lives and lower recidivism."

One of the most important developments in community corrections is the emergence of treatment courts, such as drug courts and mental health courts. The West Central Program is the third drug court in the State. The first opened in 2005 to serve Brooke, Hancock, Ohio, Marshall, and Wetzel Counties. In 2006, a second opened in Mercer County. The West Central Program may later expand to cover a larger region.

To read the entire press release, which includes details of how the Drug Court Diversion Programs work, visit the Supreme Court's website at www.state.wv.us/wvsca/press/june29_07.htm.

News From the Medical Front

One-third of Adolescents Lack Adequate Vitamin D

Teens with low levels of vitamin D have lower lung function than those with recommended amounts according to the American Thoracic Society. Vitamin D is found in sunlight, eggs, fish, liver, fortified milk, and some calcium supplements.

Vitamin D is important for bone health because the body needs it to absorb calcium.

Pencil In ...



Concord University's Beckley Center has a new location as follows:



Higher Education Center
300 University Drive
Beaver, WV

The phone number remains unchanged at 304-255-0793.

The month of October is a busy time for national awareness issues:

- * Domestic Violence Awareness
- * Breast Cancer Awareness
- * Adopt a Shelter Dog
- * Crime Prevention
- * Book Month
- * Disability Employment Awareness
- * Spina Bifida Awareness




If interested, pick a topic and seek out an appropriate agency to see what you can do to help!



INSPIRATION STATION

You'll never stand taller than when you stoop to help a child.

Dr. Phil

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

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