



Signing Times

February 2007

Would you like to contribute to this newsletter?

We are looking for stories, upcoming deaf club events and any other news of interest to the deaf and hard of hearing in West Virginia. Our newsletter is published in February, May, August and November. Send story ideas, event announcements, etc. by e-mail or regular mail to:

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Call us on Sorenson
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304-558-2923 or

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304-558-1031

Romney Subway Makes Ordering Easier

Ordering food from the drive-through lane at the Subway in Romney, West Virginia, just became easier for deaf customers. The Romney Subway, owned by Tom Murphy, installed a touch screen in the drive-through lane. It operates like a computer screen. Customers touch the menu items that they want to order. The accuracy of the screen helps employees and customers get their food orders right. A Subway food preparer asks the customer fourteen questions for a typical sandwich order. This touch screen asks all of the same questions and the customer receives a printout of their order.



With the push of a button, the touch screen changes height to adjust to a car or truck window. For customers having trouble operating it, pushing the help button alerts the employees that assistance is needed. There is also a backup speaker for ordering.

The touch screen cost \$25,000 and took a couple of months to work out all the bugs. Murphy likes electronic gadgets and he thought the touch screen would be a nice feature for the community for better communication. This is the only Subway out of 106 in the region to have the touch screen menu. Murphy is considering putting a touch screen inside the restaurant as well.

Understanding the EIPA Process

The Educational Performance Assessment ® (EIPA) offers two separate tests that evaluate the skills of educational interpreters, a written test and a performance test. It does not matter which test is taken first.

The written test can only be taken in February, May, August and November of 2007. The cost for this test is \$75 and is paid to Boys Town National Research Hospital prior to taking the test.

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Sign Language Classes

United Technical Center, Clarksburg, West Virginia. Classes meet 7-9 p.m. To register, call (304) 624-3280, ext. 7590.

“Sign Language (Review)”, February 20-March 13, 2007.

“Culture of the Deaf”, March 20-April 3, 2007.

“Sign Language & Children”, April 17-May 1, 2007.

Pierpont Community College, Fairmont, West Virginia. March 22-April 26, 2007. To register, call (304) 367-4913.

“We Sign Together,” Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

“We Sign Together,” Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

“Kids Sign,” Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

West Virginia Rehabilitation Center, Institute, West Virginia. To register, call (304) 766-4884.

Beginning I, March 26-May 31, 1-2 p.m.

Beginning II, March 26-May 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Advanced, March 27-May 29, 4-6 p.m.

Introduction to Interpreting, March 29-May 31, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Fairmont Association of the Deaf

February 10, 4-10 p.m., Winfield Community Center, Fairmont, WV. Admission: \$10 includes dinner and door prizes, \$2 for children includes dinner.

March 31, 4-10 p.m., Winfield Community Center, Fairmont, WV. Admission: \$10 includes dinner and door prizes, \$5 for children includes dinner.

April 14, 4-10 p.m., Winfield Community Center, Fairmont, WV. Admission: \$10 includes dinner and door prizes, \$5 for children includes dinner.

For more information, visit www.geocities.com/fmtdeaf.



2007-2009 Directory Available

The *2007-2009 Directory of Communication Access Services and Sign Language Teachers* is now available online or by mail. The directory contains information on the state and federal laws pertaining to interpreting services.

To access it through our website go to www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh and click on the Directory of Services link. To receive a printed copy, call 1-866-461-3578 (v/tty) or email at, karipreslar@wvdhhr.org.



Hamilton Becomes New TRS Provider

The West Virginia Public Service Commission has granted Hamilton Telecommunications a temporary certificate to provide telecommunications relay service and CapTel™ service in West Virginia beginning on January 31, 2007. For a limited time, Hamilton Relay has arranged to make CapTel phones available for \$99 for West Virginia residents only. For more information and to order your phone, visit www.weitbrecht.com or call 1-800-233-9130 (v/tty).

Marshall University ASL Classes

Marshall University will offer graduate American Sign Language I, II and III courses for teachers who are interested in obtaining certification in this specialized area of emphasis or who need coursework for an emergency certificate. Undergraduate courses for parents, teachers, and other professionals will also be offered. All courses will be held on the campus of the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Romney, West Virginia June 17-29, 2007. Rooms will be provided at no cost to students. Students will be responsible for their meals. Full kitchens are provided in the dormitories.



Undergraduate students must register through Molly Simonton, the project director. Enrollment will be determined on a first come/first served basis. Cost is \$60.00 per credit hour (\$180.00 for the two weeks). Call 1-800-642-9842, ext. 1957 (voice) or 1-304-746-8980 (tty) or email at stedman@marshall.edu. Graduate students must contact Phyllis Bias at 1-800-642-9842, ext. 2034 in the spring of 2007 to register. For more information visit www.marshall.edu/gsepd/asl.asp.

WVCDHH Training Gets Final Approval

A class developed by the WVCDHH has been approved by the State of West Virginia Division of Personnel and will be a part of the 2007 Training Program for state employees. *Bridging the Gap: Communicating with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing* will assist people in understanding how to communicate more effectively.

“This program is designed to help state employees provide service to those with hearing loss,” Evie Davis, Assistant Personnel Director/Manager for the Organization and Human Resource Development Section (OHRD), said. “*Bridging the Gap* will explore strategies for working with interpreters and communicating more effectively with people with hearing loss. The program will also help participants protect the rights of those who are deaf or hard of hearing.”

OHRD offers new classes annually to ensure that the curriculum keeps current with workplace trends and customer feedback. Davis said her team continues to look for new topics to present.

WVSD Students Visit Bank of Romney

The West Virginia School for the Deaf Career Majors class recently took a tour of the Bank of Romney. Students toured the loan department, the bookkeeping department, the safety deposit section, the teller section, the customer service department and they had a meeting with the bank president. Bank employee Bonnie Smith explained to the students the requirements needed to work at the bank, including what high school classes would be helpful. She showed them how to open a checking and savings account and how to endorse a check.



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**WEST VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF
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West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
An office within the West Virginia Department
of Health and Human Resources

Joe Manchin III, Governor Martha Yeager Walker, Secretary

We're on the Web!
wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh

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It is a computer based test and candidates can take the test anywhere as long as there is an approved proctor present. The exact time and date need to be arranged with Boys Town, the proctor and the test site at least two weeks before taking the test. The candidate and the proctor will receive a password and an ID to be used to enter the test. It is multiple-choice consisting of about 250 questions. The test takes one and a half to three hours to complete. The content knowledge standards at the EIPA website will help candidates prepare. The website is www.classroominterpreting.org/EIPA/standards/index.asp.

WVCDHH is an approved Local Test Administrator (LTA) for the performance test. To access the pre-registration form visit www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh. The form can be submitted by email or mailed to the address at the bottom of the page. There are a limited number of slots available so candidates are asked to send pre-registrations early. The performance test will be administered in Charleston, Fairmont and Romney. Other sites can be arranged if four or more interpreters register to test on the same day. The cost is \$250, payable to Boys Town National Research Hospital, and is paid at the test site. This test takes approximately one and a half hours and includes a 45 minute warm up session.

The EIPA website offers valuable information and support for the K-12 interpreters and others working with deaf or hard of hearing students in our schools. Visit the website for questions and concerns or contact Roy Forman at 1-866-461-3578 or by email at royforman@wvdhhr.org.