

Annual Appalachian String Band Festival Runs Jul. 30 – Aug. 3

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

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History's 19th Appalachian String Band Music Festival will be held July 30 through August 3 at Camp Washington-Carver in Clifftop, Fayette County. The popular annual festival draws thousands of string band musicians and fans from across the country and around the world for its contests, concerts, dancing, and workshops.

Music contests include banjo and fiddle on Thursday, July 31; neo-traditional string band on Friday, August 1; and traditional string band on Saturday, August 2. The top five winners in each category will receive prizes ranging from \$100 to \$700 for bands and \$50 to \$400 for fiddle and banjo. Senior (age 60 and over) and youth (age 15 and under) categories in fiddle and banjo are also available, with the top three winners in each category receiving awards. The old-time dance contest on Saturday, August 2, emphasizes the flatfoot style, and awards three prizes ranging from \$25 to \$75 in four age categories.

Workshops, which include beginning flatfoot dancing, beginning square dancing, and ballad/gospel singing, are included with festival admission. Nightly square dances in the Great Chestnut Lodge and outdoor concerts on Friday and Saturday evening are additional festival attractions. Highlights for children and families include storytelling, bingo, arts and crafts, pottery, tie dying, banjo slow jams, basket making, Allegheny Echoes' Please

Touch the Instruments, Three Rivers Avian Center demonstrations, wheat weaving, making split-bottom woven stools, yoga, and more. Craft, food, and instrument vendors will be set up on the grounds and in the Great Chestnut Lodge, and there will be three masters showcases featuring prominent old-time musicians.

The neo-traditional band contest also will award ribbons for the best new original composition for both a tune and song. Ribbons will be given based upon the composition's mastery of the old-time aesthetic, artistic merit, originality, and innovation.

Daily admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors (60 and over) and youth (6-17). Children under five may attend for free. Rough camping for the five-day festival is available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$45 for adults, \$40 for seniors and youth, \$90 per family and \$80 per senior family. The rough camp-



ing rate and daily admission fee includes admission to all activities.

A beautiful retreat listed in the National Register of Historic Places and operated by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Camp Washington-Carver serves as the State's mountain cultural arts center. The facility nurtures the cultural heritage embodied in the site since its dedication in 1942 as a 4-H and agricultural extension camp for West Virginia's African-Americans.

The camp is located in Fayette County adjacent to Babcock State Park, just off Route 60 (Midland Trail) on Route 41 South.

For more information about the Appalachian String Band Music Festival and a complete schedule of events, call 304-438-3005 or 304-558-0162, or visit the Division's website at www.wvculture.org/stringband/index.html.



ATTENTION PARENTS OF 3- and 4-YEAR-OLDS:

The Capitol Day Care has openings for 3- and 4-year-olds. Enrollment is being conducted now. The daycare is located at 301 Jefferson Street near the State Capitol Complex. If interested, call 348-6580.




DHHR Serves Up Changes to Food Establishment Rule

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources has announced changes to the rule that regulates food establishments located in the State.

A significant change involves the number of uncorrectable critical violations found by an inspector while still allowing the restaurant to remain open. Currently, the number is five, but the new rule decreases the number to three.

Food establishment personnel will also find a change to the hot holding temperature for foods. The temperature will reduce from its current 140°F standard to 135°F.

Patrons will be pleased to know that lead workers at restaurants and food establishments have specific criteria to which they must adhere. For instance, they must:

-  Demonstrate knowledge of food allergens as they relate to menu offerings.
-  Demonstrate knowledge of diseases that can be transmitted through food.
-  Report any disease that is transmittable via food to the person in charge at the establishment. (This applies to ALL food service workers.)

Each local sanitarian was provided training on the new rule during the month of June. The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health will provide

information guide sheets to all food establishments through the county health departments, and many county health departments will provide food worker training on the new rule.

It should be noted that often, violations can be corrected during the inspection to prevent food-borne illnesses, thus allowing the business to remain operational. In addition to items that will affect restaurants' day-to-day operations, the new rule incorporates several current practices.

The changes are effective July 1, 2008. For additional information, call your county health department or 558-6727.

PEIA to Make Office Move

Department of Administration (DOA) Cabinet Secretary Robert Ferguson and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman have entered into an agreement whereby the staff of the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) will relocate to offices within DEP's Kanawha City headquarters.

The move was prompted by the need to renovate and redesign the 10th floor office space in Building 5 for better utilization. Once the renovation work is complete, the Office of Technology (OT) is slated to move into the space. The majority of OT's work is located at the Capitol Complex. The renovated space will allow OT staff at One Davis Square to move up to the Capitol, making things easier for OT and their customers.

According to Ferguson, the DEP headquarters will provide more than adequate office space for PEIA's approximately 80 employees. DEP and DOA staff are working closely to effect the transition as smoothly as possible. The move requires shifting DEP staff into new offices at the headquarters and construction activities to prepare for PEIA's staff and equipment.

In addition to the Building 5 renovations, plans are also in the works for Building 3. Once the Davis Square facility is vacated, Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) staff who currently work out of Building 3 will be relocated to those offices. This will put them in much closer proximity to DHHR staff already located in the Diamond Building.

No deadline or timelines have been established at this time.



Lottery Revenue Boosts Tourism, Senior Services

In 1990, lawmakers began dedicating lottery profits to education, senior citizens, and tourism. Since then, revenue generated by lottery sales has contributed more than \$532 million to the West Virginia Division of Tourism.

Calling the financial support of tourism by the Lottery both significant and vital, Division of Tourism Commissioner Betty Carver states those funds have helped tourism expand to a nearly \$4 billion industry for the State's economy. "We're enjoying approximately 40 million day visitors and more than 11 million overnight guests."

Carver also notes that tourism supports approximately 44,000 jobs with earnings of \$854 million a year, and State tax revenues from tourism bring in over \$532 million annually.

In addition, senior citizens receiving in-home health care administered by the Bureau of Senior Services are benefitting from money generated by table games license fees.

Emergency Management Offers Tips for Recent Flood Victims

Edited from a press release issued by Matt Turner of the Governor's Office.

After a flood, filing an insurance claim and beginning a safe cleanup are two of the most important steps to recovery, said officials from the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (WVDHSEM).

Jimmy Gianato, WVDHSEM director, said a lot of flood victims in central West Virginia and residents in the flood-affected areas have asked about the process for recovery and how to handle a flood insurance claim.

Gianato notes that a cooperative cleanup effort is essential to restore the lives of everybody affected by the recent flooding experienced in West Virginia. He added, "I join FEMA in urging our residents to take the proper steps with cleanup and insurance to help get things back to normal as quickly as possible."

Gianato offers these tips for flood victims:

- ✍ The first step should be to call his or her insurance agent who handles flood claims. When you call, have the name of your insurance company ready because your agent may handle claims for more than one company. In addition, have your policy number and a telephone number or e-mail address where you can be reached.
- ✍ Take photos of all property damage. If officials require that certain damaged items be removed from the property, take them outside to be photographed. Adjusters will need evidence of all damages, so swatches or pieces of carpet may also be useful.
- ✍ Make a list of lost/damaged items and provide to the adjuster their age, value, and if possible, a receipt. The official claim for damages is called the "Proof of Loss," and includes a complete, detailed estimate of repairs and damages to the property. Generally, the Proof of Loss must be completed and in the adjuster's hands within 60 days of the flood. Adjusters usually provide this statement to their clients; however, it is your responsibility to make sure it's complete, accurate, and filed timely.

- ✍ Cleaning up after a flood is important to prevent further damage. Before entering the home or property, make sure the electricity is turned off until a professional has inspected it. If there is a hissing sound or even the slightest smell of gas, exit the house immediately and call the gas company. **Do not use cell phones because they have the potential to cause a spark which could ignite an explosion.** Make sure to check furnaces and water heaters for damage. Although the water heater may work, if flood waters covered the entire tank there could be damage to the insulation that must be repaired.



- ✍ Remember that hidden in the flood waters could be animal waste, chemicals, and sewage; therefore it is important to use proper protection such as gloves or masks while cleaning. Mold can begin to form 24-48 hours after a flood. Remove all wet contents such as carpeting, furniture, bedding, and any other items that are holding water as soon as possible. If mold has developed on a piece of property, throw it away.
- ✍ If an item has been wet for less than 48 hours, help control mold growth by cleaning the surface with a pine-oil cleaner, non-ammonia detergent, or commercial soap, and disinfect it with a 10 percent bleach solution.
- ✍ If walls are damaged, take pictures of the baseboard, and then remove it. Pierce small holes at floor level between the wall studs. This will allow moisture trapped behind the walls to seep out and permit ventilation so drying can take place.
- ✍ Drying out the building's interior can help speed up the cleaning process. Portable dehumidifiers are helpful and the cost of renting one may be covered by your insurance. Turning on the air conditioner may also be effective.

Contact your local building inspections or planning office or county clerk's office to get more information on local building requirements before repairing your structure. If you can't find a local contact, call your State National Flood Insurance Program coordinator. Contact information may be found at www.floods.org/statepocs/stcoor.asp.

WV Center for Nursing Helps with Scholarships

Contributed by Christopher Cross of the West Virginia Center for Nursing.

The West Virginia Center for Nursing (WVCN) is pleased to announce that they awarded approximately \$170,000 during the 2007-2008 academic year.

These awards were distributed through four varying scholarships: Emergency Funding, Faculty, School Designated, and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Teacher Certification Scholarships. Each scholarship had varying criteria that must have been met in order to be eligible.

The Emergency Fund Scholarship took into consideration the various life emergencies that arose in a nursing student's life. In order to have qualified, need must have been demonstrated by the student and had to be accompanied by a faculty member's request.

The Faculty Scholarship Program was designed to aid nursing educational professionals who were seeking Doctoral degrees. Each applicant had to be enrolled in a degree program and working at an institution in West Virginia.

The LPN Faculty Certification Scholarship required that applicants be currently employed at an LPN school as a faculty member in West Virginia and working towards their teaching certifications. This award could only be applied towards ob-

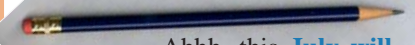
taining State teaching certification. Applicants also had to agree to teach in West Virginia if they were selected as a recipient.

Various amounts of scholarship awards were given to colleges, universities, and other nursing programs throughout West Virginia. Each school designated the awards winners and amounts, not exceeding a set amount for each degree/certification and following regulations provided by the Center.

The West Virginia Center for Nursing was created by the legislature in March 2004 through the passage of HB 4143. The WVCN seeks to enhance and strengthen nursing excellence to optimize the health and healthcare of all West Virginians, through strategic workforce planning, education, research, and nurse practice development. The Center is funded through a \$10 surcharge paid by all licensed practical nurses and registered nurses at the time of their annual license renewal.

For specific information regarding the West Virginia Center for Nursing and other work of the Center, or to read the agency's annual report, please visit their website - www.wvcenterfornursing.org - or contact Duane F. Napier, Executive Director, at 304-558-0838.

Pencil In ...



Ahhh, this July will be a good month! State employee paychecks increase, the food tax reduces, the amount paid for the annual increment raises to \$60 per year, and West Virginia's minimum wage increases to \$7.25/hour.



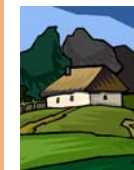
If you ever want to read up on your PEIA group life insurance benefits, you'll find booklet online at www.westvirginia.com/peia/content/PEIA%20Certificate%20Complete%209-26-2006.pdf.



According to the State Fire Marshal's Office, most fires happen in the afternoon and evening hours, when people are at home. Take time to check your smoke detectors and review your family's escape plan.



First Lady Gayle Manchin is excited about West Virginia's efforts to "go green." She offers encouragement and tips in her monthly column at www.wvgov.org/firstlady/sec.aspx?id=23.




Nurses Developing New Identities

According to an article written by Vicki Salemi, the face of nursing is dramatically changing. Salemi outlines how the role of the stereotypical nurse dressed in white and catering to doctors' every request is changing to nurses who are now leaders, technology gurus, and patient care managers. She states that intellectual nurses comprise more than half of all health professionals, making them the largest single component of hospital staff, as well as primary providers of hospital patient care and most of the nation's long-term care. You can read the entire article at several web locations. Do a Google search with the terms exactly as below, including the quotation marks:

"vicki salemi" "changing face of nursing"

Vicki Salemi is an accomplished freelance writer, author, and editorial director





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