



April 2010

Volume 21 Number 3

Fallen UBB Coal Miners Remembered and Honored

In solemn remembrance, Governor Joe Manchin and First Lady Gayle C. Manchin placed a wreath at the Coal Miner Memorial Statue on the Capitol Complex at 3:30 PM on April 12, 2010. They were joined by, among other dignitaries and officials, U.S. Congressman Nick Rahall, U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller, and U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis.

The time marked the one week anniversary of the deadly explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine in which West Virginia (and the nation) lost 29 brave, hardworking men. The Governor asked those in attendance, as well as people across the country, to observe a moment of silence. As the hundreds of people who attended bowed, prayed, held hands, and otherwise paid their respects, the Liberty Bell tolled 29 times – once for each man lost.

The ceremony came in conjunction with President Barack Obama's issuance of a proclamation ordering American flags at all public buildings, grounds, and military facilities be flown at half-staff until sunset on April 18, 2010. Manchin ordered State flags at State entities lowered through April 18, and on April 14, he requested that all underground mine operators halt work and production on Friday, April 16 as a day of honor, suggesting that they also use the time to review and focus on mine safety measures. His request met with great success.

On April 25, 2010, a larger memorial service was held in Beckley, where along with remarks by Governor Manchin, Congressman Rahall, Senator Rockefeller, and Vice-President Joe Biden, and a statement issued by U.S. Senator Robert Byrd, President Obama honored and eulogized the men, and pledged safer working conditions.

Anyone interested in helping the miners' families financially can call the West Virginia Council of Churches at 304-344-3141 or visit www.wvcc.org.



Photo courtesy of Steve Rotsch of the Governor's Office.

In a major cooperative effort

State Police Deal Substantial Blow to Mingo Drug Trade

Governor Joe Manchin's consistent message to those involved in drug crimes has been loud, clear, and just plain simple – leave West Virginia. During his January 2010 State of the State Address, he once again put drug dealers on notice: "Get out of our State now, while you still can. We are not just going after the dealers themselves; we are going after the places they operate."

Helping to keep the Governor's commitment to eradicate drugs in



the Mountain State, the West Virginia State Police (WVSP) won a major "battle" in its "war on drugs" this past February. On February 3 and 4, 2010, the State Police, in a cooperative effort with the Williamson Police Department, the FBI, and the Law Enforcement Division of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, participated in executing 64 sealed indictments and capiases for drug-related offenses in the Mingo County areas of Williamson and Gilbert.

Conducted as *Operation G2*, the effort culminated from investigative work initiated by WVSP Officers Cpl. S. T. Harper, Sr. Trooper C. D.

See STATE POLICE – Page 3

Highways Offers Engineering/Computer Science Scholarships

From the Division of Highways website (www.transportation.wv.gov/business-manager/human-resources/Pages/DOHScholarships.aspx).

The Commissioner of Highways may award up to \$12,000 in scholarship money to eligible students to aid in attracting competent personnel to employment with the WV Division of Highways.

To be eligible for one of these scholarships, an applicant must:

- ◆ Be enrolled in a Civil Engineering, General Engineering, or Computer Sciences baccalaureate degree at a State accredited college or university;
- ◆ Be a West Virginia resident;
- ◆ Have a minimum overall (cumulative) college grade point average of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale;
- ◆ Be working or have worked as a student co-op in good standing with the WV Division of Highways;
- ◆ Agree to work for the WV Division of Highways immediately following the date of the receipt of an eligible degree;
- ◆ Complete and file an application by the established due date as well as comply with all other requirements adopted by the Commissioner of Highways.

If awarded a scholarship, each recipient will be required to execute a negotiable promissory note. If, upon graduation or completion of the approved course of study, the recipient enters the employ of the WV Division of Highways, the Commissioner will credit the oldest outstanding note in the amount of \$1,500.00 for every six months period of employment. If a recipient does not enter the employ of the WV Division of Highways or leaves the employ of the WV Division of Highways prior to earning full credit for all notes, the recipient will be required to repay any unpaid amount.

Applicants may print an application packet below or request an application packet by visiting or contacting the: West Virginia Division of Highways, Human Resources Division, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 5, Room A-949, Charleston, West Virginia 25305 or telephone 304-558-3111.

Applications will be accepted between May 1 and June 30 of each year. Applicants will be notified of the granting or non-granting of a scholarship by August 15. You can find the application online at: www.transportation.wv.gov/business-manager/human-resources/Documents/Scholarship%20Application09.pdf.

Dab It, Slap It, Slop It, Blob It ...
Whatever Works ...

PROTECT YOURSELF USE SUNSCREEN

Summertime isn't the only time of year we need to worry about protecting our skin from the sun. Recent 90° days here in April are proof enough. Use sunscreen anytime you're going to be in the sun.



Don't forget to take other precautions like hats, sunglasses, lip sunscreens, long sleeves, and limited exposure time.

For a quick overview of skin cancer, visit the American Cancer Society at

www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_2_1X_What_is_melanoma_skin_cancer_50.asp

If you're looking for a LOAN with a great RATE We Have It at the State Credit Union!

Take advantage of one of the following great rates and plans with the State Credit Union. Rates like this will not last long.

- 4% for 5 years for a Home Equity Loan
- 4% for a 5 year Home Equity Balloon Loan (10-year term)
- 4% for 5 years for an Automobile Loan (New or Used)
- Rate as low as 4% APR for up to 5 years on purchases or refinancing of model years 2007 to present
- 4% for a Share Secured Loan



Contact The State Credit Union about other disclosures, terms, and conditions.

Visit our website at
www.wvpecu.com or
call the Loan Department
at 304-558-0566.

Concord University Scholars Stage 9th Annual “Box City”

Edited from a press release written by student Andrea Lannom; photos provided by Chris Mabe, both of Concord Univ.

The Concord University Bonner Scholars hosted their 9th Annual Box City April 16-17. The event was held to raise awareness about homelessness and to raise funds for Scottie’s Place, a wilderness camp for homeless children located in Peterstown, WV.

Students spent 24 hours living in a box on the front lawn of the Bonner House. Samantha Smith, Box City supervisor, said students gained perspective by participating.

“There are around 3.5 million people who are homeless and a lot of people don’t understand what it’s like,” Smith said. “It’s a good way to raise money for Scottie’s Place and gain awareness on homelessness.”

Students were asked to donate a minimum of \$20 to Scottie’s Place as a registration fee for each box.

“We raised a few hundred dollars last year and we are hoping to do just as well this year,” Smith said. “Every little bit helps though. Even a little bit of money can bring the kids more activities and food.”



ABOVE: Concord University Bonner Scholars and members of the Black Student Union prepare to spend an eye-opening night on campus in the Box City April 16, 2010.

BELOW: Members of Chi Omega Psi and Circle K at Concord University gather in front of their cardboard box accommodations during the Bonner Scholars Box City held on campus April 16 and 17, 2010.



STATE POLICE – Continued from Page 1

Kuhn, and Tpr. B. R. Moore, and Lt. C. D. Rockel of the Williamson Police Department. Their hard work as lead investigators allowed all involved to make a significant dent in drug dealings around Mingo County.

Forty-four people were arrested on State felony charges (29 from the Williamson area and 15 from the Gilbert area), with more expected. The effort netted the following drugs, currency, and vehicles:

137 Alprazolam tablets	38 MDMA (Ecstasy) tablets	\$13,208 U.S. Currency
264 Oxycodone tablets	73.3 grams of Cocaine	1 Geo Tracker
336 Hydrocodone tablets	1.5 grams of Crack Cocaine	1 Toyota Scion
125 Diazepam tablets	1,019 Marijuana Plants	1 Toyota Rav-4

All agencies involved in the operation extend their thanks to the West Virginia National Guard for their assistance with site security and aviation support.

Any questions or requests for more information should be directed to Sgt. J. C. Dotson at the WVSP Williamson Detachment (304-235-6000).

Remaining 2010 State Holidays

- May 11 - Primary Election Day
- May 31 - Memorial Day
- June 21 - West Virginia Day
- July 04 - Independence Day
- Sep-06 - Labor Day
- Oct 11 - Columbus Day
- Nov 02 - General Election Day
- Nov 11 - Veteran's Day
- Nov 25/26 - Thanksgiving Holidays
- Dec 24 - Christmas Holiday
- Dec 31 - New Year's Holiday

Includes Two Election Days!

Vaccinate Fluffy, Rover ... and Bossy

The following text (with edits) is taken from an item on the Department of Agriculture's website (www.wvagriculture.org/news_releases/2008/3-28-08-a.html).

West Virginia Agriculture Commissioner Gus R. Douglass is urging residents to vaccinate their pets against rabies and to also consider vaccinating valuable livestock against the disease, which is widespread throughout much of the Mountain State.

State law currently requires dog and cat owners to vaccinate their pets every two years. **Effective June 2010, a person who owns or possess a dog or cat within the State of West Virginia shall have the dog or cat vaccinated against rabies with a vaccine capable of producing immunity for three years, boosted one year after initial vaccination and every third year thereafter.** Dogs and cats need not be vaccinated before the age of three months, but must be vaccinated by the age of six months.

"Rabies vaccination is a simple and inexpensive safeguard against a common but extremely dangerous disease," said Commissioner Douglass.

"Rabies is a threat to any warm-blooded animal and the public should be observant of any abnormalities in their farm animals, pets, or wildlife. Wild animals that behave in an unusual or aggressive manner should be avoided and reported to the local health department. Livestock with similar symptoms should be seen by a veterinarian immediately," added Douglass.

West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) State Veterinarian Gary Kinder said many people don't give rabies the respect it deserves.

"People seem to be less fearful of rabies because it's a familiar disease that has been around for a long time, but it's not a matter to be taken lightly," said Dr. Kinder. "Rabies is an extremely dangerous disease to all mammals and is always fatal if left untreated. It is carried by a wide variety of wild animals – especially raccoons, skunks, and bats – and those wild animals can infect unvaccinated pets and livestock, which can then transmit the disease to unsuspecting humans."

Commissioner Douglass noted that approved rabies vaccines are available for cattle, sheep and horses. "Those with valuable animals should definitely consider vaccinating them. A couple of dollars for a vaccination is a small price to pay to protect your investment," he said.

The WVDA has participated in a program in recent years to help slow the westward spread of rabies in raccoons. USDA-Wildlife Service's Oral Rabies Vaccination program has air-dropped nearly two million vaccine-laden baits throughout West Virginia annually since the program was started here in 2001.

Pencil In ...



The West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management established a Twitter site to provide information dealing with a number of emergency situations. If you desire to follow this site, you can visit the webpage at www.wvdhsem.gov or follow them on Twitter at wvdhsem.



Marigolds planted in or around your garden will ward off beetles, nematodes, and some animal pests. (Source: *The Old Farmer's Almanac*.)



Don't set your GPS home address as your actual house. Set it for a location a few blocks away. If your GPS is stolen, the thief won't have easy access to your home address, making it harder to track if you're home or not.





IT'S TOURNNEY TIME!


HAVE WE GOT A 'CLUB' FOR YOU!

19th Annual
West Virginia Public Employees Golf Tournament
Current /retired federal, State, city, county, or public education employees

Monday, May 17, 2010 ~ Shotgun start at 10 A.M. ~ \$60/person
Trophies & Prizes ~ Practice Round Available ~ 20% Lodging Discount

For more information/entry form:
Phil Wiechman, Golf Pro 304-466-1800 ext. 474

AT PIPESTEM RESORT STATE PARK



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

Joe Manchin III, Governor
Robert W. Ferguson, Jr., Cabinet Secretary
Sara P. Walker, Director
Tari McClintock Crouse, Editor
Jane S. Fouty, Assistant Editor

State Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 416
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0139
Telephone: 304/558-3950, ext. 57215
E-mail: jane.s.fouty@wv.gov
www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/