

Manchin Honors Service, Longevity at Awards Ceremony

On Wednesday, September 19, 2007, Governor Joe Manchin, joined by members of his cabinet, paid tribute to our long-tenured, dedicated State employees.

The annual Governor's Awards Ceremony, held during Public Service Recognition Week in West Virginia, honors employees who have reached 30 or more years of service, in increments of five years. The unique event is held at the State Cultural Center Theater at the Capitol Complex and allows employees to receive personal recognition from the Governor for their achievement.

This year, there were nearly 550 employees eligible to attend the ceremony. Our two longest-tenured employees were Mary Margaret Lopez of West Virginia University,

with an amazing 55 years of service, and Dr. Andrew N. Aheart from West Virginia State University, honored for a whopping 60 – yes 60! – years.

In addition to those eligible for recognition at the Governor's Ceremony, over 1,100 employees were awarded certificates and pins at the agency level for completing 20 and 25 years of service.

Congratulations to everyone!



Gov. Joe Manchin presents Mary Margaret Lopez (left) and Dr. Andrew N. Aheart (right) with their service awards. Photos by Steve Rotsch.

Celebrating National Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31

National Red Ribbon Week is a time to show gratitude for all the lives that remain drug-free; a time to pledge to live a safe and drug-free life; and, a time to remember those we have lost in the fight against drugs.

National Red Ribbon Week also serves as a tribute to Drug Enforcement Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who was kidnapped, brutally tortured, and murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico. Within weeks of his death in March of 1985, Camarena's Congressman, Duncan Hunter, and high school friend Henry Lozano, launched Camarena Clubs in Camarena's hometown of Imperial Valley, California. As a result, hundreds of club members pledged to lead drug-free lives to honor the sacrifices made by Camarena and others on behalf of all Americans. From these clubs emerged the Red Ribbon Week Campaign (The Drug Enforcement Agency, 2004).

Today, Red Ribbon Week is nationally recognized and celebrated, helping to preserve Special Agent Camarena's memory and further the cause for which he gave his life. According to the DEA, the Red Ribbon Campaign is a symbol of support for that agency's efforts to reduce demand for drugs through prevention and education programs. By wearing a red ribbon during the last week in October, Americans demonstrate their ardent oppo-

sition to drugs. They pay homage not only to Special Agent Camarena, but to all men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in support of our nation's struggle against drug trafficking and abuse.

In accordance with the West Virginia Division of Personnel's (DOP) Supervisor/Manager Training Program, and its policy on The Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace (DOP-P2), the Organization



Big Tobacco Finds Another Way to Get You Hooked

Information contributed by Bruce Adkins, Director of the West Virginia Division of Tobacco Prevention.

Though common in Sweden, snus (pronunciation rhymes with “noose”) has recently made its way to the United States, with several tobacco companies recently test-marketing their versions of the products. Some West Virginia retailers have already begun stocking the product.

Snus is a moist, ground tobacco for oral use that originated in Sweden. In Swedish, it literally means “smokeless tobacco.” Snus most closely resembles chew/spit tobacco and generally comes in a pouch that’s placed between the lip and gum.

With more smoke-free air regulations being passed nationwide, as well as here in West Virginia, and with smoking becoming less and less accepted overall, tobacco companies are looking for new and better nicotine delivery systems.

Snus is different from chew/spit tobacco in that it’s kept cold prior to sale. It’s sold from small, refrigerated display cases. Research shows that refrigeration may help lessen levels of cancer-causing agents already known to be in all snus products; however, once the product is kept unrefrigerated, nitrosamines and other carcinogens do form.

The primary ingredient in snus is tobacco. Nicotine is a naturally occurring substance found in tobacco and is highly addictive. Nicotine addiction is one of the hardest to break. Snus products have shown to have higher nicotine levels than smoking tobacco products.

All oral tobacco users increase their risk of developing mouth, pancreatic, and other gastrointestinal cancers. Other effects of oral tobacco use include leukoplakia (white mouth lesions that can become cancerous), gum disease, gum recession (a disease where the gums pull away from the teeth), and tooth decay.

The European Union (EU) banned the sale of most smokeless tobacco,

including snus, in 1992, saying it posed a risk to health and could appeal to people too young to buy tobacco legally. The Swedish government was able to secure an exemption to the ban when it joined the EU in 1995. Other countries, including Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Singapore, and Australia have banned oral, smokeless tobacco, while others, including the United States, Norway, and India, continue to permit its sale and use.

For help to quit tobacco use, contact your health care provider or call the West Virginia Tobacco Cessation Quitline toll-free at 1-877-966-8784. For more about the West Virginia Division of Tobacco Prevention and its programs, call 558-2939 or visit www.wvntp.org on the web.



The oval fountain at the State Capitol refreshes a gorgeous September day. This view is through the pillars of Building 7.

FOREST FIRE SEASON MEANS BURNING RESTRICTIONS



Oct. 1 - Dec. 31 is the Fall Forest Fire Season. Outdoor burning is restricted to between the hours of 4 P.M. and 7 A.M.

During the Spring 2007 Forest Fire Season, 498 fires burned 3,817 acres of precious land.

RIBBON – Cont’d from Page 1

and Human Resource Development Section offers drug-free workplace training to all State agencies.

Additionally, the State of West Virginia Employee Referral Program is provided to all State employees as a service of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, in conjunction with the West Virginia Division of Personnel. This service includes confidential referrals for treatment with independent professionals for problems including (but not limited to) alcohol/drug abuse. To view program information online, please visit www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/classes/erp/refbook.htm. If you have specific questions regarding ERP program content, contact Merritt Moore, DHHR Behavioral Health and Health Facilities, at 558-2276 or merrittmoore@wvdhhr.org.

For more information, contact Lisa Moten, WV Drug-Free Workplace Coordinator at 558-3950, ext. 224 or lmoten@wvadmin.gov. To register or view course information, visit the DOP Organization and Human Resource Development website at www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/OHRD/index.htm. To view the Supervisor/Manager Training Policy (DOP-P18), and the Training Program Timeline (Summary of Requirements) visit www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empref/policies/policies.htm.

West Virginia State Office of Technology Hard at Work

Marshall Univ. and Office of Technology Team Up

Chief Information Officer Certification Program Geared to State Government

The Chief Information Officer Certification (CIO) Program, created by a joint effort between the West Virginia State Office of Technology and the Marshall University Graduate College, is preparing for its second year. Developed in 2006, the program provides training to upper level information technology (IT) professionals in areas such as communications, finance, risk, and change management.

According to the State's Chief Technology Officer, Kyle Schafer, the program was designed to help prepare IT employees for career moves into upper level management positions.

"Things change so rapidly in the IT field that we are constantly training people in the day-to-day operations, but we're not giving our managers and supervisors the higher-level training they need to study trends and see where things are going from an overall perspective," Schafer said.

Enrollees attend classes one day a month at the Marshall University Graduate College in South Charleston. Upon completion, they receive CIO certification and three credit hours toward a Bachelor's or Master's Degree at Marshall.

Last year, 11 employees graduated from the inaugural class. For more, call Schafer at 558-8100 or Dr. John Biros of the graduate college at 746-1941.

Helping U.S. Military Members and Their Families

State Helps Out with Freedom Calls Between Soldiers and Families

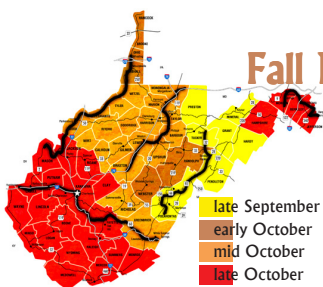
Governor Joe Manchin has announced that the West Virginia State Office of Technology (WVSOT) is assisting the Freedom Calls Foundation with arranging communications between U.S. military service members and their loved ones.

The WVSOT has worked closely with the Foundation to provide technical support to allow communication services, including video conferencing, for members stationed in Iraq and other wartime locations. Accessible State facilities are offered to members' families for video conferencing.

The program has offered over 2,000 family video conferences and more than one million minutes of free telephone calls each month. Communications are also conducted through internet telephone and instant messaging.

"By continuously seeking out opportunities to assist our native West Virginians who are serving our country in such a monumental way, we are able to provide Freedom Calls Foundation with the expertise of our technical staff, as well as our State-owned facilities, to connect our State soldiers with their families, utilizing the latest technology," said the Governor.

For more information about the Foundation and/or how you can participate, visit the organization's website at www.freedomcalls.org.



Fall Means Color in WV!

Did you know that West Virginia is covered by 12 million acres of forest land? That's 80% of the State, and it's part of the reason West Virginia is considered one of the most beautiful in the country.

That's especially true during the fall when the changing leaves make our mountains burst alive with color!

October is the peak month for viewing the changing leaves. Don't waste another minute missing out on one of nature's most awesome displays. Make plans to take any of the five driving tours outlined by the West Virginia Division of Tourism. A general idea of the routes appears with black lines on the map. Details and directions are found on Tourism's website at www.wvtourism.com/spec.aspx?pgID=70#parks.

When's the best time to tour? See the map legend.

What's Your State Slogan Choice?

On September 5, 2007, Governor Joe Manchin asked West Virginians to vote on whether they wanted a permanent slogan for the State's border welcome signs. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor – 58,855 yes votes as opposed to 2,661 no votes. Voting ended on September 19.

Those who voted yes were also asked to submit the slogan they desired. The top three vote-getters were: "Almost Heaven," "The Mountain State," and "Wild, Wonderful."

Now it's time to vote for your favorite. **Online and telephone voting will run from October 15-29 at www.wv.gov, www.wvtourism.com, or by calling 1-866-SLOGAN-4.**

Once the votes are counted, Governor Manchin will ask the Legislature to codify the winning slogan.

**Welcome to West Virginia
Slogan Coming
Soon!**

FLU SHOT CLINICS AT THE CAPITOL

Whether or not we want to admit it, it's that time again – time for our yearly flu shots. The Kanawha-Charleston Health Department will be at the Capitol as follows. Forms and more information are available at www.kchdww.com/FluInfoSheets.htm.

Wednesday, November 7

Bldg. 1 9:00 A.M. - Noon (Well Area)
Bldg. 4 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Thursday, November 8

Bldg. 5 9:00 A.M. - Noon
Bldg. 3 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

U.S. Treasury Department Takes Steps to Protect Your Identity



To help protect your identity

savings bonds will now show only the last four digits of the social security number. This change will have no effect when you redeem your bond.

To learn more about this and other ways the Department of the Treasury is helping protect investor privacy, visit

www.treasurydirect.gov

10th Annual Capital City Pumpkin Drop Set for October 18

The 10th Annual Capital City Pumpkin Drop will be held at the State Capitol Parking Garage on Thursday, October 18, 2007, beginning at noon.

Students in classrooms around the State are asked to design an enclosure or other apparatus that allows a pumpkin to stay intact when dropped from the roof of a building. In addition to protecting the pumpkin, students must also try to hit a target on the ground. The surviving pumpkin that hits closest to the target will be the winning classroom. There is no "Biggest Splat" contest – the goal is to keep the pumpkin from bursting.

The event is held by The Education Alliance and sponsored by Bayer CropScience. Engineering faculty from West Virginia University will serve as judges.

For rules and details, visit www.educationalliance.org/Downloads/PumpkinDrop/PumpkinDrop2007.pdf or call The Education Alliance at 342-0046.



An entry from a previous year makes its way over the top. The pumpkin didn't survive.

Pencil In ...



Students in grades K-12 are being encouraged by First Lady Gayle Manchin to **create a bell ornament for display on the State Capitol Christmas Tree**, which will be located in the Main Capitol Building Rotunda. The deadline is Nov. 9, 2007. For details, see www.wv.gov/sec.aspx?id=32&articleid=1570.



**EXIT ONLY
-
NO ENTRY**



A Homeland Security review has determined that there are too many entrances to Buildings 5 and 6. As of October 1, **entry access to Buildings 5 and 6 is no longer available through the doors leading into the stairwells.** These doors will now be used as exit-only doors and can be used to exit the buildings anytime, not just during emergencies. Card scanners at those doors will be removed



A faithful friend is a strong defense. And he that hath found him hath found a treasure.

Louisa May Alcott

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