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U honored for support of Special Olympics

OLYMPIC OVERTURES--Supporters of the 1998 summer Special Olympics games received a special thank you from state representatives at Mountaineer Field's Puskar Center on Monday. Displaying their plaque are, from left, Chris Burge, West Virginia Special Olympics executive director; Dana Dorcas, United States Cellular area general manager; and Mike Parsons, WVU assistant athletic director. More than 1,000 athletes and almost as many volunteers participated in the May games held for the first time at WVU.

Photo by Greg Ellis

A special presentation was made Monday to WVU, United States Cellular and other sponsors for their support of the 1998 West Virginia Special Olympics Summer Games.

Dana Dorcas, United States Cellular's area general manager, Chris Burge, West Virginia Special Olympics executive director; Ed Pastilong, Athletic director; and Mike Parsons, assistant athletic director, were on hand.

The 1998 West Virginia Special Olympics summer games were held at WVU May 29-31 for the first time. More than 1,000 special needs athletes from 35 counties competed in six sporting events. United States Cellular was a major sponsor of the event, helping with communication and financial support.

"Without the support of WVU and corporations such as United Cellular, our Special Olympics athletes would not be able to compete in these events," said Burge.

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PEIA head: Indemnity plan hike coming in '99

By Amy Quigley

Indemnity plan members can probably expect a large, one-time increase in premiums next July because the Public Employees Insurance Agency is facing a \$46 million shortfall, PEIA Director Robert Ayers told a classified staff group Tuesday at Snowshoe.

Almost all other states have eliminated indemnity plans because they contain no major cost controls, Ayers said at the Advisory Council for Classified Employees' annual retreat.

Besides spiraling costs, PEIA must deal with state policy permitting retirees to buy health insurance with unused sick leave. West Virginia is the only state in the nation with such a policy. PEIA's current outstanding liability in this regard is \$140 million, and it is rapidly increasing as an aging population begins to retire in large numbers. In fact, Ayers said, if every employee who is eligible for retirement in the next 10 years does retire, there will be an active retiree for every active employee in the system.

As an alternative, he said, some states put money for each sick day into an account where it is invested and earns interest tax-free until retirement. Retirees can use the account money to pay any medically-related expense.

West Virginia's relatively unhealthy population also increases costs, Ayers said. For that reason, the Agency has cut administrative costs on a pilot wellness program in order to take it statewide. It will focus mainly on routine screenings, weight loss and smoking cessation, he said, though anti-smoking drugs will not be included.

Next year's projected \$46 million shortfall will require some combination of higher premiums, higher employer contributions and lower provider reimbursement, Ayers said.

He also hopes to save \$20-25 million in "coordinated benefit changes," meaning that while patients could still choose any physician, they would receive a higher reimbursement of costs when choosing less expensive local providers. Ayers stressed that this would only apply when the quality of care would be the same.

"There is no chance that we will put someone's health in jeopardy in order to save a buck," he said.

Another of Ayers' top priorities is to address out-of-control prescription drug costs. Providers need to learn more about generics and other alternatives, he said, noting that indemnity plan members' number one prescribed drug is the heavily advertised, highest-end drug for acid reflux. Less expensive drugs may work for many people, Ayers said.

PEIA is changing to a July-June plan year to coincide with the fiscal year. During open enrollment this fall, employees will choose health insurance for January-June only; another open enrollment period will enable employees to make choices for July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. Ayers said the large premium increases will probably take place on July 1, 1999. After that, he hopes to have a defined plan for how much premiums will increase annually.

Health Maintenance Organization premiums will probably not increase very rapidly, Ayers said.

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MONKEY BUSINESS -- Kim Miller of Action Animals shows Taylor Goodwin, a 16-month-old patient from Fairmont, a monkey during a visit to WVU Children's Hospital last Friday. Miller's company provided the animals for wildlife expert Jim Fowler. The duo also spoke and displayed animals at the WVU Child Development Center.

Photo by Bob Beverly

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Meeting set on Wise library addition project

By **Jim Davis**

WVU faculty, staff and students will have a chance to learn first-hand where things stand on a new addition to Wise Library and other renovations at a public meeting on the \$26.5 million project Wednesday, July 29, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Mountainlair Shenandoah Room.

Architects with Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott of Boston and Hayes Large Architects of Altoona, Pa., will be on hand to describe the scope of the project and go over plans they have prepared so far, Senior Associate Provost Nancy Lohmann said.

"We're encouraging faculty, staff, students and the general public to attend to learn more about the plans and to offer their suggestions," Dr. Lohmann said.

The 114,000-square-foot addition will occupy a portion of the lawn in front of the existing library and be connected to the structure. The facility will provide space for both printed material and computer-stored information. It will integrate state-of-the-art technology, facilitate information exchange and house group study rooms.

Construction on the addition should start next summer. The spring of 2001 is the target date for completion of both the addition and renovations.

U names interim dean of Libraries

By **Karen Zeller**

Myra Lowe has been named interim dean of University Libraries, effective today, WVU Provost Gerald Lang announced last week.

Lowe has been head of WVU's Charles C. Wise Jr. Library Reference Department since 1989. She will temporarily replace Ruth Jackson, who announced recently that she is leaving that position. A national search for a permanent replacement will begin later this fall.

"We are pleased that Ms. Lowe has accepted our invitation to temporarily lead one of WVU's most important units—its libraries," Lang said. "I am confident that her years of experience and commitment to excellence make her well-suited to this leadership position."

At WVU, Lowe was a senior reference librarian from 1978-89 and an assistant acquisitions librarian from 1972-75.

Lowe earned a bachelor's degree from Marshall University in 1969 and a master's in library science from the University of Michigan in 1972. She also earned a master's degree in business administration from WVU in 1980 and 1983.

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Upper 'Lair lot to be closed week of Aug. 3

By **Jim Davis**

The upper level of the Mountainlair parking garage will be closed the week of Aug. 3 for maintenance and repairs, WVU's parking office has announced.

The 340-space garage will reopen Monday, Aug. 10, as an automated "pay-and-display" facility, said Jim Enoch, assistant director of parking.

Under the new system, people will drive into the garage, find a space and park. Then they will go to one of four machine-operated pay stations, select the amount of time they want to park and enter the appropriate amount of money. The machine will then issue a receipt for parkers to display on the dashboards of their vehicles.

The permit parking area on the lower level of the garage will remain unchanged.

When the garage reopens, vehicles will exit the upper level by way of North High Street, Enoch said. No traffic will be permitted to leave the upper level via College Avenue.

The parking office will also lower the two-hour parking rate in the garage from \$1.25 to \$1.

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DeMoss named director of food service

Jeff DeMoss, interim associate director of the University's food service units for the past year, has been named director of Dining Services, Vice President for Student Affairs Ken Gray announced last week.

DeMoss came to WVU in September 1995 from Washington College in Chestertown, Md., as assistant director of the Mountainlair.

He has been with dining services since August 1997.

As director, DeMoss will report to Gray through assistant vice president of business operations Amir Mohammadi. He will oversee a \$9 million budget and over 250 full- and part-time employees at WVU's five residential dining units, four cash operations, campus catering unit and athletic training table.

"Jeff DeMoss has been innovative and creative in developing menu selections and remodeling programs to fit the needs of WVU's varied customer base of students, parents, employees and special visitors," Gray said.

"I look forward to working with Jeff in his new capacity as director," Mohammadi added. "His leadership and creativity will ensure excellent service to our customers."

DeMoss is a member of many professional organizations, including the National Association of College and University Food Services.

He is a graduate of Concordia University in Illinois and did graduate work at Bowie State University.

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State firefighters to train at WVU this month

By Grace Truman

By July 26, more than 300 firefighters and emergency workers from throughout West Virginia will be better prepared to respond to life-or-death scenarios in their communities.

That's the date they will complete seven days of study and hands-on training at the West Virginia State Fire School. The intensive educational program is scheduled July 20-26 at the State Fire Training Center at WVU.

"This program gives firefighters and emergency responders the opportunity to learn new skills and the latest firefighting, investigation and rescue techniques," said J.T. Hodges, WVU Fire Service Extension interim director.

Classes scheduled throughout the week explore a broad range of emergency situations and response tactics. From basic fire training offered at two skill levels, students can advance to sessions on structural firefighting, arson detection, tactical operations, explosives recognition, bomb investigations and fireworks safety. Use of specialized equipment is the focus of other classes.

Also available are courses to prepare firefighters to become officers and public safety educators.

Rescue training will include vehicular rescues involving air bags, confined space rescues, basic water rescue, swift water rescues and technical rope rescues.

Instructors hail from WVU Fire Service Extension, the State Fire Marshal's Office and the National Fire Academy. They also include experienced firefighters and officers.

This program is sponsored annually by WVU, the West Virginia State Fire Commission, the Fire Industrial Rescue Education Technical Assistance Center (FIRETAC) and higher education agencies and various industries throughout the state.

The Morgantown facility has housed this and other training programs for more than 40 years. WVU plans to build a new training center at the Jackson's Mill 4-H Camp and Conference Center near Weston soon.

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Staff discuss catastrophic leave policy

By **Jim Davis**

WVU's catastrophic leave policy dominated discussion at yesterday's Staff Council meeting. Hayward Helmick, council president, said he would contact Myrtho Blanchard, director of the Department of Human Resources, to arrange a meeting to discuss several cases that arose during the discussion.

"It's a very awkward, serious situation because it affects everybody," Helmick said.

Blanchard appeared before council earlier in the meeting and said the University followed medical information, policies and precedents in making a decision in one recent case.

"We made the decision based on what the policies are," Blanchard said without discussing the particulars of the case.

Gary Boyd, who serves on the catastrophic leave committee, said there needs to be better communication where the policy is concerned and urged council to maintain a presence on the committee.

Boyd defended the stance he took on the case, even though it has led to a review of his status as a committee member. He also refused to mention the specific case.

Following the discussion, council unanimously approved a motion instructing the welfare committee to review the catastrophic leave policy and report back to the council.

In other business, council elected officers for the 1998-99 fiscal year.

Re-elected by acclamation were Helmick, president; Terry Nebel, vice president; Wayne Helmick, parliamentarian; and Linda Campolong and Linda Adams, executive committee members at-large. Jo Morrow was re-elected secretary/treasurer over Jay Trickett. Morrow received 12 votes; Trickett, nine.

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U to host 18th annual program for youth on health science careers

Statewide youth in grades 7-9 who are interested in health- related careers are invited to the West Virginia University campus on July 24 to participate in the University's annual health sciences seminar.

The program, now in its 18th year, encourages young students to examine career opportunities in health sciences and provides them with the educational qualifications to enter those professions.

Previously, African American students and other minority groups, as well as students of low-income families were targets of the program. However, any interested students—particularly those proficient in mathematics or science—can now attend.

The seminar is free. For information, call Tyehimba Jess at the Center for Black Culture and Research, 293-7029.

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Knotts ceremony set

A ceremony to officially create Don Knotts Boulevard will take place Monday, July 20, at 11 a.m. at the park on South Univesity Avenue near the lock and dam.

The celebration will include remarks from Knotts, a television and movie actor and WVU alumnus. County Commission President John Pyles will perform a patriotic medley, and Don Knotts' friend Dr. Richard Ferraro will play the banjo.

Attendees will include state Sens. Michael Oliverio and Roman Prezioso and state Secretary of Transportation Sam Bonasso.

While in town, Knotts will also be a guest at a Neurological Injury Prevention Program at Lakeview Resort and Conference Center tomorrow night at 5:30 p. m.. Info: 598-1100.

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Campus Calendar

**Thursday, July 16**

Small Business Development Center Reception—with guest Gov. Cecil Underwood, 4:30 p.m., Erickson Alumni Center.

West Virginia Public Theatre—*Singing in the Rain*, 8 p.m., CAC Concert Theatre.

Health Sciences Center—Ruby Memorial Birthday Celebration, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Health Sciences Center—Pump and Circulate, Carmine D'Amico, DO, Cardiology & Kenneth Granke, MD, Cardiovascular Surgery, Ruby Memorial Hospital, 4th Floor, Conference Rooms 7 & 8.

Governor's Honor Academy—Continues through July 26.

New Student Orientation—Continues through July 23.

Friday, July 17

Presentation—*Relationships the Easy Way*, guest Speaker: George Pranskys, author of *The Relationship Handbook* and *The Renaissance of Psychology*, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., HSC Main Auditorium.

WVU Health Sciences Center Main Auditorium West Virginia Public Theatre—*Singing in the Rain*, 8 p.m., CAC Concert Theatre.

Neurological Injury Prevention Banquet— with guest Don Knotts, 5:30 p.m., Lakeview Resort and Conference Center.

Health Science Center—Ruby Memorial's Employee Appreciation Day. Food, music, prizes and dunking booth, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., hospital parking lot.

Health Science Center—Cancer Care, 7 p.m., Conference Rooms 7&8.

Saturday, July 18

West Virginia Public Theatre—*Singing in the Rain*, 8 p.m., CAC Concert Theatre.

Health Science Center—Dance for hospital employees, 7 p.m.-1 a.m., Lakeview Resort.

Sunday, July 19

West Virginia Public Theatre—*Singing in the Rain*, 2&8 p.m., CAC Concert Theatre.

Health Science Center—Tours, 3-5 p.m., Reception and dinner, WVU Puskar Center, 5 p.m.

Monday, July 20

Doctoral Examination—*Evaluation of Temporal Variations in Flow Patterns on Capacity Simulations for Underground Coal Mine Belt Systems*, Xueming Wang, 8:30 a.m., Mineral Resources Building.

Naming Ceremony for Don Knotts Blvd.—11 a.m., South University Ave. near the lock and dam.

West Virginia State Fire School—State Fire Training Center, Monongahela Boulevard. Continues through July 26.

Tuesday, July 21

West Virginia Public Theatre—*Kiss Me Kate*, 8 p.m., CAC Concert Theatre.

Wednesday, July 22

West Virginia Public Theatre—*Kiss Me Kate*, 2&8 p.m., CAC Concert Theatre.

Thursday, July 23

West Virginia Public Theatre—*Kiss Me Kate*, 8 p.m., CAC Concert Theatre.

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Campus Scene

News and Notes

Underwood to attend reception

Gov. Cecil Underwood, the first director of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), will attend an informal SBDC Small Business Appreciation Reception Thursday, July 16, at 4:30 p.m. at Erickson Alumni Center.

The reception will be one of six around the state featuring Underwood, a long-time supporter of small business in West Virginia.

The SBDC, a division of the West Virginia Development Office, works with colleges and universities to provide free business counseling and technical assistance at 12 locations throughout West Virginia.

To register, call 367-2712.

Catastrophic leaves sought

Luann Sturms and Franklin Hovatter have been approved for catastrophic leave. To donate leave, call Benefits at 293-5480.

Author of WVU Press book to attend book signings

The author of *The 55 West Virginias: A Guide to the State's Counties* will be signing copies of his book, published by West Virginia University Press, today and tomorrow.

E. Lee North will attend book signings today from 1-5 p.m. at the Book Exchange downtown and tomorrow from 10 a.m.-noon at the WVU Bookstore near the Mountainlair. He will also be signing books at the Evansdale Book Exchange from 1-5 p.m.

Committee seeks members

Employees interested in serving WVU's Staff Council Recognition Committee for a two-year term can call Mickey Howell at 293-6997 or email mhowell@info.news.wvu.edu.

Classified Clips

Enrollment for July and August Training and Development workshops began Wednesday, July 15. Workshops include:

- Motivation: What Every Supervisor Should Know
- Helping Students and Employees in Crisis
- ExCEL Toward Quality Service
- Effective Grievance Handling
- ExCEL Toward Success!
- Building Group Esteem

- Professional Telephone Skills

Classified staff can call 293-7217 between 8:15-4:45 p.m. to enroll. Registration is required. Consult the new T&D Workshop Catalog for dates, times, locations and additional information. The catalog can be viewed at: www.wvu.edu/~humares/td.htm

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