

Happenings Around The District...

Delegate Stevens was pleased to be a part of several exciting ribbon cutting ceremonies and opening ceremonies during the past year. The **Tygart Valley Regional Jail** opened in June with a large public turnout and Governor Joe Manchin cutting the ribbon while several Jail authorities, local and state elected officials looked on.

Tucker County E-911 opened a spectacular state of the art communications center in Bretz this year. Limited tours were given and the E-911 council and Darla Stemple should be congratulated! Senators Minear and Hunter joined with Delegate Stevens and County Commissioners, Michael, Leary and Eichelberger in cutting the ribbon and congratulating the committee and employees on a job very well done



Tunnelton VFW members unveiled a beautiful **Veteran's Memorial** in the town square on July 9. The event was very well attended and several veterans received awards from the state VFW officials. Delegate Stevens and Williams gave remarks and enjoyed the accomplishment of many folks to make the dream come true. Congratulations Col. Rowan Post!

July 23rd was the grand opening of the **Union District History Center**, a joint effort of the Aurora Project and the Aurora Area Historical Society. This is the first of many exciting openings that will be completed by a very ambitious group in Aurora. Congratulations!



August found Delegate Stevens presenting opening remarks at the Five Rivers Campground for the second annual Pickin in Parsons Bluegrass Festival. The campground is a project of Parsons Revitalization Organization and is leased to John & Joyce Bowers who have made several improvements in the past two years. The Bluegrass festival is fast becoming a noteworthy event. Ronnie Reno was the headliner with top entertaining bands from the US and the number one bluegrass band from the United Kingdom. Congratulations from Delegate Stevens!

A dedication/opening of the **Mountain View Mine on Rt 93** was held in October, a very exciting day for Tucker County. Tucker County Commissioners and Thomas Mayor Debbie Snyder along with several Mettikki officials joined with Delegate Stevens for the dedication and tours.

In October **Cortland Acres** opened and dedicated a rehab and fitness center at the home and a large public turnout joined Administrator Don Black and Board President Pat Nichols in dedicating the new facility to the late Don Roth one of the founder's driving force to see the facility come to fruition. Congratulations Cortland Acres Board of Directors and employees!

Delegate Stevens joined the local TVEMS NASA team and the team from Florida in launching a three year journey of learning. Tucker Valley has been chosen as a space explorer school and will benefit from many learning opportunities in the next three years. Congratulations Tucker Valley staff and students!

A dedication on November 11, was held at the *World's Greatest Generation Museum*, a wonderful addition to the town of Rowlesburg. More exciting additions will take place in the next few months. What an honor for a small town and we applaud the efforts of all those involved. Delegate Stevens was unable to attend due to a prior commitment in Charleston. Congratulations!

Special Session Report on Food Tax...

Now that the dust from the Special Session has settled, I would like to address the outcome of a few of the issues. The Governor's Proclamation for the Special Session contained 17 measures. I will discuss the food tax this week.

Regarding the food tax, the Governor's narrowly crafted bill was presented to the Legislature only to reduce the food tax by one percent. If you spend \$100 on groceries, you will save \$1. His bill did not include a phase out of the regressive food tax.

While there were several amendments filed with the House and Senate Clerks that would have provided a gradual phase-out or even full elimination of the food tax, because of a party-line procedural vote, I and other delegates were denied our legislative right to amend this legislation.

Essentially, by a procedural vote, sixty-six legislators abdicated their duty to the citizens Governor the power not limit the manner in which

Discussion, debating, and given to us by the voters to represent them. I was stamp. As my colleague in said of the procedural vote denied our right to amend, the legislative leadership narrowly-crafted bills, vote yes or no, mail it back by certified mail, and save the taxpayers a lot of money."



vote, sixty-six legislators abdicated they represent by giving the only to call a special session but to the legislature could act.

amending legislation is a right who send delegates to Charleston not elected to serve as a rubber Raleigh County, Delegate Sumner, relating to the food tax, "If we are we might as well stay home, have send us a paper ballot on his

Arguments were made on both sides of the food tax issue. Is it fiscally responsible to eliminate the food tax? I spoke to some folks with economic degrees and business backgrounds; they suggested that the food tax (130 million dollars a year) should turn over approximately 5 times in a calendar year. At last calculation, 130 million dollars turning over 5 times in one year would make a tremendous increase in our West Virginia economy! What better time will there be to change the buying habits of folks who cross the state lines to shop than now when gasoline is at 2.89 a gallon? While a 1% reduction gives minor tax relief to our citizens, a phase out or full elimination would increase business, provide jobs, and keep 400,000 shoppers in West Virginia. Whether you agree with the 1% reduction, a gradual phase-out, or full elimination, was not the issue this special session. The issue at hand was that a gag order was placed on certain legislators once amendments were denied. And that is not democracy.

There has been talk that this special session was partisan. I disagree. It's called debate. Legislators come from all walks of life and represent a wide spectrum of people with differing views.

Working with the Governor and other legislators, I feel we are addressing the important comprehensive reforms that I campaigned on. I believe West Virginia is on the right track and are glad you have allowed me to play a part in helping our state become open for business.

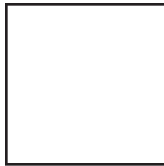
As always, it is an honor to serve you. You may email me at debbiestevens@frontiernet.net or call me at 478-4411.

Yours in service,

Delegate Debbie Stevens

From The 46TH District...





Delegate Debbie Stevens
 HC 64 Box 102
 Parsons, WV 26287



2006 Citizens' Poll

For Delegate Debbie Stevens 46th District
 Please indicate your views with a "yes" or "no" in the left margin. Use an additional sheet for comments or other issues you are concerned about. Feel free to leave any question(s) blank. No photo copies please.

Do you favor?

YES NO

- ___ ___ 1. Restricting the use of eminent domain condemnation.
- ___ ___ 2. Allowing convicted felons to vote.
- ___ ___ 3. Reinstating the death penalty for first degree murder with conclusive evidence such as DNA.
- ___ ___ 4. Parental consent legislation before an underage girl can have an abortion (with exception for sexual abuse).
- ___ ___ 5. Requiring photo identification to vote.
- ___ ___ 6. Requiring a statewide vote on table gaming legislation.
- ___ ___ 7. Tier 2.5 stream designation.

Your Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Occupation _____
 Employer _____
 Phone _____

Please complete and mail by Jan 31, 2006 to
 Delegate Debbie Stevens
 HC 64 Box 102
 Parsons, WV 26287

\$75,000 Secured By Delegate Stevens

- Preston County Senior Citizens Center will be receiving budget digest funds of \$58,000.00.
- Thomas Education Center in Tucker County has funds from budget digest earmarked at \$13,000.00.
- \$ 4000.00 dollars will be allotted to the Five Rivers Public Library in Parsons from the budget digest funds.

Important Dates

- Requests for 2006 Budget Digest Funds should be made to Delegate Stevens by February 7, 2006.
- Senior Citizens Day February 8, 2006
- West Virginians For Life Rally February 16, 2006
- EMS Day February 13, 2006
- WVU & WVU Extension Day February 17, 2006
- Home School Day @ Legislature February 28, 2006

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance of West Virginia: In Brief...

West Virginia is home to more than 294,000 uninsured residents. Many of them may have difficulty affording their medicines and do not realize help is available to them. TX for West Virginia joined the Partnership for Prescription Assistance in June 2005 to:

- Raise awareness about and increase participation in existing patient assistance programs:
- Drive potential enrollees to the toll free number and web site: and
- Make patient assistance programs easier for patients and providers to access.

Through a toll free number 1-888-477-2669 and a user friendly web site: www.rxforwv.org the partnership offers a single point of access to more than 475 public and private patient assistance programs, including more than 180 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies.

More than 15 state and local organizations, including the American Diabetes Association- WV Chapter, WV Chamber of Commerce, WV Psychological Association and WV Nurses Association, have partnered with America's pharmaceutical companies to spread the word about this program in WV.

Please call or visit the website to gain additional information.

Send A Card...

Our recovering soldiers are true American Heros. If you can, please send a card (or two) to our American military heroes who are recuperating from wounds this Christmas Season. Please enclose a short note thanking them for their service and personal sacrifice. They are the protectors of our freedom, we must let them know.

Your small act of kindness will be greatly appreciated.
 Here's the address...

A Recovering American Soldier
 c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
 6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20307-5001

