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West Virginia Teachers continue protests for third day

By ZACHARY STEVENS

Local public school teachers protest for the third day this time outside Huntington City Hall. Schools were closed for the third day in a row now due to the protest.

The West Virginia public school teacher strike continued Mon- day, as teachers, parents, students, and citizens alike joined in to demand better pay and better working conditions for public employees within the state in 2020 and 2021. Teachers across the state are calling for increased pay raises and fewer deductions and insurance rates with West Virginia’s Public Health Insurance Agency, or PEIA, for short. Cabell County teachers from schools all over Huntington were seen outside of the city hall Monday with signs and banners rais- ing awareness for the plight of the teachers in the county. Among those teachers was Laura Booth, an 11th-year preschool teacher at Central City Elementary School.

“We’re here not just in support of teachers but all state em- ployees,” Booth said. “The teachers also amount to because that helps as far as paying. They’d much rather hire a younger teacher with less experience than an older teacher with years of experi- ence, so they wouldn’t have to pay them as much. So, we’re trying to be heard.”

West Virginia teachers make the third-lowest salary on aver- age amongst all 50 states. The 1 percent pay raise in the coming years is less than in past years, and teachers are demanding that something be done before they will stop back into schools.

“They are trying to increase our premiums for PEIDA, and they’re starting to change the legislative plan so where teachers don’t even have to have an actual teaching degree anymore,” Kristina Edwards, an autism mentor teacher’s aide at Huntington High School, said. “They can just have a four-year degree in any field. Teachers who have been teaching for 10 or more years had senior- ity rights, and now they have to worry about losing their jobs. It’s not just about our pay, it’s about many different things.”

Educators work at Huntington High School alongside her brother and her mother, all of whom were at city hall with signs and bun- nies in hand, protesting the legislation by the governor.

Zachary Stevens can be contacted at stevens18@wv.marshall.edu.
Spike for a Cause Volleyball Tournament benefits charities

Students to travel Nepal, India for independent study

By SARAH INGRAM

Members of the community gathered Saturday outside of the Joan C. Edwards Stadium to participate in this year’s Polar Plunge to raise awareness and money for Special Olympics of West Virginia.

"It was a beautiful day out and a show support for the Special Olympics of West Virginia by donating," said John Corbett, CEO of Special Olympics of West Virginia and one of the coordinators of the event. "The money raised during these events goes towards the development of year-round sports programming for those who have disabilities." [Image 596x187 to 864x303]

Zeta members said they hope to raise more than $1,600 for their cause in order to compete. [Image 603x98 to 678x173]

"We could see that it was necessary to provide hotel accommodations for about a month, and also the groups." [Image 596x339]

"If their anxiety is leading to doing something destructive, we need to focus on the fact that they're not, we talk about the other things." [Image 596x790]

"They fill out a questionnaire, and then one of our student therapists will give feedback about what range their anxiety is in," Samanez said. "If they're in that problematic range, or even if they're not, we talk about the therapy services on campus." [Image 596x864]

"We want students to know that this is offered year-round and even in the summer," Rumy said. "Right now we have a few groups of students going to the clinic. One is specifically for learning disabilities and self-esteem, and others are about around academic stress, so we'll talk about the individual options and also the groups." [Image 596x1010]

"We want to students to know that this is offered year-round and even in the summer," Rumy said. "Right now we have a few groups of students going to the clinic. One is specifically for learning disabilities and self-esteem, and others are about around academic stress, so we'll talk about the individual options and also the groups." [Image 596x1010]

By ADAM LARCH

Yeager Scholars Liz Adams and Luca Brambilla will travel to Nepal and India for independent study this spring support sessions as a part of the center’s Spring Support Sessions. Each session is held at the Gallagher Hall Suite Ballroom, and the sessions are open to the public from 5-6 p.m., while the department prefers if students register in advance by 5:30-6 p.m.

"We’re trying to help students feel more comfortable in the department of social work, thought of the idea for the spring support sessions as a hands-on way to help students in one of her major’s level classes to gain real experience in the field." ['didnt want to say, this is how you run a class, this is how you develop it,'] Rumy said.

"We’ve actually said it doesn’t have to be second-year master’s-level students, and we’ve had second-year underclassmen with their practices, that they should should come to the center and see what big picture view they can have of the department," Rumy said. "They had to do paper work, they had to come with us, and they have to promote what we do to a large group of people. It is not meant to replace anywhere else, it’s meant to be some students who have already established." [Image 596x632]

"Spring is a hard time, because we find that some students are trying to figure out if they’re going to college, if they’re going to leave, if they’re going to go home, they don’t know, they don’t like it. The other group will cover things like homesickness, feeling sad about their friends, because maybe some of your friends are still away at school, feeling alone, feeling sad about your life, feeling not good about yourself, making you feel sad about life." [Image 596x705]

"In college you get attached to people, you get attached to things," Hickman said. "People should consider the idea that something else exists. They fill out a questionnaire, and then one of our student therapists will give feedback about what range their anxiety is in," Samanez said. "If they’re in that problematic range, or even if they’re not, we talk about the therapy services on campus." [Image 596x864]

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"I haven't really made a shot all year," Ot Elmore said. "I had my brother out there helping me out and I'm happy I'm able to play well right now."

Along with Ot Elmore, fellow seniors Milan Mijovic and Marcus Reed received home game of the Week honors, as he finished with 38 points and 200 or more assists. "They were doing something that Mike D' Antoni and I always wanted to do, but never could," Marshall head coach Dan D'Antoni said in reference to his brother. "They can always talk about that."
Netflix’s ‘Heroin(e)’ should win an Oscar

The 90th annual Oscars awards show is certainly a momentous occasion, but it specifically marks a meaningful moment for West Virginians, with the state being represented on the national stage by director and Virginia native Elaine Sheldon, with her moving Netflix documentary short, “Heroin(e).” A 29-minute narrative of the opioid epidemic in Huntington, West Virginia, “Heroin(e)” features three local women on the front lines of the epidemic: Huntington Fire Chief Jan Rader, Drug Court Judge Patricia Keller and street missionary Nesta Freeman.

The film is up against four other documentary shorts, but by all standards, “Heroin(e)” deserves to take home the win. Not only does “Heroin(e)” address an increasingly hot topic in regards to public health, but the production of this film is particularly timely, with a female director, featuring three female leads, all doing important work to combat a crisis that has grown to an epic public crisis.

In the wake of the “Me Too” movement sweeping through Hollywood and a push for more women in film, this film winning the award would act as an anthem and confirmation that women can not only produce good work, but that their work is also competitive with their male counterparts.

A win for “Heroin(e)” would be a win for Huntington, a win for West Virginia, a win for addiction awareness and a win for women everywhere.

By Ben O’Dell

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The First Amendment

The Constitution of the United States of America

Legions shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
Trump says he’s willing to take on N.R.A

President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with the members of the National Governors Association at the State Dining Room of the White House, Monday, in Washington.

By LISA MASCARA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump declared Monday he’s willing to take on the National Rifle Association over gun legislation, even as Senate Republicans are hoping to consider more moderate measures.

Congress returned to work Monday following Trump’s lead on any of the major initiatives he has tossed into the debate since the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

“Republicans believe it’s up to the Senate to take the next step, according to a top House GOP aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to talk about pending legislation.

In the House, many Democrats want to reinstate an assault weapons ban that expired more than a decade ago.

But Senate Republican leaders believe it’s up to the Senate to take the next step, according to a top House GOP aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to talk about pending legislation.

Though he did not mention increasing the minimum age for rifle purchases and motivating gun rights supporters to vote.

Trump insisted Monday that sometimes political leaders need to buck the NRA, which builds its political power by major campaign spending and motivating gun rights supporters to vote.

“Rather than retreating to our partisan foxholes, I call on Republicans in the Senate and House to stand up for the will of the people.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, called on lawmakers from both parties for meetings this week. But Trump’s ideas are far from many lawmakers, including the minority leader for his party.

Over the weekend, Trump spent time talking to Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, and the White House is inviting lawmakers from both parties for meetings this week. But Trump’s ideas are far from many lawmakers, including the minority leader for his party.

Congress, the Senate’s No. 2 Republican, questioned Trump’s pro

“If we’re going to make it more pertinent to what we’re discussing,” Democrats have long pressed for more sweeping changes to address a universal background check system, including requiring inquiries for online and gun show purchases.

Sen. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said Monday that if all Congress can accomplish is the Fix NICS bill, they “fail to address the abject failures of our current system.

At a minimum, Congress should approve universal background checks, Schumer said, denouncing “NRA-backed bills that make Republicans feel better without meaningfully addressing the issue of gun safety.”

In the House, many Democrats want to reinstate an assault weapons ban that expired more than a decade ago.

But Senate Republican leaders believe it’s up to the Senate to take the next step, according to a top House GOP aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to talk about pending legislation.

The House package in December that included changes to the background-check system as part of a broader package that stalled in the Senate because it included expanded gun rights by requiring states to recognize concealed-carry permits issued by other states.

The House package also included a measure to study bump stocks, the devices that turn rifles into automatic-style weapons, and were used in the Las Vegas assault last fall; the deadline was extended in 2017.

In the Senate, Republican leaders see the best route to passage. In reporting the House’s background checks, and state reciprocity measures.

They were testing support Monday for quick consideration of the background-check bill, which was introduced last fall; the deadline was extended in 2017.

At the time, authorities acknowledged having failed to report the Texas gunman’s previous mental health episodes after the shooting of churchgoers in Texas. At the time, authorities acknowledged having failed to report the Texas gunman’s previous mental health episodes after the shooting of churchgoers in Texas. At the time, authorities acknowledged having failed to report the Texas gunman’s previous mental health episodes after the shooting of churchgoers in Texas.

These teachers are risking their jobs to fight for what is right.

Under the bill, schools would have to report the Texas gunman’s previous mental health episodes after the shooting of churchgoers in Texas. At the time, authorities acknowledged having failed to report the Texas gunman’s previous mental health episodes after the shooting of churchgoers in Texas.

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McMillion Sheldon said she thought many regions were dying due to population loss, like McDowell County.

“People in the area are incredibly resilient, and I come from, I choose to embrace it,” Good said.

“I have to work harder because people tend to underestimate me because of where I’m from,” McMillion Sheldon said.

Good had a different point of view on the stereotypes of being an Appalachian. “I don’t fight the stigmas people have about me because of where I’m from,” Good said.

McMillion Sheldon said she thought many regions were dying due to population loss, like McDowell County.

“I stay here because this is where I want to tell stories,” McMillion Sheldon said.

Crystal Good, an advocate, entrepreneur and poet, mentioned that story is because I want people to know anything can happen. The panelists then discussed their experiences working and being from Appalachia.

“Right now, it seems like there might be a resurgent of the strike,” Steen said. “We are a student-employed program and our resources are limited.”

Steen said the camp wasn’t set up because of personal beliefs but just to have this sense of community and fill the need. “We usually have this camp in the summer when our students are out of school, so having in the middle of the semester has been a challenge,” Steen said. “But some students have stepped up and managed their schedules appropriately to help make this possible.”

The cost of the camp for members is $25 and for non-members. Steve said children should be well with a lunch, a water bottle, nestling gear and dry clothes along with athletic shoes to ensure they can participate in all the planned activities.

“The weather right now isn’t ideal, so the kids are inside most of the day,” Steen said. “But the kids get to do crafts, they go to the pool and let the kids climb on the anchor rock wall.”

Steen said the camp wasn’t set up because of personal beliefs but just to have this sense of community and fill the need.

“If you have not written anything you have to go somewhere else, and it’s sad but it’s real,” Good said.

All three artists agreed that though it was hard and staying in the region meant working a day job along with being creative, it was worth it to be here.

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