



WISTFUL WINTER ACTIVITIES

This week's extended coverage section is all about winter tourism in the Mountain State, and options range from art displays and historic celebrations to live music and storytelling.
PAGES 13-16

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OUT OF POWER?

W.Va. Officials Say Preparation Is Key To Coping With Crisis

By **JIM WORKMAN**
jworkman@statejournal.com

Many United States citizens are unprepared to withstand an extended power outage.

Going without heat, with limited access to food, clean water and other essential services leaves us vulnerable, especially when it stretches beyond a few days.

With winter weather approaching and an increased awareness that terrorists are targeting power grids in the United States, a wide variety of officials and organizations throughout the country are doing their collective best to ensure public safety.

PLEASE SEE **POWER**, PAGE 4



the Call WV

MAKE THE CALL

A new campaign from the U.S. Attorney's Office draws attention to the struggle of drug addiction and offers more help to those who are suffering.
Page 17

LAUNCHING BUSINESS

The LaunchLab at West Virginia University has become an entrepreneurial playground for students who have enterprising ideas.
Pages 8-9



GUN DEBATE CONTINUES

Legislators have said they plan to try again to pass a constitutional carry bill that the governor vetoed at the end of the last legislative session.
Page 3



ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

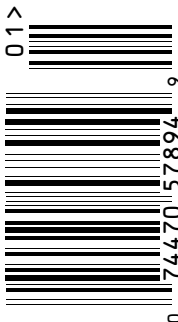
The Health Plan announced Dec. 2 it will relocate its corporate headquarters from Ohio to Wheeling this spring, making it the first new building constructed in downtown Wheeling in nearly three decades.

SJ LIST: West Virginia Ski Resorts
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River Museum Honors 2 Captains

The **Point Pleasant River Museum and Learning Center** recently honored two local natives who spent years in the river industry. The two were given the museum’s first Lifetime Achievement awards. **Jack Fowler**, executive director of the museum, said the awards are the first of what will become a traditional honor.

The lifetime achievement awards will be bestowed on people who have had outstanding careers and made significant contribution to the industry.

The first two awards went to Captain **Steve Pearson** and Captain **Les Grimm**.

Pearson knew he was destined to be a river man when his father, **Landis Pearson**, took him on his work boat at the age of 5. Following graduation from high school and serving a tour of duty in the **Navy**, the younger Pearson came home to begin his career in the river industry.

He worked for **White Brothers, Amherst Madison, M/G, B&C Towing, Ingram Barge Co.** and **AEP**. He quickly moved to the pilothouse and became one of the best pilots on the inland rivers, Fowler said. He created his own maps and willingly shared his knowledge with aspiring young crew members. As captain, Pearson was recognized and respected for his professionalism and the way he looked after his boat and crew. He encouraged them to seek opportunity to learn and advance, Fowler said.

Grimm is a third-generation river captain with more than 40 years of service in the river industry. His career began as a deckhand working summer vacations and holidays while a student at **West Virginia University** earning a bachelor’s degree in business administration. While working in the family business with his father, Captain **Everett “Gilly” Grimm**, he obtained his license as an operator of uninspected towing vessels and acquired a tankerman’s endorsement. He later became upgraded to a first class pilot of steam and motor vessels of any gross tons and then to a master of towing vessels on the western rivers.

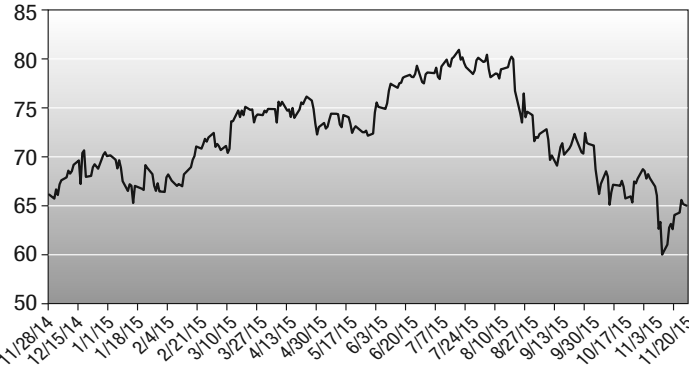
Grimm operated vessels up to 10,500 horsepower with tow sizes greater than 40 barges while navigating the western river system. After joining Ingram Barge Co. as a captain, he became operations manager overseeing the fleet operating on the Ohio and Monongahela rivers. He later served as a senior operations manager with additional responsibilities regarding tow sizes and crews. His last position with Ingram before retiring in January 2015, after 30 years of service, was director of marine associate support and development. He assisted with officer license renewal, managed the steersman program and facilitated training at **Seaman’s Church Institute Center for Maritime Education**.

Throughout his career, Grimm remained loyal to his home community, helping many area people obtain employment in the river industry, Fowler said.

— Jim Ross

MARKET SNAPSHOT

At a Glance: Dollar General Corp.



- **Headquarters:** Goodlettsville, Tenn.
- **Stock symbol:** DG
- **Number of employees:** 105,500
- **In the news:** Dollar General Corp., a discount retailer, provides various merchandise products in the southern, southwestern, midwestern and eastern United States. The company offers consumable products, including paper and cleaning products; packaged food products; perishables consisting of milk, eggs, bread, frozen meals, beer and wine; snacks, including candies, cookies, crackers and carbonated beverages; health and beauty products; pet products; and tobacco products. It also offers seasonal

decorations, toys, small electronics, greeting cards, prepaid phones, gardening supplies, hardware products, and automotive and home office supplies. Stores also offer home products consisting of kitchen supplies, cookware, small appliances, light bulbs, storage containers, frames, candles, craft supplies, bed and bath soft goods, as well as apparel for children, women and men. As of Oct. 30, 2015, it operated 12,396 stores in 43 states. The company was formerly known as J.L. Turner & Son Inc. and changed its name to Dollar General Corp. in 1968. Dollar General Corp. was founded in 1939.

WEST VIRGINIA STOCK INDEX



The West Virginia Stock Index is compiled by the Center for Business and Economic Research at Marshall University. It tracks the top 25 publicly traded companies that operate in West Virginia as weighted by number of employees. This index accounts for more than 60,000 workers throughout West Virginia. Individual company stock prices are weighted by their portion of the employment total. Companies included in the index are (in order of employment): Wal-Mart, Alpha Natural Resources, Kroger, Consol Energy Inc., Patriot Coal Corp., Lowe’s, Mylan Inc., American Electric Power Co. Inc., El DuPont de Nemours, Sears Holdings Corp., Pilgrim’s Pride Corp., FirstEnergy, CSX Corp., Rite Aid Corp., Bob Evans Farms Inc., Frontier Telecommunications, Orbital ATK Inc., Eldorado Resorts Inc., Dollar General, Darden Restaurants, BB&T, Dominion Transmission Inc., Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Toyota Motor Manufacturing WV and Quad/Graphics. This index compares current stock prices to the same data beginning Jan. 5, 2004, and is compared to the Dow Jones Industrial Average for the same time period. For information about this index, call Christine Risch at 304-528-7226.

WEST VIRGINIA UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN PROGRESS (2015-16)

Official Name	County Coverage	Goal	Nov. 30	% of Goal
United Way of the Eastern Panhandle	Jefferson, Berkeley and Morgan	\$800,000	\$187,310	23%
United Way of Central West Virginia Inc.	Kanawha, Putnam, Clay, Boone and Logan	\$2,200,000	\$783,439	36%
United Way of Southern West Virginia Inc.	Raleigh, Nicholas, Fayette, Summers, Wyoming, Mercer and McDowell	\$850,000	\$538,420	63%
United Way of Greenbrier Valley	Greenbrier, Pocahontas and Monroe	\$250,000	\$82,493	33%
County United Way Inc.	Hampshire and Mineral	\$25,000	\$8,701	35%
United Way of Harrison County Inc.	Harrison	\$842,000	\$593,901	71%
United Way of Gilmer, Lewis, Upshur County	Gilmer, Lewis and Upshur	\$75,000	\$40,602	54%
United Way of Marion County	Marion	\$435,000	\$263,785	61%
United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley	Calhoun, Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wirt, Wood counties, W.Va. and Athens and Washington counties, Ohio	\$800,000	\$282,633	35%
Mineral County United Way Inc.	Mineral	\$100,000	\$10,469	10%
United Way of Monongalia & Preston Counties	Monongalia and Preston	\$1,540,000	\$1,375,700	89%
United Way of Randolph County	Randolph	\$155,000	\$71,007	46%
United Way of the Upper Ohio Valley	Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel and Brooke counties, W.Va. and Belmont County, Ohio	\$808,000	\$411,245	51%
Weirton United Way Inc.	Hancock	\$260,000	\$174,751	67%
United Way of the River Cities Inc.	Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln and Mason counties, W.Va. and Lawrence County, Ohio	\$1,000,000	\$154,803	15%
TOTAL		\$10,140,000	\$4,979,259	49%

Please help support your local community by giving through United Way. Local people meeting local needs with local support. LIVING UNITED for our communities’ benefit.

LIVE UNITED

READER GUIDE

POINTS OF CONTACT

- To suggest a story idea, contact Managing Editor Ann Ali at 304-395-3743 (aali@statejournal.com).
- For questions pertaining to advertising in The State Journal, contact Sales Manager Scott Harper at 304-395-3533 (sharper@wowktv.com).
- For questions pertaining to circulation and subscriptions to The State Journal, email circulation@statejournal.com.
- Have an item for our weekly People or Across The State feature? Send it to us. Email information to news@statejournal.com. If you include a photograph, please attach it in JPEG format.
- The Buzz is your inside look at what’s happening in West Virginia business and government. Do you have an item for The Buzz? Email us at news@statejournal.com or call 304-343-1313.
- Market Snapshot is a weekly look at stock prices and other statistics of importance to West Virginia. To suggest an addition to our list, call 304-395-3743.
- Have a question about our Leads? Email aali@statejournal.com or call 304-395-3743.

- Send your Calendar events, Chamber announcements and news, and tourism story ideas to Mike Ruben at mruben@statejournal.com, or call him at 304-532-4865.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome your comments on state government and business issues. Email aali@statejournal.com or mail submissions to: Letters, The State Journal, P.O. Box 11848, Charleston, WV 25339-1848.

ON THE WEB

Questions or concerns about The State Journal website can be directed to Web Producer Jacob Hall at 304-395-3349 or jhall@statejournal.com.

CORRECTIONS

The State Journal is committed to journalism that is fair, balanced and accurate. If you think one of our stories falls short of this goal, contact Managing Editor Ann Ali at 304-395-3743 or email her at aali@statejournal.com.

All numbers are area code 304.
Main number..... 343-1313
Newsroom fax..... 343-6138
Advertising fax..... 720-6592

PUBLISHER
Bray Cary 343-1313
bcary@wvmh.com

NEWS STAFF
Managing Editor /
WV Media Political Editor
Ann Ali 395-3743
aali@statejournal.com
@StateJournalAnn

Assistant Managing Editor
Jim Workman 395-3483
jworkman@statejournal.com
@StateJournalJV



STAFF REPORTERS
Linda Harris 280-5843
Law
lharris@statejournal.com

Rusty Marks 415-1480
Government
rmarks@statejournal.com

Cynthia McCloud 343-1313
General Assignment / List Editor
cmccloud@statejournal.com

Sarah Tinch 395-3168
Energy
stincher@statejournal.com
@sarahntinch

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
Natalie Belville 343-1313
nbelville@statejournal.com

Jacob Hall 395-3349
jhall@statejournal.com

Danise Smith 395-0715
dsmith@statejournal.com

Director of Audience Development
Chloe Dawson 415-3489
cdawson@statejournal.com

ADVERTISING
Sales Manager
Scott Harper 395-3533
sharper@wowktv.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Kerri Barger 415-0097
kbarger@statejournal.com

Jim Schumacher 415-1248
jschumacher@statejournal.com

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Business and Industry Council to Host Pre-Legislative Conference

The West Virginia Business and Industry Council will host “Leading the Change,” a pre-legislative conference and reception, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Marriott Town Center in Charleston.

BIC, which is made up of the state’s major business trade associations, will outline its legislative agendas, discuss issues to grow the state’s economy and interact with state policy leaders during the event.

“We are witnessing a sea-change in the make-up and philosophy of the state Legislature,” said Chris Hamilton, chairman of the WV Business and Industry Council. “New opportunities to move West Virginia forward are presenting themselves and the employer community is actively engaged; working with our policy leaders for the betterment of the state.

“This event will bring together West Virginia’s major industries — health care, gas, automotive, coal, power generation, retail and the list could go on — to discuss the issues important to them, as well as to discuss the pursuit of joint initiatives such as job development, legal and workforce fairness, infrastructure improvement and fiscal responsibility.”

Hamilton said representatives of the Legislature along with administrative branch officials will attend the event, and legislative leaders will outline their agendas during an afternoon panel. A policy and business leader reception will take place at the conclusion of the event, from approximately 4:30-6:30 p.m.

An agenda will be announced shortly, but content will revolve around the challenging issues facing our state and strategies to address them. State and national experts and legislative leaders will discuss a variety of topics, to include: economic development, taxation, legal and workforce fairness, energy and substance abuse.

Hamilton said the event is open to BIC members, legislative representatives, business leaders and invited guests. Visit wvbic.org for a link to register for the conference. The cost to attend is \$50 and includes lunch and the evening reception.

GOVERNMENT

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December 4, 2015 • Page 3

Constitutional Carry Could Be Introduced Early

By RUSTY MARKS
rmarks@statejournal.com

State Republican leaders say a bill to allow carrying concealed weapons without a permit — informally known as constitutional carry — will be re-introduced early in the upcoming legislative session.

“It will be done in an expedient fashion,” said Sen. Craig Blair, R-Berkeley.

Blair co-sponsored a similar bill last year that ultimately was vetoed by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin.

House Speaker Tim Armstead, R-Kanawha, said legislative leaders are still working out the timing and details of their legislative agenda, but said constitutional carry is on the list of bills expected to be introduced.

“We plan to work with our caucus and colleagues in the Senate over the coming month to finalize how we will move forward on this and other pieces of legislation,” Armstead said.

The previous bill, which passed the House of Delegates with a vote of 71-29 and the Senate with a vote of 32-2, was vetoed by Tomblin in March. His veto was too late for the Republican-controlled Legislature to override, but Blair said the bill will be re-introduced early enough when the Legislature reconvenes in January to override any potential veto, or to have time to work out a compromise that might be acceptable to get the bill signed.

Blair said the bill will be re-introduced in the same format



RUSTY MARKS / The State Journal

lawmakers approved during the last session.

“It passed by an overwhelming majority in both houses,” Blair said. “The bill will be introduced as it was left off last year.”

Tomblin spokesman Chris Stadelman said the governor will likely veto the bill again if it passes the Legislature in a form similar to the previous legislation.

Under provisions of the bill, state residents older than the age of 21 would be allowed to carry a concealed handgun without a permit.

A state resident is currently allowed to openly carry a gun, but must get a permit to carry a concealed pistol or revolver. The permit process requires passing a criminal background check, undergoing a training course and paying a fee.

The constitutional carry bill would do away with the permit requirement, although a permit still would be needed for West Virginians to carry a concealed weapon in more than 30 states with which West Virginia has concealed carry reciprocity agreements. Those states recognize West Virginia concealed weapons permits, and West Virginia recognizes permits from those states.

The constitutional carry bill passed last year also would allow a hunter, hiker or other

adult to carry a handgun in the woods for self-defense, whether concealed or not.

Seven states — Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Maine, Vermont and Wyoming — currently allow citizens to carry concealed handguns without a permit. Constitutional carry laws went into effect in Kansas in July and Maine in October.

“It’s a growing trend,” Blair said, adding that 22 states are expected to introduce constitutional carry legislation this year.

Keith Morgan, president of the grassroots lobbying group the West Virginia Citizens Defense League, said group members already have been in touch with House and Senate leadership about re-introducing the bill.

The Citizens Defense League was formed to lobby for expanded gun rights within the state. Morgan said the group has a membership of about 2,000, with about 8,000 more people who support the organization but are not paid members.

During the upcoming legislative session, “We’re generally going to be focused on permitless carry,” Morgan said, although he expects additional gun legislation to be introduced during the session.

But Rodney Miller, executive director of the West Virginia Sheriffs’ Association, remains

opposed to constitutional carry legislation.

Primary opposition to the previous bill came from law enforcement officers, who were concerned the legislation did away with the background checks and training course currently required to get a concealed weapons permit.

“The Sheriffs’ Association is looking at it from a safety standpoint,” said Miller, a former two-term sheriff with more than 33 years in law enforcement. “They still think that folks should be trained in using a firearm.”

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a national organization advocating stricter gun laws in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings in 2012, also came out against the bill.

“... It’s just common sense that violent criminals and people who haven’t been adequately trained shouldn’t be able to carry hidden, loaded guns around our children and in our communities,” Dee Price, a volunteer with the West Virginia chapter of the organization, said during debate over the bill.

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., also opposed the legislation, calling the bill “irresponsible and dangerous to the people of West Virginia.”

During the last legislative session, members of the Citizens Defense League and others suggested the sheriffs were more concerned about losing the fees collected from concealed weapons permit applications. Sheriffs in many West Virginia counties rely on pistol permit fees to help plug holes in their budgets.

Miller disagrees, adding that the Sheriffs’ Association was not opposed to doing away with the fees as a compromise measure.

“It’s more about the safety than the money,” Miller said.



Blair



Tomblin



Armstead



Manchin



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POWER / Readiness Not About ‘Paranoid Preppers’ Anymore

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But good news has come to the Mountain State as a result of bad situations — tens of thousands of West Virginia residents recently endured catastrophic events that forced the state to be more ready than ever for the next event. A derecho in late June 2012, Hurricane Sandy in late October 2012 and a water crisis caused by a chemical leak in the Elk River just upstream from a vital **West Virginia American Water** supply in January 2014 wreaked havoc across the state in epic proportions and tested its fortitude.

The damages were staggering. The derecho left roughly 4.2 million people throughout 12 states without electricity. It resulted in \$2.9 billion in damages and claimed 28 lives. About 63 percent of West Virginians were without power after the storm, making the Mountain State the hardest hit. Maryland was second, with 33 percent of homes without power. **FEMA** paid almost \$27 million in West Virginia alone for derecho clean up and restoration costs.

Hurricane Sandy hit New York and New Jersey the hardest, but the storm’s reach stretched across a wide path on the eastern seaboard that included West Virginia. Initially, a total of 8.5 million people were without power and \$65 billion was estimated in overall damages.

What became known simply as “the water crisis” affected about 300,000 West Virginia American Water customers in nine counties, as a state of emergency was declared by Gov. **Earl Ray Tomblin** and residents were told not to use their tap water for several days.

Perfecting Preparations

State officials agree having gone through those events has made West Virginia a more prepared place.

“We are (more prepared),” said Col. **Joseph Peal** of the **West Virginia National Guard** 35th Civil Support Team. “Every lesson learned, we continue to build upon that.”

As a result of the derecho, a generator team made up of licensed electricians, a military trained generator team and a group of leadership and communications experts was created, Peal said while standing in the Joint Operations Center at the West Virginia National Guard headquarters in Charleston where monitoring goes on 24-7.

“We monitor; any time it gets cloudy we go through preparations,” said Peal. “Whether we execute or respond, we just prepare. There is always a monitoring system.”

Dark skies and high winds are just part of the monitoring. Awareness of terrorist activities plays a role, too.

“Our processes stay the same,” Peal said. “We have our own intelligence section. It’s a group that monitors all activity — whether it’s outside the United States or within the United States. They assess, evaluate and provide updates. If we have people traveling outside the U.S. they go through briefings.

“We do as much on the threat piece to West Virginia as we do to weather situations.”

Peal said that level of engagement is taking place 24-7, with intelligence being presented and officials looking at what it means to West Virginia.

“If something happened in Paris, what does it mean to West Virginia?” he said. “What does it mean to the United States? What does it mean to our travelers? What does it mean to our service members?”

“We start to deep dive and look for trends. If we have a name or an organization, are there any links back (to West Virginia) or where our service members are going to be?”



JIM WORKMAN / The State Journal

At the Joint Operations Center at the West Virginia National Guard headquarters in Charleston, Derek Haltom, knowledge manager, monitors a wide variety of activity using the latest in technology.

Industry, government and the West Virginia National Guard all are working together to ensure the state is not only prepared for an event, but also looking to stay ahead of an event, whether it’s weather related or a potential act of terrorism, Peal said reassuringly.

“We’re ready,” he added. “Our transportation guys are always on standby. We do communications drills every single week.”

The 2012 derecho drove home the need to look more closely at utilities, according to **Jimmy Gianato**, director of the **West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management**.

“We try to make sure that we are prepared as possible,” Gianato said. “We’ve done assessments on most of the critical infrastructures to identify what their needs would be in the event of a long duration power outage.”

Ongoing Exercises

Preparedness comes from learning from past events, planning ahead and also participating in regular exercises that mimic real-life events, according to Peal.

Seamless communication among all parties is crucial, he said.

“It is all about communications, in everything that we do,” he said. “Every quarter, we facilitate an exercise for power generation.”

The last exercise was completed in October at **North Bend State Park** in Ritchie County. More than 100 people from various agencies, including the National Guard, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the **Division of Natural Resources** and even the **Department of Corrections** participated.

“These exercises make these agencies talk,” Peal said. “We want to bring them together. We know from (events in) 2012 where we needed to be. Things are going to happen again. We’re going to have issues. So, how do we communicate?”

Another similar exercise is scheduled for March.

“With the next exercise, we want

to (replicate) a widespread event like Hurricane Sandy,” Peal said. “We had massive power outages but also infrastructure closed and buildings that started to collapse.”

Establishing a mobile joint operations center, a centerpiece of such exercises, provides officials the same tools in the field as they have back at their headquarters.

“Our goal is to have communications on the go,” Peal said.

Information can be forwarded to mobile phones and promptly erected satellites. Communications can be established in about 30 minutes, just as it is in the JOC at National Guard headquarters, according to Peal.

“(The National Guard) has a lot of assets, and lot of personnel and a lot of equipment and smart folks that have the training,” he added.

In the past couple of years, West Virginia has picked up a lot of generators that were federal surplus.

“Right now, we are sitting on 80 generators that range from 10kw to 200kw in the event of the next severe power outage,” Peal said. “We understand to run a water plant and run a sewer plant, what size (generators) we need.”

Is the strategy to get services back to the largest number of people the quickest?

“It is, but there are many factors,” Peal answered. “Input from each county is key. The greatest concern for life gets priority. We get numbers of people affected, and that starts to drive what we respond to with water, food”

Power Sources

Communication is just as important for the affected citizens who need to be aware of ongoing situations.

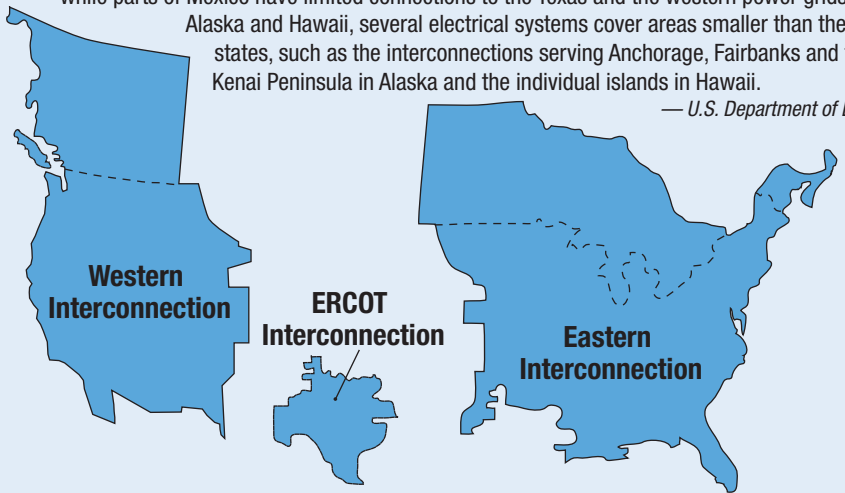
Appalachian Power spokesperson **Phil Moye** said recently implemented mobile alerts will allow AEP customers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Power Grids

There is no national power grid. There are actually three power grids operating in the 48 contiguous states: the Eastern Interconnection (generally for states east of the Rocky Mountains); the Western Interconnection (from the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountain states); and the Texas Interconnected System. These systems operate independently of each other for the most part, although there are limited links between them. Major areas in Canada are interconnected with our western and eastern power grids, while parts of Mexico have limited connections to the Texas and the western power grids. In Alaska and Hawaii, several electrical systems cover areas smaller than the states, such as the interconnections serving Anchorage, Fairbanks and the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska and the individual islands in Hawaii.

— U.S. Department of Energy



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

to receive the latest information about outages via text and email.

“The alerts provide information such as the outage cause and estimated restoration time,” Moye said. “Over the past five years or so, we’ve placed increased emphasis on building strong lines of communication between our company and local and state officials.

“We have employees dedicated to serving as a direct point of contact for emergency management agencies. This enhances two-way communication on critical infrastructure issues.”

A system upgrade will help too, Moye said.

“We are in the midst of transitioning to an Incident Command System structure for storm response,” he said. “This is the same structure used by local to federal government agencies for crisis response.

“One advantage of moving to ICS is that our employees are ‘speaking the same language’ as government responders with whom we often work closely in a storm response effort. Another advantage is that Appalachian Power’s six sister companies across an 11-state area are also moving to ICS.”

Moye said the company has always been swift in calling in extra line workers to help restore power, but the ICS structure will allow AEP to more readily move in personnel from sister companies to help manage the influx of workers and material.

Appalachian Power also goes through regular preparation drills, he said.

“We conduct drills and exercises using realistic scenarios,” Moye said. “This year alone Appalachian Power has held training on our new ICS structure, conducted a tabletop exercise to test our knowledge of it and conducted a full-functional exercise to test our effectiveness in responding to a major event.”

Moye also said preparations against cyber attacks also are in AEP’s preparation equation, saying only, “Using a variety of methods, we regularly test the security of our systems.”

According to Gianato, cyber attempts take place every day.

“It’s an ongoing thing,” he said. “But we are pretty well protected from those types of vulnerabilities.”

Gianato said his office’s information is shared with utility companies.

“We are more confident than ever, both in our ability to respond and repair storm-related damage, and in our ability to communicate our efforts to our customers, regulators, elected officials and emergency management agencies,” Moye said.



JIM WORKMAN / The State Journal

Step one for emergency preparedness is having an ample supply of potable water, according to Bob Keller, owner of Keller’s Survival in Cross Lanes.

Help in Crisis

The **American Red Cross** is one of the most recognized agencies when it comes to disaster relief.

Erica Mani, American Red Cross chief executive officer of the West Virginia region, said many people look at the organization as only a disaster response organization.

“But really, we focus on a full disaster cycle of services,” she said. “The first part of it is preparedness, but it also includes response and recovery.”

It is important for people to be aware of how to prepare for disasters such as power outages, Mani said, adding that people should prepare to have their needs covered for at least three days, if not longer.

“That’s what we most often tell people — to make sure they have food, water, medications, their baby care, pet care, all of that prepared in a kit at your home. They need to have that 72 hours covered at a minimum.”

When people don’t have access to warm places to sleep and essentials such as food and water, Red Cross opens shelters in hard-hit communities.

“We do that with community partners,” Mani said. “We are always working with the county and state emergency management centers. We work with churches and other community organizations to make sure they’re trained to open shelters.”

American Red Cross has an emergency preparedness app, available as a

free download on the **Apple App Store** and **Google Play**, by searching Red Cross Emergency. It has information regarding 35 different severe weather and emergency situations and provides alerts.

Information for individuals also is available at **RedCross.org**. Organizations can be sure they’re disaster prepared by accessing information at **ReadyRating.org**, Mani added.

Needed items for an emergency preparedness kit should be gathered in advance, Mani said.

A battery operated radio or a hand cranked radio is an important tool too, she said.

“When the power goes out, that’s how most people will get their information.”

A “power outage checklist” is available from Red Cross. It includes cautions about preserving food, using generators safely and avoiding carbon monoxide poisoning.

Basic survival kits — for homes and vehicles — should include a gallon of water per day per person, flashlights, a first aid kit, non-perishable food, medications, blankets and a radio.

People Get Ready

The best advice state officials have for individual citizens is to prepare for his own family’s particular needs.

Not only will that ease some of the discomfort of being without essential services, but it also will relieve some of the anxieties that come with such an

event and allow resources to be distributed to the most vulnerable first.

“We talk to people about simple things — like drinking water, heat and canned food,” Peal said. “The larger population areas will likely come back up (with power) within about three to five days. The more rural, it takes a while longer. If you’re prepared, it takes the nervousness out.”

Gianato suggested visiting **ready.wv.gov** to be sure families are prepared.

“People in West Virginia tend to be more resilient,” he added. “They’re more able to take care of themselves than people in more urban areas.”

Bob Keller is the owner of **Keller’s Survival**, a retail store in Cross Lanes.

He caters to those who already know the need for preparedness.

“A lot of what I do is (like) insurance,” he said. “But it’s not difficult to take a step back in technology and take care of yourself and your family.”

According to Keller, when he opened his store at 4926 Washington St. W. in 2012, his was “the third brick and mortar store in the country that focused on preparing people for these types of emergencies,” Keller said. “There are thousands now.”

Keller sells water purification systems, outdoor gear, first aid kits, bulk food, MREs and other survival items. Keller, a former professor at **West Virginia University Institute of Technology**, also teaches classes in various areas of prepping and survival. His **Facebook** community on his “Keller’s Survival” page consists of almost 12,000 people, primarily West Virginians, he said.

“We focus on serving our state, our community and our people,” Keller said. “We’ve been here through the derecho, the Hurricane Sandy and the water crisis.”

The greatest lesson Keller learned through those events?

“You’re never as prepared as you think you are,” he answered quickly.

Keller advises that one ask difficult questions, giving an example.

“We’re going to have bad weather,” he said. “Say you get caught out on the road. Do you have things in your car to get you through that night? There are a lot of little things that you can do.

“If you think ahead, then you’re going to respond (correctly). If you’re not prepared, you’re going to be scrambling around, wondering what you’re going to do. It could, very quickly, turn into a nightmarish situation.

“It’s not about being paranoid preppers anymore.”

about cybersecurity for power systems.

He told the committee, “Our electric grid is particularly vulnerable to growing cybersecurity threats as the grid is modernized, as distributed energy, electric vehicles and modernized digital operating systems create more access points for cyber-attacks.

“Small-scale cyber and physical attacks to our electric grid are estimated to occur once every four days, and in over 300 cases of significant cyber and physical attacks since 2011, suspects have never been identified.”

Weber also penned a letter to Texas Gov. **Greg Abbott** Nov. 2, urging him to take a lead role in establishing a plan for addressing the vulnerability of the electric grid in the Lone Star State.

“The effects of a sustained loss of electricity would be nothing short of catastrophic due to the loss of critical services reliant on electric power such as water treatment, food and fuel supply, health care, financial services, communications, transportation and law-and-order,” Weber wrote. “We risk large scale loss of life without these critical services.”

Lights Out

Former TV news anchor **Ted Koppel** has been concerned about the country’s ability to cope with an attack on any of the nation’s power grids. Koppel wrote the book “Lights Out: A Cyberattack. A Nation Unprepared. Surviving the Aftermath,” released Oct. 27.

The book warns readers that “A well-designed attack on just one of the nation’s three electric power grids could cripple much of our infrastructure — and in the age of cyber-warfare, a laptop has become the only necessary weapon. Several nations hostile to the United States could launch such an assault at any time.”

From a chapter titled “Regulation Gridlock,” Koppel writes, “Former senator **John D. Rockefeller IV**, D-W.Va., who has served as chairman of both the **Senate Commerce and Intelligence committees**, has similarly given up hope of enforcing tough security measures on the electric power industry.”

There was a time, Rockefeller told Koppel, when he could count on the support of



Photo courtesy of Steven Biver

Ted Koppel

a number of senior Senate Republicans.

“Then all of a sudden comes the **Chamber of Commerce** in 2011 and some lobbyist goes back there and says, ‘We gotta shut this thing down ... over-regulation, heavy-handed government, et cetera,’” Koppel recounts in the book.

Koppel asked Rockefeller what the group was afraid of. Rockefeller’s an-

swer, according to the book, was they were afraid “of having to spend money that they couldn’t prove to themselves they would actually need to spend.”

Rockefeller was wistful, Koppel recalled, about the level of bipartisan-ship that existed before the Chamber of Commerce intervened, with meetings in a secure room at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center.

Big groups of generals and admirals all joining former director of national intelligence **Mike McConnell** in saying the United States would lose if it came under attack.

“He was talking about cyberattack?” Koppel asked, and Rockefeller answered “Yes.”

Koppel contends “the federal government, while well prepared for natural disasters, has no plan for the aftermath of an attack on the power grid.”

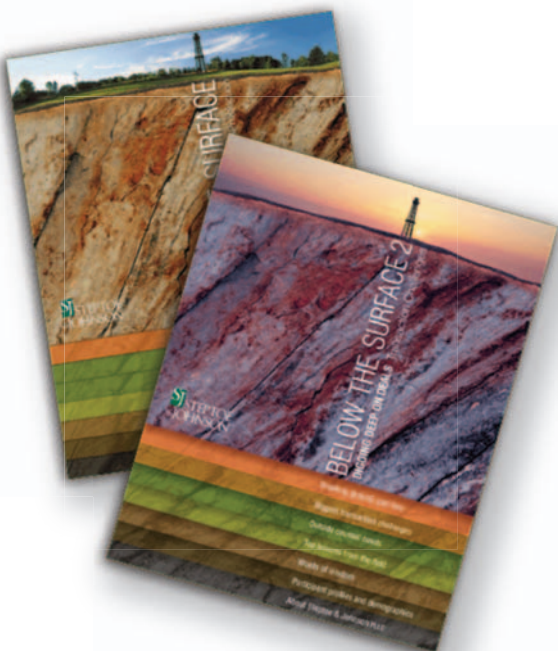
Other politicians have taken notice of cybersecurity and have begun speaking about it.

U.S. Rep. **Randy Weber**, R-Texas, spoke to the Committee on Science, Space and Technology Oct. 21 in Washington, D.C.



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No Agreement to Keep Century Aluminum S.C. Smelter Open

(AP) — There is still no agreement to keep **Century Aluminum's** smelter in Goose Creek, South Carolina operating with its 600 jobs, despite the pleas of workers.

The board of the state-owned utility **Santee Cooper** voted Nov. 30 to reject the company's latest proposal, local media outlets reported.

Century has been buying most of its power from an out-of-state provider with Santee Cooper providing the rest and transmitting the power to the plant.

Century wants to buy all its power from another provider and pay Santee Cooper for transmitting it.

About 30 employees listened in disbelief as Santee Cooper's board voted against the plan to allow the company to find an energy source from somewhere else.

Thirteen-year Century Aluminum employee **Valerie Taylor** pleaded with Santee Cooper president **Lonnie Carter** to find another option.

"I am very much worried about my job," Taylor said. "I have five children. I am the breadwinner of my family."

Santee Cooper has said it cannot agree to a rate that would increase costs for other industrial customers. The company has said without a new agreement, the smelter will close by the end of the year.

The plant extracts aluminum metal from aluminum oxide by using large amounts of electricity.

Royal Dutch Shell to Close Pittsburgh-Area Office

(AP) — **Royal Dutch Shell** is closing an office near Pittsburgh next summer, but that won't affect a pending decision on whether to build a major petrochemical plant in western Pennsylvania.

Shell Spokeswoman **Kimberly Windon** told the **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review** that most of the 180 workers at its Franklin Park office who are involved in gas and oil drilling will be moved to Houston, the company's U.S. headquarters.

Asked whether any of the workers will lose their jobs, Windon said, "Employee retention is key to our success and we remain committed to developing our people."

She also said the decision won't affect ongoing efforts to redevelop a former zinc plant for possible use as a petrochemical cracker plant in Potter Township.

Shell hasn't formally committed to the Beaver County project, but has spent millions on the site.

ENERGY

By **LINDA HARRIS**

lharris@statejournal.com

Kanawha Stone president **Tom Kittredge** figures **Geraldo Rivera** deserves at least some of the credit for changing his life.

Kittredge was working his way up the ladder at the family owned and operated company 35 years ago when Rivera, then an aspiring journalist, did a story for **ABC's** "20/20" news magazine on Mingo County's Tank Rock and the threat it posed to a mobile home community in a ravine far below.

People took notice, Kittredge recalls.

"After his story ran we got a call from the **Office of Surface Mining**; they said they'd (heard) we did specialty blasting," Kittredge said.

OSM needed to get rid of the rock without fragments showering down on residents and had asked **DuPont**, the chemical giant, to suggest contractors capable of getting the job done. Neighboring Kanawha Stone made the company's short list based on its handling of calcium sulfate extraction from holding ponds on its property.

As Kittredge tells it, Kanawha Stone, founded in 1973, excavated the calcium sulfate for use as road base, but it quickly became "increasingly evident that merely excavating rock from ponds and crushing it would not provide an adequate supply of stone to meet future demands."

Kanawha Stone, however, was surrounded by chemical plants and traditional blasting wasn't an option, so the company began using scientific blasting — also known as controlled blasting — to extract the calcium sulfate it needed without triggering a disaster.

In those days mine reclamation was a new field and few companies were in a position to take on the challenge. But in 1980, when OSM called, Kanawha Stone was ready.

"As with many new industries, reclamation at the time required small companies willing to take risks," he wrote in a 1997 history of the company. "Kanawha Stone fit the bill. The Tank Rock job proved to be a foot in the door, as many OSM jobs followed in the next few years."

Foot in the door or not, the job was risky. The terrain was so steep and rugged that drills for the blasting holes had to be air-lifted by helicopter to the top of Tank Rock. Every morning a Kanawha Stone employee would hike two hours to the top of the mountain, he said, and every evening the same employee would hike the two hours back to the bottom.

Kittredge's stepfather, Kanawha Stone co-founder **Art King**, used the firm's Tank Rock success to expand its capabilities as well as its manpower. When mine reclamation projects dwindled, he steered the company into road construction, landing as its first job in that arena the contract for the



Photo courtesy of Kanawha Stone

Kanawha Stone and its subsidiary Terradon Corp. are involved in many infrastructure projects throughout the region including the construction of the Interstate 64/Route 35 interchange in Putnam County.

Capon Bridge in the Eastern Panhandle. Then, when torrential rains led to widespread flooding that devastated Pendleton and surrounding counties in 1985, by luck he managed to land the biggest contract.

The widespread damage prompted state officials to abandon the bid process "and dole out jobs to all the contractors with equipment in the region," Kittredge said. When one of the survey crews sent out to assess damage in Pendleton County was slow to return, they'd construed it as a sign problems there weren't that bad and assigned the emergency repairs to the smallest of the contractors, Kanawha Stone. The damage, though, was so severe the survey crew had needed extra time to do its assessment and instead of being the least significant contract it was, in fact, the most extensive. After winning the contract the other companies had thought was insignificant, Kanawha Stone was able in just three weeks to triple in size and generate \$1.9 million in sales, more than they'd done in all of 1984.

"It propelled us to the big leagues," Kittredge said. "It got us building roads, and then about six years ago we got into the bridge market."

After that came the energy

sector: Kanawha Stone launched its energy services division in 2008 and was "one of the first to do Marcellus work."

"I think the first well was drilled around then," he said. "We saw (it) as an opportunity to use our existing construction skill sets — mass excavation and grading work."

Energy companies needed flat land to drill well pads, access roads, water impoundments.

"All of those were things we'd done before," Kittredge said. "We'd built dams, roads and pads for retail developments, and we saw they had the same needs as our other customers had so we made a conscientious decision to start the energy services division."

"Now, we've done more than 300 projects in the Marcellus and Utica in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia."

Energy, Kittredge points out, is essential to the West Virginia economy. He said his company has been "very fortunate" to earn the opportunity to work for energy and natural gas companies throughout the region, and is currently working with **Antero Resources**, which is building a \$275 million state-of-the-art water treatment facility in Doddridge County.

"We're particularly proud to be working on that project," Kittredge said.

"It's really a world class, state-of-the-art water treatment facility with huge environmental and economic benefits for that part of the state. There will be multiple contractors that work on that job, we're sort of the first in — we'll cut the road to the site, flatten the grade out and get it ready for folks to come in and build the facility on top of what we've done. Think of it as a pyramid — you have to have a solid foundation if you're building a pyramid. We're the first tier of the pyramid, so our work has to be flawless. Other contractors will come in after us (and add to it)."

The facility, as announced, will allow Antero to treat and reuse flowback and produce water rather than permanently dispose of the water in injection wells. When done it's expected to save the company about \$150,000 per well on future completion costs and eliminate 10 million miles annually of truck travel on local roads. Once operational, Antero figures more than 90 percent of the water it needs for its operations will have been treated at the facility.

"Instead of being injected into the ground it will be treated on site and then used again, so they're not pulling water out of streams or anything," Kittredge said.

Kittredge said the facility "will play an important role in achieving important environmental goals, further reducing truck travel as well as reliance on local water sources, and all but eliminating the need for underground injection wells for wastewater disposal." He credits Antero for its willingness to work with local contractors whenever possible, saying the "company and its demonstrated leadership is making a positive difference for our region."

"Our strategic plan outlines a continued presence in oil and gas, it's our country's path to oil independence," Kittredge said. "We're proud to be part of that."

Kittredge credits Kanawha Stone's growth over its first four decades to the family's willingness to adapt to changing markets and opportunities. His mother, **Virginia**, had joined her husband at Kanawha Stone in 1978, just five years after it opened. They started an engineering services division, **Terradon Corp.**, more than 25 years ago.

Located in Poca, near Charleston, Kanawha Stone has operations in Elkins and Clarksburg as well as Luray, Virginia, and Charlotte, North Carolina. While the Kings remain at the forefront of the company's operations, Kittredge and his sisters, **Ashley Lioi** and **Amelia King Randolph**, have assumed daily leadership roles. Lioi and Randolph are project engineers.

"I'm incredibly proud of our organization and the people," Kittredge said. "I look around every day and I'm amazed at the quality of people and the organization's commitments to making sure projects are done right."

LaunchLab Provides Young Entrepreneur Playground at WVU

By CATHY BONNSTETTER
For The State Journal

Just 18 short months ago, the LaunchLab — an explosion of creativity and promise for West Virginia University students who dream of entrepreneurship — was just a vision. Located deep in the labyrinth of Hodges Hall on the downtown campus, room after empty room became a code lab, classroom, networking space and maker lab — just what bright minds need to bring their dreams to life.

“I remember I walked into this facility on June 12, 2014, and there was nothing here other than some furniture,” said LaunchLab Director **Fonda Holehouse**. “**Matt Harbaugh** hired me for this job, turned me loose and said make it work.”

Harbaugh is WVU’s associate vice president in the Office of Transformation.

“I spent more than a decade working in the entrepreneurial community in the Pittsburgh area, where many of the new ventures were created by recent university graduates,” he said. “I saw a similar energy among the students here, as well as a desire among WVU’s faculty and administration to help our students gain the skills and confidence to create their own businesses.”

Holehouse, a powerhouse of a professor in the Davis College of Agriculture, started in fifth gear, full-speed ahead, to get the LaunchLab up and running.

“We opened August 2014,” she said. “I looked at this as a start-up and decided we refine as we go.”

Since then, Holehouse and assistant director **David Ramsburg II** have yet to slow down.

Last year just slightly fewer than 400 students used the LaunchLab for help to plan the launch of their business ventures. This school year 150 asked for help during the first six weeks of the year, according to Holehouse.

Even in this short time, LaunchLab entrepreneurs have snagged a lot of start-up money in competitions. Last year that number was \$92,250. In fact, 72 students from LaunchLab began the 2014-2015 West Virginia Collegiate Business Plan Competition. Twenty-three of the 30 semi-finalists are from the LaunchLab.

Huntington Banks has also contributed \$150,000 through the **WVU Foundation** to be used as seed funds for the ventures. The funds will be dispersed in pieces as entrepreneurs are selected to receive them.

“A lot of student ideas fizzle because they have a great concept, but maybe don’t have the \$500 or few thousand dollars to make the prototype,” said **Chad Prather**, Huntington Bank senior

vice president and commercial region manager. “Most students aren’t well-resourced, and it’s not WVU’s responsibility to fund them. Our money takes them from A to B or B to C, wherever they are in the evolution of their idea.”

There will be several recipients throughout the year, Prather said.

The first Huntington Banks recipient was Glen Dale native and WVU Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources mechanical engineering major **Ryan Gellner**. Gellner, founder of **Reactive Restraint Technologies**, is performing initial product testing on his devices used in contact sports to curb impact injuries.

The LaunchLab gives students help with every aspect of their possible businesses, according to the LaunchLab website. This includes: business plans, market research, intellectual property protection, introduction to experts in different industries, pitch development and access to an initial round of customers.

However, these would-be entrepreneurs are not spoon-fed the big decisions.

“We use the Business Model Canvas,” Holehouse said. “It is considered best practice, and it teaches you quite quickly to make changes.”

“We want the students to find out ‘no, this won’t work’ for themselves, but to also realize that sometimes ‘no’ means you just have to pivot in a different direction and find out what will work.”

Students then go straight to their possible customers.

“The old-school model was to do a business plan early,” Holehouse said. “We tell the kids not to worry about a business plan or financials; just go out and find their customers. Before they do a lot of the business side, we want our kids to know what their value is and who will buy it.”

Holehouse and Ramsburg keep the LaunchLab focus sharp.

“We are in the business of making money,” Holehouse said. “This is not a hobby or a class project. This is real life — create wealth, be successful.”

Most students will not officially launch their products until after graduation. Ramsburg, who has been involved in successful tech start-ups, as well as his own non-tech business, also serves as the innovation technology manager at the **Small Business Development Center**. This gives students much-needed support for their ventures after graduation.

“The SBDC has a network of 18 coaches statewide,” he said. “Even if a student returns home in the state, they still have access because of the relationship with the SBDC.”

Students Use Real-Life Experiences to Launch Enterprises

From concussion-conscious sports gear to precision soil samples and sports apps, **Fonda Holehouse**, director of **West Virginia University’s** LaunchLab, and **David Ramsburg II**, LaunchLab assistant director, are the soundboards for any entrepreneurial venture.

“I work with the students while they are at WVU, and when they graduate the **Small Business Development Center** can work with them,” Holehouse said. “We call it a soft landing place.”

Holehouse, a former professor in WVU’s Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design, teaches an entrepreneurship class at three different colleges in the university, and a little more than half the LaunchLab ventures come from students who have taken Holehouse’s entrepreneurship class.

“I am astonished at the work ethic of these students,” Holehouse said. “Our most successful students are in really demanding curricula. They have become good time managers; they are driven and focused.”

Sistersville native **Emily Wells** is a graduate student in the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design, as well as the owner of **Precision Agricultural Sampling Services LLC**. Wells took Holehouse’s entrepreneurship class, and while she was completing the class requirement, ended up with even more than a great business plan. She garnered \$17,000 in start-up funding by winning the West Virginia Technology Entrepreneurship Challenge and West Virginia Collegiate Business Plan Competition.

“Because my business is a service, I am the business,” she said. “I am fully funded through the competitions. All I need to start is a little more knowledge and some equipment.”

Wells’ corporation helps farmers and landowners understand the content of their soil.

“The traditional method is for a farmer to take one sample,” she said. “That isn’t accurate because soil varies heavily. If you are not accounting for the variability you are either going to over-apply lime fertilizer or under-apply it.”

“Either way, it results in your wasting money and resources and degrading the soil quality.”

Wells, who comes from a farming background, plans to move to the Eastern Panhandle after graduation to pursue a position in her field and prepare to launch her business.

Glen Dale native and mechanical engineering senior **Ryan Gellner** is another graduate of Holehouse’s entrepreneurship class. Gellner is the owner of **Reactive Restraint Technologies**, a venture aimed at curbing the epidemic of impact injuries on the sports field.

His partner in the venture is **Eric Schmitt**, another WVU senior.

“My company is based around the design for a protective piece of sports equipment that uses smart materials,” he said. “The goal is to prevent concussions. Nothing will ever stop people from getting concussions completely in sports like football, but hopefully this can help.”

Gellner is working with WVU neurosciences and is in the process of making a prototype. He said the restraint also has applications for the military to prevent concussions for soldiers who get caught near explosions.

The restraint is worn in addition to the existing equipment. It contains a material that will stiffen upon impact and act like a spring to keep the head from whipping around as a result of the impact.

“I played ice hockey in high school and younger,” he said. “I had two concussions, and both times I was wearing a helmet. This restraint will act like an invisible helmet to protect you from those rotational forces.”

Gellner recently received funding from **Huntington Bank** and is a finalist in the West Virginia Collegiate Business Plan Competition.

Another finalist, mechanical engineering major and Huntsville, Alabama, native **Noelle Honeycutt**, also drew upon her sports background to craft her business venture through Holehouse’s class. Until recently Honeycutt was a member of WVU’s women’s soccer team and had played since she was a child. Her company is **Go Play Enterprises**, a sports app company, and the first app will be Go Play Soccer.

“The app will feature information from coaches and players I have contact with,” Honeycutt said. “I will work with people who can provide that elite level of information.”

“I want everyone to get the best out of the soccer experience. Maybe a child will pick it up, like I did, or maybe not.”

The app will feature suggestions for parents on how to work with the children, as well as information for new coaches. It will also have a calendar and messaging feature to keep everyone on the same page, and eventually, Honeycutt hopes, a marketplace where parents can more easily get their children the gear they need for the sport.

“I had thought about soccer, but didn’t have that eminent design until I took the entrepreneur class,” she says. “The class was eye-opening.”

She hopes to launch her venture in July.

“LaunchLab shows students that stuff like this is possible — these things you dream of,” Gellner said. “I know a number of students who would have loved to have had this while they were here.”

— Cathy Bonnstetter

“Tech ventures will still work with me, no matter where in the state the student goes. We help out-of-state students get started by helping them transition to the SBDC in their state.”

In addition to the SBDC, the LaunchLab has several partners within the university.

“Summer 2014 I tried to find as many partners as possible,” Holehouse said. “The law school stepped up, as did the Reed College of Media, the college of business and economics, the college of engineering and mineral resources and the agriculture college. Everyone just got on board. Had they not done

that, this would not be as big a success as it has been. So far we have partnered across the university in a remarkable way.”

LaunchLab is not a piece of any one college within the university. The funding comes from the research arm of WVU. Holehouse said three ventures are within weeks of launch.

“The entire WVU community has been thrilled with the LaunchLab’s progress to date,” Harbaugh said. “The positive response from students has been overwhelming. The LaunchLab is clearly tapping into an entrepreneurial spirit at WVU that is large and growing.”

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Campus Move Will Put Entrepreneurship and Innovation Nearby

By CATHY BONNSTETTER
For The State Journal

The little lab that could continues to grow.

West Virginia University's LaunchLab, a one-stop shop for students interested in entrepreneurship, was just a possibility two years ago. Today, it's growing at the same time it's helping WVU's would-be entrepreneurs grow their dreams under the guidance of **Fonda Holehouse**, LaunchLab director, and **David Ramsburg II**, assistant director.

With networking and relationship building making up large pieces of what makes the LaunchLab a great asset to the students, the operation soon will move to the Evansdale campus so everyone involved can take advantage of a convenient physical proximity.

“We are moving into the new Evansdale Crossing building in a month or so,” Holehouse said. “We will be sharing a floor with the Reed College of Media Innovation Center. It’s a cool idea — entrepreneurship and innovation on the same floor.”

In addition to the **West Virginia Small Business Development Center** and Reed College of Media, according to its website, LaunchLab partners include: WVU BrickStreet Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, WVU College of Law Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center, WVU Writing Center and WVU U.S. Patent and Trademark Resource Center.

LaunchLab will have a large maker lab in the engineering building on the Evansdale campus and will partner with the Reed College of Media and the industrial engineering department on

a coding lab.

"All this also puts us in close proximity to the students who use us most," Holehouse said. "Right now we have the most students from engineering, agriculture and creative arts."

With a LaunchLab already in Beckley, the university is growing the concept. The LaunchLab scenario includes higher education, the Small Business Development Center and a local economic development group. In Beckley, the SBDC and **New River Gorge Economic Development Group** have joined forces with WVU.

“That LaunchLab was built out last summer,” Holehouse said. “It’s the same model as is here — if anybody walks in the door, they can have help. As soon as students get on campus next fall, they will be part of the mix.”

The university has just submitted a grant proposal to the federal development authority for funds to launch a series of LaunchLabs statewide.

"Our goal is to put one in the Northern Panhandle, one in Parkersburg and one in the Eastern Panhandle," Holehouse said. "We will have one model that will be implemented statewide. We can share the resources, and it's a smarter way to do it."

The LaunchLab also will be moving off WVU's campus. **West Virginia Wesleyan College** has offered its first entrepreneurship class this fall and together with the Webster County SBDC, they are looking for space for a LaunchLab.

“We want to take this model to other institutions,” Holehouse said. “That’s the bigger picture, and that’s a real responsibility to the state. In my five-year

Entrepreneurs are Changing the Area's Culinary Scene

Two LaunchLab-grown ventures, **Pubstomper Brewing Co.** and **Allegheny Genesis**, both 2015 West Virginia Collegiate Business Plan competition winners, are near launch.

Pubstomper Brewing, a craft beer brewing company, is owned by locals **Cody Cheesebrough**, a West Virginia University graduate from the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources in chemical engineering, and **Chris DeFazio**, a computer science and English major.

"Our goal is to have our beer on the shelves by June 1," Cheesebrough said. "I am pretty confident we will reach that goal."

Cheesebrough and DeFazio have learned the importance of networking.

"We are contract brewing," Cheesebrough said. "We will rent a fermenting tank from the **Morgantown Brewing Co.** to brew our beer, and then use their canning line. For us, this is the business model that made sense."

Cheesebrough said in West Virginia the craft beer wave is just beginning.

"Brewers want to be able to move large volumes, so they go to states with a big city," he said. "At first we thought about moving to Virginia or Pennsylvania, then we said, 'Why not stay right here? Why not stay home?'"

Cheesebrough and DeFazio aren't worried about West Virginia's lack of a large metropolitan area.

"All these people who come to town for WVU football games or Mountainfest, a lot of them are craft beer drinkers, and tourists love local beer," Cheesebrough said.

While Cheesebrough and DeFazio are changing what people drink, **Jordon Masters**, a Greenbrier County

native, and co-owner of Allegheny Genesis, will be changing what people eat.

Masters owns Allegheny Genesis with his brother **Jared**. The company's mission is to raise awareness of sustainable, healthy eating and alternative foods. **Jared Masters** was an apprentice chef at **The Greenbrier** when he and his brother began collaborating on the Allegheny Genesis blog, a popular blog that has received thousands of hits.

"Every week we would showcase a dish based on sustainability and seasonal agriculture," Jordon Masters said. "We would find plants that people typically didn't use, or use parts of plants that were typically discarded."

While he completes his education, the horticulture major will be taking the company in a more specific direction — micro greens. A micro green is an edible crop that is harvested prematurely. Although the green is tiny, it packs a significant nutritional punch and flavor.

"They're beautiful," he said. "Traditionally, they have been used in high-end restaurants, but I want to bring them to the grocery stores. I want to make them more consistent and less of a novelty."

Jordan Masters already sells micro greens to restaurants and resorts, and is fundraising to add to his \$10,000 prize from the competition. He has entered into a public/private partnership with WVU for land to build a greenhouse. He plans to launch this piece of Allegheny Genesis in February.

"LaunchLab has been the catalyst for everything," Jordon said. "If I have an idea, they make it into a great one and layout the footwork to go with it. They have been awesome."

—Cathy Bonnstetter

vision, we are implementing this model statewide.”

Student success can bring diversification to the state's economic landscape.

"There is a lot of talk about the need to diversify our economy," Ramsburg

said. "Very few of these endeavors have to do with extraction industries."

Matt Harbaugh, WVU associate vice president in the office of transformation, said the LaunchLab not only helps students with the nuts and bolts of entrepreneurship, but also builds leaders.

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Clarksburg Business Owners Have Faith in Downtown's Resurgence

By JIM DAVIS
The Exponent Telegram

Local entrepreneurs say they are banking on the revitalization of Clarksburg's downtown and want to be part of it.

A couple of new shops and a restaurant and lounge have opened downtown in the past couple of months, reflecting confidence in the resurgence of the central business district.

"We have done several ribbon-cuttings in the immediate downtown area over the last 12 months, which is more than we've done the last couple of years," said **Cathy Goings**, the city's mayor and a businesswoman in her own right.

"There are more small businesses in the immediate downtown than we've had in a long time," Goings added.

Paul Moses recently opened **4th Street Restaurant and Nightclub**.

"I live here, and I like to work," Moses said of his decision to open the business.

The businessman's establishment is a mix of old and new — black-and-white photos of **James Cagney**, **Humphrey Bogart** and **Laurel and Hardy** are juxtaposed with flat-screen televisions. Life-size statues of the Blues Brothers stand in a picture window.

Moses said he had refrigerators, coolers and other equipment left over from a previous business — **Humperdinks** in Glen Elk.

He opted to give the downtown a try. So far, business has been good, Moses said.

"We have an excellent reputation for our food," Moses said.

The 4th Street menu includes tuna, steak, hamburgers, soups and salads, he said.

The restaurant and nightclub are in a location that has seen several dining establishments come and go.

But Moses said he's planning to stay put.

"I wouldn't have done it if I didn't have faith we could do a good business here," Moses said.

Stephanie Wyatt also is taking a chance on Fourth Street.

Wyatt recently opened **Gypsy Soul Boutique**, which sells women's clothing and jewelry.

She also owns **My Mother's Daughter** on West Main Street. That shop, which has been open almost a year, specializes in handmade, country primitive items.

"My Mother's Daughter was open eight months prior to my decision to open Gypsy Soul," Wyatt said.

Fourth Street was the perfect location because of the shop's size and prox-



JIM DAVIS / The Exponent Telegram

Annie Dupree, left, Brooklynn Dottellis, center, and Sara Skinner finish their paintings at Starving Artists Studio in Clarksburg.

imity to her other business, Wyatt said.

"I wanted to do something like this, but it didn't fit into my current venue," she said. "It's more a matter of convenience. I can be at either store in a matter of minutes."

Many of the customers at Gypsy Soul already know her through My Mother's Daughter, Wyatt said.

"It's cross-references," Wyatt said.

Debbie Thompson moved her **Massage Therapy and Spa** to Fourth Street from Meadowbrook Road about a year ago.

Thompson, who has been in business for 11 years, said she likes downtown Clarksburg.

"I wanted to upgrade my business space, and this office is wonderful," she said. "My business has picked up since I moved because I have better exposure."

Thompson said there's positive energy taking in the city.

"I think the building owners in town are trying to revitalize the buildings," Thompson said.

Amanda Leaseburg echoed Thompson's sentiments.

Leaseburg and her husband, **Bill Leaseburg**, own **Starving Artists Studio** and are partners with Goings in **Fabulous Lulu's** — both at the corner of Fourth and Main streets.

"I think people are very accepting of new businesses coming in, and I think it's a good thing," Amanda Leaseburg said.

"There seems to be a really positive trend downtown with all the new shops opening up," she added. "I think it's exciting."

Amy Skiviat opened **Kidzcycle Consignment** on West Main Street Sept. 1.

Business at the children's clothing shop has been good, Skiviat said.

"The more other businesses are open, the better I do," Skiviat said. "It's helpful **Looking Glass** (consignment shop) is next door. They stop there, and then they stop here, or vice versa."

Beth Hoskinson, who owns **Looking Glass** with her husband **Shell**, said location is everything.

The couple moved their business to Clarksburg in March 2013 when they outgrew their Bridgeport location, Beth Hoskinson said.

The Clarksburg location also has more foot traffic as a result of being across the street from the Harrison County Courthouse, she said.

"Each week I have at least three to five people who have never been in the shop before, and they came because they were in the courthouse," she said. "Overall we've had steady growth."

City Manager **Martin Howe** said luring businesses downtown didn't happen overnight and is an ongoing process.

One of downtown Clarksburg's strengths is affordable storefront space for entrepreneurs with a business idea, Howe said.

"We're positioned with a better business climate and opportunities for smaller, boutique-style businesses with a niche market," he said.

The city offers various incentives both for property and business owners to offset their capital investments, Howe said.

One is the facade improvement grant program, Howe said. Under the program, the city will cover 80 percent of the costs of a facade improvement up to \$2,000. For multiple sides, the maximum amount is \$3,000.

The city also offers low-interest loans through the **Urban Renewal Authority** or **Harrison County Economic Alliance Corp.**, as well as business and occupation tax breaks for new and expanding businesses over a three-year period, Howe added.

Goings said she hopes the momentum downtown continues and more ribbon-cuttings occur.

"It's encouraging that more people are getting involved and fulfilling their dream of opening a business," Goings said.

Jim Davis can be reached at 304-626-1446 or jdavis@theet.com.



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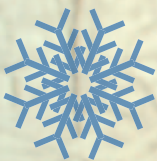
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Huntington Museum Celebrates Purchases

Since its creation in 1989, the **Fitzpatrick Society** has purchased more than 30 artworks to help foster the growth of the **Huntington Museum of Art's** collection.

Now, the museum is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the society with a special exhibit, "The Fitzpatrick Society: 25 Years of Gifts to the Collection." The exhibit opened Oct. 25 and will remain on view through Feb. 7.

The Fitzpatrick Society is named for **Herbert Fitzpatrick** (1872-1962), a Huntington lawyer who rose to become head of the **Chesapeake & Ohio Railway**.

Fitzpatrick played a key role in establishing the **Huntington Galleries** — today's Huntington Museum of Art. He donated the land upon which the museum was built, along with his substantial collection of paintings, prints, English silver and Islamic prayer rugs, which became the nucleus of the museum's collection.

The Fitzpatrick Society's purchases mirror the diverse nature of the HMA collection and include everything from a centuries-old **Inuit** story board to contemporary works on paper, old master prints, photographs, paintings and studio glass. Several of the society's acquisitions have aided the museum's attempts to collect representative works by visiting artists in the **Walter Gropius Master Artist Series**.

The society enlists the help of interested art lovers who pay membership dues to belong to the group. The dues are then used to purchase additional artworks for the collection.

"The society meets on an annual basis, offering members a chance to actively participate in the enhancement of the HMA collection," Senior Curator **Chris Hatten** said in a news release. "It is hoped the next 25 years of the Fitzpatrick Society will further strengthen the HMA collection and continue to fulfill the vision of the museum's founders."

The Fitzpatrick Society received a substantial boost in its ability to purchase works of art when it became the beneficiary of a bequest from the estate of longtime docent and museum supporter **Donald B. Harper**. The bequest that followed his passing in 2003 specified that a large portion of the funds from his estate should be used as an endowment to benefit the activities of the society.

The exhibit is accompanied by a catalog with object essays by Hatten and a foreword by Executive Director **Geoffrey K. Fleming**. The catalog is available for purchase in the museum shop.

This Fitzpatrick Society exhibit is presented with financial assistance from the **West Virginia Division of Culture and History** and the **National Endowment for the Arts**, with approval from the **West Virginia Commission on the Arts**.

For information on joining the Fitzpatrick Society, email HMA Development Director **Carol Bailey** at cbailey@hmoa.org. For information about events at the Huntington Museum of Art, visit hmoa.org or call 304-529-2701.

— James E. Casto

WINTER TOURISM

Harpers Ferry Celebrates Christmas in 1860s Style

By CHRISTINE SNYDER
For The State Journal

After a July fire destroyed nearly one-third of Harpers Ferry's commercial district, **Martha Ehlman** has had her hands full getting her gift shop open again in a new space.

But the owner of **Tenfold Fair Trade Collection** has another job, too: She's the key organizer of Olde Tyme Christmas, Harpers Ferry's annual holiday celebration.

"Some have said they felt people would understand if the event didn't take place this year under the circumstances," Ehlman said. "But I was not willing to let this special event — one that generations have made a part of their Christmas tradition — not happen just because we suffered a terrible loss this summer."

"It's our 45th year and it's going to be as great as ever."

Olde Tyme Christmas kicks off Dec. 4 when crowds gather to light the town Christmas tree on Shenandoah Street. The night also features a traditional yule log and revelers in Victorian garb singing 19th-century Christmas carols.

Visitors also can enjoy free horse and wagon rides, a Tuba Christmas performance, the chance to visit with a Victorian-era Santa and Mrs. Claus, a puppet show from **Joe Santaro's** Martinsburg-based **Wonderment Puppet Theater**, a live nativity at **St. Peter's Catholic Church**, among other activities.

Vendors also will be selling roasted chestnuts, hot apple cider, hard candy and other treats popular in **Charles Dickens'** day, and Ehlman's Tenfold Fair Trade Collection, **The Vintage Lady** and other shops in

"It's our 45th year and it's going to be as great as ever."
— **Martha Ehlman, Tenfold Fair Trade Collection**

town will stay open late.

Tenfold's building on Potomac Street was one of eight businesses burned in the early-morning blaze on July 23.

"Although it's bittersweet going into this holiday season knowing that so many have lost so much, we see small blessings every day in our community and embrace the season and the gift that it is," Ehlman said.

One such bright spot: Her new location at 200 High St. that features the original 1829 pine floors and a beautiful fireplace with a mantel ideal for displaying mantel stockings, nativity scenes and other gifts in Tenfold's collection of unique, eco-friendly, fair-trade items made by artisans from across the globe.

Tenfold's temporary space was originally the home of Dr. **Nicholas Marmion**, the physician for federal armory workers in the years before the Civil War who ran his medical practice from his home.

Fans of Olde Tyme Christmas say the event is a magical step back in time to 1860, with the streets lined with luminaries and storefronts decked out in red ribbons, pine wreaths and ropes of greenery.

The **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park** also puts on special holiday programs this month, including a hands-on workshop, "While Visions of Sugar Plums Danced in Their Heads."

The Christmas candy-making sessions will be led by the park's 19th century food preparation expert **Carol Anderson**. The classes at **Roeder's German Confectionery** on High Street cost \$25 and will be offered at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. both Dec. 5 and 6. Those interested are asked to call 304-535-6881.



Photo courtesy of the Historic Harpers Ferry Foundation
Martha Ehlman, who owns Harpers Ferry's Tenfold Fair Trade Collection, is among the organizers of Olde Tyme Christmas. Though swamped reopening her business after the July 23 fire that destroyed nearly a third of the town's commercial district, she said she did not want to miss the event. "It's our 45th year and it's going to be as great as ever," she said.



Photo courtesy of the Historic Harpers Ferry Foundation

Huntington Symphony Will Perform Live Music From Holiday Film

By JAMES E. CASTO
For The State Journal

At the historic **Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center** on Dec. 12, the Marshall Artists Series will screen "The Nightmare Before Christmas," **Tim Burton's** full-length classic film, with something extra — the film's score will be played live by the **Huntington Symphony Orchestra**, conducted by maestro **Kimo Furumoto**.

The Artists Series will present the cult classic and accompanying live music at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee performance at 2 p.m. Ticket information for the multi-media holiday event is available by calling 304-696-6656 or e-mailing artistsseries@marshall.edu.



Penny Watkins, executive director of the Artists Series, described the joint program with the Huntington Symphony as an "historic collaboration."

In recent years, many of the

nation's symphony orchestras have combined screenings of "The Nightmare Before Christmas" with live performances of composer **Danny Elfman's** score.

The quirky animated film has been a favorite for children and adults alike since its release in 1993. Based on an original story written by Tim Burton, it's a macabre mash up of Halloween and Christmas. In it, Jack Skellington, Halloween Town's resident Pumpkin King, kidnaps Santa and takes it upon himself to deliver ghoulish presents to the boys and girls in Christmas Town.

The score for the iconic film was written by long-time Burton collaborator Elfman, a com-

poser, singer, songwriter and record producer. He was the lead singer and songwriter for the rock band **Oingo Boingo** from 1976 to 1995. In addition to "The Nightmare Before Christmas," his musical scores include the main title theme for "The Simpsons" television series and the theme for the 1989 "Batman" movie.

The Huntington Symphony was originally organized in the 1930s. Some of the members who were with the orchestra in the 1950s still play with it today.

Maestro Furumoto is a professor of music at the Fullerton campus of **California State University**. He regularly flies to West Virginia to conduct the Huntington Symphony.

West Virginia Ski Resorts 2015-16

Ranked by Number of Downhill Trails and Cross-Country Skiing Miles

Resort Name	Location	Downhill	Cross-Country	Make Snow?	Night Skiing?	DH Top Elevation	Vertical Drop	DH # Trails	DH # Lifts	DH Longest Run	CC Trail Miles	Website / Telephone	Anticipated Opening Day
Snowshoe Mountain Resort	Snowshoe	❄️		100%	12 slopes, terrain parks, snowtubing	4,848 feet	1,500 feet	57 trails and slopes and 6 terrain parks	14	1.5 miles	—	snowshoemtn.com 877-441-4FUN	Dec. 18
Canaan Valley Resort & Conference Center	Davis	❄️	❄️	75%	43 trails	4,280 feet	850 feet	47 trails and slopes and 1 terrain park	4	1.5 miles	11	canaanresort.com 800-622-4121	Dec. 18
Timberline Resort	Davis	❄️	❄️	100%	39 trails not all for night skiing	4,268 feet	1,000 feet	41 trails and slopes and 2 terrain parks	4	2 miles	16	timberlineresort.com 800-SNOWING	Second week of December
Winterplace Ski Resort	Flat Top/Ghent	❄️		100%	26 slopes, 2 terrain parks, snowtubing	3,600 feet	603 feet	27 slopes and 2 terrain parks	9	1.25 miles	—	winterplace.com 800-607-SNOW	Dec. 12
Oglebay Resort & Conference Center	Wheeling	❄️		100%	1 slope, 1 terrain park	—	168 feet	2 trails and 1 terrain park	1	815 feet	—	oglebay-resort.com 800-624-6988	Mid-December
White Grass Ski Touring Center	Davis		❄️	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	whitegrass.com 304-866-4114	Watch the trail report on the website
Elk River Touring Center	Slaty Fork		❄️	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	ertc.com 866-572-3771	Call for information
Blackwater Falls State Park	Davis		❄️	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	blackwaterfalls.com 800-CALL-WVA	mid-December
Pipestem Resort State Park	Pipestem		❄️	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	variable	pipestemresort.com 800-CALL-WVA	When there's adequate snow (5-8 inches)



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Traveling Holiday Program Blends Stories, Songs

By MIKE RUBEN
mruben@statejournal.com

“Here We Come A-Caroling” is more than Christmas music. The traveling program shares traditional Appalachian holiday songs and the often intriguing stories behind them.

Musician **Jeff Seager** and storyteller **Susanna Holstein** have been combining their talents for the past five holiday seasons in auditoriums, libraries and private residences across West Virginia and surrounding states. Upcoming events are booked in Berkeley Springs (Dec. 4), Ripley (Dec. 12) and Davis (Dec. 20).

“The songs and stories work really well together,” said Seager, who works as a programmer for the **West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services**. “A Christmas carol is sort of a little story itself. The storytelling and the music feed off each other.”

Holstein, a retired librarian, said explaining the background associated with the songs serves to add another dimension.

“We share the stories behind the songs; who wrote them and why they were written,” said the Jackson County resident who is known as Granny Sue in storytelling circles. “We blend the two — the song and the story — so the audience will have a deeper understanding of why they have become so popular and why they have lived on for so many years.”

Presented in an informal setting, the songs are a combination of duets, solos and sing-a-longs. Some are accompanied by Seager on acoustic guitar while others are a capella.



Guitarist Jeff Seager, left, says Christmas carols popular in Appalachia originated in myriad cultures. Susanna Holstein is known as “Granny Sue” in storytelling circles across West Virginia.

Christmas carols made their way to the hills of Appalachia by several means. Tunes such as “Down in Yon Forest” were brought by our European ancestors.

“I really like that one,” said Holstein, whose mother was born in England. “It has a haunting melody and is full of images.”

Seager said centuries-old familiar symbols such as “The Holly and the



Photo courtesy of Susan Cummings Miles

Ivy” were incorporated into song to better ease the people of the British Isles into Christianity.

“The holly bears a blossom, as white as the lily flower, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our sweet Savior,” the lyrics read.

“Go Tell it on the Mountain” is an African-American spiritual dating to 1865. It has been recorded by dozens of artists ranging from **Bing Crosby** and

“The storytelling and the music feed off each other.”
— **Jeff Seager, musician**

Simon & Garfunkel to Dolly Parton and Garth Brooks.

“Kentucky Wassail” is a mountain carol/drinking song tied to a holiday tradition.

“People worked really hard in those days,” Seager explained. “They sort of hunkered down in the cold of winter and it was important for them to get out and socialize. They were isolated by the typography of the land, but they would go around visiting.”

“Wassail, wassail all over the town. Our cup is white and our ale is brown. The cup is made from the old oak tree, and the ale is made in Ken-tuck-y,” the song goes.

In more modern times, the ever-popular “Frosty the Snowman” was written by Keyser native **Jack Rollins**. It became a hit after being recorded by **Gene Autry** in 1950.

“We hear them leaving the program saying they really feel Christmas,” said Holstein. “They get a deeper history behind these songs they’ve been singing all of their lives, but didn’t know much about them.”

“We give people a different perspective on these songs,” Seager added. “We may have this vision of Christmas from what we see on television, but Christmas is so much bigger than that. It isn’t just one thing. People celebrated in a lot of ways and that diversity of experiences is what we convey. It comes through in the music.”

Historic Fair Opts to Become ‘An Autumn Celebration’

“Grandpa” is getting a facelift, in festival terms.

Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Jackson County has been hosting the **Mountain State Art & Craft Fair** since its inception during West Virginia’s Centennial year of 1963. Referred to as “the granddaddy of West Virginia’s art & craft fairs,” several upcoming changes have been announced by event organizers.

The Fair is scheduled for Sept. 16-18, 2016, according to Fair President **Karen Facemyer**. In addition, “An Appalachian Experience” has been added to the event title.

“We’ve added a new tagline, too,” said the former legislator from Ripley. “It will be ‘An Autumn Celebration of Art, Food, Music & Culture.’”

Facemyer says the timing is right to tweak the fair. She noted the September timeframe will allow school groups to

be exposed to a new educational experience. Also, cooler temperatures will be more conducive for shopping and taking in the Fair attractions.

New attractions are planned, but Facemyer said it will continue to be a juried event. Representatives of the **West Virginia Artists & Craftsman Guild** serve on the Fair’s board of directors.

“We want our guests to be able to have a complete Fair experience,” said **Adam Canter**, Cedar Lakes general manager. “This Fair will be reflective of the various cultures that make Appalachia special. You will be able to do more than just see this Fair; you will be able to feel it, hear it and taste it. This will continue to be very much a hands-on Fair.”

For information about the Mountain State Art & Craft Fair, contact 304-372-FAIR.



Photo courtesy of Clara Mullins

Weaver Martha McGoskey is one of the traditional artisans teaching hands-on experience during the Mountain State Art & Craft Fair.

Potomac Valley Audubon Society Plans Annual Christmas Bird Counts

Numbers of French hens and turtle doves remain to be seen.

Therefore, the **Potomac Valley Audubon Society** has set Dec. 19 and Jan. 2 as the dates for this winter’s annual Christmas Bird Counts in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.

These area counts are part of a massive, historic, 116-year-old citizen science project: a volunteer-based Christmas Bird Count that has been conducted throughout the western hemisphere every year since 1900 under the auspices of the **National Audubon Society**.

The purpose is to monitor the status and distribution of early-winter bird populations.

Count volunteers join teams that go out in the field and follow specified routes through a designated 15-mile diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day.

Experienced and novice birders are always welcome to join these teams. Novice volunteers will be teamed with those who have more experience. People who live within the circle areas can simply count the birds they see at their feeders during the day and submit a re-

cord of their sightings to PVAS.

The Dec. 19 count is centered in Charles Town and the Jan. 2 count is centered in Inwood.

To get more information about participating, either as a field team member or by recording birds at home feeders, go to the PVAS website at **potomacaudubon.org**.

All those who participate as a field team member must register beforehand with PVAS. To register, or to get information, contact **Bob Dean** at bob-dean52@gmail.com or 304-671-4995.

The data collected from each year’s

Christmas Bird Count are folded into what is now the longest-running database in ornithology. This database is used to help spot trends in bird populations, which in turn can help identify shifts in environmental conditions.

In the Eastern Panhandle, the Charles Town count has taken place every year since 1952, and the Inwood count has taken place every year since 1953.

Data from previous year’s counts are available online through the National Audubon Society website at **netapp.audubon.org**.

Event at Webb-Blessing House Spotlights History

By CHRISTINE SNYDER
For The State Journal

One hundred fifty-six years after **John Brown's** execution in Charles Town, a local garden club will shine a spotlight on a home with ties to the famous abolitionist.

In the weeks after his failed raid in Harpers Ferry — before and during his treason trial and then as he awaited his Dec. 2 execution — Brown was held in the **Jefferson County Jail**, where a white man named **John Blessing** was contracted to provide meals to long-term prisoners.

Next weekend, an open house will let the public see the restored North Street home that once belonged to Blessing, a baker who became fast friends with Brown.

Brown gave his jailhouse Bible to Blessing on Dec. 2, 1859, just before he was taken to gallows set up in a field at 515 S. Samuel St. His inscription included this line: “with ... sincere thanks for many acts of kindness received.”

This year’s open house marks a new partnership between members of the **Dolley Madison Garden Club** and the **Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society**, the group that bought and restored the Webb-Blessing House.

The garden club members will expand their annual Christmas market at **Charles Town Presbyterian Church** to include the special event at the Webb-Blessing House, a short walk away at 303 E. North St.

As in years past, the Christmas market at the church at 220 E. Washington



Photo courtesy of the Dolley Madison Garden Club

A Charles Town garden club will hold a holiday event Dec. 12 at the Webb-Blessing House, an 1829 home with ties to John Brown and the area’s earliest free black families.

St. will feature a variety of gift possibilities including handmade wares, artwork, books written by local writers, baked goods, food gifts, jewelry, pottery, greeting cards, hand-knitted items, soaps and fresh greenery as well as a kids’ workshop, live Christmas music and more.

Garden club members have decorated the Webb-Blessing House for the event, set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 12. They’ll use proceeds from the market to transform the grounds of the historic house into the kind of garden that would have been in place in the mid-1800s.

The Webb-Blessing House, which is on the **National Register of Historic Places**, sits on property originally owned by **Samuel Washington**, brother of **George Washington**, the nation’s first president, and **Charles Washington**, founder of Charles Town. It’s believed to be one of the first Jefferson County homes owned by a free person of color.

James Webb, a free black man, built the 1829 stone house that stands on the property. After the Civil War, Blessing — who, despite his affection for Brown, spent the war fighting for

the Confederacy — moved his family into a clapboard addition to the house.

Garden club spokeswoman **Nancy McGlothlin** sees the market and open house as a chance to boost the community.

“Community events and celebrations were once a hallmark of small-town America, and we like to foster that whenever possible,” she said. “We are thrilled to bring awareness to the Webb-Blessing House, both its historical significance and its ongoing restoration needs.”

The front room of the Webb-Blessing House is dedicated to Blessing. Members of the Black History Preservation Society worked with members of the local chapter of **Sons of Confederate Veterans** to create an exhibit on the German-born baker, who died in the house in 1869 and whose granddaughter, **Ollie Blessing**, lived in the house until her death at age 93 in 1983.

The Sons also helped rebuild the home’s porch and front brick walk, according to **Jim Taylor**, president of the Black History Preservation Society.

As a child growing up in Charles Town, the 81-year-old Taylor remembers **Ollie Blessing** living in the Webb-Blessing House. He recalls her as kind and encouraging to everyone, frequently lending books to Taylor and others in the black community.

For details about next weekend’s event, contact McGlothlin at nanmcglo@comcast.net or 304-535-8285. For information about the Black History Preservation Society, go to jblackhistory.org.

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Dinsmore Expands to West Coast With Merger

Dinsmore & Shohl LLP recently announced it had merged with Leventhal Law, a litigation-focused law firm in San Diego, California, effective Nov. 1, 2015.

The move positions Dinsmore to have operations across the country.

“Establishing a West Coast presence is essential to support our clients’ current business needs,” Dinsmore’s Managing Partner and Chairman George H. Vincent said in a news release. “We focused on California given the wealth of innovation in the state and discovered we have a lot of synergies with Leventhal Law.

“Joining with them offers our clients coast to coast coverage and seasoned litigators in one of the biggest markets in the country,” Vincent said. “With this merger, our attorneys gain access to the high tech corridor along the California coast, and it positions us to leverage future opportunities to further enhance our service offerings.”

Based in San Diego, Leventhal Law represents Fortune 250 corporations, emerging companies and high-profile individuals. Leventhal Law was founded in 2012 by Joe Leventhal, a former White House attorney who served as deputy assistant to the Vice President.

“Dinsmore’s commitment to helping clients accomplish their goals reflects our objective when we established Leventhal Law,” Leventhal said. “We share the philosophy of emphasizing long term relationships, not short term goals.

“We both strive to achieve smart legal solutions that are also good business results for our clients. Now we can leverage Dinsmore’s national footprint to offer our clients Corporate, Finance, Intellectual Property and Labor & Employment services to fully support their needs.”

Dinsmore has been strategically growing throughout the past two years. In September, it merged with Intellectual Property boutique Gifford Krass, enhancing Dinsmore’s IP group and expanding the firm to Michigan and Connecticut. The February merger with Huddleston Bolen, one of the oldest law firms in West Virginia, added litigators, commercial lawyers and estate planning attorneys and established a Huntington office. In 2014, Dinsmore merged with Peck, Shaffer & Williams, gaining its highly respected public finance practice and offices in Chicago and Denver.

With the Leventhal Law merger, Dinsmore has 625 attorneys with locations in 21 cities throughout California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C. and West Virginia.

THE LAW

New Website, App Help Addicts Find Help

By LINDA HARRIS

lharris@statejournal.com

Charleston resident Terry Lilly says he got more attention wearing a red body suit for four hours in November than he ever did in the four years he was getting high on heroin and nearly dying twice from overdoses.

“I’ve lived in Charleston all my life,” he said. “But I didn’t start using drugs until I was 32, and once I started I felt like I was adrift. I’d always felt adrift, and that kind of led me to drugs, but it got worse then.

“I’ve walked the streets of Charleston. It’s hard to put into words, but what really struck me when I was walking around wearing a red suit that covered my face was what a complete opposite it was. People noticed me, even though they didn’t know who I was; (as an addict) people see me every day and know who I am on one level and I don’t matter to them. But wearing the red suit, I mattered to those people and they didn’t even know who I was.”

The red suit was intended to raise awareness, though at the time Lilly and the three other men who’d volunteered to wear the suits in public wouldn’t say what they were for. It wasn’t until a Dec. 1 news conference that U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin revealed the red suits were part of a promotional campaign for a new website, makethecallwv.com, and free smartphone app, The Call WV, that make it easier for addicts and their families to find the help they need, as well as a series of public service announcements aimed at increasing public awareness of the services.

“These individuals, the four of them, had overdosed themselves,” Goodwin said. “But until they dressed up in red suits, nobody really gave them a second look.

“The message is: people are suffering all over, and unlike epidemics of the past where you could look at someone and know they were sick, unless they’re in acute withdrawal or an overdose episode, they look just like you and me — it doesn’t mean they’re not sick, that they’re not addicts. Addicts aren’t going to be wearing all-red suits; they’re not wearing a bull’s-eye on their chests. When they come to realize they need help, they need to know where to go to get it.”

That’s the reason Goodwin’s office teamed with the Huntington Police Department, TriFecta Productions and Syntech Creative in Huntington along with the Huntington Mayor’s Office of Drug Control Policy to develop the resources and public service campaign.

TriFecta Productions’ Joe Murphy said the The Call WV app as well as the PSA campaign, which he created, “were really based on a photo I saw — a heat map in Huntington showing red dots for every overdose in the city.”



the
Call WV

“It just hit me that people see ‘red dots’ walking around every day, pass them every day in the streets and just ignore them.”

— Joe Murphy,
TriFecta Productions

He said upward of 5,000 people will overdose in West Virginia this year, “and thousands of people walking the streets now are in danger of overdosing.”

“It just hit me that people see ‘red dots’ walking around every day, pass them every day in the streets and just ignore them,” Murphy said, pointing out the four “red men” each had overdosed within the past 12 months and now are in recovery. “By putting four men in two cities on the street for four hours, including drive time, we got 3.3 million impressions in a day. ... If I’d put out a Facebook post or put it on a website, nobody would have paid attention, but because we put four men in four red suits, it made a huge impression.”

The website, makethecallwv.com, and the “The Call WV” app alert users to resources available to those looking for help with addiction. The website is up and the app is already available for both Apple and Android smartphones.

The Call WV smartphone app uses geo-locators to pinpoint resources available in a user’s immediate vicinity, whether it be meeting schedules, residential or non-residential treatment options. Also embedded in the app is a short video showing how to administer Naloxone, the life-saving antidote administered in heroin overdoses.

Goodwin calls it a one-stop shop for addiction recovery services and said the resource list is constantly updating. The idea, he said, is to make sure information is available if and when an addict is ready to reach out for help.

“The No. 1 question we get when somebody is ready to seek help or their family members are ready to seek help, is where they should turn, what can they do,” Goodwin said. “If you don’t know help is out there, the purpose is defeated.”



Photo courtesy of The Call WV

Volunteers don red suits to raise awareness for drug addiction.

Lilly, in fact, said there were times in the past four years when he wanted to get help for his addiction but he didn’t know where to turn. He overdosed twice and was clinically dead. He would have gone to his grave if it weren’t for the medical help he received.

“Part of the push behind rolling out the app, the website and the hotline had to do with the number of overdoses in the area and in the state as a whole,” said Lilly, now 36 and addressing his addiction through Recovery Point. “This past August, I had overdosed pretty bad; I was in the hospital for a few days. That was the last time I used heroin. It wasn’t my first overdose, but seeing what I’d put my family through for those few days ... hopefully it was a turning point in my life. So far, it has been.”

Lilly said there were times during the past four years when knowing where to get help “might have saved me from the bottom I ultimately hit.”

“For me, the app they’ve rolled out is really important,” he said. “It shows people what’s closest to them as far as A.A. meetings, N.A. meetings and treatment facilities. When I was in the hospital and finally conceded I needed to get help, the big question was where do I go. The hotline and app point you to all the resources that are close by.

“It’s not so nebulous ... people might not realize help is out there, and to put it on the map and show help that’s close to you and available right now — that’s major to me. I can’t imagine how many people will be able to access it. For people who are really looking for help, I don’t think there was anything

like that before that showed you all the avenues available. To me, that’s revolutionary. And even if there had been something comparable, spreading the word about it is a big deal for me.”

In his past life Lilly said he had it all: He had a great job with Ticketmaster, a staff of 13 and a personal assistant, traveling all over the country.

“From the outside I had everything going for me,” he said. “A beautiful home, a nice new car, but I was miserable, really. I was very alone, desperate for acceptance and understanding. I traded all of it away for heroin. I went from a prestigious position to being homeless, penniless and squatting in a tent and not even knowing who it belonged to.”

At Recovery Point, “we often pray for people outside the walls here who aren’t going to make it through the day; who are going to put that last one in them,” Lilly said.

“It’s a life-or-death matter. How many things we talk about being life or death really aren’t, but just since I’ve been in the program I know people who’ve overdosed and it just kind of underscores how many more people need to be in recover, how many more people need access to resources to help fix the underlying causes of their addiction.”

If he hadn’t found help, Lilly figures he would be just another statistic.

“Every week someone I know dies from it,” he said. “I feel confident in saying I was finally at the point where, if I didn’t somehow end up in prison, I would have ended up dead.”

Charleston Native Aspires to Help Youth Through Sports

By MANDI CARDOSI
For The State Journal

Even though he grew up in West Virginia, **Isaac Holstein** has already experienced life beyond the mountains. Holstein, who went to the Philippines to play professional basketball, said even though he was ready for his career to launch, he could have been better prepared.

“If I had started sooner and been more dedicated at a younger age and had access to proper training, I could’ve been in an even better situation,” he said.

With experience now under his belt, Holstein wants to make sure other children in Charleston don’t miss any opportunities.

“I want to change the community,” he said. “Whoever the client is, I want them to be ready for the next step.”

Offering his professional and life experiences to his community, Holstein said he wants to help high school students who have the potential to enter into professional sports to have every opportunity they should. No matter where someone is born or raised, Holstein said, he believes everyone should have a shot — and be able to take it.

After he graduated high school, Holstein went to **Marshall University** but had to leave because of financial reasons. He joined the **Air National Guard** before focusing again on schooling, this time at **West Virginia State University**.

During his time at WVSU, Holstein was contacted by someone in the Philippines. Holstein said because his mother was Filipino, making him half Filipino, he was asked to join the country’s professional basketball team.



JACOB HALL / The State Journal

Skeptical at first, Holstein said he soon realized what a great opportunity the **Philippine Basketball Association** would become.

“My mom hadn’t been back in over 20 years, and I was able to take her,” he said. “It was the best team in the league to play for.”

After spending time working and playing in the Philippines, though, Holstein said he quickly realized that his home was back in the Mountain State where he could truly make a difference in his community.

“Respect is how I gauge myself,” he said. “It’s different over there.”

Holstein said his ultimate goal is to help people with the potential he had so they can be successful, and he hopes to give kids the opportunity to graduate high school and potentially attend a Division I college. He said, from his perspective, what better way is there to help a community than to offer opportunities, help the youth and make his hometown a better place?

“Hopefully I can show, with grants and marketing, I can get kids ready with athletic training,” he said. “I’ve experienced it firsthand; just because the college isn’t interested, market yourself out of high school.”



Editor’s Note: This is part of a continuing series of stories that feature West Virginians motivated by their passion for the Mountain State to make a home or return home in order to make a difference in their communities.

If you have a suggestion for a future “Mountain Mover,” contact us at news@statejournal.com.



JACOB HALL / The State Journal

Isaac Holstein, left, provides encouragement and makes sure the exercise is performed correctly.

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Beckley Business Senses Needs, Climbs With the Times

By LISA SHREWSBERRY
For The State Journal

“He looks like **Jim Caviezel**,” a customer commented to her husband while descending the steps at **The Chocolate Moose** coffee shop in Beckley on Small Business Saturday with a cardboard-cozied cup in hand.

Whether or not shop owner **Kevin Traube** is the doppelganger of a Hollywood film actor is debatable.

“I can imagine Jim bursting into tears at that news,” Traube responded.

What Traube can’t deny is his status as a tenacious entrepreneur who has learned to roll with the market punches to diversify his ever-changing Harper Road nook into a newly towering experience.

The pathway from gift shop to mini-golf, ice cream parlor, on-site roasted coffee shop and now the area’s only climbing gym wasn’t as circuitous as it may sound. The shortest distance between two points is a straight line, after all. And Traube possesses a sense of personal responsibility for the success of Beckley as his Point A with an instinct for what the 25801 ZIP code needs as his Point B.

A bookshelf inside, near the colorful selection of mini-golf clubs and balls, stands as an impromptu timeline of Traube’s pilgrimage. There is a copy of “Gym Climbing” and other books that tell the story of his investments: “The Blue Bottle Craft of Coffee” and “Uncommon Grounds.” By his estimation, his multifaceted interests have arisen more from a desire to serve his community than to feed personal obsessions. “I own a miniature golf course, but I’ve never been golfing,” he said. “I’m the only person roasting coffee in Beckley, but I was only an occasional coffee drinker. I’ve been climbing in the (New River) Gorge a time or two, but am certainly not a climber.

“I don’t bring these ideas to the community because I’m already experienced in them; rather, I think they could interest a fair number of people so I pursue the idea and learn about it along with everyone else.”

And pursue he has. The term “The Little Brick House,” as his business now known as The Chocolate Moose, **Mountain State Miniature Golf** and **Outdoor-In Climbing Gym** used to be, was originally family “code” for going to visit Traube’s wife’s aunt.

“We were living in St. Albans and we would say ‘Do you think we should head over to the little brick house to check on things?’”

The choice property a mile at best from one of the busiest exits along In-



LISA SHREWSBERRY / For The State Journal
Customers of The Chocolate Moose are offered coffee, ice cream or a work out on the climbing gym.

terstate 77 became an investment opportunity when, in 1986, Traube observed that it was nearly impossible to find products made in West Virginia in a common location. He opened Beckley’s first local artisan-based gift shop inside the house. Nearly a decade before nearby **Tamarack** stuffed its circumference with handmade regional merchandise, Traube himself sought artisans with whom to contract and to sell their wares. His idea was prescient — an accidental prototype of the upcoming arts and crafts center movement of the ’90s.

To think The Little Brick House wouldn’t soon become one of the many grassroots efforts to slide toward obscurity was akin to believing in unicorns. Fortunately, Traube had experience with those, too.

“I still see people who remember us as the place to buy Beanie Babies,” he notes, with the sharp wit and archetypal yarn-spinning skills of a man acquainted with Twain. Once Tamarack opened, with its ability to move more creations in a single order than Traube could move in a year for artisans, he turned to specializing in collectibles, namely the novelty Beanie Babies — phyla of animalia rendered in

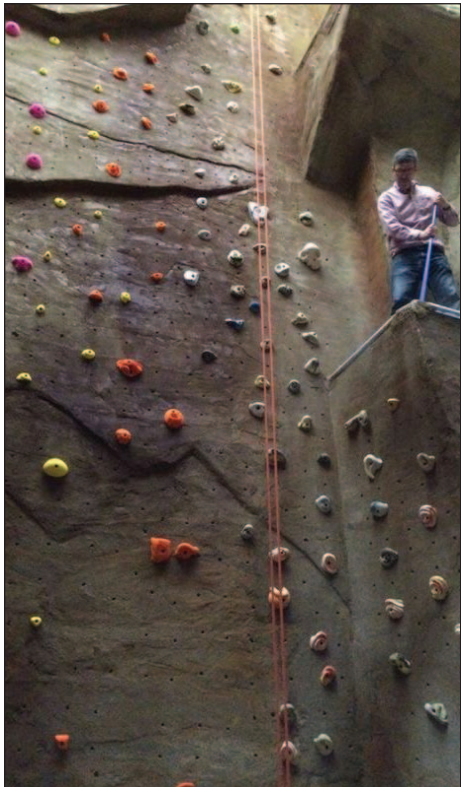


Photo courtesy of Kevin Traube
Kevin Traube sweeps off the lower rappelling ledge of his soon-to-open climbing gym. The walls, at their tallest, are 34 feet high.

material, fuzzy to sparkly, filled to the gills, horns and carapaces with plastic pellets. Then came the less ignoble, higher-end collectibles like **Tom Clark** gnomes which, for a time, were also painted in Fayetteville, and **Department 56** lit Christmas villages.

As Tamarack was to local artisans, the Internet was to collectors, creating unlimited access to variety. Add cheaper prices to the overload of options and “point of sale” transformed quickly into “point and click of sale.”

“We limped along as a collectibles shop until the Internet,” Traube recalled. “Then, it was, ‘Do I go out and get a new job or try something else?’”

His next nirvana would arrive in a wilderness, of sorts. While he mowed the steep, bramble-bedecked hillside behind his shop, an idea struck. Years of observing and conversing with tourists allowed him to detect another Beckley bald spot.

“I had 10 years of experience with tourists coming who had planned to drive through the state, only they were physically exhausted because of the hills,” he explained. “So they would stop in and want to know more about West Virginia.”

Suddenly, 18 was his magic number:

18 holes, 18 spots of interest. With a mini-golf course inspired by the Mountain State’s hilly terrain, much like the terrain he was shearing, not only could Traube offer a brief stretch of the legs, but also a West Virginia history lesson to boot. He erected the 18-hole Mountain State Miniature Golf course honoring 18 different must-see destinations in the state, including a pair of red glowing Mothman eyes in the adjacent rough, a replica of the New River Gorge Bridge and a nod to the iconic **Babcock State Park** gristmill.

The golfers came.

“I remember thinking that first weekend when 70 people arrived, played and enjoyed themselves, ‘This is an idea that will work,’” he said. Like the Grinch, but more Whovillian than villain, Traube agreed his heart grew three sizes that day. “I had made a good economic decision,” he said. “I had created something of value.”

And 14 years later, Traube is visited by couples recalling their first dates at Mountain State Miniature Golf. “We have even had a few engagements happen here,” he added.

Visitors, looking for an all-season reason to linger, are today greeted by his fresh coffees, roasted and prepared on site, and ice cream by the ounce at The Chocolate Moose. To make his business truly impervious to weather, Traube will open Outside-In Climbing Gym this month, a one-of-a-kind training center for rock climbers from beginners to advanced. Maximizing the remaining 20-by-30 square feet of available land behind The Chocolate Moose, the center scales 34 feet at its tallest point and is host to an impressive expanse of climbing walls and rappelling ledges.

“Whether you’re a seasoned climber who can point every route at the New River Gorge or someone who has never been more than three feet off the ground, we will offer opportunities for lead-climbing and rappelling,” Traube said. “With the ice cream, coffee, gift shop, miniature golf and now climbing, a person could do a lot here, year-round, for less than \$20.”

Would he ever have dreamt following the question “What does Beckley need?” to these lofty heights? Not in a million years.

“Sometimes I think we do a disservice to people by telling them to follow their passion,” he said. “If you pick something and get to know that thing, passion follows.

“The sweet spot for a small business is to find something sustainable that also offers something to the life of the community.”



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ACCOUNTING

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CHARLESTON — **Brendan O'Brien** has joined **Gibbons & Kawash Certified Public Accountants** as a senior associate in the tax department. O'Brien is a CPA with 10 years of tax experience including a senior position with a top 50 national firm.

EDUCATION

BETHANY COLLEGE
BETHANY — A newly created student organization at **Bethany College** is helping student veterans become college graduates. Senior **Andrew Drilak**, who served in the **Navy**, started the school's Student Veterans of America chapter in October. Throughout the week of Veterans Day, the organization hosted special events, including lectures on PTSD and the challenges faced by female members of the armed forces as well as veteran homelessness awareness events. The goal of the organization is to provide veterans with resources, support and advocacy to ensure they can succeed in higher education and beyond. Organizers say Bethany's chapter also will create awareness of the difficulties veterans may face while transiting from a deployment to campus. Drilak completed his freshman year at Bethany, and then joined the military. After training as a sonar technician, he was deployed off the coast of Somalia. **Aaron Anslow**, an assistant professor of fine arts at Bethany, serves as the club's adviser. A 2006 Bethany graduate, he also left for a deployment during college, serving in Iraq as a member of the **Army Reserves**. Anslow said the group's members already include a wide range of veterans, from reservists and **Army National Guard** members to those who have served in the Navy, **Army** and **Marine Corps**. The group also plans to extend its reach beyond campus and is planning fundraisers to help local homeless veterans. Members plan to work with other student organizations to write letters and create care packages to be sent overseas. For the last three years, Bethany College has been named to the Military Friendly Schools list by **Victory Media Inc.**, the media entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life. The list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that do the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

CONCORD UNIVERSITY
ATHENS — **Concord University's** Division of Business recently hosted the 22nd annual Concord Business Challenge and the team from **Princeton Senior High School** emerged in first place among the 13 West Virginia and Virginia high schools in the competition. Princeton students **Chase Broyles**, **Kayla Cox** and **Seth Druggish** all won first-place

PEOPLE

individual awards. The team, led by teacher **Colleen Nunnery**, also had a number of second- and third-place individual winners, including **Robbie Lambert**, **Emily Hendricks**, **Tanner Veneri**, **Sami Zein**, **Taylor Lewis** and **Myah Sheets**. **Christian Kegley** from **Monroe County Technical Center** in Lindside and Lambert from Princeton Senior won \$4,000 scholarships to Concord. The schools finishing behind Princeton all were from Virginia, with **Richlands High** and **Giles County High** tying for second place and **Graham High** finishing in third. Four other West Virginia students won \$1,000 Concord scholarships: **Noah Dye** and **Jared Whitt**, both of **Greenbrier East High** in Lewisburg; **Chanson Wallace** of **Woodrow Wilson High** in Beckley; and **Sami Zein** of Princeton. Teams from **Greenbrier West High** and **Shady Spring High** were the other West Virginia teams competing. Altogether, more than 300 students competed for scholarships and other awards. Other individual winners at the Oct. 22 competition included **Tyler Truman** of the **Academy of Careers and Technology** in Beckley; **Kiley Hayslett** of the **Fayette Institute of Technology** in Oak Hill; **Caleb Griffith**, **Jerry Mann** and **William Rodgers**, all of **Greenbrier East**; **Hailey Crawford** of **Liberty High** in Glen Daniel; **Jordan Amos**, **Ben Evans**, **Kendale Meadows** and **Kegley**, all of **Monroe County Technical Center**; and **Chanson Wallace**, **Erin Abner** and **Isaac Young**, all of **Woodrow Wilson**. **MARSHALL UNIVERSITY**
HUNTINGTON — **Marshall University** Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine has welcomed two new physicians to its clinical faculty. Dr. **Jennifer L. Biber** is a fellowship-trained, board-certified pediatrician who joins the department as an assistant professor. She most recently completed a critical care pediatrics fellowship at the prestigious **Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital** in Cleveland, where she served as chief fellow from 2014 to 2015. Biber earned her medical degree from **The Ohio State University** and completed her pediatric residency at Marshall University. She works in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at **Cabell Huntington Hospital**. Dr. **Lauren M. Thompson**, who graduated from **Harvard University** with a bachelor's

in biochemical sciences then went on to Marshall's med school, is a board-certified pediatrician who joins the department as an assistant professor. She completed her pediatric residency at Marshall. In August, Marshall Pediatrics also added Dr. **Susan Lopata**, a 2011 graduate of Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, and Dr. **Jodi M. Pitzenbarger**, a 2012 Joan C. Edwards grad. Both are assistant professors in the department.

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY
SHEPHERDSTOWN — Three students have been awarded nursing research scholarships during the seventh-annual Nursing Research Conference Nov. 5 by **Shepherd University's** Department of Nursing Education and the **Veterans Affairs Medical Center** in Martinsburg. More than 130 students attended the daylong conference, which featured lectures, poster displays and awards. Shepherd undergraduates **Stephanie Santella** and **Brianna Kimpel**, both of Charles Town, won scholarships based on their exemplary academic performance and leadership skills, while **Connie Willard** of Berkeley Springs was cited for her use of evidence-based practice skills in the clinical environment. Outstanding poster displays won recognition for nine other West Virginia students: **Katie Files** of Hedgesville, **Sabrina Mongold** of Mathias, **Emily Greenwalt** of Old Fields, **Taylor Oates** of Bunker Hill, **Spencer Winchester** of Harpers Ferry, **Matthew Gainey** of Martinsburg, **Alyssa Woods-Oren** of Petersburg, **Misty Ends** of Falling Waters and **Stephanie Santella** of Charles Town.

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
MORGANTOWN — **Greg Babe** has been named to **West Virginia University's** board of governors by Gov. **Earl Ray Tomblin**. He fills the vacancy of **Andrew A. Payne**, whose term expired. Originally from New Martinsville, Babe earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1980 from WVU's Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources. He is the chairman of the board of directors of MATRIC, the **Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research & Innovation Center** and is president and chief executive officer of **Liquid X**, a technology company headquartered in Pittsburgh. Babe previously served as CEO of **Orbital Engineering Inc.** and was president and CEO of **Bayer Corp.** and **Bayer MaterialScience** from 2008 to 2012. As a student at WVU, Babe served as presi-

dent of the **Tau Beta Pi** engineering honorary and as a member of the **Pi Tau Sigma** international honor society. He also was a member of the **American Society of Mechanical Engineers**. He has served on the WVU College of Engineering and Mineral Sciences Advisory Committee and in 2012 received an honorary doctorate of science from WVU. He was inducted into the WVU Academy of Distinguished Alumni in 2009, and a year later was named to the West Virginia Business Hall of Fame in the College of Business and Economics. WVU's board includes 17 members, 12 of whom are appointed by the governor. Students, faculty and staff at WVU and **West Virginia University Institute of Technology** make up the rest of the board.

ENGINEERING

CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS INC.
BRIDGEPORT — The Bridgeport office of **Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc.** has added four civil engineering professionals: **Gary J. Fazalare**, **Steven A. Cain**, **Jeffrey J. Boyles** and **Zachary M. DeMarco**. Fazalare brings 22 years of experience in engineering design and construction management for wastewater collection and treatment systems, water distribution systems, and raw and finished water transmission and treatment projects to his role as head of the Bridgeport office. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering technology from **Fairmont State University**. Cain has 22 years of experience including land surveying, site development, construction engineering, water and sewer facilities inspection, and design of sanitary sewers, networks, wastewater treatment systems and potable water distribution and treatment systems. He earned a bachelor's in civil engineering technology from Fairmont State. Boyles, who holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from **West Virginia University**, has eight years of experience in water distribution systems, sanitary sewer collection systems and general site design. DeMarco, who earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from WVU, brings four years of experience with water, wastewater, site design and construction oversight. Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc. is headquartered in Pittsburgh. The Bridgeport office opened in 2012, and includes civil, environmental and survey services to the mining, real estate and oil and gas industries and to public-sector clients. The office also handles water and wastewater collection, transmission and treatment solutions.

GOVERNMENT
WEST VIRGINIA STATE PARKS
DAVIS — Both **Canaan Valley Resort State Park** and **Black Waterfalls State Park** have hired new superintendents. Before taking the helm at Canaan, Fairmont native **Stan Beafore** served as assistant superintendent at

GOVERNMENT

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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Canaan from 1999 to 2015.

He served as superintendent of **Cass Scenic Railroad State Park** from 1992 to 1999, as superintendent of **Cabwaylingo State Forest** from 1990 to 1992 and as a law enforcement visitor protection ranger at **Yellowstone National Park** from 1984 to 1990.

He earned a bachelor's degree in wild land recreation management and geographic information systems from **West Virginia University**. He also completed the **National Park Service Law Enforcement Academy** at **Southwestern Technical College** in Sylva, North Carolina.

The new superintendent at Blackwater is **Matt Baker**, a native of Delaware who has been with West Virginia State Parks for 10 years, most recently as assistant superintendent at Blackwater.

Before coming to Blackwater, he served as an assistant superintendent at **Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park** and **Coopers Rock State Forest**. He also has worked in **Delaware State Parks** in maintenance, natural resource management and naturalists' capacities.

Baker earned a degree in recreation management and tourism from **Davis and Elkins College**.



Beafore



Baker

HEALTH CARE

DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER

ELKINS — **Michelle Stanton**, chief quality officer and risk manager for **Davis Medical Center**, recently accepted the West Virginia Governor's Award for Life 2015 for the hospital's work with the **Center for Organ Recovery & Education**.

The award ceremony took place during the **West Virginia Hospital Association's** annual meeting in October. The award recognizes hospitals that have been successful in supporting organ, tissue and cornea donation within their own health care facilities, and have achieved increased donation rates as a result.

The Award for Life was implemented in 2007 through a collaboration of the West Virginia Hospital Association, CORE and the other organ procurement organizations that serve West Virginia, including **Lifeline of Ohio**, **LifeNet Health** and **Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates**.

CORE is one of 58 federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organizations in the United States. It is headquartered in Pittsburgh and has an office in Charleston.

UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE

MARTINSBURG — Two executives have been named to the senior management team at **West Virginia University Medicine University Healthcare**.

Neil R. McLaughlin is the hospital system's new vice president of operations while **Samantha Richards** has been named vice president of nursing/chief nursing officer. Both appointments were effective Nov. 2.

McLaughlin most recently worked for Virginia-based **Valley Health** as the president of **War Memorial Hospital** in Berkeley Springs and **Hampshire Memorial Hospital** in Romney.

A native of Berkeley Springs, McLaughlin has held several management positions at War Memorial since joining the organization in 2001.

Before that, he worked for the Gift of Life Donor Program in Philadelphia and **Carolina Donor Services** in Durham, North Carolina, as an organ transplant coordinator, clinical services director and director of professional development.

McLaughlin holds an executive master's degree in business administration from **West Virginia University**, a master's degree in education from **Pennsylvania State University** and a bachelor of science degree in nursing from **Alderson-Broadus College**.

McLaughlin is a member of the **American College of Healthcare Executives**, the **WVU Executive MBA Advisory Council** and the **West Virginia Hospital Association's Healthcare Educational Foundation**. He also serves on the **Eastern Panhandle Region 9 Planning and Development Council**, the **Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation** board of directors, and the board of directors for the private **Faith Christian Academy** in Martinsburg.

In his new role, McLaughlin will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of assigned areas and departments at the University Healthcare facilities in Martinsburg and Ranson. He will also lead implementation of new system initiatives including the new campus in Jefferson County.

Richards comes to University Healthcare from **WVU Medicine** in Morgantown where she has worked since 1997 in various nursing leadership roles. She most recently held the position of director of nursing for five units including medical-surgical, trauma step-down, dialysis and observation.

A native of western Pennsylvania, Richards holds a master of science degree in nursing, a master of science degree in business and a bachelor of science degree in nursing, all from **Waynesburg University**.

Richards is a Fellow of the Health Care Advisory Board — Leadership Program and a graduate of the **West Virginia Nursing Leadership Institute**. She is a **Leadership West Virginia** alum and an adjunct faculty member for **Waynesburg**.

In her new role as vice president of nursing/CNO for University Healthcare, Richards will be responsible for planning, organizing, directing and evaluating nursing care at both **Berkeley**



McLaughlin



Richards

Medical Center and Jefferson Medical Center.

She will work closely with the president/CEO to assess services and provide executive level coordination of nursing while being responsible for the administration of daily nursing operations.

LEGAL

ALLAN N. KARLIN & ASSOCIATES

MORGANTOWN — For the seventh year in a row, Morgantown law firm **Allan N. Karlin & Associates** has been ranked a West Virginia Tier 1 law firm.

The firm, which includes attorneys **Allan N. Karlin** and **Jane E. Peak**, represents working people in cases involving wrongful discharge, discrimination, sexual harassment, serious workplace injuries and wrongful deaths.

The ranking, prepared by **U.S. News Media Group** and **Best Lawyers**, ranks the firm a Tier 1 firm in the areas of Employment Law — Individuals and Litigation — Labor and Employment.

Karlin, who opened his private practice in late 1981, explained the origin of the firm: "I believed that I could create a law firm of great lawyers committed to representing working people, not their corporate employers."

Over the years, the firm has represented workers in coal mines, steel and aluminum plants, trucking, banks, schools and universities and major corporations such as **Walmart** and **FedEx**. In addition to discrimination, sexual harassment and civil rights claims, the firm's attorneys have been involved in wrongful death claims, including the Sago and Blacksville coal mining disasters.

Karlin has been selected to **Super Lawyer** magazine's list as one of the top attorneys in West Virginia from 2007 to present in employment and labor law. He is a member of The College of Labor & Employment Lawyers and the **American College of Trial Lawyers**. He is a Fellow of the **West Virginia Bar Foundation**.

Karlin previously served as a chairman of the West Virginia Lawyer Disciplinary Board and as president of the **West Virginia Association for Justice**. He previously taught pretrial litigation at the **West Virginia University** College of Law.

Peak has been selected to Super Lawyer magazine's list as one of the top attorneys in West Virginia since 2012 for her work in employment and labor law. She is president-elect of the West Virginia Association for Justice and a member of the visiting committee for the WVU College of Law.

She is a past president of the **West Virginia Employment Lawyers Association**. She has also been recognized as Practitioner of the Year by the Women's Law Caucus of West Virginia University College of Law. She has taught appellate advocacy at the WVU College of Law. A native of Putnam County, she has practiced law in Morgantown since 1996.

BOWLES RICE

CHARLESTON — **Bowles Rice** attorney **Roger G. Hanshaw** has been elected parliamentarian by the **National Association of Parliamentarians** during the organization's 40th biennial convention in Washington, D.C., in September. He will serve a two-year term.

Hanshaw regularly counsels government bodies and non-profit organizations throughout the state and nation on meeting procedures, parliamentary law, bylaws construction and convention management.

He also serves as director of NAP's District 2, which consists of West Virginia, Virginia, D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

Hanshaw joined Bowles Rice in 2012 after graduating from **West Virginia University** College of Law. He earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry at WVU in 2002 and a Ph.D. in chemistry from the **University of Notre Dame** in 2006.

He is admitted both in West Virginia and Pennsylvania and concentrates his practice on the environmental and technical issues that arise in business transactions, regulatory compliance matters and litigation.

Last November, he was elected to the **West Virginia House of Delegates** to represent Calhoun, Clay and Gilmer counties.

Before joining the law firm, Hanshaw worked as chief of staff and general counsel to Senate Minority Leader **Mike Hall** and before that as an associ-

ate director for the **WVU Extension Service**.

He holds the highest credential attainable from the **American Institute of Parliamentarians**, one of only 250 parliamentarians in the United States to attain designation as a certified professional parliamentarian.

The national association serves the needs of parliamentarians and those interested in learning about parliamentary procedure. The organization's member-parliamentarians are located throughout the United States, Canada and abroad.

DINSMORE & SHOHL

MORGANTOWN — **Dinsmore & Shohl** partner **Josh Rogers** has graduated from the **Leadership West Virginia** 2015-16 class.

The eight-month Leadership West Virginia focuses on developing leaders to make an impact in their community. The goal is to empower emerging leaders to understand the challenges facing the state and appreciate its unique features.

Rogers, who earned his law degree from **West Virginia University** in 2005, is a member of the law firm's corporate department. His practice focuses on family wealth planning, asset protection planning, business succession planning, probate and business formation.

He has experience in representing both individual and institutional clients in various types of litigation including will contests, family probate disputes, partition actions, breach of fiduciary duty cases, and federal and state taxation appeals. He joined Dinsmore in 2007.

REAL ESTATE

GENERAL CORP.

CHARLESTON — **Chelsea R. Freer** is the operations manager for **General Corp.** and its affiliated companies in Charleston, Dunbar, Huntington and Clarksburg.



Freer

General Corp. and its affiliated companies are one of the leading providers of commercial real estate in West Virginia.

Freer earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and sports administration as well as a master's degree in business administration and leadership, both from **University of Charleston**.

Prior to joining General Corp., she was an operations associate with **Office & Commercial Cleaning-West Virginia** and as assistant vice president of asset acquisitions with **SunTrust Bank** in Richmond, Virginia.

TOURISM

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM

WHEELING — The Charleston area took home two of nine Stars of the Industry awards at the 2015 Governor's Conference on Tourism at **Oglebay Resort & Conference Center** in Wheeling.

FestivALL was recognized as the state's "Best Marketing Campaign" and **Jim Bathe** of **Hoffman Media** won "Best Print Photography" for a story on **J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works** in Malden. Both were nominated by the **Charleston Convention & Visitors Bureau**.

The awards recognize organizations and individuals who have promoted destinations and events and encouraged development of the state's tourism industry.

The photography layout on the J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works' revival of the area's historic salt mine appeared in a recent issue of **Taste of the South**, which has a readership of 320,000.

FestivALL is a 10-day celebration of the arts held every June. The festival, in its 11th year, is run by **Brittany Javins** and **Larry Groce** and features 150 events and 360 performances including the Mayor's Concert; Capitol Street Art Fair; Festival of Dance; FestivALT; Taste of All; Blues, Brews & BBQ; a wine and jazz festival; standup comedy; musical performances; and art displays.

Nominations were judged by a panel representing the **Division of Culture and History**, the **West Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association** and the **West Virginia Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus**.



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ACROSS THE STATE

METRO VALLEY

BARBOURSVILLE

Charges after Walmart shooting: Though no one was injured in a weekend shooting at a **Walmart** parking lot in Barbooursville, the 22-year-old who authorities say fired the shots has been charged with four counts of wanton endangerment.

According to Cabell County Sheriff **Tom McComas**, Huntington resident **Bryant Reese Bowen** is being held at the **Western Regional Jail**.

Law enforcement officials were called to the Walmart parking lot at about 5 p.m. Nov. 28. McComas said investigators believe the incident began when Bowen started arguing with another man from his car.

MID-OHIO VALLEY

WILLIAMSTOWN

Schools lauded for student aid work: Wood County's Williamstown High is among 32 high schools in the state cited by the **College Foundation of West Virginia** for helping seniors complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**.

The schools all met or exceeded the state's 2015 goal of having 60 percent of students complete the FAFSA, the primary application for state and federal financial aid for college.

Students can complete the FAFSA any time after Jan. 1 in the year they intend to go to college. Filing the FAFSA allows students to be considered for the **Federal Pell Grant**, which this year provided students with up to \$5,775 to cover the cost of tuition and other education expenses.

Students who file the form before April 15 also are considered for as much as \$2,600 through the **West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program**.

Other high schools cited by the foundation include: Bishop Donahue, Bluefield, Bridgeport, Buffalo, Cabell Midland, East Fairmont, East Hardy, Fayetteville, Frankfort, George Washington, Harman, Hedgesville, Hurricane, Martinsburg, Midland Trail, Mingo Central Comprehensive, Moorefield, Morgantown, Paden City, Paw Paw, Pendleton County, Pocahontas County, Point Pleasant, Ravenswood, Scott, Tucker County, University, Valley (in Fayette County), Wahama, Wheeling Park and Winfield.

The foundation is a college- and career-planning outreach initiative that involves the **West Virginia Department of Education** and the **West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts**.

NORTH-CENTRAL

CLARKSBURG

Flights to beach destination to resume: Officials at the **Benedum Airport Authority** have announced that **Allegiant Air** will resume nonstop flights from the **North Central West Virginia Airport** to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in 2016.

Allegiant introduced twice-weekly nonstop flights to the resort town six months ago.

The flights are set to be offered on weekdays from June 3 to Aug. 16.

ELKINS

"Colleges of Distinction" honor: Officials at **Davis & Elkins** are celebrating after the school's innovative learning opportunities put it on the national **Colleges of Distinction** list.

The college was cited for offering students college credit and life experience in its study abroad programs as well as service learning, learning communities, internships and more.

"Colleges of Distinction is delighted to honor Davis & Elkins College for its success in expanding programming by developing competencies relevant to graduates' lives," said **Tyson Schritter**, executive editor for Colleges of Distinction. "Colleges of Distinction congratulates Davis & Elkins for leading the way in the development of new methodologies that prepare students for the future."

SOUTH

HINTON

Massive deer slaying: The discovery of 18 deer carcasses hanging at a hunting camp in Summers County is the worst case of hunting violations he's encountered in more than two decades in law enforcement, according to **Department of Natural Resources** Captain **W.W. Brogan**.

Authorities said the five men from three states arrested had no intention of checking the deer they'd killed as the law requires.

West Virginia residents **Robert Canfield**, **Charley Simms** and **Timothy Powell** face charges along with New Jersey resident **Charles Powell** and **Kenneth Powell** from Pennsylvania. They all stand accused of hunting without a license, not wearing blaze orange and driving with loaded firearms.

LOGAN

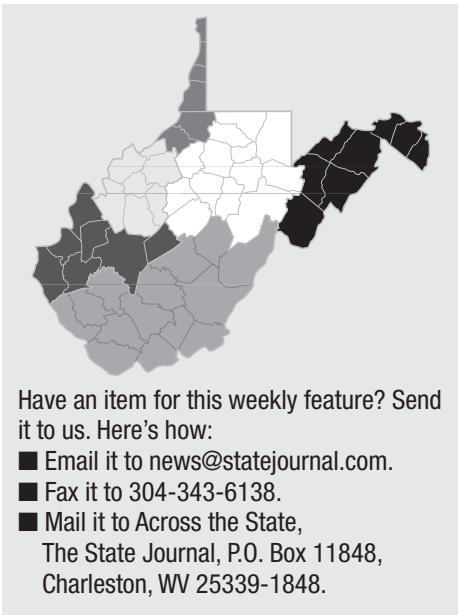
Powersports Business cites Logan business: A family-owned motorcycle and ATV dealership has won recognition from the national **Powersports Business** publication.

Logan Powersports Group, the company that owns **Logan Motorcycle Sales** and **Keefer's Powersports**, both in Logan, as well as a dealership in Danville and two others in Kentucky, in October put the dealership as No. 1 on its "Power 50 Dealerships" list.

"Logan Powersports Group has evolved over more than 50 years to become an operation that simply sets the bar with their approach to customer service," Powersports Business editor-in-chief **Dave McMahan** said in a news release. "With **Mike Ratz** overseeing the business operations and the management and staff providing a superior retail experience for riders, Logan dealerships have set themselves apart."

In addition to serving as president of Logan Powersports Group, Ratz also serves on the board of directors for the **West Virginia Auto and Truck Dealers Association** and the **Hatfield McCoy Trails**. He's also a member of the state chapter of the **Goldwing Road Riders Association** and the **Logan County Chamber of Commerce**, and a life member of the **American Motorcyclist Association**.

The Powersports Business's editorial staff crafted the list after an extensive application process that focused on dealerships' sales, events, marketing, service, employee training, social media use and other segments of business.



Have an item for this weekly feature? Send it to us. Here's how:

- Email it to news@statejournal.com.
- Fax it to 304-343-6138.
- Mail it to Across the State, The State Journal, P.O. Box 11848, Charleston, WV 25339-1848.

EAST

RANSON

Hospital's lab wins accreditation: The **Jefferson Medical Center's** laboratory has been awarded accreditation by the **College of American Pathologists** after an onsite inspection.

Dr. **Jeffrey A. Stead** recently learned that the hospital, part of **WVU Medicine**, had won the national recognition. The lab is one of more than 7,000 CAP-accredited facilities worldwide.

Begun in the early 1960s, the accreditation program involves a team examining the laboratory's records and quality control procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors examine lab staff qualifications, facilities, equipment, safety, safety records and the lab's overall management.

SHEPHERDSTOWN

"Civil War Christmas" events planned: Shepherdstown's **George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War** at 136 W. German St. will be open for tours from noon until 4 p.m. Dec. 5 as part of the town's Civil War Christmas celebration.

Also on the day's lineup: a panel discussion and a lecture, both in the auditorium of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies on the campus of **Shepherd University**.

"West Virginia in War and Peace" will begin at 1 p.m. and will feature **Nick Redding**, executive director of **Preservation Maryland**, and **Kevin Pawlak**, an education specialist with the **Mosby Heritage Area Association**.

At 5 p.m., **Dennis E. Frye**, the **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park's** chief historian, will give the lecture, "Did **John Brown** Elect **Abraham Lincoln**?"

Details on the events and other programs tied to Civil War Christmas may be found at christmasinshepherdstown.com or by contacting the **Shepherdstown Visitors Center** at 304-876-2786.

The weekend also brings the big annual Christmas illumination at the nearby **Antietam National Battlefield**. The commemoration, happening from 6 p.m. to midnight Dec. 5, honors soldiers who fell at the 1862 Battle of Antietam.

At twilight, 23,110 luminaries will be lit, one for each soldier who was killed, wounded or went missing during the bloodiest day of the Civil War — a conflict that led many buildings five miles away in Shepherdstown to be converted into making hospitals.

First held in 1988, the free, five-mile driving tour at the battlefield in Sharpsburg, Maryland, is the largest memorial illumination in North America. More information is available at nps.gov/anti.

CHAMBER NOTES

Send your Chamber of Commerce events and announcements for inclusion in Chamber Notes to Mike Ruben at mruben@statejournal.com. Notices should be received at least two weeks in advance of the event.

■ **Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley** is planning a Business After Hours event from 5-7 p.m. Dec. 8 at **Grande Pointe Conference and Reception Center** in Vienna. For information, contact **Jennifer Longwell** at 304-422-3588.

■ **MVB Bank**, located at 400 Washington St. E., will host the Business After Hours session of the **Charleston Area Alliance** from 5-7 p.m. Dec. 10. Advance registration is \$15 for members and \$25 for guests. Contact **Jeri Adkins** at 304-340-4253 for details.

■ **Martinsburg-Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce** will host a Legislative Outlook Breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. Dec. 11 at the **Holiday Inn** in Martinsburg. Call the Chamber at 304-267-4841 for details.

■ "Leading the Change," a pre-legislative conference, is planned from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at the **Charleston Marriott Town Center**. The **West Virginia Business & Industry Council** event will cover economic development, taxation, energy, substance abuse and other topics of statewide interest. Registration is \$50. See wvbic.org for details.

■ **Greater Greenbrier Chamber of Commerce** is reporting a successful MEGA Business Showcase and Marketplace. More 80 vendors and more than 9,000 attendees participated, according to the Chamber. For information about the Chamber and its events, call Executive Director **Amber McHale** at 304-645-2818.

■ **Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce** announces the arrival of its 2015 Christmas ornament. This year's 23rd annual ornament spotlights **Clover Dew Dairy**. The \$20 ornaments are available at the Chamber office, **Myra's Flower Shop** and **First Century Bank**. Contact the Chamber for information at 304-487-1502.

■ **Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce** will have a Business After Hours event from 5-7 p.m. Dec. 10 at Wheeling Island Hotel, Casino & Race-track. The cost is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Call the Chamber at 304-233-2575 to register.



The State Journal file photo

NEW BUSINESSES 26301-55402

Below are new business filings obtained from the West Virginia Secretary of State's office. They are listed in order by ZIP code and run as space permits.

Mountain Air Videography LLC, 162 Good Turn Road, Clarksburg, WV, 26301
Peak Wealth Management LLC, 607 E. Pike St., Clarksburg, WV, 26301
Delta Properties LLC, 322 Rosemont Ave., Clarksburg, WV, 26301
B&C Safety LLC, 104 Hartland Ave., Clarksburg, WV, 26301
KVM Rentals LLC, 1877 Country Club Road, Clarksburg, WV, 26301
Sperry Land Services LLC, 174 Raymond Carter Road, Clarksburg, WV, 26301
Windfall LLC, 310 Stiles St., Clarksburg, WV, 26301
A-1 Exterminating Co., 2304 Good Hope Pike, Clarksburg, WV, 26301
Mobile Convenience LLC, 808 S. Chestnut St., Clarksburg, WV, 26301
Gorilla Youth Inc., 2 C Cherry Tree Drive, Nutter Fort, WV, 26301
Seahorse Stories LLC, 520 S. Fifth St., Clarksburg, WV, 26301
#Hashtag Computer Repairs LLC, 1614 George Ave., Clarksburg, WV, 26301
CSV Tree Service LLC, 87 Chipwood Lane, Clarksburg, WV, 26301
Adkins Builders LLC, 22 Bailey St., Apt. 2, Clarksburg, WV, 26301
Hometown Flooring LLC, 1627 Buckhannon Pike, Nutter Fort, WV, 26301
G F Choice Cuts LLC, 902 Wilsonburg Road, Clarksburg, WV, 26301
4Lynn1T LLC, 406 Woodside Circle, Clarksburg, WV, 26301
Merandi Rentals LLC, 624 Mulberry Ave., Clarksburg, WV, 26301
Fountain Head LLC, 605 Stanley Ave., Clarksburg, WV, 26301
S and L Property Holdings LLC, Oak Mound Farm, P.O. Box 707, Clarksburg, WV, 26302
EAO LLC, 27 Cedar Heights, Clarksburg, WV, 26302
ASJ LLC, 27 Cedar Heights, Clarksburg, WV, 26302
Red Oak Investments Inc., P.O. Box 1716, Clarksburg, WV, 26302
Central WV Community Action Ventures LLC, 106 Frederick St., Clarksburg, WV, 26302
Titanium Infrastructure LLC, P.O. Box 4023, Clarksburg, WV, 26302
Terry's Garage LLC, 2493 Conaway Run Road, Alma, WV, 26320
Helping Hands Handyman LLC, 11693 U.S. Highway 33, W., Alum Bridge, WV, 26321
Casey's Hot Spot Anmore LLC, 200 North Pike St., Anmore, WV, 26323
Atlas Technologies LLC, 226 Taylor School Road, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Rollen & Rollen Contracting LLC, 7 Primrose Lane, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Cooper Guardian Services LLC, 3003 Stouts Run Road, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Rexsys LLC, 288 Taylor School Road, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Mason Properties of WV LLC, 11 Lee Ann Lane, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Grooming Angels LLC, 106 Doctors Drive, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Footballtalk LLC, 300 Black Stallion Drive, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Kreative Artz by Kimberly LLC, 266 W. Philadelphia Ave., Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Greater Clarksburg 10K Inc., 29 Maple Lake, Bridgeport, WV, 26330

LEADS

Have a question about our Leads?
Email news@statejournal.com or call 304-395-3743.

Trial by Fire Fitness LLC, 626 Lawman Ave., Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Ground Zero BJJ Bridgeport LLP, 527 E. Main St., Suite 106, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Stacey's Candy LLC, 28 Chatham Way, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Vigen LLC, 1781-B Philippi Pike, Clarksburg, WV, 26330
Axxis LLC, 301 Hilltop Drive, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Danmac LLC, 1 Vineyard Place, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Land Professionals LLC, 44 Ruby Drive, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Clinical Research Rx LLC, 311 Cherry St., Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Memorable Journeys Photography LLC, 27 Tray St., Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Gourmet Cafe LLC, 795 W. Main St., Suite G, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Mountain View Accounting, LLC, 261 Hidden Meadow Drive, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
AMG Network Hosting LLC, P.O. Box 1121, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Mountaineer Down Hole LLC, 51 Marcellus Way, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Knotty Pine Properties LLC, 242 Gordon St., Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Jolliff Properties LLC, 77 Mountainview Road, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Penntax Inc., 428 Woodside Lane, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
HBC Properties LLC, 348 Gould Farm Road, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Lea's Place LLC, 2399 Meadowbrook Road, Suite 620, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Blue Arrow LLC, 55 Barrington Court, Suite 104, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Pro Handyman Services of Bridgeport LLC, 661 Cleer Road, Bridgeport, WV, 26330
Mountaintop Leadership Coaching and Recruiting LLC, 2079 Glendale Road, Cairo, WV, 26337
Elder Ventures LLC, 1812 Cisco Road, Cairo, WV, 26337
McClellan District Volunteer Fire Department Inc., Center Point, McClellan District, Center Point, WV, 26339
Ben & Hunter's Country Den LLC, 8013 WV Highway 47, W., Coxs Mills, WV, 26342
Proteus-St Solutions LLC, 144 Morrow Cross Road, Flemington, WV, 26347
Information Technology Specialists LLC, 84 Chicken Run Road, Flemington, WV, 26347
Health Hut LLC, P.O. Box 71, Glenville, WV, 26351
Beach Money Enterprises LLC, P.O. Box 150, Glenville, WV, 26351
Hannah's House Thrift Store LLC, 1263 WV Highway 5, E., Glenville, WV, 26351
Standardized Agricultural Hemp Research LLC, 233 Dogwood Lane, Grafton, WV, 26354
Gobels Inc., 74 Abbey Road, Grafton, WV, 26354
C&S Auto Repair LLC, 903 Percy St., Grafton, WV, 26354
Cassandra Zelenak, DDS PLLC, 72 W. Main St., Grafton, WV, 26354
Ridgeline Resources LLC, 1412 Freed Road, Brohard, WV, 26362
Ranfos Land & Title LLC, 104 Pierpoint St., Harrisville, WV, 26362
Wenger-Hill Well Management Inc., 124 E. Main St., Harrisville, WV, 26362

Reflect LLC, 3 Park Ave., Haywood, WV, 26366
Rico Properties LLC, 167 Gentry Lane, Horner, WV, 26372
Leonhardt Unlimited Corp., 4729 Independence Road, Independence, WV, 26374
Freedom Tree Co., 3034 Stony Run, Independence, WV, 26374
Matthew Pratt Trucking LLC, 6346 Independence Road, Independence, WV, 26374
Central Appalachian Astronomy Club, 271 Shay Drive, Jane Lew, WV, 26378
Dr. Brian Hornsby PLLC, 778 Elk City Road, Jane Lew, WV, 26378
SKD Title Services LLC, P.O. Box 495, 1407 Rockford Road, Lost Creek, WV, 26385
Marilyn's Shopping and Errand Service LLC, 3590 Rooting Creek Road, Lost Creek, WV, 26385
Tanker Stabilizers LLC, 1122 Sunrise Road, Lost Creek, WV, 26385
JD & JD Holdings LLC, 301 Oak St., Lumberport, WV, 26386
Thevaping LLC, 297 Robey Hollow Road, Lumberport, WV, 26386
Laci's LLC, 6075 Jones Run Road, Lumberport, WV, 26386
T & D Farms LLC, 3108 Locust Grove Road, Moatsville, WV, 26405
Three A Services LLC, 1888 Mountaineer Road, Moatsville, WV, 26405
Severn Trucking LLC, 5553 Sinclair Road, Moatsville, WV, 26405
The Grey Agents LLC, 248 Hickory Lane, Mount Clare, WV, 26408
Frank's Place LLC, RR 1, Box 660, Mount Clare, WV, 26408
National Resources Welding & Fabrication LLC, 7125 Buckhannon Pike, Mount Clare, WV, 26408
WK Properties LLC, 690 Leasburg Hollow Road, Pennsboro, WV, 26415
J&J+8 LLC, 1255 Buck Run Road, Pennsboro, WV, 26415
Lily's Racin Pizzeria LLC, 155 Mountain Drive, Pennsboro, WV, 26415
Johnnie L. Boston General Contractor LLC, 461 Boston Drive, Pennsboro, WV, 26415
Genii Corps LLC, 430 W. Myles Ave., Pennsboro, WV, 26415
R & S Rentals LLC, 105 Ray Ave., Pennsboro, WV, 26415
Fitness Place LLC, 5 N. Main St., Philippi, WV, 26416
Martial Armory LLC, Route 4, Box 165, Apt. I, Philippi, WV, 26416
Mountain State Deer Hunters and Breeders Association, P.O. Box 25, Philippi, WV, 26416
B & M Auto LLC, 10 W. Railroad St., Rowlesburg, WV, 26425
Tymberpark LLC, 1767 Brandywine Road, Salem, WV, 26426
J.S. Trent Log Homes Inc., 212 John Trent Road, Salem, WV, 26426
Sweet Hollow Farm LLC, 138 Buckskin Run Road, Salem, WV, 26426
Rising Oak Contracting LLC, 4554 Buffalo Creek, Salem, WV, 26426
Shinnston Memorial Cemetery & Mausoleum Inc., 1359 S. Pike St., Shinnston, WV, 26431
Scooter Trucking LLC, 52 Drew Lane, Shinnston, WV, 26431

Renu Renovations LLC, 1634 Horners Run Road, Shinnston, WV, 26431
Kuirsta + Seth Photography LLC, 1045 E. Pike St., Shinnston, WV, 26431
Riddle Rentals LLC, 91 C St., Spelter, WV, 26438
S & A Services LLC, P.O. Box 73, Thornton, WV, 26440
East/West Land Services LLC, 227 Right Fork Road, Walkersville, WV, 26447
JP's Hotshot LLC, 2744 Big Elk Road, Wallace, WV, 26448
Christ Kingdom Ministries Inc., 310 Blackhawk Way, Wallace, WV, 26448
Radcliffs Service Center LLC, 630 W. Second St., Weston, WV, 26452
Garrett Co. LLC, 160 W. Second St., Weston, WV, 26452
J.E.T. Holding Co. LLC, 1045 Rush Run Road, Weston, WV, 26452
XYZ Property LLC, 213 E. Fifth St., Weston, WV, 26452
West Virginia American Art Glass LLC, 109 Main Ave., Weston, WV, 26452
Copperhead Oilfield Chemicals LLC, 4300 Berlin Road, Weston, WV, 26452
Laurel Hill Photography LLC, 235 Cottage Ave., Weston, WV, 26452
Jane Lew Laundromat LLC, 647 Simpson Run Road, Weston, WV, 26452
KSN Clearing LLC, 160 John St., Weston, WV, 26452
Los Amigos Mexican Food Inc., 136 Main St., Weston, WV, 26452
The Lewis County 4-H Youth Foundation Inc., 104 Center Ave., Weston, WV, 26452
Sesame Inn Garden Inc., 349 E. Third St., Weston, WV, 26452
C @ E Inspections LLC, 641 Rohr Ave., Weston, WV, 26452
Mountaineer Exotics LLC, 759 Cassville, Mount Morris Road, Morgantown, WV, 26501
Brookside Farm Addiction Recovery LLC, 515 Grand St., Morgantown, WV, 26501
Hatch & Lewallen LLC, 87 Saylor Road, Morgantown, WV, 26501
Smokin Jill's Grill LLC, 3787 Earl Core Road, Morgantown, WV, 26501
Temp Sentry LLC, 209 Grand St., Morgantown, WV, 26501
WV Clean LLC, 7 Nebraska Ave., Westover, WV, 26501
Jaf Realty Inc., 22 Lane St., Westover, WV, 26501
306 Merchant Street Shenanigans LLC, 166 Birds Eye View Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26501
Bent Records LLC, 27 Eric St., Morgantown, WV, 26501
Double Decker LLC, 150 Sierra Farm Road, Morgantown, WV, 26501
WV Bulldogs Football Association, 4317 Fairmont Road, Morgantown, WV, 26501
Cloud City PR LLC, 233 Morris St., Morgantown, WV, 26501
Carcello's Authentic Pizzeria LLC, 398 Riverview Ave., Westover, WV, 26501
Hunts Lawncare LLC, 272 Eddy Road, Morgantown, WV, 26501
Hometown Hotdogs – Mountaineer Mall LLC, 5000 Greenbag Road, Suite B-1, Morgantown, WV, 26501
Wheeling Energy Works LLC, 636 Bounds Circle, Westover, WV, 26501
D&L Holdings Inc., 114 Marchand Drive, Apt. D, Westover, WV, 26501
Bekim Inspirations LLC, 262 Devin Lane, Morgantown, WV, 26501
Mountain Mamas of WV LLC, 1080 Wayne Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26501
CMT Roofing LLC, 56 Lane St., Westover, WV, 26501
Party Boy Ent. LLC, 644 Madison Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26501
Planet Density Foods LLC, 339 Dorsey Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26501
Galbreath Design LLC, 239 S. High St., Morgantown, WV, 26501

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Rotary Club of Westover, P.O. Box 2282, Westover, WV, 26502
Seneca Financial LLC, 424 Rotary St., Morgantown, WV, 26504
Select Decks LLC, P.O. Box 4399, Morgantown, WV, 26504
Best Barbeque Ever LLC, P.O. Box 4184, Morgantown, WV, 26504
Morgantown Hospitality Endeavor LLC, P.O. Box 4034, Morgantown, WV, 26504
Ameripro Painting & Restoration LLC, 3714 Collins Ferry Road, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Trailer Sales and Parts LLC, 1223 Richwood Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Tree Sap Studios LLC, 120A Summers St., Morgantown, WV, 26505
North Elementary Basketball League Inc., 426 Drummond St., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Street Eats LLC, 1205 Milton St., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Mancini Group LLC, 114 Windsor Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Mountain Top Pilates LLC, 1000 Business Park Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Agila Specialties Inc., 781 Chestnut Ridge Road, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Drink and Doodle LLC, 1016 Maple Dr Suite 102B, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Vandalia Creative Inc., 440 Rotary St., Morgantown, WV, 26505
SWS Holding LLC, 604 Preston Road, Morgantown, WV, 26505
The Plating Shed LLC, 1336 Airport Blvd., Morgantown, WV, 26505
New Learning Horizons Inc., 3041 University Ave., Suite 5, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Pinnacle Land Services LLC, 432 Herman Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Sickle Cell Care Inc., 364 Patteson Drive, #530, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Chyleen's 2's & 3's Daycare LLC, 116 Ellen Lane, Morgantown, WV, 26505
MIP Energy Resources LLC, 466 Christy St., Suite 2, Morgantown, WV, 26505
AJS LLC, 756 George St., Apt. 4, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Terri Reed Cutright & Associates LLC, 709 Beechhurst Ave. Suite 21, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Discovery Land Services LLC, 1912 Stone Run St., Morgantown, WV, 26505
304 Motoring LLC, 432 Herman Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Harpity Moo LLC, 265 High St., 7th Floor, Morgantown, WV, 26505
MJK Consulting LLC, 214 Donna Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Drumgoole Services Corp., 107 Meadowridge Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Alston Group Inc., 107 Meadowridge Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Everly Construction Management LLC, 29 W. High St., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Angotti Psychiatric Specialties PLLC, 4 Silver View Court, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Purpose & Strength LLC, 1067 Maple Drive, Apt. 21, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Stem Enterprise Inc., 177 Windwood Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26505
WVPC LLC, 12 Shady Grove Village, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Streamline Aircraft Services LLC, 344 High St., Morgantown, WV, 26505
JPJ Drywall Service LLC, 1219 Pineview Drive, Suite 13, Morgantown, WV, 26505
West View LLC, 378 Jacobs Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26505
The Law Office of Ira Richardson PLLC, 921 Eagle Run Road, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Princewick Co. LLC, 109 Mimosa Lane, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Taylor Training Resources LLC, 477 Kiwanis Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26505
George Brothers Holdings LLC, 512 Princeton Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26505
JJP Real Estate LLC, 345 High St., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Clanortt Property Group LLC, 432 Herman Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Readyssetpet LLC, 644 Bellaire Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Professional Benefit Resources LLC, 375 Broadway Ave., Suite B, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Appliance Distribution Source LLC, 33 Pickadilly Way, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Always Eventful LLC, 3461 University Ave., Suite 6, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Namsupak, DDS Inc., 3412 University Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Taylored Landscaping LLC, 656A Keyser Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Chapel Grace Properties LLC, 13 Sunridge Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26505

Cams Lawncare LLC, 2002 White Oak Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Gains Brothers LLC, 171-3 Arkwright Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Pubstomper Brewing Co. LLC, 3277 University Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26505
A & T Morgantown LLC, 473 High St., Morgantown, WV, 26505
Vandalia Land Services LLC, 263 Orchard Crossing, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Buckley Legal PLLC, 124 School St., Morgantown, WV, 26505
SISU Concierge Service LLC, 1117 University Ave., #604, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Delavoix Corp., 873 Willowdale Road, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Breaking Meta LLC, 1233-22 Pine View Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26505
Sustainable Dental Products LLC, 1226 Van Voorhis Road, D, G7, Morgantown, WV, 26505
West Virginia Federation of College Republicans, 1550 University Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26506
The Health Sciences Center Graduate Student Organization of West Virginia University Inc., Health Sciences Center South, 1 Medical Center Drive, Room #2271, Morgantown, WV, 26506
Pinnacle Investigations LLC, P.O. Box 18136, Morgantown, WV, 26507
J&N Holdings LLC, P.O. Box 18093, Morgantown, WV, 26507
W Leasing LLC, P.O. Box 18057, Morgantown, WV, 26507
Dom Efficient LLC, P.O. Box 459, Morgantown, WV, 26507
Krav Maga West Virginia LLC, 59 Don Knotts Blvd., Morgantown, WV, 26508
Twisted S Trucking Inc., 903 Ann Marie Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26508
AE Home Repair and Remodeling LLC, 213 Mystic Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26508
CCR Electric LLC, 408 Cobun Creek Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Hot Dogs 'N Moore LLC, 614 Ashworth Lane, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Nicholson Logging LLC, 1250 Summers School Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
PJ Remodeling Services LLC, 702 Blossom Lane, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Murphy and Murphy LLC, 196 John Poole Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Griffith Anesthesia LLC, 15 Tibbs Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Amplify Life LLC, 70 Antietam Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26508
QA Investments LLC, 500 Greystone Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Cheat Area Medical Services PLLC, 710 Venture Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26508
University Basketball Club Inc., 1021 Imperial Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26508
McGuire Spring St. LLC, 37 Sunset Beach Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Noah Palm Beach Avenue LLC, 37 Sunset Beach Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Exesalibero Pharma Inc., 3607 Monarch Court, Morgantown, WV, 26508
University High School Parent Teacher Student Organization, 131 Bakers Ridge Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Dragon Cafiä Inc., 510 Ashebrooke Square, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Relique Energy LLC, 29 Hickory Ridge Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Lambert Rental Properties LLC, 1329 Summer School Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Procon Services LLC, 331 Carrol Sawmill Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
DC Land Services LLC, 599 Brookhaven Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
West Canyon Apartments LLC, 858 Tyrone Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Sacred Grace Notes LLC, 78 Straight Lane, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Parsons Forest Management LLC, 2202 Scenic View Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26508
White Knight Group LLC, 139 McCormick Hollow Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
On Point Resources LLC, 703 Pierpoint Heights, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Hunter Green LLC, 1558 Point Marion Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Quinn LLC, 306 Bullrun Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Almost Heaven Kettle Corn Co. LLC, 29 Hickory Ridge Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Ballroom West Virginia LLC, 204 Maren Lane, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Our Green Grass LLC, 2010 Lakeside Village, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Studio 17 LLC, 306 Bullrun Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Alexis Allen LLC, 199 Eastgate Drive, Morgantown, WV, 26508
Bodhi International LLC, 3770 Clemmons Road, Suite D, Clemmons, NC, 27012
Honeycutt Electric Inc., 2750 Armstrong Drive, Winston-

Salem, NC, 27103
Reliable Tank Line LLC, 1540 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem, NC, 27127
Advanced Home Care Inc., 4001 Piedmont Parkway, High Point, NC, 27265
Isurity Inc., 1820 Eastchester Drive, High Point, NC, 27265
The Kilpatrick Group, P.A., 3397 Cherrybrook Drive, Jamestown, NC, 27282
Carolina Hydraulics Inc., 1211 E. Mountain St., Kernersville, NC, 27284
Superior Mechanical Inc., 162 Pointe South Drive, Randleman, NC, 27317
Heartwood Forestland Fund VIII LP, 1512 E. Franklin St., Suite 104, Chapel Hill, NC, 27514
DHP Management Services LLC, 170 Southpoint Drive, Morrisville, NC, 27560
Community Equity Fund XX LP, 77000 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC, 27615
Eagle Home Medical Corp, 1016 Julian Allsbrook Highway, Roanoke Rapids, NC, 27870
Orion Communications Inc., 4921 Stough Road, Concord, NC, 28025
Agape Ministry Network Inc., 4509 Conrad Highway, Monroe, NC, 28110
Rem Enterprises Inc., P.O. Box 702, Mooresville, NC, 28115
Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, NC, 28201
Duke Energy Carolinas LLC, 526 South Church St., (Ec03t), Charlotte, NC, 28202
BCN Inc., 5501 Executive Center Drive, Suite 229, Charlotte, NC, 28212
Capital Processing Systems Inc., 5605 77 Center Drive, Suite 270, Charlotte, NC, 28217
Recover Care LLC, 2430 Whitehall Park Drive, Suite 100, Charlotte, NC, 28273
SPX Flow Us LLC, 13320 Ballantyne Corporate Place, Charlotte, NC, 28277
Deephaven Mortgage LLC, 3440 Toringdon Way, Suite 200, Charlotte, NC, 28277
Thompson & Little Inc., 933 Robeson St., Fayetteville, NC, 28305
Taylored Control Systems LLC, 4365 Camden Road, Fayetteville, NC, 28306
Corrlabs LLC, 340 Commerce Ave., Unit 11, Southern Pines, NC, 28387
Acedeuce Properties LLC, 104 Mull St., Morganton, NC, 28655
Acedeuce 2 LLC, 104 Mull St., Morganton, NC, 28655
NAA Realty LLC, 4350 St. Andrews Road, Suite G, Columbia, SC, 29210
Globe Communications LLC, 950 48th Ave., N., Suite 100, Myrtle Beach, SC, 29577
World Wireless LLC, 850 South Pleasantburg Drive, Suite 201, Greenville, SC, 29607
Smart Logix LLC, 10306 Barberville Road, Fort Mill, SC, 29707
Intevacon Fleet Card Solutions LLC, 3440 Francis Road, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA, 30004
Engineered Architectural Systems Inc., 555 Branch Drive, Alpharetta, GA, 30004
Property Masters Inc., 200 N Cobb Pkwy Suite 316, Marietta, GA, 30062
Auto Retention Solutions LLC, 6010 Atlantic Blvd., Norcross, GA, 30071
Oasis Construction Services Inc., 45 Woodstock St., Roswell, GA, 30075
Test and Balance Corp., 1000 Holcomb Woods Parkway, #290, Roswell, GA, 30076
Ohio Valley Supply Inc., 100 Crescent Centre Parkway, Suite 800, Tucker, GA, 30084
YP Advertising & Publishing LLC, 2247 Northlake Parkway, Tucker, GA, 30084
Milner Voice and Data Inc., 5125 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross, GA, 30092
Merial Inc., 3239 Satellite Blvd., Duluth, GA, 30096
Aumund Corp., 1701 Barrett Lakes Blvd., Suite 450, Kennesaw, GA, 30144
IDC Construction LLC, 1000 Churchill Court, Woodstock, GA, 30188
Nexidia Inc., 3565 Piedmont Road, N.E., Building 2, Suite 400, Atlanta, GA, 30305
Multi Housing Advisors LLC, 3575 Piedmont Road, Suite 1000, Atlanta, GA, 30305
AT&T Mobility LLC, 1025 Lenox Park Blvd., N.E., Atlanta, GA, 30319
Decca Consulting Inc., 1040 Crown Pointe Parkway, Suite 1040, Atlanta, GA, 30338
GE Grid Solutions LLC, 4200 Wildwood Parkway, 2018 Building, N6-04A-03 (Legal), Atlanta, GA, 30339
Essex Group Inc., 6120 Powers Ferry Road, Suite 150, Atlanta, GA, 30339
Orion Portfolio Services LLC, 53 Perimeter Center, E., Suite 440, Atlanta, GA, 30346
H E Scott Inc., 4264-D Winters Chapel Road, Suite 300, Doraville, GA, 30360
Orbital Energy Services Corp., 2250 Atlanta Highway, Gainesville, GA, 30504
Honey Island Land Co. LLC, 201 Second St., Macon, GA, 31201
Honey Island Coal Co. LLC, 201 Second St., Macon, GA, 31201

Mhis Corp., 1500 East Katella Ave., Suite 1, Orange, CA, 31406
Chris Kirk Golf LLC, 1606 Reynolds St., Brunswick, GA, 31520
Hudson Swafford Golf LLC, 1606 Reynolds St., Brunswick, GA, 31520
PWCC LLC, P.O. Box 5438, Valdosta, GA, 31603
ITC Capital Partners LLC, 1791 O.G. Skinner Drive, Suite A, West Point, GA, 31833
Millennial Specialty Insurance LLC, 842 Hampton Crossing Way, St. Augustine, FL, 32092
Greenwich Investors Cedar Grove Operator LLC, 6279 Dupont Station Court, Jacksonville, FL, 32099
Parsley Pressure LLC, 1003 Hampstead Lane, Ormond Beach, FL, 32174
Security First Managers LLC, 140 S. Atlantic Ave., Ormond Beach, FL, 32176
Greenwich Investors Cedar Grove Owner LLC, 6279 Dupont Station Court, Jacksonville, FL, 32217
Quick Tie Products Inc., 13300 Vantage Way, Jacksonville, FL, 32218
Ridgway Roof Truss Co., 235 S.W. 11th Place, Gainesville, FL, 32601
Prancer Capital Corp., 36 Skyline Drive, Lake Mary, FL, 32746
Ensync Diversified Management Services Inc., 130 W. Pine Ave., Longwood, FL, 32750
Risk Advisors East Coast LLC, 151 Lookout Place, Maitland, FL, 32751
Realtime Peo II LLC, 411 Metric Drive, Winter Park, FL, 32792
Wilson Senior Care LLC, 1000 Legion Place, Suite 1600, Orlando, FL, 32801
Elkins WV Senior Property LLC, 1000 Legion Place, Suite 1600, Orlando, FL, 32801
U.S. Equity Advantage Inc., 800 N. Magnolia Ave., Suite 1275, Orlando, FL, 32803
Crane Rental Corp., 170 N. Goldenrod Road, Orlando, FL, 32807
Butler & Hosch, P.A., 3185 S. Conway Road, Suite 3, Orlando, FL, 32812
Default Consulting Group Inc., 3185 S. Conway Road, Suite E, Orlando, FL, 32812
Cru Inc., 100 Lake Hart Drive, MC 3500, Orlando, FL, 32832
Mathews Technical Services Inc., 7665 Northern Oak St., West Melbourne, FL, 32904
United Service Contract Group LLC, 4000 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 435 S, Hollywood, FL, 33021
AMS Group Inc., 16725 N.W. 57th Ave., Miami, FL, 33055
Vinana LLC, 1362 N.W. 97th Terrace, Coral Springs, FL, 33071
Cal Development Inc., 6850 Lyons Technology Circle, Coconut Creek, FL, 33073
Grilo's International LLC, 7230 N.W. 12th St., Suite 102, Miami, FL, 33126
National Debt Holdings LLC, 200 S. Biscayne Blvd., Suite 2790, Miami, FL, 33131
JCWV Farm LLC, 6865 S.W. 164th Court, Miami, FL, 33193
AJKN Holdings Inc., 333 Las Olas Way, #3703, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 33301
Fontem US Inc., 5900 N. Andrews Ave., Suite 1100, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 33309
Port Consolidated Inc., 3141 S.E. 14th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 33316
Fidelity Mutual Funding LLC, 2000 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., #501, West Palm Beach, FL, 33409
KLX Energy Holdings LLC, 1300 Corporate Center Way, Wellington, FL, 33414
Centerra Integrated Services LLC, Suite 301, 7121 Fairway Drive, Palm Beach Gardens, FL, 33418
Your Home Advantage Inc., 600 W. Hillsboro Blvd., Suite 110, Deerfield Beach, FL, 33441
Courtesy Investment Advisory Services LLC, 500 Jim Moran Blvd., Deerfield Beach, FL, 33442
Alphaeus Healthcare Solutions LLC, 1300 N.W. 17th Ave., Unit 273A, Delray Beach, FL, 33445
Frank Entertainment Companies LLC, 1003 W. Indiantown Road, Suite 210, Jupiter, FL, 33458
Covoda Communications Inc., 1005 W. Indiantown Road, Suite 201, Jupiter, FL, 33458
G4s Retail Solutions (USA) Inc., 1395 University Blvd., Jupiter, FL, 33458
Welcome Funds Inc., 6001 Broken Sound Parkway, Suite 320, Boca Raton, FL, 33487
MDA Holdings Inc., 6551 Park of Commerce Blvd., Boca Raton, FL, 33487
Geo Reentry Inc., 621 N.W. 53 St., Suite 700, Boca Raton, FL, 33487
HCP-RTS LLC, 4890 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 650, Tampa, FL, 33609
HC-187 Skylar Drive LLC, 4890 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 650, Tampa, FL, 33609
Health Plan Intermediaries Holdings LLC, 15438 N. Florida Ave., #201, Tampa, FL, 33613
Wolf Retail Solutions I Inc., 2801 W. Busch Blvd., Suite 101, Tampa, FL, 33618
Universal Coding Solutions LLC, 13139 W. Linebaugh Ave., Suite 203, Tampa, FL, 33626

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STS National Administrative Services Inc., 9455 Koger Blvd., Suite 200, St. Petersburg, FL, 33702
Community Health Solutions of America Inc., 1000 118th Ave., N., St. Petersburg, FL, 33716
LTC Global Agency LLC, 6201 Presidential Court, Fort Myers, FL, 33919
Napoli Realty Services LLC, 5515 Bryson Drive, Suite 502, Naples, FL, 34109
Marco Machine LLC, 1431 Galleon Ave., Marco Island, FL, 34145
Graincomm I LLC, 100 N. Washington Blvd., #200, Sarasota, FL, 34236
Branchwater Productions Inc., 713 S. Orange Ave., Suite 103, Sarasota, FL, 34236
New-Tech Construction Corp., 1579 Barber Road, Sarasota, FL, 34240
Elite Industrial Painting Inc., 621 Hibiscus St., Suite 1, Tarpon Springs, FL, 34689
Juve Studios LLC, 3619 Doe Run Drive, St. Cloud, FL, 34772
Medical Equipment Technologies Inc., 2172 N.W. Reserve Park Trace, Port St. Lucie, FL, 34986
Transdermal Therapeutics Inc., 211 Summit Parkway, Suite 124, Birmingham, AL, 35209
Mayer Electric Supply Co. Inc., 3405 Fourth Ave., S., Birmingham, AL, 35222
Structurally Sound Engineering LLC, 716 Heritage Park Lane, Hoover, AL, 35226
Total Solutions Inc., 1626 County Line Road, Madison, AL, 35756
Sequel Schools LLC, 1131 Eagletree Lane, Huntsville, AL, 35801
The Atlantic Group LLC, 2223 Drake Ave., S.W., Suite 200, Huntsville, AL, 35805
Digium Cloud Services LLC, 445 Jan Davis Drive, N.W., Huntsville, AL, 35806
K&G Industrial Services LLC, 26532 Railroad Ave., Loxley, AL, 36551
Supply Chain Shared Service Center LLC, 4000 Meridian Blvd., Franklin, TN, 37067
CMT Productions Inc., 330 Commerce St., Nashville, TN, 37201
SR EPC LLC, 150th Third Ave., S., Suite 2000, Nashville, TN, 37201
Lish This Inc., 2300 Charlotte Ave., Suite 103, Nashville, TN, 37203
Kenco Material Handling Solutions LLC, 2001 Riverside Drive, Chattanooga, TN, 37406
Applied High Voltage LLC, 2034 Hamilton Place Blvd., Suite 400, Chattanooga, TN, 37421
Ken Smith Auto Parts Inc., 4140 Jersey Pike, Chattanooga, TN, 37421
Advocacy Trust of Tennessee LLC, 605 Chestnut St., Suite 340, Chattanooga, TN, 37450
Nella Constructors Inc., P.O. Box 70, New Market, TN, 37820
Aesseal Inc., 355 Dunavant Drive, Rockford, TN, 37853
Ameriteam Services LLC, 265 Brookview Centre Way, Suite 400, Knoxville, TN, 37919
Jeebs 4 Jesus, 1245 Bishops View Lane, Knoxville, TN, 37932
Radio Systems Corp., 10427 Petsafe Way, Knoxville, TN, 37932
McNeill Hotel Co. LLC, 7700 Wolf River Blvd., Suite 103, Germantown, TN, 38138
Full Throttle Sloon Shine LLC, 45 Gin St., Trimble, TN, 38259
M R Services LLC, P.O. Box 282, Carthage, MS, 39051
Chamblee Consulting LLC, 221 Highway 487, W., Carthage, MS, 39051
J & J Consulting LLC, 2628 Freeny Road, Carthage, MS, 39051
VSS LLC, 382 Galleria Parkway, Suite 400, Madison, MS, 39110
Deepwell Energy Services LLC, 6739 Highway 184, Waynesboro, MS, 39367
Joseph Pendergraft Drilling Consultant Inc., 7910 Pleasant Hill Road, Richton, MS, 39476
Advantage Title LLC, 137 Main St. Bay, St. Louis, MS, 39520
Encompass Develop, Design & Construct LLC, 106 E. Jefferson St., La Grange, KY, 40031
Resilient Futures Network LLC, 1711 Nat Rogers Road, New Haven, KY, 40051
Stone Lane LLC, 3006 Eastpoint Parkway, Louisville, KY, 40223
Pharmerica Logistic Services LLC, 1901 Campus Place, Louisville, KY, 40299
Jackson Environmental Consultings Services LLC, 3945 Simpson Lane, Richmond, KY, 40475
Diversified Demolition LLC, 773-B Westland Drive, Lexington, KY, 40504
S & S Galax Realty LLC, 1475 Jingle Bell Lane, Lexington, KY, 40509
Bluegrass Family Health Inc., 651 Perimeter Drive, Suite 300, Lexington, KY, 40517
Aye Enterprises Inc., 10853 S. Highway, 25E, Flatlick, KY, 40935
Bold Moves LLC, 650 W. 12th St., Apt. 2, Covington, KY, 41011

Pizza and Cream LLC, 1174 Thornberry Court, Florence, KY, 41042
United Radio Inc., 3345 Point Pleasant Road, Hebron, KY, 41048
Industrial Electric Supply LLC, 1937 Greenup Ave., Ashland, KY, 41101
Air Extreme LLC, 2025 13th St., Ashland, KY, 41101
SNT Enterprise Inc., 500 Winchester Ave., Mail Box #36, Ashland, KY, 41101
Jarrold Amburgey LLC, 3113 Terrace Blvd., Ashland, KY, 41102
Todd Case Trucking Inc., 210 Raven Rock Fork Road, Louisa, KY, 41230
Jenks Enterprises LLC, 60 Orange Lane, Louisa, KY, 41230
Louisa Coca Cola Bottling Co., 416 North Clay Ave., Louisa, KY, 41230
R & L Paving Inc., 2396 KY Route 581, Tutor Key, KY, 41263
Evergreen Reclamation Services Inc., 3240 Old Burning Fork Road, Salyersville, KY, 41465
Mountain Land Services LLC, 130 Evan St., Pikeville, KY, 41501
Reed's Healthy Home Solutions Inc., 275 Mall Road, Suite 11A, South Williamson, KY, 41503
Martin Motors Bridgeport Property LLC, 1065 Ashley St., Bowling Green, KY, 42103
M & L Electrical Inc., 6060 Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, KY, 42104
National Sign Systems Inc., 4200 Lyman Court, Hilliard, OH, 43026
AMK Services LLC, 9291 Crouse Willison Road, Johnstown, OH, 43031
Kokosing Industrial Inc., 6235 Westerville Road, Suite 200, Westerville, OH, 43081
Woda St. Paul Terrace GP LLC, 229 Huber Village Blvd., Suite 100, Westerville, OH, 43081
Stone Center Lofts GP LLC, 229 Huber Village Blvd., Suite 100, Westerville, OH, 43081
Gudenkauf Systems Inc., 2679 McKinley Ave., Columbus, OH, 43204
Bug Patrol of Ohio LLC, 405 E. Town St., Columbus, OH, 43215
Total Tennis Inc., 1733 Cardiff Road, Columbus, OH, 43221
Disclosure Advisors LLC, 2602 Oakstone Drive, Columbus, OH, 43231
Gasfield Resources Ltd., 67380 National New Lafferty Road, Belmont, OH, 43718
Stone Front Homes LLC, P.O. Box 157, 145 Lenert St., Corning, OH, 43730
Worms Are Us LLC, P.O. Box 243, 131 Hillside Lane, Corning, OH, 43730
Silverleaf Group LLC, 19047 Wings Lane, Salesville, OH, 43778
James Deam Inc., 700 E. Russell Ave., West Lafayette, OH, 43845
Steadfast Oilfield Services LLC, 34602 State Route 7, Sardis, OH, 43946
Veterinary Alternative Therapy LLC, P.O. Box 252, St. Clairsville, OH, 43950
Steel Valley Emergency Physicians Twin City Inc., 4000 Johnson Road, Steubenville, OH, 43952
Engage Growth and Development Services LLC, 1481 Township Road 371, Toronto, OH, 43964
Wallace Farms & Fencing LLC, 87250 Amsterdam Road, Jewett, OH, 43986
Eclipse Companies LLC, 11554 E. Washington St., Chagrin Falls, OH, 44023
The Mintz Co. LLC, P.O. Box 23342, Chagrin Falls, OH, 44023
Zietlow's Installers LLC, 32914 Meadow Creek Oval, N., Ridgeville, OH, 44039
Midwest Land Clearing Inc., 10555 Kinsman Road, Newbury, OH, 44065
S&P Data LLC, 1500 West 3D St., Suite 125, Cleveland, OH, 44113
Rathbone Group LLC, 1100 Superior Ave., E, Suite 1850, Cleveland, OH, 44114
NPA Wheeling LP, 8111 Rockside Road, Suite 200, Valley View, OH, 44125
Life Line Community Healthcare LLC, 6150 Oak Tree Blvd., Suite 200, Independence, OH, 44131
Life Line Screening of America Ltd., 6150 Oak Tree Blvd., Suite 200, Independence, OH, 44131
All Phase Construction Inc., 30685 Solon Industrial Parkway, Unit F, Solon, OH, 44139
Allsigns & Designs LLC, 5101 W. 161st, Brook Park, OH, 44142
Corrosion Resistance Ltd., 4524 Hudson Drive, Stow, OH, 44224
Velotta Bridge Co. LLC, P.O. Box 157, 6740 Ridge Road, Sharon Center, OH, 44274
Leppo Inc., 176 West Ave., Tallmadge, OH, 44278
Construction Labor Contractors LLC, 3380 Brecksville Road Suite 200, Richfield, OH, 44286
American Roadway Logistics Inc., 3920 Congress Parkway, Richfield, OH, 44286
Lindsey Construction & Design Inc., 2603 S. Arlington Road, Akron, OH, 44319
P & C Industrial Services LLC, 40231 State Route 5158, Lisbon, OH, 44432
Hearn Paper Co., 556 N. Meridian Road, Youngstown, OH, 44509

Italiano Electrical Construction LLC, 131 Beechwood Drive, Youngstown, OH, 44512
Craig Steele Roofing & Siding LP, P.O. Box 653, Beach City, OH, 44608
Wenger Pipeline Construction Inc., 14742 Lincoln Way, E., Dalton, OH, 44618
Circle L. Fence LLC, 3296 Pleasant Valley Road, S.E., Dennison, OH, 44621
CPRO Development Inc., 4522 Township Road 305, Millersburg, OH, 44654
Mt. Hope Fence Co. Ltd., 7102 County Road 77, Millersburg, OH, 44654
Tango & Gatti Inc., 224 Fair Ave., N.W., New Philadelphia, OH, 44663
SBS Window Cleaning LLC, 8019 Leichty Road, Smithville, OH, 44677
Pro Construction of Ohio LLC, 2742 Carlisle Court, Walnut Creek, OH, 44687
R.D. Wiles Inc., P.O. Box 956, Wooster, OH, 44691
Included Windows LLC, 1101 Mansfield Washington Road, Mansfield, OH, 44903
Coeclerici Coal Network Inc., 7697 Innovation Way, Suite 100, Mason, OH, 45040
Etter General Contracting LLC, 6027 Todhunter Road, Middletown, OH, 45044
The Kleingers Group Inc., 6305 Centre Park Drive, West Chester, OH, 45069
The Procter and Gamble Manufacturing Co., 1 Procter and Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH, 45202
The Procter & Gamble Distributing LLC, One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH, 45202
Duke Energy One Inc., 139 E. Fourth St., Cincinnati, OH, 45202
Environmental Solutions & Innovations Inc., 4525 Este Ave., Cincinnati, OH, 45232
Furniture Solutions For The Workplace LLC, 1329 East Kemper, Cincinnati, OH, 45246
Reserve at Fairmont LLC, 9349 Waterstone Blvd., Suite 200, Cincinnati, OH, 45249
Mv Affordable Housing LLC, 9349 Waterstone Blvd., Cincinnati, OH, 45249
MV Reserve at Rose Bud LLC, 9349 Waterstone Blvd., Cincinnati, OH, 45249
Reserve at Edison Hill LLC, 9349 Waterstone Blvd., Suite 200, Cincinnati, OH, 45249
Peet Consulting Inc., 8805 Governors Hill Drive, Suite 200, Cincinnati, OH, 45249
Rebsco Inc., 4362 U.S. Route 36, P.O. Box 370, Greenville, OH, 45331
Hammelmann Corp., 436 Southpointe Drive, Miamisburg, OH, 45342
Ohio Fingerprint Consulting LLC, P.O. Box 11, Xenia, OH, 45385
Caresource Management Group Co., 230 N. Main St., Dayton, OH, 45402
Lion First Responder PPE Inc., 7200 Poe Ave., Suite 400, Dayton, OH, 45414
Lion Group Inc., 7200 Poe Ave., Suite 400, Dayton, OH, 45414
Riverview Construction Inc., 9604 County Road 107, #1, Proctorville, OH, 45669
Curry 603 Property LLC, 482 Township Road 1234, Proctorville, OH, 45669
Backwoods Oil & Gas Services LLC, 253 Township Road 1386, Proctorville, OH, 45669
Tribute Contracting & Consultants LLC, 306 Little Solida Road, South Point, OH, 45680
360 Fire Protection LLC, 704 Fourth St., W., South Point, OH, 45680
Keystone Family Services LLC, P.O. Box 1175, South Point, OH, 45680
SS Handyman Service LLC, 103 Dean St., South Point, OH, 45680
Trilogy Technology Solutions LLC, 1143 Indiadale Ave., Wheelersburg, OH, 45694
Mov Benchmark Realty LLC, 210 Alderman St., Marietta, OH, 45750
Pen Inc., 114 Greene St., Marietta, OH, 45750
The Continuous Gutter Pros LLC, 1781 Masonic Park Road, Marietta, OH, 45750
Terra Sonic International LLC, 27825 State Route 7, Marietta, OH, 45750
Stonebridge Oilfield Services LLC, 406 Colegate Drive, P.O. Box 60, Marietta, OH, 45750
Accu Medical Waste Service Inc., 45 Byers Road, Marietta, OH, 45750
4M Construction Supplies LLC, 100 McGregor Road, New Matamoras, OH, 45767
Cricket Realty LLC, P.O. Box 250, Reno, OH, 45773
Wynn Construction LLC, 2511 Plum Run Road, Waterford, OH, 45786
Comm-Core LLC, 3820 S. Dixie Highway, Lima, OH, 45806
Aurora Parts & Accessories LLC, 500 S. Enterprise Blvd., Lebanon, IN, 46052
Cover Care LLC, 17397 Oak Ridge Road, #200, Westfield, IN, 46074
Miller-Eads Co. Inc., 4125 N. Keystone Ave., Indianapolis, IN, 46205
Patco Management Inc., 2920 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis, IN, 46205
Hobson & Roberts Distilling Co. LLC, 217 S. Belmont Ave., Suite C, Indianapolis, IN, 46222

LM Henderson & Co. LLP, 450 E. 96th St., Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN, 46240
Charger Logistics USA Inc., 1939 N. Lafayette Court, Griffith, IN, 46319
MacLennan & Bain Inc., 214 Aberdeen Drive, Valparaiso, IN, 46385
Russell Automation & Design LLC, 2419 Chesire Drive, South Bend, IN, 46614
Lesea Global Feed The Hungry Inc., 530 E. Ireland Road, South Bend, IN, 46614
Peoplelink LLC, 431 East Colfax Ave., South Bend, IN, 46617
G & T Services Inc., 1630 Summit St., New Haven, IN, 46774
Business Revenue Systems Inc., 2419 Spy Run Ave., Suite A, Fort Wayne, IN, 46805
Wheatley Scale Service Inc., 3238 W. State Road 66, Rockport, IN, 47635
Gribbins Insulation Co. Inc., 1400 E. Columbia St., Evansville, IN, 47711
Venture Agency Holdings Inc., 550 W. Merrill St., Suite 110, Birmingham, MI, 48009
Ruby+Associates Inc., 30300 Telegraph, Suite 400, Bingham Farms, MI, 48025
Priority Appraisal U.S.A. LLC, 100 Galleria Officentre, Suite 111, Southfield, MI, 48034
Bulldog Onsite Solutions LLC, 25880 Commerce Drive, Madison Heights, MI, 48071
Cornelius Systems Inc., 3966 Eleven Mile Road, Berkley, MI, 48072
Shaleapps LLC, 1249 Rochester Road, Troy, MI, 48083
Value Services LLC, 1650 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy, MI, 48084
Corrigan Oil Co., No. II, 775 N. Second St., Brighton, MI, 48116
Valassis Communications Inc., 19975 Victor Parkway, Livonia, MI, 48152
Innovative Industry Solutions LLC, 532 Rambow Drive, Monroe, MI, 48161
Jack Doheny Companies Inc., 777 Doheny Court, Northville, MI, 48167
Yazaki North America Inc., 6801 Haggerty Road, Canton, MI, 48187
Expedient Medstaff LLC, 1 Heritage Place, Suite 250, Southgate, MI, 48195
Vision Information Technologies Inc., 3031 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 600, Detroit, MI, 48202
Dynatrace LLC, 1 Campus Martius, Detroit, MI, 48226
GM Global Tooling Co. LLC, 300 Renaissance Center, Detroit, MI, 48263
Agree LP, 70 E. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 48304
Custom Glass Solutions Service Parts LLC, 2300 Harmon Road, Auburn Hills, MI, 48326
EJH Construction Inc., 30896 W. 8 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI, 48336
Rathsbury Associates Inc., 41100 Bridge St., Novi, MI, 48375
Temperform LLC, P.O. Box 767, Novi, MI, 48376
Blue Cube Operations LLC, 2030 Dow Center, Midland, MI, 48674
MRB Enterprises Inc., 616 Industrial Drive, Mt. Pleasant, MI, 48858
Stafford-Smith Inc., 3400 South Burdick St., Kalamazoo, MI, 49001
TS Drilling Consultant LLC, 258 Mill Road, Blanchard, MI, 49310
Huggard Consulting Inc., 1914 South Lakeshore Drive, Ludington, MI, 49431
Wolverine Building Group Inc., 4045 Barden, S.E., Grand Rapids, MI, 49512
Duhadway, Kendall & Associates Inc., 5160 Falcon View Ave., S.E., Grand Rapids, MI, 49512
Troupe Investments LLC, 13919 S. West Bay Shore Drive, Suite G-01, Traverse City, MI, 49684
Peterson McGregor & Associates Inc., 1368 Business Park Drive, Traverse City, MI, 49686
Dozer Construction Inc., 8476 Yuill St., Vanderbilt, MI, 49795
Workiva Inc., 2900 University Blvd., Ames, IA, 50010
Home Warranty of The Midwest Inc., 112 S. Story St., Rock Rapids, IA, 51246
Shive-Hattery Inc., 316 Second St., S.E., Suite 500, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52401
Delta Medical Systems Inc., W239 N2890 Pewaukee Road, E., Pewaukee, WI, 53072
Ethical Trading Co. LLC, 1606 Arkansas Ave., Madison, WI, 53704
Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp., 4801 S. Biltmore Lane, Madison, WI, 53718
Banta Corp., 1457 Earl St., Menasha, WI, 54592
Emco Enterprises LLC, 551 North Maine St., Bayport, MN, 55003
Bunkers and Associates LLC, 6687 Forest St., Farmington, MN, 55024
Elert & Associates Networking Division Inc., 140 Third St., S., Stillwater, MN, 55082
Dedicated Commercial Recovery Inc., 2355 Highway 36, W., Suite 400, Roseville, MN, 55113
Questar Assessment Inc., 5550 Upper 147th St., W., Apple Valley, MN, 55124
GWG Life LLC, 220 S. Sixth St., Suite 1200, Minneapolis, MN, 55402

Bookstores, Book Sites: Can't We All Just Get Along?

Only recently have I realized that my love for books is different from my love for bookstores. In fact, I don't think my feelings on this matter had fully crystallized until a few weeks ago when **Amazon** announced the opening of its first real-world bookstore.



Charlie Bowen

Now, being a tenured techie, I suppose I just default to a smart salute whenever Amazon (or **Google** or **Apple** or even **Microsoft**) announces a new gizmo or jimcrack. Some boys never outgrow their toys. But with the news that Amazon, the e-commerce giant that has undercut the bookstore market — bringing down **Borders** and **Waldenbooks** in 2011 and now zeroing in on **Barnes & Noble** — was opening its first-ever, bricks-and-mortar store in Seattle's tony University Village area, the irony was unmistakable.

For 20 years Amazon admirers have said the very reason the goliath could undercut traditional retail bookstore chains was precisely because it didn't have physical locations to maintain. No foot traffic. No heating and cooling bills. No local regulations to decipher and abide by. In short: no annoying humans.

And, oh, admit it: We have loved what Amazon has given us. Hasn't it made books the ultimate impulse buys? You read about a new novel on **Flipboard**. You zip over to **amazon.com** and click a few links. In seconds, the book is winging its way to you while you are still in your pajamas, trying to decide what socks to wear today.

We confirmed bibliophiles have liked this convenience so much, in fact, that we have simply tried to ignore or forget certain troubling characteristics of our new digital friend, things like that worrisome quote that **The New Yorker** attributed to Amazon chief **Jeff Bezos** a while back: "Proceed as if your goal is to put everyone selling physical books out of a job."

And now, curiously, Amazon wants into the very business it has eschewed. But, of course, it says that its next big thing — its bookstore — will be a new kind of affair: a bookstore driven by data.

None of us knew exactly what that meant initially; however, once the Seattle store opened, we started to get the picture. For instance, signs around the aisles proclaimed that in-store prices were the same as those online. Great. Deals! But the prices were not apparent to the casual shopper, because no price tags were affixed to the books. Instead, to see a book's price, the shopper had to either (1) use an Amazon app to scan the cover of the book or its barcode on the back, (2) take the book to a price-checking station or (3) ask an employee to scan the book.

Okay, I'm decidedly pro-tech, but all this seems a little cold and counter-intuitive for a bookstore, where customers are accustomed to browsing prices as well as titles.

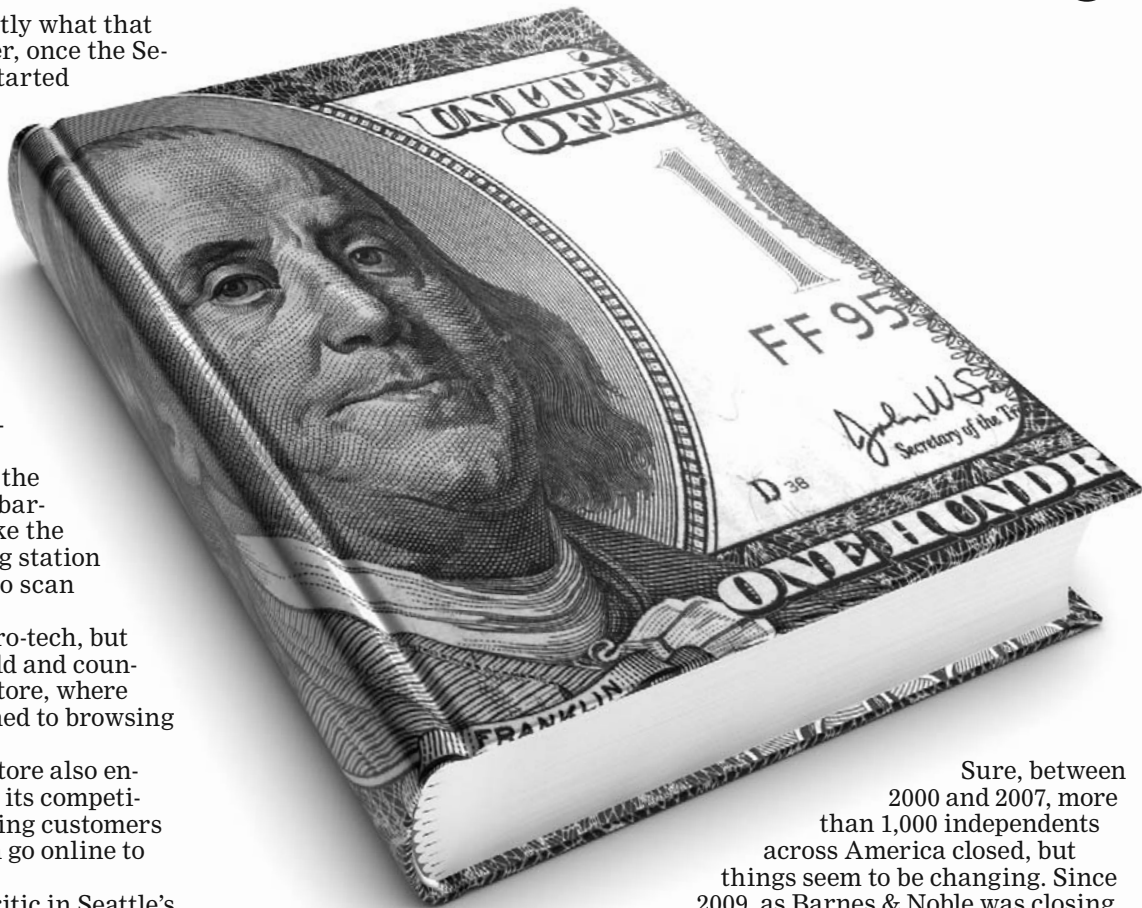
Meanwhile, the new store also encourages the very thing its competitors generally fear: Having customers browse in the store then go online to actually buy.

All this prompted a critic in Seattle's culture site City Arts (**cityartsonline.com**) to grouse, "For a place that wants to encourage community, the store prefers me staring at my phone. A lot."

"Community" is the watch word for many who rally to the cause of independent bookstores in their standing up to Amazon. That is particularly true of those who see a bright future for the indies if they can link community with the passions of their younger customers.

"If bookstores can provide a social outlet for young people — and sell a few things along the way — they'll be just fine," Washington, D.C. consultant **Dan Reed** recently told **The New York Times**. A local bookstore, he said, needs to be a "third place." Not home, not school, but somewhere to gather to see and be seen by friends. "The Internet," he added, "can't recreate the experience of reading a hilarious passage out loud while your friends are doubled over, red-faced with laughter."

But what about Amazon's reliance on its database of customer preferences? Could its new physical store use



its data resources to create a sense of community? Critics are skeptical.

"You, bookstore and manager, are your most important marketing element," CEO **Daniel Powell** of New York's **powerHouse Books** has advised fellow booksellers, adding, "Independent bookstores can blossom and grow by taking a cue from the strategic merchandising of the more successful retail boutiques: a carefully curated selection of offerings."

In fact, Powell told the Times, bookstores — as repositories of ideas and imagination — also have an advantage over general boutiques. "While you'd expect to be impressed in a well-curated boutique of useful or fanciful goods," he said, "you should expect to be transported and moved to own (and be owned!) in a well-curated indie bookstore. You don't get that in a warehouse or online."

Such optimism may be well placed. For all the mourning over Amazon's conquest of the book world, the numbers tell a different story when it comes to independent bookstores.

Sure, between 2000 and 2007, more than 1,000 independents across America closed, but things seem to be changing. Since 2009, as Barnes & Noble was closing nearly 75 stores, independent booksellers have seen a revival. During that same period, the **American Booksellers Association** reports a 27 percent increase in the number of independent bookstores, with sales outpacing the growth of book sales in general.

The reason?

Well, it's complicated, as we say online. "Every store has a different way of going about it," said **Andrew Unger**, an employee of Brooklyn's long-time family-owned **BookCount** store in Brooklyn. Speaking with **theweek.com** not long ago, Unger noted, "One thing we're just really grateful for is there's a community here that wants us to be here and so they make sure we're able to be here."

The bottom line seems to suggest that both models can coexist. Want a book in a hurry? Go to amazon.com. What to find a community of readers and sellers who know about good books? Oh! Let me tell you about this little bookstore I know.

Charlie Bowen is a writer, teacher and web designer. He lives in Huntington.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pipeline Benefits Far Outweigh Objections

Development of the Marcellus and Utica formations has caused an unprecedented increase in natural gas production. This increased production has resulted in a decrease in the price of natural gas, which has caused a decrease in severance taxes collected by the state. For the first two months of this year, severance taxes have fallen \$20 million below estimates. This has caused Gov. **Earl Ray Tomblin** to mandate cuts to projected general revenue expenditures for 2015-2016 by 4 percent and education by 1 percent.

Price of natural gas is driven by supply and demand. While there is great demand for natural gas in the north-

east and along the eastern seaboard, we do not have pipelines to get our gas to those locations. However, there are seven pipelines planned to service those areas. These pipelines are projected to cost \$16.4 billion and this cost will be paid from private funds. They will start in counties like Doddridge, Wetzel and Marshall. Some of these lines will run through national and state forests. Not only will they require federal and state approval, but they also will have to be approved by property owners through which the pipes must run. The pipes are estimated to be 1,900 miles in length and will range in size from 24 inches to 42 inches in diameter and carry 12.25 billion cubic feet, or more than four times the average amount of gas produced in West Virginia in all of 2014.

Construction of these lines will not

only provide a market for our oversupply of natural gas but also will provide thousands of dollars in additional severance taxes, construction jobs, development of the Marcellus and Utica formations and higher prices for natural gas, which will benefit operators and royalty owners.

While there are many benefits for constructing these lines, there is organized opposition to their completion. A recent article in the "**West Virginia Highlands Conservancy**" stated that the Conservancy has joined with the **Southern Environmental Law Center** and 25 other members of the **Allegheny Blue Ridge Alliance** in a letter to **H. Thomas Speaks Jr.**, supervisor of the **George Washington** and **Jefferson National Forests**, to request that the **Forest Service** support a comprehensive Environmen-

tal Impact Study for the gas pipelines that are proposed for the region. The groups also have filed their letter with the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**. Also, the FERC has refused to approve the use of eminent domain to gain access to property owners land for the purpose of surveying for the pipelines.

My view is that the benefits of these pipelines would far outweigh any objections that might be raised. I believe the land through which these pipelines pass will be reclaimed and there will be no permanent damage to the lands. In the early days of the oil and gas industry, landowners were paid \$1.25 per rod (16.5 feet) for pipelines going through their lands. Today that price has increased to more than \$1,000 per foot.

Delegate Frank Deem, R-Wood

What About the People at the End of the Pipe?

I, after reading the recent State Journal article about “Resistance on the Land,” was upset. I can empathize with the people who moved all of the way from Florida to farm in Virginia and were outraged to find out a natural gas pipeline was going go through their farm. The pipeline will no doubt be an inconvenience and a temporary nuisance. I get that. But the grass will grow back and they will have a habitat for cattle, deer or even wild turkeys on their farm. The pipeline buried underground will soon be a non-issue, just like the pipeline in my neighborhood. I bet those Virginia farmers never gave it a thought that there are real human beings on the end of that pipe who will need the natural gas in that pipe to keep warm and for electricity for their homes.

We have heard a lot from the “anti-” crowd that is against pipeline development. I hope these “antis” are just ignorant about energy and the importance of natural gas to people at the end of the pipe rather than being selfish or uncaring. Since I have a son and four grandchildren in Virginia, I will speak on their behalf.

Natural gas pipelines are being built for a reason. Southeast Virginia and North Carolina need the now abundant natural gas we are producing from the Marcellus and Utica. Last winter in the bitter cold, much of southeast Virginia was very close to being curtailed. Thanks to the EPA and the current administration in Washington, North Carolina has a number of coal-fired power plants

that will be shutting down. They will need to be replaced or a lot of people’s homes will be cold and dark. Natural gas power is the planned replacement. Maybe our Virginia farmers don’t care if a few old people freeze in the dark, as long as they are warm, cozy and not inconvenienced.

Wind and solar are not capable of replacing coal and natural gas. Both are expensive and aren’t available when we really need them. When people get home from work or school in the winter, they expect to have dinner and watch TV in a warm house. Solar doesn’t work in the dark and wind is intermittent. That means a cold, dark house. How many families can afford to have their electric bills quadruple? That would hurt all families — especially senior citizens, the poor and the middle class. My electric bill was almost \$500 a month last winter. Sadly, in my neighborhood we have no natural gas for our homes since our homes were built when natural gas was in short supply in the 1970s and 1980s. Hopefully that will change. My youngest son in Maryland heats with natural gas. His natural gas and electric bills last winter combined were never more than \$200 a month, and he has four kids. Natural gas rates are going down. Thanks to the EPA, our electric rates are increasing.

We have pipelines all over West Virginia, including in my neighborhood where the deer graze. I don’t see any environmental damage. With modern technology and using best practices, pipelines can be built with minimal environmental impact. Pipelines are one of the safest and most efficient ways to move energy. We know what can happen to railcars, trucks and ships. During the derecho a few years ago we lost our electricity for a week.

My friends with natural gas never lost electricity because they had generators powered by natural gas. When we lose electricity in the winter my friends with natural gas heat, like my youngest son, are still toasty warm.

My guess is that the pipeline “antis” never thought about where their energy comes from. I’m sure that they are driving cars or pickups instead of riding horses to their anti-pipeline rallies. I bet they all have computers, televisions and cellphones, which are possible because of petrochemicals from natural gas and oil. Natural gas may be heating their homes or creating the electricity they use to power their computers, pads or cellphones and maybe cook with.

My oldest son who has a home and four kids in Virginia is in the military and did three tours in the Middle East. Two years were making sure oil could move out of the Middle East so that the farm lady, her family and other Americans could drive their cars and pickups. On his last two-year tour, my son was in NCIS. We had no idea where he was or what he was doing. As parents we worried every day about his safety. I will gladly have a pipe across my property if it will keep my son home and out of harm’s way. Do the anti-pipeline people have any idea of the sacrifices our military and their families make so that they have the freedom to speak freely and protest the pipe that my son and his children will benefit from?

This is that special time of the year for us to give thanks. As Americans we have a lot to be thankful for. We are free. We are well off. Even our poor in the USA are rich by global standards. Our air and water are clean. We have abundant and affordable energy. Just eight years ago we

were in an energy crisis. Our freedom was in jeopardy because we were dependent on other countries for our energy. Thanks to American ingenuity and technology one of our greatest blessings is the gift of the Marcellus and the Utica Shale now the largest natural gas field in the world. Because of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, our gasoline prices are the lowest we have had in years. Natural gas, rather than being in short supply, now is abundant and cheap. Shouldn’t we share this gift with the rest of the country and the world? That requires pipelines.

Clean air and clean water are important for people and so is having affordable and dependable domestic energy. Pipeline companies should treat all surface owners with dignity and respect. They should use best practices and minimize environmental impact during construction. Pipelines do impact surface owners, as do interstate highways. I appreciate their sacrifice for the common good. We all need to do our part. We need to be educated about energy. We need to know the truth. Affordable, dependable domestic energy is critical to our children’s future. We can produce a lot of energy but it is worthless unless we can get it to where it is needed. That is why we need pipelines. To all of the surface owners who have pipelines on your property: thank you. Thoughts to ponder.

Greg Kozera of Elkview is a father and grandfather with 40 years of experience in the energy industry and is an expert in leadership. He has a Masters in Environmental Engineering from Marshall University. He is a high school coach, professional engineer, leadership speaker and coach as well as author of four books and numerous published articles. He can be reached at gregkozera.com.

Reports Linking Cancer, Meat Products Put Industry at Risk for Litigation

Meat lovers everywhere had a shock when reports linked red meats and processed meats to colorectal cancer.

On closer examination, the news isn’t so dire for those who enjoy their bacon and ham. However, the reports do open the meat processing industry to the risk of future product liability lawsuits.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the cancer research arm of the World Health Organization,

recently concluded that red meats and processed meats are associated with the development of colorectal cancer. The IARC’s evaluation follows a 2002 recommendation by the World Health Organization that people should moderate their consumption of red meats and processed meats in order to reduce the risk of developing colorectal cancer. The results of the IARC evaluation are, at first blush, alarming and could lead to significant product liability litigation against the manufacturers, producers and sellers of meat and meat processing products.

Based primarily upon epidemiological studies showing a link between colorectal cancer and the consumption of red meats and processed meats,

the IARC classified processed meats, defined as meat that has been transformed through salting, curing, fermentation, smoking or other processes to enhance flavor or improve preservation, as “carcinogenic to humans.” Red meats, defined as all muscle meat harvested from mammals, were classified as “probably carcinogenic to humans.” By classifying processed meats as “carcinogenic to humans,” the IARC has placed such products into the same category as cigarette smoke and asbestos. In addition to colorectal cancer, it observed an association between the consumption of processed meats and stomach cancer. Evidence of a link between the consumption of red meats and cancers of the pancreas and prostate also exist, according to the IARC.

While the IARC’s announcement is alarming on the surface, consumers should view it in its entire context. For example, sunlight is in the same category as cigarette smoke, asbestos and now processed meats for the connection to cancer. Additionally, the increase in the risk for developing cancer from consuming red meats and processed meats is relatively minor, especially when compared with products such as tobacco and asbestos. Although red meat has been classified as “probably carcinogenic to humans,” it has not been conclusively established as a cause of cancer, and the IARC has

specifically acknowledged that there are known health benefits to eating meat.

There is no doubt the IARC’s announcement places manufacturers, producers and sellers of meat products and products used in meat processing at an increased risk for product liability lawsuits. Producers and sellers of meat and meat processing products face strict products liability claims in lawsuits, which means the consumer doesn’t have to prove that defendant was negligent. They would merely have to prove that the meat products they consumed were defective when they left the control of the defendant and that the defect was a substantial contributing factor in their development of cancer. West Virginia law defines a defective product as one that “is not reasonably safe for its intended considering the general state of the art of the manufacturing process, including design, labels and warnings.” Product defects generally fall into three categories: design defect, structural defect and/or use defect arising out of the failure to adequately label, instruct or warn. In the context of potential litigation based upon the carcinogenicity of meat products, failure to warn claims are likely to be the most widely cited reasons for the lawsuit. Other causes of action that could potentially be used against the producers

and sellers of meat products include negligence, breach of warranty, misrepresentation and fraud. Class action litigation is also a possibility.

There is little doubt that the IARC’s classification of processed meats as carcinogenic and red meats as probably carcinogenic will spawn a new industry for plaintiff’s lawyers and medical experts willing to testify to juries about the causal relationship between the consumption of meat and their clients’ development of colorectal and other cancers. One needs to look no further than the prevalence of asbestos and tobacco litigation in West Virginia to see the potential for significant “meat litigation.” Since there are decidedly more meat-eaters than smokers and industrial workers, the potential for this type of litigation could be even larger. Those in the meat processing industry would be well advised to closely monitor legal and medical developments surrounding their additives and processing techniques.

Michael P. Addair has significant experience representing and counseling clients in a variety of litigation matters in state and federal courts, including deliberate intent litigation, products liability, mass torts, toxic torts, professional liability, employment law and general insurance defense. He also has represented and counseled clients regarding health and safety matters, including the defense of OSHA and MSHA citations.



Greg KOZERA



Michael ADDAIR

OPINION

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Classroom Numbers Indicate Bigger Issues

A few stories caught our eye last month that, at first glance, might not seem alarming, but could serve as a harbinger of what's to come for our state.

The governing body over high school sports has realigned the classification of a number of schools. The West Virginia

Secondary School Activities Commission announced it will move nine Class Triple A schools down to Class Double A for the 2016 season. Another six schools were dropped from Class Double A to Class Single A. Sadly, only one school in the entire state moved up, and that was from consolidation, not from true population gains.

Another note from the educational arena also was distressing. Our state's public school student enrollment dropped by nearly 2,760 students. That's more than double what it has been in the past two years, according to a study by the state Department of Education.

If schools are getting smaller and we have fewer students, it is not a stretch to see what this means for our state. The news is bad enough already. West Virginia has the highest unemployment rate in the country — 6.9 percent as of

October, compared with a national average of 5 percent. Local unemployment rates for some counties in the southern coalfields are as high as 13 percent.

We are bearing witness to the withering of entire communities. Never mind the tremendous amount of pride lost when football Friday is nothing more than a memory and the lynchpin of a town is mothballed or torn down. Quite simply, without people, these places don't have a future. How do we bring them back? Can we bring them back? The answer is: yes. We refuse to believe that this state's best days are behind us. There's no magic bullet that will fix everything and nothing is going to happen overnight, but we can do better.

As election season heats up and we hear more from those running for office, it is imperative we cast our votes for people who see what this state is up against and are actually willing to do something about it. There are no easy answers, but moving forward means facing down some serious challenges and not backing away from what has to be done. Our elected leaders seem to have a better grasp of this notion now and some strides have been made, but we cannot get complacent nor can we let political ideology slow us down. For far too long, too many had their heads in the sand. Now is the time to fight for a better West Virginia.

CONTACTUS

We welcome your comments on state government and business issues. To share your opinion:

■ **Email** it to aali@statejournal.com.

■ **Mail** it to Letters, The State Journal, P.O. Box 11848, Charleston, WV 25339-1848.

Our state's public school student enrollment dropped by nearly 2,760 students.



Vitality, Stagnation or Regression: Where is the State Bound?

“Vitality” and its synonym “dynamism” denote having a lively or energetic quality with a strong desire to make something happen in order to reverse or improve a current or anticipated adverse circumstance.

Their antonyms are “stagnation,” “apathy” and “complacency” — being content with how things are and not willing to try to make them

better now or later, marked by apathetic self-satisfaction. A more extreme variant is regression, a return to a less developed state.

Which of these contrasting characterizations best describe the overall state of affairs in West Virginia? Do we, its citizens and those beyond its borders, perceive the state as a place of vitality or dynamism? Or a place of stagnation, indifference and complacency? Or, worse still, a state moving in a backward direction?

There are bases for concern. About what? A statewide lack of a unified focus, citizen involvement and leadership in addressing some major issues and problems that presently or may in the future plague the state and the welfare of its citizens. The 2016 West Virginia Economic Outlook, published and written by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research of the **West Virginia University** College of Business and Economics, and information from other sources show depressing data about several topics: the state's economy, presently and forecasted; its demographics; its current and projected public revenues; its public health afflictions, such as substance abuse, tobacco use and obesity; its aged learning and teaching model in its public school system; and the exodus of its population, especially its young people. The data portray a dismal state of affairs for West Virginia.

This article, the first in a series, has undertaken to identify five major issues and problems that presently or may in the future plague the state and the welfare of its citizens. These issues and problems should be forcefully, comprehensively and rationally addressed now — not later.

Some of the most pressing is-

MAP to Prosperity

“Map to Prosperity” is a long-term project of The State Journal that will deeply examine government and business in West Virginia — both the perceptions and the reality. This project will look for meaningful ways to guide the state toward the real and lasting changes that could correct the course that has kept the state out of the reach of prosperity for many years.

If you would like to comment on the series or suggest ideas for future articles, drop us a line at news@statejournal.com or contribute to the conversation on social media with the hashtag #WVMap.

issues confronting the state relate to its:

■ **Economy** — Projecting and endeavoring to positively influence the economy of the state over the next several years is undoubtedly the most significant challenge confronting the state, especially in view of a likely major disruption in our historic source of jobs and public revenues — coal production. Where will future jobs in West Virginia come from?

■ **Budget** — Projecting the state's public revenues and expenditures throughout the next several years and the implications thereof deserve serious consideration.

■ **Public schools** — Based on research, commentaries and innovative practices of how kids best learn, retain and apply what they have learned, the time has come to determine whether the state's aged, public-school model of learning and teaching requires a thorough review and possibly a dramatic change, as opposed to mere tinkering with its present parts, as is our habit.

■ **Public health afflictions** — Optimal statewide, prioritized policies should be developed and implemented for coping with myriad human afflictions, the prevalence of which rank West Virginia negatively among the states, cause human suffering and inflict tolls on all of society, such as medical care, broken homes and crime. Three such afflictions are substance abuse, tobacco use and obesity.

■ **Egress of the state's younger citizens** — While lack of jobs, housing and good public schools for their children are contributing factors to the exodus, appropriate actions to improve the state's economy and public-school system, as well as to counter some of the state's public-health afflictions may help in stemming resident departures from the state, the subject of citizen egress is so important to the state's future it deserves a special place among the pressing problems facing the state that should be addressed.

Vitality, stagnation or regression. Whither is the State Bound? Which of these contrasting characterizations will best describe our future? Dynamism, apathy or a movement in a backward direction? Subsequent articles will consider in some detail each of the five challenges described above.

These and other unwholesome conditions that plague or may plague the state sap our vigor, deter economic growth, lessen public revenues and increase costs, cause untold miseries, stunt personal development and create negative perceptions of the state within and without, which cause a reversal of the desired people movements. Confronting the challenges of present and potential future issues will portray to us and to the nation that West Virginia is a spirited state, pulsating with life, vigor and activity to address its present and possibly future problems. “The society that doesn't elevate itself will decay.” — from a Kurdish poster.

“Nothing Happens” should cease being a negative description of a prevailing lack of interest, will and leadership that too many people perceive as impeding the state's development.

What will it take to convert our attitude from one of pessimism to one of optimism? From one of apathy to one of enthusiasm? From one of indifference to one of passion in our way of thinking and behaving in being involved in well-considered plans of actions to improve our state and our citizens' welfare? The answer: A mass of leaders and people like you who are willing to step up to the challenge.

Charles McElwee is a Charleston lawyer with the firm Robinson & McElwee PLLC. The views expressed are his own. Comments and suggestions are invited and may be emailed to yourcomments@ramlaw.com.

Book Illustrates State's Industrial Economy History

The **University of Illinois Press** series "The Working Class in American History" has just published another important book on West Virginia labor history that provides insights into how West Virginia's industrial economy developed in the rural counties surrounding greater Pittsburgh.



Brooks McCabe

"Smokestacks in the Hills: Rural-Industrial Workers in West Virginia" is excellent scholarship that will be of lasting value to labor

historians as well as business leaders interested in how past entrepreneurs were able to develop, in rural settings, nationally prominent manufacturing facilities in the steel and pottery industries and to do so in a manner that allowed for more local control of both the marketplace and the communities surrounding the industrial development. The author, **Lou Martin**, is a native of New Cumberland and received his Ph.D. in History from **West Virginia University**. Dr. Martin is an assistant professor and chairman of History/Political Science at **Chatham University** in Pittsburgh. Dr. Martin's personal knowledge of Hancock County and his understanding and appreciation of the longtime residents is evident throughout the book, which makes it much more than just a traditional labor history tome. Although this is a scholarly work of considerable repute, it is easy to read and is worth the attention of business leaders interested in the development of a distinctive economy in West Virginia.

"Smokestacks in the Hills" provides multiple insights into how Weirton, Chester and Newell each are different, while at the same time being atypical of the industrialization that transformed much of the more urban areas of the country. The rural and community values of the workforce provide the basis for much of the discussion. Their world view was much different than that of what is considered the norm in industrialized urban centers such as Pittsburgh and Chicago. **Ernest T. Weir** and **Joseph M. Wells** figure prominently in the discussion as **Weirton Steel** and **Homer Laughlin** were center stage in Hancock County's industrial development. These business leaders wanted a different

backdrop from the more developed Pittsburgh and East Liverpool, Ohio industrial settings that were, at the dawn of the 20th Century, the dominant centers of manufacturing in their respective industries.

To quote from the author's introduction, "As rural people joined the industrial workforce, they adapted to the dictates of industrial capitalism — as millions of others did — but with access to land in and around these steel and pottery towns, they were able to preserve far more of their rural habits than rural migrants who moved into the city. The resulting rural working-class culture privileged place and local community over class, and they were never fully integrated into the national labor movement. While many urban-industrial workers preached the gospel of unionism, the rural-industrial workers of Hancock County worked to place limits on the power of unions and credited companies and self-help activities for their improved standard of living."

The rural-industrial model worked well during the Great Depression and the labor strife that followed. The workers in Hancock County supplemented shortened work hours with produce from their gardens and meat from livestock that they raised or from hunting and fishing in the surrounding countryside. These options were less

available to urban-industrial workers. With localized bargaining units, the rural-industrial workers did not participate in the labor strikes that weakened the family finances of their urban cohorts. Through their identification with the land, home place, family, and community, they "made do." The rural-industrial model worked well through the first half of the past century. Changes started to develop with World War II and the entrance of women into the workplace. The adjustment back to a male-dominated workplace, especially in the steel mills, occurred in the post-war years. Equality in the workplace came with the Brown v. Board of Education decision and a decade later with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Free Trade under **Eisenhower** further complicated matters, first for the pottery industry and later the steel industry. At the same time the workforce became more inclusive, and the jobs in the two industries began to contract. With this and the changes of cultural norms nationally, the rural-industrial model in Hancock County began to lose its luster. The recent history of manufacturing in Hancock County is not pleasant and is best illustrated by the fact that the largest employer in the county is now **Mountain Casino Racetrack & Resort**. "Smokestacks in the Hills" artfully illustrates how entrepreneurs of the last cen-

tury created a rural-industrial model that worked for three generations and brought many families into main street America. As West Virginia faces challenges just as difficult as Weir and Wells found 100 years ago, the current generation of entrepreneurs must find ways to train and redirect West Virginia's workforce so as to capture the value of the culture, work ethic and independence for which West Virginians are known. "Smokestacks in the Hills" is not only a testament to the rural nature and character of West Virginia and its people, but it also is a demonstration that business leaders in this state can find alternative ways to compete in national and global markets. Lou Martin has written a book that should be assigned reading in any graduate business degree program in West Virginia. The assignment to the soon-to-be-minted entrepreneurs should be, "Weir and Wells found a model of industrial development uniquely fitted to West Virginia's strengths 100 years ago; how we can recreate such a model for the 21st century?"

Brooks McCabe has been active in commercial real estate for 35 years. He is a former state senator and current West Virginia Public Service Commissioner. He is also a special project consultant to The State Journal on business and economic development issues. His comments herein are his alone.



Social Security: Let The US Government Consider it a Roth IRA

Words change over time. Not their spelling, so much, but the connotations they convey are not constant. One that rankles me is "entitlement." It may rankle other Baby Boomers, too, that an earned right, or entitlement, is now considered a selfish benefit provided to us by a benevolent government via **Social Security**.



Charles FOX

Having grown up working on the family farm, I was never paid enough to require Social Security withholding from my wages. My first **FICA** confiscations

began in 1968. The absolute amount and the percentage confiscated continued to rise with regularity until my retirement in 2011.

I calculated the sum of retirement money I would have amassed over my 43 years of forced contributions. A crude calculation, which includes employer and self employment tax, and using a very conservative 4 percent interest, un compounded, yields a nest egg of \$300,000. Actually, the real yield throughout this era would have been double that.

What became of my "entitlement"? Why is Social Security supposedly going broke? Could it be that our earned entitlement became the largest hog trough in the history of our na-

tion? The trust fund went from being a lock box to being a gift box for federal budgeteers. Later, it became a source of welfare funding via such programs as SSI. Who knows how much money is paid out to folks who have not paid in?

A real crazy maker to me is the exemption of federal employees from Social Security participation. The U.S. government is one of the largest employers in our country. This vast army of employees probably could stabilize the Social Security fund with the large confiscations (oops!), I meant contributions, their inclusion in the program would generate. Plus, can you imagine any member of **Congress** or the administration having the nerve to tell

this group "your entitlement must be reduced?"

If we are going to accept that federal welfare, aid or other support programs are entitlements, then let's call Social Security what it should be: an earned benefit. I am willing to calculate the worth my account would have amassed and accept that in a single untaxed payment and not expect any more from Social Security. Let Uncle Sam consider it a Roth IRA.

Charles R. Fox of Wheeling is author of "Fox Tales by Charlie." He continues to utilize the book as part of training seminars and write opinion pieces. He can be reached at foxtales_crf@yahoo.com.



Students Try City Planning

Architects, preservationists and city planners aren’t usually just born with a burning desire for those professions, so the **Charleston Area Alliance** works with **Energy Corporation of America** to let middle school students see what it’s like to carry out city planning in the Mountain State’s biggest city.

About 80 eighth graders from **Horace Mann, John Adams and Stonewall Jackson** middle schools got a hands-on lesson in city planning with professional volunteers who taught the students about architecture, community revitalization, safety and preservation.

“It is important to introduce the concept of community planning to these students so they may have a better understanding of how their community works or doesn’t work,” said **Susie Salisbury**, Charleston Area Alliance vice president of Community Development. “We will witness a lot of ‘ah-ha’ moments with the students, especially when they role play toward the end of the day.”

Students were expected to understand how topography and economics impact communities, what infrastructure is imperative for a community to function and what amenities can enhance the quality of life among other aspects related to successful community planning.

“We are hoping that through this experience students will consider a career path in city planning, archi-

The Buzz

ecture, local government or preservation,” Salisbury said. “Plus, it is a really fun age for this type of interactive exercise as most students aren’t shy and there is never a dull moment.”

BCBank Donates Funds for Facility

BCBank recently announced a donation of as much as \$1.75 million to the **Promise Foundation of Barbour County**, a 501C3 nonprofit organization that will use the funds to construct a community athletic and activities facility at **Philip Barbour High School’s** George Byrer Field.

It is the largest single donation ever by a community bank of its size in West Virginia. BCBank has made an additional \$250,000 available in the form of a challenge grant, so if all \$250,000 is matched, the fund will total \$2 million, which is the cost of construction. Anyone interested in donating to the Foundation for the facility construction can contact BCBank board of directors member **Brian Talbott** at 304-614-2630. The facility, to be named BCBank Park, will include an artificial turf playing and performance field, eight lane track, new field house, concession stand and restroom facilities. The project is to be completed by fall 2016 for Philip Barbour High School’s first football game of the season.

“Collectively, we feel it is our responsibility to make more than a contribution,” said **Jeffrey Goff**, president and CEO of BCBank. “We need to give back to the community that has supported BCBank for 45 years.

“It’s about mission, not margin, and our kids and the community deserve nothing less.” BCBank has three branch offices in Philippi, Nutter Fort and Fairmont.



Cabell Huntington Hospital Honored

Cabell Huntington Hospital Home Health recently announced it had received the 2015 HomeCare Elite recognition from the **OCS HomeCare National Research Corporation** and **DecisionHealth** for the 10th year in a row.

“Home health agencies deliver critical health care to our nation’s elderly and disabled populations,” OCS HomeCare Product Development Vice President **Christine Lang** said in a news release. “These important clinical and therapy services enable many individuals to remain safely at home. It is an honor to acknowledge providers that deliver the highest quality and most compassionate care for their communities.”

Andra Hardin, director of Home Health at CHH, said the designation 10 years in a row shows that CHH is dedicated to delivering top quality health care to the community.

HomeCare Elite identifies the top 25 percent of all Medicare-certified agencies and highlights the nation’s top 100 and top 500 agencies. Winners are ranked by analyzing performance measures in quality outcomes, best practices implementation, patient experience, quality improvement and consistency and financial performance.

“There were over 12,000 agencies

that were considered this year and only the top 25 percent received this designation,” Hardin said. “This acknowledges the best of the home care profession and that includes us.”

CHH is among 131 organizations that have been HomeCare Elite every year since the inception of the award in 2006.

Bayer CropScience Donates to WVSU

West Virginia State University President **Brian O. Hemphill** recently joined the **WVSU Foundation** to announce a \$600,000 gift from **Bayer CropScience**.

The contribution will be used for campus security and related enhancements to benefit students, faculty and staff at the university’s Institute campus.

“We often refer to our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends as ‘the State family’ and we work for what is best for them,” Hemphill said. “With this contribution, Bayer CropScience is enabling us to further improve our campus for each member of the State family, and I am grateful to the entire Bayer CropScience team for that.”

Among the enhancements the university plans to pursue will be a diesel generator, an additional University Public Safety Officer, new police cruisers and a surveillance camera system to help safeguard students, staff, faculty and visitors on campus.

“The Institute site has enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the university through scholarship contributions and numerous engagement opportunities,” said **Connie Stewart**, who leads the health, safety and environment efforts at the Institute site for Bayer CropScience. “Our contribution today is a continuation of that relationship and a demonstration of our continued commitment to the success of the university and the education of its students.”

Creative Gift Giving Can Outshine Stretched Budgets

The holidays approach at warp speed. I have begun thinking about the people to whom I give gifts and what I should give: something I’ve loved and enjoyed this year or something I know that they will want or love. It’s a tough choice.

My daughter is the best gift giver I know. Of course, she is a psychotherapist; she gets into people’s heads and is paid for it. But she is uncanny at picking out presents for me that strike just the right note — not too expensive, but perfect. Like the ocean glass magnets she gave me one year, the lime green paper towels (love lime green), the clock she made me, trimmed with wampum from my driveway on Martha’s Vineyard.



Lynne SCHWABE

Word of Mouth

I like to think I am a good gift giver as well. I saved, and saved and saved for the espresso machine that she wanted. She’s been really happy and over-caffeinated ever since. She loves her smart toaster oven I gave her. Giving gifts to her is easy because she does tell me exactly what she wants. She also tells me what to get my darling grandbaby ... which is very helpful.

My companion also is good at really giving something that the receiver wants: cookbooks, the occasional jewel and always books and more books, because he knows how much I love to read. If I got 25 books for Christmas, I would be the happiest girl (read: old woman, hoping she can remember them after she re-reads them).

There are easy hits: you know seven of your friends love books, so

that’s what you give, hoping they will like your selection. You have friends who cook; that cookbook you do each year works for them. But occasionally there are unbalanced gifts: a couple that was very good friends of ours gave me and my ex-husband a week’s stay in a villa in Italy they had rented for a month. I gave them a lovely fruit basket.

And, lest I remind you dear readers, I worked in retailing for years. The challenge was always helping husbands find the right thing for their wives/girlfriends/secretaries, etc. Like the time a very important state dignitary asked me to find gifts for his personal assistant and his wife. The gift wrapper got the boxes mixed up. The secretary was thrilled; his wife not so much. I apologized for 17 years after that.

But there were the really good experiences. Dr. **Walter Ramsey** is one of the most creative gift-givers I know. He knows his wife’s taste and is enthusiastic about shopping for her. This alone puts him in a class by himself. One year he came into the store and spotted a black angora sweater he just had to have for his wife. He said, “Don’t wrap it yet.” The following day

he came into the store carrying one of his pressed shirts. His instructions were to carefully conceal the sweater inside his shirt so that he could take it on a trip they were taking and he could surprise her. Walt remains the most creative and engaged customer I have ever dealt with.

And, what do you do if your resources are slim, as mine seem to be all the time these days? What friends will like popsicle stick hot plates or hot pads woven out of those colored things that look like worms? One friend of mine (who is not financially disadvantaged) sends Christmas cards every year on which she pastes pictures of her friends’ heads on the angel’s bodies. It’s a little macabre, but very cute. It’s always a thrill to get these cards.

So, I am confronted by the choice. My companion wants a \$3,000 bicycle I can’t afford. I want to give him a much less expensive quilted leather jacket. Perhaps I should jettison the bike and the leather jacket and just go directly to potholders.

Lynne D. Schwabe is the director of development for the National Youth Science Foundation. She can be reached at schwabestatejournal@gmail.com.

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WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25:
Stedman Bailey Shot Twice, in Critical Condition

FRIDAY, NOV. 27:
Parks Officials Want Consumers to Opt for Outdoors

MONDAY, NOV. 30:
Jefferson County Voters to Decide on Schools Levy

TUESDAY, DEC. 1:
Groups Seek a Say with US Regulators on W.Va., Va. Pipeline

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Send your events and announcements for inclusion in the Calendar of Events to Mike Ruben at mruben@statejournal.com.

DEC. 4

WVSO SHOWS

“Home for the Holidays” with Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith, tenor, is planned by the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Concerts are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at the WVU Creative Arts Center in Morgantown as well as 8 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Clay Center in Charleston and 3 p.m. Dec. 6 at Blennerhassett School in Parkersburg. Call 304-561-3570 for ticket information.

CASS CHRISTMAS

Main Street of Cass in Pocahontas County will be decorated for Christmas through Dec. 31. The official lighting of the town tree will occur at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 11 with Santa helping with the festivities. Visit cassrailroad.com or call 304-456-4300 for event information.

DEC. 5

1870 MANSION

Adaland Mansion’s annual Christmas Open House is from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Dec. 5 in Philippi. This free event invites guests to meander throughout the house and enjoy the multiple Christmas trees and Victorian-inspired decorations. Light refreshments will be for sale in the dining area of the 1870 restored home. A buffet dinner will be served from 1-4 p.m. Dec. 6.

To make reservations for the buffet dinners or the buffet tea, call 304-457-1587.

DEC. 6

‘MONONGAH REMEMBERED’

The Marion County community of Monongah will honor the miners who lost their lives in the 1907 explosion in an event from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Dec. 6 at the town hall. There will be a ringing of the bell, speakers, music and showing of the film “Monongah Remembered.”



BRASS BAND

The River City Brass Band of Pittsburgh, along with the Wheeling Jesuit University Symphonic Band and a new a cappella group, will host a concert at 3 p.m. Dec. 6 inside Troy Theater on the WJU campus. The show,



Photo courtesy of The Charleston Ballet

“All About the Bass,” is a family-friendly concert with favorite carols, as well as Christmas hits.

DEC. 9

‘HOLIDAZE’

“Cirque Dreams Holidaze” will be on stage at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9-10 at the WVU Creative Arts Center in Morgantown. Call 304-293-7469 for information and tickets.

DEC. 10

CAPITOL STEPS

Carnegie Hall presents The Capitol Steps at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10 in Lewisburg. Concertgoers may enjoy food and beverage before the show in the Mainstage Lounge. The Capitol Steps are a troupe of Congressional staffers-turned-comedians who travel satirizing the very people and places that once employed them.



DEC. 11

‘THE NUTCRACKER’

The Charleston Ballet and the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra will present “The Nutcracker” at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11 and Dec. 12. A matinee is scheduled at 2 p.m. Dec. 12. All performances are at the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in Charleston. Call the box office at 304-561-3570 for ticket information.

DINNER THEATER

“The Gift of the Magi” is a Winterfest dinner theater production at 6 p.m. Dec. 11-12 at Cedar Lakes Conference Center near Ripley. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased in advance at the Covered Bridge Café & Gift Shop at Cedar Lakes. A buffet dinner will be served. Call 304-372-7860 for information.

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Be sure to order your copy of The State Journal’s “55 Good Things About West Virginia” magazine to display year-round.

Copies of the annual publication that highlights many of the Mountain State’s hidden and not-so-hidden gems, from people and places to non-profit organizations and traditions, can be ordered online.

This year’s feature offers one profile from each of the state’s 55 counties, as well as six “Hall of Fame” honorees, to recognize previous “55 Good Things” that continue to be great.

Details can be found at shop.statejournal.com

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

	6			7		3	
		2		1		9	
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4			7		1		
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12/6/15

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Level:

1	2
3	4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

9	7	8	1	5	6	4	3	2
1	5	2	4	3	9	7	6	8
6	3	4	2	7	8	9	1	5
4	6	5	7	9	2	1	8	3
3	2	1	5	8	4	6	7	9
8	9	7	3	6	1	5	2	4
5	1	3	9	2	7	8	4	6
7	8	9	6	4	3	2	5	1
2	4	6	8	1	5	3	9	7

NOURISHING THE SOUL.

The new Art Museum of West Virginia University fuels inspiration and ignites creativity. From contemporary art to timeless masterpieces, it holds the cultural offerings and imaginations of our region. Step inside and be transformed by the power of art.

