



Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

Monthly Employee Newsletter Published by the Department of Administration
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Capitol Complex Ready for America 250 Celebration



The Capitol Complex is bathed in red, white, and blue and ready to welcome visitors for the America 250 celebration.

The maintenance section of the General Services Division (GSD) placed banners on light poles, the Capitol building, and the Governor's Mansion in June. Flower beds on the grounds were removed, with plans to build them back after the celebration, scheduled to take place July 2-5, 2026. GSD Director Bob Kilpatrick said the removal of the flower beds is part of a Capitol Building Commission-approved project to renovate the beds due to wear and tear, and a continuation of a larger long-term plan for campus hardscape renovations.



"The demolition phase coincides with preparation for the America 250 celebration, as it will facilitate the placement of the America 250 Wheel, a large ferris wheel which will operate during festivities," Kilpatrick said.

The project to build back the flower beds, with only some slight modifications, should be completed by September of this year.

"We hope folks will join us for the four-day celebra-

tion at the Capitol Complex, bring their friends and families, and take home a piece of the America 250 merchandise line as a lasting reminder of this historic milestone," Gov. Patrick Morrisey said.

The four-day celebration will transform the West Virginia Capitol Complex into a destination for family-friendly entertainment and a patriotic celebration.

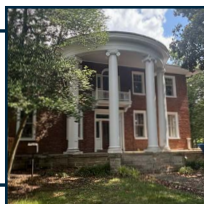
Standing 230 feet tall, the America 250 Wheel will offer panoramic views stretching up to 14 miles from the top. The wheel features 45 gondolas, each representing a U.S. president, with seating for six riders per gondola and the ability to accommodate up to 1,600 guests per hour. At night, a 256-color LED display will illuminate the Charleston skyline.

The celebration will also feature inflatables, games, food vendors, Capitol tours, and living history experiences for visitors of all ages. Free shuttle service will connect the Capitol Complex and Regatta festivities throughout the event.

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SNEAK PEEK

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AMERICA250 CAPITAL CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 2

- 5–10 p.m. | **Midway Eats & Treats**
♥ Culture Center Lawn
- 5–10 p.m. | **Artisan Market**
♥ Big Wheel Plaza
- 5–8 p.m. | **State Capitol Tour**
♥ Lower Rotunda, State Capitol
(enter from West Wing; tours every half hour)
- 5 p.m. | **CONCERT: The Local Honeyes**
♥ Big Wheel Stage
- 6 p.m. | **CONCERT: Bob Thompson**
♥ Big Wheel Stage
- 7 p.m. | **CONCERT: Rylee Bapst**
♥ Big Wheel Stage
- 9–10 p.m. | **Liberty & Lights Show**
♥ Boulevard Stage (shows every 15 minutes)

Friday, July 3

- 10 a.m.–10 p.m. | **Midway Eats & Treats**
♥ Culture Center Lawn
- 10 a.m.–10 p.m. | **Artisan Market**
♥ Big Wheel Plaza
- 10 a.m.–8 p.m. | **State Capitol Tour**
♥ Lower Rotunda, State Capitol
(enter from West Wing; tours every half hour)
- 12 p.m. | **CONCERT: Matthew Malinoski**
♥ Big Wheel Stage
- 2 p.m. | **CONCERT: Hot Jazz of Charleston**
♥ Big Wheel Stage
- 4 p.m. | **CONCERT: Mark Price**
♥ Big Wheel Stage
- 6:30 p.m. | **CONCERT: Philip Bowen**
♥ Boulevard Stage
- 7:30 p.m. | **CONCERT: ALABAMA**
♥ Boulevard Stage
- 7:30 p.m. | **1776, The Musical**
♥ Culture Center Theater
(Charleston Light Opera Guild; ticket required)
- 9–10 p.m. | **Liberty & Lights Show**
♥ Boulevard Stage (shows every 15 minutes)
- 10 p.m. | **Fireworks Extravaganza**
♥ Boulevard Stage

Saturday, July 4

- 10 a.m.–10 p.m. | **Midway Eats & Treats**
♥ Culture Center Lawn
- 10 a.m.–10 p.m. | **Artisan Market**
♥ Big Wheel Plaza
- 10 a.m.–8 p.m. | **State Capitol Tour**
♥ Lower Rotunda, State Capitol
(enter from West Wing; tours every half hour)
- 12 p.m. | **CONCERT: Woodbine**
♥ Big Wheel Stage
- 2 p.m. | **CONCERT: Two Roommates**
♥ Big Wheel Stage
- 2 p.m. | **1776, The Musical**
♥ Culture Center Theater
(Charleston Light Opera Guild; ticket required)
- 4 p.m. | **CONCERT: Been Fishin'**
♥ Big Wheel Stage
- 5 p.m. | **CONCERT: WV National Guard Band**
♥ Boulevard Stage
- 6 p.m. | **America250 Ceremony**
♥ Boulevard Stage
- 8 p.m. | **CONCERT: WV Symphony Orchestra**
♥ Boulevard Stage
- 9–10 p.m. | **Liberty & Lights Show**
♥ Boulevard Stage (shows every 15 minutes)
- 10 p.m. | **Fireworks Extravaganza**
♥ Boulevard Stage



ADVENTURE ZONE

♥ Big Wheel Plaza

Rock wall, Gaming trailer,
Inflatables, Obstacle courses,
Games, Community art project

HISTORY HUB

♥ Culture Center & Heritage Garden

Scavenger hunt, America250 exhibit,
History Alive demos, WV model train,
Sensory-friendly activities, Roller rink

**MORE FREE
ACTIVITIES**
at the Capitol

State Agencies Host Summer Interns

A number of interns have descended on the Capitol Complex to gain real-world experience in the workforce this summer.



Gwendolyn Nice, from South Charleston, is interning with the Division of Personnel (DOP). The upcoming senior at South Charleston High School serves as treasurer for the National Honor Society and participates in the Art Club, soccer team, and the business computer applications program.

Nice was encouraged by her mother to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about public service. Her mother, Kerri Nice, is the human resources assistant director for the DOP.



Bailey Crouser, from Martinsburg, is interning for the Grievance Board's regional office in Westover, where she is assisting the administrative law judge and secretary with reorganizing the filing system, preparing documents, and closing grievances. This fall will be her final semester at West Virginia

University (WVU), where she is majoring in animal and nutritional science.



Delaney Nuckles, from Charleston, is interning with the Office of Shared Administration in the Departments of Health, Health Facilities, and Human Services, and will move to interning for the Grievance Board this month. She attends WVU where she is studying public health. She hopes her

summer experience will help her as she furthers her education and pursues a career in health law to help ensure the proper regulation of patient care and privacy. While with the Grievance Board, she will help create a new filing system, update websites and inventory, and help prepare documents for administrative law judges.

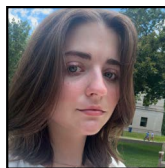
Among the interns participating in the West Virginia Governor's Internship Program are Madelyn Swor, Kayla Granger, and Lilly White with the West Virginia Office of Technology (WVOT); Aidan Rogers and Blake Collias with Public Defender Services (PDS); and Benjamin Cobb with the Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB).



Swor, from Elkview, is studying elementary education and theology at Appalachian Bible College in Mount Hope. She is spending her summer in the WVOT print shop, hoping it helps her gain real-life experience for her future while providing funds for college.



Granger, from South Charleston, is studying computer science at West Virginia University Institute of Technology. This summer, she is working in the Enterprise Solutions Services section of WVOT. She said recommendations from her professors led her to the internship, which she sees as giving her real-world experience while expanding her network.



White, from Charleston, is studying cybersecurity and computer science at WVU. This summer at WVOT, she is working for and learning from the Security Operations Center. Through this internship, she hopes to gain exposure to different domains of the cybersecurity industry and learn from seasoned individuals who are responsible for protecting the state from cyberattacks.

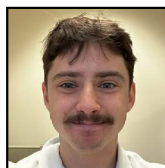
Rogers and Collias, the interns for PDS, have found the perfect spot this summer as both have an interest in law school.



Rogers, from Charleston, is a junior at Virginia Tech studying history and finance. He has an interest in the legal field, especially public interest law that helps the community. He is attending hearings with some of the attorneys, reading case briefs to become familiar with ongoing and previous cases, attending prison visitations with clients, and conducting research for a law review article.



Collias, from Charleston, plans to attend either the WVU College of Law or Appalachian School of Law. He is helping organize habeas files and investigating lawyers' billing practices. He hopes the internship will help him make a more informed decision about what kind of law he wants to practice.



Cobb, from Winfield, is working on quality control for beneficiary submissions this summer at CPRB. The Marshall University history major hopes the internship helps him develop professional skills and a level of intentionality in his work that will benefit his future endeavors, which include going to law school to help improve West Virginia communities.

The Department of Administration will recognize additional interns in next month's edition of **Quotes, Notes and Anecdotes**.

Customer Appreciation Day Brings New and Previous Customers to WV Surplus



WVSASP staff members assist customers looking at vehicles during the event.

Each June, the West Virginia State Agency for Surplus Property (WVSASP) hosts its annual Customer Appreciation Day event.

This event, which includes a special after-hours reception, allows WVSASP staff to celebrate their customers with light refreshments and extended shopping hours. This year's reception was held June 24, 2026. Those who attended shopped for items such as vehicles, filing cabinets, electronics, office furniture and supplies, and more. This year's event was the most successful in recent years.

"We sold around \$25,000 of inventory in a single day," said Surplus Manager Jessica Burns-McDonnell. "My staff went above and beyond to get the word out about this event and prepare for it, and the hard work paid off."

State employees, except for WVSASP employees, may acquire property from WVSASP for personal use as long as they purchase as a member of the public.

To learn more, visit WVSurplus.gov or call 304-766-2626. WVSASP also maintains a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wvsurplus.

AMERICA 250, Continued from Page 1



The Governor's Mansion decorated for the America 250 celebration.

Each evening will conclude with a 3D light projection show on the State Capitol inspired by the Washington Monument display in Washington, D.C. The presentation will highlight key moments in both American and West Virginia history.

The governor also announced the launch of the state's America 250 Bell-Ringing Initiative, inviting churches, schools, veterans organizations, civic groups, and local communities across West Virginia to ring bells in unison at noon on July 4, 2026, in honor of the Declaration of Independence and the founding principles of the United States.

Work Begins to Restore Historic Holly Grove Mansion

Renovation work is underway on the historic Holly Grove mansion, the oldest surviving residence on the Capitol Complex.

"We are excited about the opportunity to preserve this historic property and breathe new life into it," said West Virginia Department of Administration Cabinet Secretary Eric Householder. "As the oldest building on campus, we wanted to maintain its historic beauty while also creating a multipurpose space that the people of West Virginia can enjoy and be proud of for generations to come."

Previously used as office space, the renovation is intended to preserve the historic structure while giving the building a renewed purpose and ensuring its long-term use for future generations. Funding for the project was made possible through a surplus appropriation approved by the West Virginia Legislature during the 2023 Regular Session.

Originally constructed in 1815 by saltmaker Daniel Ruffner, Holly Grove predates the entire Capitol Complex and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Located adjacent to the Governor's Mansion, the building previously housed various state agencies before being vacated in 2004 due to code compliance, fire safety, and accessibility issues.

The project is expected to be complete in late January 2027.



Holly Grove was built in 1815, and is the oldest house in the city of Charleston.

First Permanent Bungee Jumping Site on East Coast Opens in West Virginia

Harpers Ferry is known for its outdoor adventures, and now there's another heart-pumping activity for families to enjoy this summer. The Great Bungee Company has opened the first permanent bungee jumping site on the East Coast.

The site is located at the Old Standard Quarry in Harpers Ferry, which is also home to River Riders' Harpers Ferry Waterpark. It will be the first quarry-based bungee jumping site as well as the first to offer body and ankle harness water dip jumps in the U.S.

Those brave enough to walk out to the end of the jump tower will face a 150-foot drop from the tower to the 100-foot deep lagoon. Jumpers will be able to choose between an ankle or body harness jump, and a water-dip jump or staying dry. They can also decide whether they want to dive forward or fall backwards. The Great Bungee Company doesn't offer tandem bungee jumping.

All jumpers must be at least 16 years old and between 80 and 300 pounds. Those 18 and older are able to jump without parental consent. The property also offers a spectator area near the check-in for registration. Only jumpers are allowed at the tower and platform.



The GBC bungee site is located in the historic and beautiful Old Standard Quarry in Harpers Ferry and is under one hour from the Metro DC and Baltimore regions.

Bungee jumps are available by reservation only. The jumping site will be open seven days a week. For more information and to make reservations, check out The Great Bungee Company's website [here](#).

West Virginia State Privacy Office Monthly Tip



Traveling Without "Leaking" Data

Vacation season is a high-risk time for data theft. Public Wi-Fi at airports, hotels, and cafes is often unencrypted, meaning anyone on the same network can "sniff" the data moving to and from your device.

Hackers also set up "Evil Twin" networks with names like "Free_Airport_WiFi" to trick you into connecting so they can capture your usernames and passwords in real-time.

**Note: Your agency/bureau/department/division may have specific requirements – always check your policies and procedures. If you have questions, contact your Privacy Officer.*

Your Action:

- Avoid public Wi-Fi for anything involving a password.
- Use your phone's cellular data (hotspot) whenever possible.
- If you must use public Wi-Fi, use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to encrypt your connection.
- Also, never plug your phone into a public USB charging station; use a wall outlet or a portable battery to avoid "Juice Jacking" malware.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Last month, we asked Department of Administration employees “Would you rather plunge into the uncharted depths of the ocean in a submarine, or journey into the vast, unknown expanses of space in a shuttle?” Below are some of the answers we’ve received. [Click here](#) to see a complete list of responses.



- Can I say neither? My claustrophobia would never!
- The large amounts of life that still lives in the depths of the ocean.
- We don't know what's in the ocean and we shouldn't find out.
- The millionaires in the DIY submarine did not make me feel like uncharted ocean depths were viable.
- We've only mapped ~30% of the ocean floor, and are still discovering new species! Why fly when you can swim?
- Oh goodness... those are two of my biggest fears! So I can't choose either!
- I could experience zero gravity and see the entirety of earth on my journey.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

WELCOME! ... The Department of Administration is pleased to welcome **Brittany Cavendish** (Finance); **Danny Venoy** (General Services); **Makayla Dunbar** (PEIA); **Sara Harden** (Personnel); **Adara Farris** (Public Defender Services); **Colt Richardson** and **Ryan Loveless** (Technology).

BEST WISHES ... to **Richard Franklin**, **Garrett Mueller**, and **Jacqueline Clendenin** (Technology) who recently resigned from our department.

HAPPY RETIREMENT! ... After years of hard work and dedication, we would like to wish **Melissa Ramsey** (Technology) the very best during her retirement.

EMPLOYEE QUESTION OF THE MONTH ... This month, we want to know “What is your most controversial summer food opinion?” For example, “Watermelon is overrated” or “Hot dogs are superior to hamburgers.” To answer this question, [click here](#).

LOGO CONCEPT REQUEST ... The Department of Administration is seeking logo concepts and/or designs for the state’s new One Stop Shop Permitting Portal. Please submit all ideas to Samantha.S.Knapp@wv.gov by July 8, 2026.

GOT NEWS? ... Email detailed information to Samantha.S.Knapp@wv.gov so we may include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY in JULY

Below is a list of Department of Administration employees celebrating their birthdays during the month of July:

AVIATION	Gabriel Cobb	GRIEVANCE	Alexandria Ashley	TECHNOLOGY	Matthew Beckett
BRIM	Lori Bailey	PEIA	Staci Clutters		Toney Broyles
	Carl Baldwin		Lee Halstead		Jamie Cartwright
	Jason Stover		Austin Harvey		Kevin Cecil
CPRB	Alysia Miller		Thomas Miller		Mark Gregory
	Terasa Miller		Nicole Spears		Jeffrey Hardy
	Paula Van Horn		Christie Yarbough		Howard Hill
	Sharon Whittaker	PUB.DEF. SRVS.	Heather Atkins		April Honaker
FINANCE	Kari Davis		Tyler Keller		Steven Martin
	Karla Harris		James Light		Nathan Merritt
	Sarah Jarrett		Hannah McCoy		Shaun Neidlinger
	Lora Reese	PURCHASING	Katy Bell		Valerie Osburn
	Timothy Scites		Jennifer Fields		Joshua Phillips
FLEET	Lori Harper		Dana Hoffman		Jack Pullen
	Teresa Taylor		Mitzie Howard		Thomas Riddell
GEN.SRVS.	Robert Kilpatrick	PROS.ATTYS.	Jim Samples		Thaddeus Robinson
	John Miller	REAL ESTATE	Timothy Maloney		Duane Ryder
	Jeffrey Moore		Joanna McDaniel		Ruth Shaffer
	Limber Munoz		Bobby Snodgrass		Troy Stanley
	Patrick O'Neill		Dawn Taylor		Teddy Thompson
	George Williamson				

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