

Father's Day Has Link Back to Mountain State

Perhaps he fixed your bike when the chain kept coming off – the same bike for which he worked overtime so you had it at your 10th birthday party. Maybe, whether you're a guy or gal, he drove you on your first date, and many years later, either walked you down the aisle or stood beside you as your best man. He might even make the most awesome spaghetti sauce/brownies/BBQ'd ribs/brown beans and cornbread/etc., or grow the greatest roses or tomatoes, or tell the corniest jokes. Whatever his claim to fame, there's no denying that our dads are very important people!

Father's Day was officially born as the result of Mother's Day. In 1909, a year after the first Mother's Day observance in West Virginia, Sonora

Our fathers have tremendous influence on our lives, more often than not, leading by example:

My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it. ~Author Clarence Budington Kelland

Louise Smart Dodd sat listening to her pastor give his Mother's Day sermon and became inspired to establish a day to honor fathers.

Dodd's own father, William Jackson Smart, was a Civil War veteran whose wife died in childbirth with their sixth child. The tragedy left Smart with a newborn and five young children to raise alone on a rural farm in eastern Washington state.

As Sonora grew to adulthood and married, she realized and understood the sacrifices her father made, and the courage, strength, and love he showed in raising his children. During that 1909 sermon, Dodd knew that her father,



and fathers everywhere, deserved a day of recognition too. She chose to hold the first Father's Day celebration in June, the month in which her father was born, and the mayor of Spokane, Washington proclaimed June 19, 1910 as the first Father's

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West Virginia's Internet Site Receives Overhaul

In an effort to make State government more accessible to both businesses and citizens, the State of West Virginia has launched a new and improved website – and all without using taxpayer dollars!

The new site was built by taking advantage of an innovative public-private partnership between the State of West Virginia and West Virginia Interactive, a subsidiary of eGovernment firm NIC. New features, such as enhanced information and online services, live help, and a fresh design that highlights scenes and activities of the Mountain State make the website easier to navigate, more helpful, and more attractive. In addition, the site is the first in the country to offer an education portal to make many of the State's education resources more accessible.

Many of your familiar links are there, including the State phone directory, finding State jobs, and tax information; however, they might have a different web address. Here are six of the more common links so you can update your internet browser's bookmarks:

School Closings:	http://wvde.state.wv.us/closings/county/all/	State Jobs Information:	www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/jobs/
State Employee Directory:	http://webapps.wv.gov/sec.aspx?pgID=72	State Parks and Forests:	http://www.wvstateparks.com/
State Agencies Directory:	www.wv.gov/Pages/agencies.aspx	Zip Code Search:	http://webapps.wv.gov/sec.aspx?pgID=61

State WIC Program Receives 35,000 Book Donations

Edited and printed from an article submitted by Heidi Staats of the Department of Health and Human Resources.

The First Book National Book Bank distributes large quantities of brand-new, publisher-donated books to organizations serving children of low-income families. The books are free to organizations that are able to pick them up or pay just 25¢ per book to have them shipped. This year, the West Virginia WIC Program received over 35,000 free books from the book bank through a distribution in Martinsburg, WV.

“I have to commend two employees from our State WIC office, Heidi Staats and Brock Jarrett, for undertaking the task of picking up the donated children’s books,” raves Program Director Denise Ferris. “They ensured we received a sufficient supply for distribution to children who are participants in WIC statewide.” These books are given to the children on their first, second,

third, and fourth birthdays to support early literacy.

“I am delighted with the generosity of the First Book National Book Bank, as well as the publishers,” shares WV WIC Outreach Coordinator Heidi Staats.

“We received three titles of board books, as well as two titles of specialty books. In addition, First Book

volunteers and staff loaded our truck to its maximum capacity.”

First Book is a nonprofit organization with a single mission: to give children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books. Book distributions are hosted by the book bank annually at a variety of sites across the United States.



Anne MacBride, Monongalia County Health Department WIC Director, receives her agency’s supply of books from WIC State Office employee, Brock Jarrett.

Don’t Turn Your Head to Aged/Disabled Adult Abuse



Aged and disabled adult abuse occurs more frequently than anyone would like to admit. There are certain groups, called mandatory reporters, that must, by law, report abuse; however, anyone may report known or suspected cases of abuse, neglect, or emergency situations. This includes affected individuals themselves. It also includes self-neglect, whereby an individual is unable to take care of his or her basic daily needs or functions.

Anyone who reports, in good faith, known or suspected abuse/neglect of an aged or disabled person is free from civil or criminal liabilities that could come from making the report. In fact, reports can be made anonymously.

To make an abuse/neglect report, contact your local Department of Health and Human Resources office during normal business hours. For after hours, a 24-hour hotline is provided at 1-800-352-6513.

In addition to physical abuse/neglect, you can also report known or suspected financial exploitation to the West Virginia Attorney General’s Senior Protection Hotline at 1-866-241-5062.

There are many types of abuse of the aged and disabled including:

Financial Exploitation
Neglect by Others
Self-Neglect

Physical Abuse
Sexual Abuse
Verbal/Emotional Abuse

Don’t turn your head. If you think someone needs help, make the call!

Independence Hall Receives \$1 Million Restoration Grant from Legislature

On May 12, 2008, a press conference attended by Governor Joe Manchin, Education and the Arts Secretary Kay Goodwin, and Culture and History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith was held to announce a \$1 million restoration grant for Independence Hall in Wheeling.

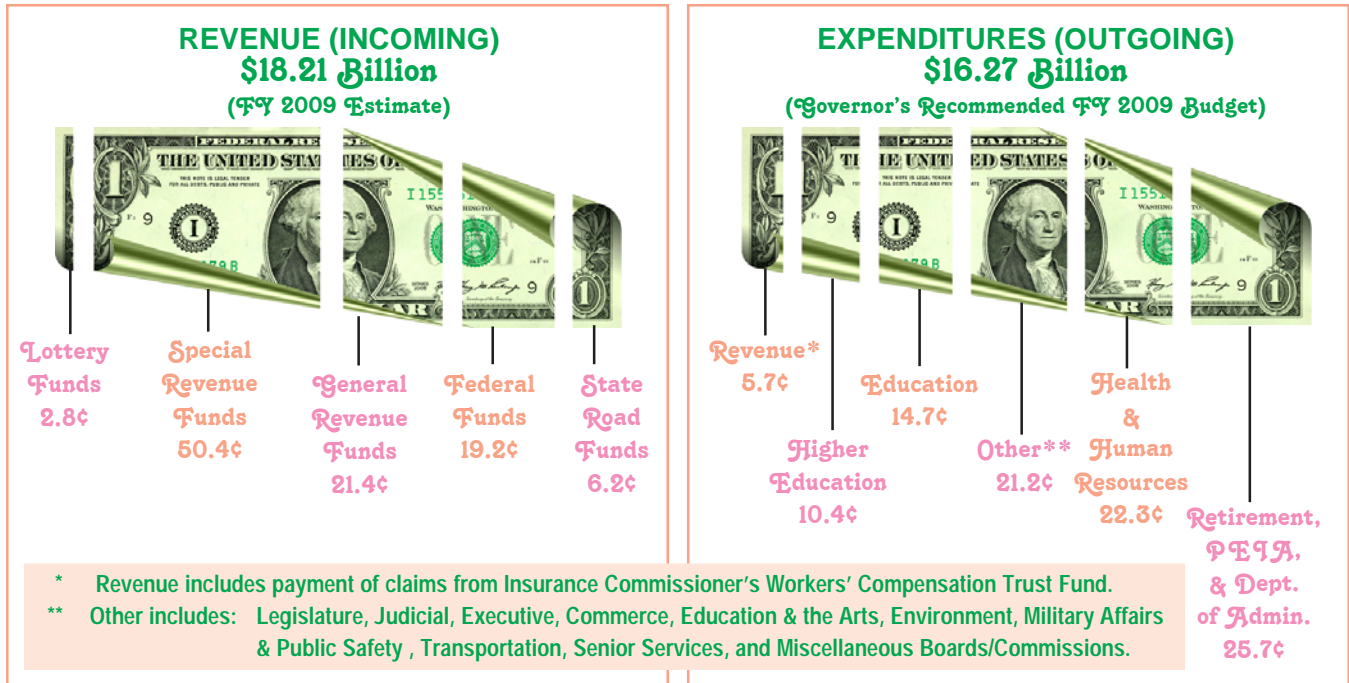
West Virginia Independence Hall has quite a history. It was originally built in 1859 as a federal custom house. It served as the home for pro-Union state conventions of Virginia in 1861, and as the Capitol building of loyal Virginia from June 1861 to June 1863. The building also served as the site of the first constitutional

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State Budget Office Shows Fiscal Year's Ins and Outs

We're all familiar with the expression, "What goes up must come down." When taking a look at the State of West Virginia's FY 2009 Executive Budget, we need to modify that statement a little to say, "From what comes in, this goes out."

According to the State Budget Office, each dollar of the FY2009 Executive Budget breaks down as follows:



Campaign Finance Reporting System Upgraded

Earlier this month, Secretary of State Betty Ireland unveiled a major upgrade to the State's Campaign Finance Reporting System.

"It is vital that voters have convenient and timely access to information about those who financially support candidates for elective office," said Secretary Ireland.

The upgraded system allows information to be accessed much faster. Previously, anyone wanting to follow contributions for statewide campaigns had to scan each report individually. The upgrade allows electronic searches for contributors by name or employer, as well as by other criteria. Users can also conduct searches for campaign expenditures. The system is available at:

www.wvsos.com or www.wvotes.com

Governor, State Worker Promote Cycling During National Bike Month

On Wednesday, May 28, Governor Joe Manchin joined State Supreme Court Law Librarian and bicycle enthusiast Bruce Wilson for a ride around the Capitol Complex to help promote National Bike Month. Wilson challenges all who are able to leave their cars parked and use their bikes more. He began riding a few years ago after he was diagnosed with diabetes. To incorporate exercise into his personal wellness regime, he decided to kill two birds with one stone and bike it to work. Soon he discovered he was biking everywhere – and not only did he improve his health and lose weight, he cut his personal expenses dramatically by eventually giving up owning a car. Wilson owns gear for all types of weather. Manchin says he and First Lady Gayle Manchin ride frequently, and they encourage everyone to dust off that old bicycle, inflate the tires, and pedal!



Governor Joe Manchin joined Bruce Wilson of the State Supreme Court for a ride around the State Capitol Complex.



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convention for West Virginia, and was named a National Historic Landmark in 1988.

The restoration project will provide much-needed repairs, including replacement of the roof, restoration or replacement of all windows, repair of interior plaster, and painting, including the trompe l'oeil effects found in the historic third floor courtroom. (Trompe l'oeil is a French expression that means to trick or fool the eye. In art, it refers to a method that uses shading techniques to give a 3-D appearance). The building itself will be repointed (the process of renewing mortar joints), and several rooms will be refurbished to accommodate new or expanded exhibits.

If you wish to visit the hall, it's open daily from 10 AM to 4 PM, except for major holidays. **As added incentive, visitors can now tour the hall for free.** This month, Governor Manchin announced the elimination of admission fees for Independence Hall as well as Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville.

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Day. Unlike Mother's Day founder Anna Jarvis's mother who sadly died before Mother's Day became established, William Jackson Smart was alive to witness that first Father's Day.

It was about the same time that other cities and towns across the United States began holding celebrations to honor fathers; however, it wasn't until 1924 that President Calvin Coolidge publicly supported and recommended

Our fathers frequently provide us with that quirky, corny sense of humor, as illustrated below:

"When I was a kid, I said to my father one afternoon, 'Daddy, will you take me to the zoo?' He answered, 'If the zoo wants you, let them come and get you.'"

-Comedian Jerry Lewis

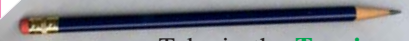
the establishment of a national Father's Day holiday. Two years later, the National Father's Day Committee formed and met for the first time in New York City. It took another 30 years (1956) before the holiday was recognized by a Joint Resolution of Congress.

Ten years after that, in 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson finally proclaimed Father's Day as a national holiday, designating the third Sunday in June as the day of observance. From that point on, Father's Day has been celebrated nationally. In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon signed actual legislation making it a permanent holiday.

Have we left you wondering where the West Virginia connection comes in? The first actual known celebration of Father's Day occurred without official proclamation in Fairmont, WV on July 5, 1908. The event was commemorated at William Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church South, known today as Central United Methodist Church. It's believed that Grace Golden Clayton suggested the idea to her pastor after a deadly explosion in nearby Monongah the previous December which killed 361 men.

Father's Day is June 15 this year. Whether he's living or passed, remember dad fondly with happiness and love ... and perhaps some quirky humor!

Pencil In ...



Take in the **Touring Railroad Exhibit** installed in the Pennsboro B&O Depot in Ritchie County. The exhibit will feature text panels and artifacts detailing railroad development in West Virginia. For more details, visit www.wvculture.org/news.aspx?Agency=Division&Id=896



Give 'em a 'brake.'

It's the season for road work. Please take extra care and **SLOW DOWN** when driving through construction zones. You can plan ahead by finding out work zones in your county at www.wvdot.com/6_motorists/alertzones/.



If you want to **consolidate variable-rate student loans**, consider waiting until July to do it. Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of findaid.com, predicts that the Fed's rate cuts may mean lower rates. The cuts could represent the largest decrease in federal education loan interest rates since 1992.

