



SALS JOURNAL

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Worker's Solidarity Cultural Festival

On Saturday, May 13th SALS will celebrate another successful year with our annual Workers' Solidarity Cultural Festival. We anticipate a wonderful day of entertainment and coming together of friends and supporters, new and old. Entertainment will include popular musicians Randy Gilke, Billy Payne, Katrina Brown & the Brown Sisters. A return performance by John Lossier of Harping for Harmony is also on the lineup.

Jude Binder will perform an interpretative dance for the event. In addition she will screen a new DVD to be released this fall on domestic violence called "Field of Flowers." Binder is well known for her expressionist works that frequently include handmade creative masks. Jude is based at her Calhoun County studio, Heartwood in the Hills. She is considered one of West Virginia's leading cultural artists in the movement for social and economic justice.

There will be games and alternative activities for the kids including big inflatable bouncers and dunking

Directions and more on page 11



Pre-release screening at Solidarity Festival May 13th

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Buffalo Creek Disaster Showing

On June 27th two documentaries on the Buffalo Creek Disaster will be screened and discussed at SALS Community Center. Appalshop Filmmaker Mimi Pickering will be present to show her awarding-winning films, THE BUFFALO CREEK FLOOD: AN ACT OF MAN and BUFFALO CREEK REVISITED. After the screening there will be a discussion that will provide an opportunity for local residents to discuss and redefine the history of the Buffalo Creek flood 33 years after the disaster. The screenings are part of a tour of West Virginia communities sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Labor School. The Films will begin at 6:30 PM. Refreshments will be available.

THE BUFFALO CREEK FLOOD: AN ACT OF MAN poignantly portrays the impact that the February

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Community Clinic Schedule

Dr. Daniel Doyle, M.D. from the New River Health Association will see patients at the clinic in the SALS Beards Fork Community Center in on the afternoon of the second Friday each month. Dr. Doyle will be there to serve SALS youth and staff as well as the local community.

At the same time, Anthony Canada, New River Health Association Benefits' Counselor, will be present. Mr. Canada will provide workers' compensation and Black Lung counseling for anyone in the area.

Call 304/779-2772 or 2280 to make an appointment if possible. Appointments are helpful but not required. People are encouraged to take advantage of these services not normally available in our area.

C.E.A.S.E. the Plan D Disaster

Asclepios, Medicare Consumer Advocacy
www.medicarerights.org

Something's rotten in Congress. The new drug benefit for older Americans and people with disabilities is turning out to be even more wasteful and ineffective than its critics could have anticipated.

The latest polling shows that **37 percent of people enrolled in a Part D plan—more than one in three—cannot even say that they are saving money on their drugs**. This is despite hundreds of billions in taxpayer dollars to pay for the benefit over the next 10 years. And that says nothing of the people who have been unable or unwilling to enroll in the benefit: 40 percent of people with Medicare still have very little or no drug coverage whatsoever.

But we should wonder how so many people enrolled in the benefit are not saving money. Because you can bet that **100 percent of the pharmaceutical companies and the insurers offering Part D would say they're making money**.

American tax dollars in large part are going to the pharmaceutical companies for ever more expensive medicines and to the private drug plans, HMOs and PPOs to serve as middlemen in covering prescriptions even though Medicare could have delivered the benefit directly at far less cost.

Despite President Bush's repeated claim that the benefit is a "good deal," look at who's still suffering even with this drug benefit:

- People with Medicare and Medicaid who are now forced to pay for or go without drugs Medicaid once covered that their current drug plan won't cover and who are hard-pressed to afford the \$3 copayment every time they fill a prescription;
- People who were forced to give up lower cost coverage of their medicines through their states or through drug company patient assistance programs;
- People who lost better employer or union coverage, not to mention the nearly 16 million people who are still going with little or no drug coverage.

And let's not forget the millions of other people with Medicare with costly medication needs who still cannot afford to fill their prescriptions and for whom this drug benefit should have been designed. If they're lucky, they are now getting some help with some of their drug costs,

but if they chose the wrong plan, their drugs may not be covered or they may be covered with a hefty copayment they can ill-afford. And, if it has not happened already, over the next few months their drug coverage will likely end altogether when they reach the major gap in coverage known as the doughnut hole. At that point, their coverage drops out entirely and many will once again be forced to go without their life-saving medications.

The president and the Congressional leadership must C.E.A.S.E. (Choice, Enrollment, Affordability, Security and Efficiency) the mythmaking, cut the waste and give people the option of a reliable drug benefit through Original Medicare—with the only choice they really want, to get the drugs they need when they need them at a reasonable price negotiated by the federal government.

· **Choice: The only choice people want is the ability to get the drugs they need when they need them at a reasonable price, which they could do if the benefit were administered directly through Original Medicare.**

· **Enrollment: A good drug benefit would ensure the enrollment of everyone with Medicare who did not otherwise have drug coverage, much like Medicare ensures that virtually everyone entitled and who needs it is enrolled in Parts A and B.**

· **Affordability : Congress must allow Medicare to negotiate prices so that everyone sees savings from the drug benefit and can get the drugs they need when they need them.**

· **Security: People need the security Original Medicare**

offers of covering the benefits they need when they need them at a predictable cost, not the gamble of joining a private drug plan that can change its list of covered drugs and out-

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Director's Report

by John David

In various other articles, you will read about several successful grant proposals that were funded. Included are the Crafts Factory, Emergency Assistance, Housing Counseling, Lead/Mercury Abatement, and YouthBuild. Also funded was the USDA/WVDOE Rural Transportation program, which will provide expanded/extended summer food services over three years to eligible children. SALS was one of only 30 entities in the U.S. to obtain this grant.

We are very pleased that Energy Express will be back at SALS this summer. Last year, our program did exceptionally well in participant diversity and volunteer generation.

Friends of SALS have also been extremely supportive of our programs. Triana Energy, led by Henry Harmon, donated a major sum through the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. Another anonymous donor also donated a major sum and the Benedum Foundation was very generous. Joe Mario, who initially came through Global Volunteers, is working on an equipment grant from his employer, Hewitt Packard and we have had several people donate funds that have been matched by their employers.

SALS personnel have been many places. Ameri-Corps and YouthBuild/ DOL members have been to Washington for conferences. Jackie Asbury has been to Dallas for a Neighborhood Works training on reverse mortgages and other current issues. Vickie Smith and Brenda Winter have been to Atlanta for Green Building. Kathryn South and Brenda Winter have been to Los Angeles for a Youth Transformation Institute, and Kathryn South has been to Las Vegas for a YouthBuild Director's meeting. Gary Zuckett, Artie Mullins, Red Newkirk, Vickie Mullins, and the VISTAs have also attended area conferences.

In collaboration with the New River Health Association and the Fayette County Sheriff's Department, SALS is a partner in a new multi year initiative that focus on substance abuse prevention in Fayette County. Scott Thompson from NRHA will coordinate the program. Involved SALS personnel include Vickie Mullins and Brenda Winter.

Kathryn South has been involved with the effort to



Volunteers get high-level building experience at SALS

reestablish a Family Resource Network program in Fayette County.

This year, nearly 1800 volunteers are flocking to SALS to work on our housing projects. Artie Mullins, who wears numerous hats, is the key person involved with this coordination. Already, 900 volunteers have been booked for next year, 2007.

New Year Turns to Spring

Jackie Asbury. Housing Director/Grants Specialist

The New Year has come and we are now enjoying Springtime, warm weather, the leaves returning on the trees, and the birds singing. It really is a great time of the Year. Time to start working with the volunteer groups and work camps that come to SALS every year.

SALS also was approved by HUD to be a Housing Counseling Agency for at least two years. This means we will be able to apply for more grants to help with our various housing projects. We also will be doing more housing counseling. If you know of any families that need to have housing counseling classes, please contact our main office in Beards Fork.

This is also the time of year that we do all of the big proposals to such programs like HUD Youthbuild, HUD RHED, FHLB, and USDA. I am sure that alot of my work will be to help on these projects.

Hope you enjoy the Spring and had a Happy Easter!!!

YouthBuild/Youth Re-Entry News

By: Kathryn South & Brenda Winter

Spring is finally here and work is progressing nicely around the county. George Hensley is still working on a new home in Page. He is getting some help from the future homeowner who is putting in some sweat equity. He has worked most of the winter with only one or two youth to get the home in decent shape for inspections. With the onslaught of volunteers coming into the community, hopefully a lot of work will get completed and we can close this deal soon. William Manley, who grew up in the Page/Kincaid area, is one of our new recruits for Department of Labor Re-entry Program. He has been working with George Hensley for over a month now and is doing very well. William will be taking the GED test soon and we are hopeful that he will pass with flying colors. Quincy Storey is also one of our new recruits. He is from Ansted and worked with Norman Jordan at the African American Museum in Ansted for a while. Quincy is also ready to take the GED test and to move onto other educational endeavors.

Cindy O'Hara and Rebecca Stark went to DC for the Rural Caucus and Youth Conference in March. They visited Capitol Hill and spoke to Senator Rockefeller and Senator Byrd's aide. This is the third year that we have sent young people to the conference to represent our YouthBuild site, tell folks in Washington how much this program is needed, and explain that we need more funds to both do more building and help young people get good paying jobs.

I attended a YouthBuild Director's Conference in Las Vegas in January and learned more about the NCCER certification and how to access the one-stop center to get them involved with assisting our youth with finding true careers, not just jobs that might last only a few months.

Financial Services now at SALS

Brenda Winter, Leadership, Activities, and Special Projects Coordinator

SALS has been given the task of assisting folks in the community who have difficulty in paying high utility bills and other emergency issues.

Through a partnership with Betty Stein of United

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Way we can take referrals from DHHR to help people pay high utility bills due to the increase in gas and electric costs.

SALS has assisted folks in the past with food distribution through Multi-Cap and now with the clinic in the community center, we are almost a one-stop shop. Transportation poses a major problem in rural areas so by providing as many services as possible to people who live in outlying regions is a big help to the elderly and the low-income who may not have the resources to go to Fayetteville or Oak Hill for services.

I have been working with the Workforce WV representative, Heath Forren, who assists us with training and placement of out of school youth. Several young people were enrolled in the WIA program, which offers services to young people to help them get more skills and job placement. I am still assisting Artie and Kathryn with the DOL and YouthBuild programs and also other new projects the VISTA's are doing for fund-raising and Energy Express enrollment.

Benefits of Dual Enrollment

Heath Forren, WIA/ Youth Enrichment Services

In the past few months there has been a great deal going on. Several of our Out of School Youth have been exited with solid employment, and others have found their way back into service with other programs. Both outcomes are positive and we are looking forward to seeing continued success in the future. We are proud of all of the participants we have had here at the Southern Appalachian Labor School, and feel very fortunate to have been a part of their training. Everyone that has participated is enrolled in follow-up immediately after being exited. Follow up is a service that is offered to ensure support to participants for over a year after exit. This is to help with the transition from our program to the workforce. While in follow-up we can provide job search assistance, employment bonuses, and other various forms of support. The most notable of these services is the employment bonus. We have bonuses available for staying at the same job for 30 Days, on through to the end of follow-up. This is to create an incentive to stay employed after leaving the Labor School. Any youth that have recently left our program

should be aware that services are still available to them.

We are also focusing on serving the youth who are still active at the Labor School, and looking toward the future through recruitment of new participants. Our program has several open spots available for motivated youth that are seeking to improve their situation. A possible avenue for new participants is being explored. Dual enrollment is a strategy we are hoping to employ to better serve the youth of our area. Dual enrollment is being enrolled in more than one program at the same time. This would allow both programs to pool their resources and have more available for youth to use in overcoming any obstacles they might be facing. It has been my experience that everyone benefits from these partnerships. The participants have more resources available and the programs have more support to better serve their clients.

Our program is excited about our future with the Southern Appalachian Labor School. We have had great success together and look forward to continuing our partnership.

Many Hats Worn at SALS

Debra Spurlock, Housing Counselor/Specialist

It's hard to believe that winter has come and gone and spring is here. Along with spring comes all the preparations for Group WorkCamps. Once again this year we have a large camp (400 volunteers) serving the Oak Hill area and a similar sized one serving the Montgomery area. But we added a new twist this year. We will also have smaller Challenge Camps for four additional weeks this year. With those smaller camps, one hundred youth per week will work along side our youth on various housing projects. Thus, over a six week period approximately twelve hundred volunteers will come to West Virginia to help give the folks in our surrounding communities more self-esteem by repairing their homes.

Lots of work goes into preparing for Group WorkCamps. We do everything from identifying homes and getting directions, to visiting the families and doing the write-ups. Once again our AmeriCorps members were the ones who completed these tasks. Each day they would go out to do as many write-ups as possible. They would turn them in to me at the end of each day. I would have to go over them and sometimes give them back for

corrections. But after a few weeks they really got the hang of it. When the write-ups were okayed I gave them a site identification number, copied them, and send them to Colorado. The folks in Colorado (WorkCamps office) make the final decision on which sites get picked. A lot of work goes into this program but it is worth it to see how happy some of the residents are when their house is finished. Residents also enjoy the time they spent with the campers. Some of them find great friendships and keep in touch for years to come.

I have also been very busy preparing files for our rehab program. I complete the grant files for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, and the Housing Preservation grant from USDA.

I have also been working with the SHARE program again. The past few months we have been doing very well. Our orders have been up. This could be because we've had an added bonus. If the folks qualified by income they could buy one package and get one free. One package, which costs \$17.00, is a deal in itself, but two for \$17.00 is GREAT! One Saturday morning each month I rise at 4:30 a.m. to go to meet the truck and pick up the food. My husband, Carlos and my brother, Wayne, who are SALS volunteers, go along to help with the loading, unloading, and the preparation of the packages. Two AmeriCorps Vistas, Lisa Manley and Lisa King, and a community member, Floyd McKnight, have also helped me. Mr. McKnight has also helped bring up our number of orders by visiting folks in the community and taking orders. Thanks to all who has helped to make my job easier.

I also recently participated in a neighborhood clean up along with the AmeriCorps Vistas and fellow staff members. We hope to continue this on a monthly basis.

Finally, I helped with the Hot Dog / Bake Sale fund-raiser, where I know we made at least three hundred hotdogs. It was a very busy day.

So you see, we wear many, many hats here at SALS.



Grant to Produce Mountain Crafts

Brenda Winter, Activities & Special Projects Coordinator

SALS was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. This grant will be used by our YouthBuild members to construct toys and crafts using leftover materials from the job sites. The sale of the "mountain crafts" will help the youth recycle scrap materials that would otherwise be thrown out. Volunteers and visitors often express interest in souvenirs from the mountain state that will mean even more to them if made by the youth they worked with. The entrepreneurial and marketing skills involved will be a great asset to our youth.

I'm still continuing my work with Heath Forren, Youth Advisor from RESA-1, on the WIA Program. We track the WIA student's progress, keep track of their certification hours, and assist with future job placement. We meet on a weekly basis to discuss the youth's progress. New applicants are taken to Summersville Job Service to determine eligibility. Once they meet the criteria needed, and are interested in building construction they are placed with SALS. The ones who are not interested in the construction field work with Heath to determine other options.

I've also been busy learning the ropes of the housing program. This is the other side of the coin. This process involves completing files and qualifying families for a new home or a rehab. After this process is completed, the youth that I worked with in the beginning starts the building or repairing process. After the process is completed, the youth are very excited to see what they have achieved and how happy the homeowner is with their repairs or totally new home.

AmeriCorps Report

Artie Mullins, AmeriCorps Director

Our AmeriCorps year has been a very rewarding experience so far. I have six great members who have gone to great lengths to make the past few months a success. Group WorkCamps write-ups were completed efficiently and quickly. Terry Adkins and Linda Dillard received gift certificates for getting the most write-ups in SALS *Journal*

the month of March. Linda Dillard and Chris Shaver received AmeriCorps backpacks for perfect attendance for February while James Masters had perfect attendance for March. All of the volunteers have worked very hard and I thank them all. The other members not mentioned are James Harvey and Stacy Richmond. James Harvey represented SALS at an AmeriCorps gathering in Washington D.C. and we were very proud of his conduct and his active participation in the gathering.

Terry Adkins, AmeriCorps Member

I began as a new AmeriCorps member in December 2005. I began work on George's site in New Page where I helped with one of the new homes being built. I learned how to finish dry wall, helped solve the electrical problem the supervisor was having, stained a lot of woodwork, and helped load and deliver cinder blocks to the Hilltop site.

In January, the AmeriCorps Members began training for the process of writing up homes for Group WorkCamps. Group WorkCamps will not begin until June 2006 but the search for homes to serve began in January. We (the AmeriCorps Members) went out in groups of two to seek homes. Once a home selected we interviewed the homeowner, we provided them with some preliminary information about Group WorkCamps and the dates that the work was to be done. The homeowner then signs a contract agreeing to the terms. The AmeriCorps members are responsible for providing concise directions to the home including landmarks and exact mileage. I really enjoyed this part of our work because I got to meet people from all walks of life. The most rewarding part is to witness the reaction that you get when people who really need help are told the work is to be done free of charge.

I have really enjoyed my work as an AmeriCorps Member and I look forward to hopefully serving a second year.

Linda Dillard, AmeriCorps Member

This is my second year of AmeriCorps Service. I enjoyed my first year and look forward to a fun second year. I have enjoyed signing up people for Group WorkCamps and to see the work done on their homes. People in the area really need the work done and are grateful to Group WorkCamps for doing the work. It

makes me feel good to know that I have played a part in improving things for people in our communities.

James Harvey, AmeriCorps Member

Hello! My name is James Harvey, an AmeriCorps member. We have ventured throughout Fayette County in the past few months writing directions and paper work, taking measurements, and talking with over 150 residents. We have over 1000 young faith-based volunteers who travel from all over the United States coming to Fayette County neighborhoods to paint houses, build or repair porches, construct wheel chair ramps, and to other weatherization work. From March 9 through 12th I attended an AmeriCorps YouthBuild Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference focused on various types of mentoring programs and how they were organized. I had the opportunity to meet many very nice people and learned a lot of interesting things about how other programs operate. Recently, I have worked with two other AmeriCorps members Chris Shaver and James Masters along with fifteen volunteers from a Florida International University in Miami, Florida. We cleaned out two houses in New Page, repaired water lines, painted the inside and repaired holes in walls. We had a very great volunteer group.

Spring Flowers

George Hensley Jr., Site Supervisor

Once a year a long tradition plays out in the colleges and universities of the nation. Spring Break is here and thousands of youth are lured to the hot spots of the land. Sun and fun is the name of the game, but for a few a more serious and determined trip is planned.

It is called A.S.B., Alternative Spring Break. Some of the participants have landed at Beards Fork, WV. They have come to give a week of their time to help the Southern Appalachian Labor School in its work of building change from the ground up.

SALS has been the destination of many groups including Eastern Michigan, Vanderbilt, Rutgers University, Stockton College, Global Volunteers, and Florida International University. All are participating in school organized A.S.B. groups. These students have felt that their time is more wisely spent by helping others and at the same time, visiting a part of the country that they have never experienced.

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According to AmeriCorps volunteer James Masters, "They were ambitious and ready to work". YouthBuild member Sue Navicki felt that all the groups were open to any project that presented itself at all sites. "Their willingness to tackle any job was amazing," stated Sue.

Missy Adkins said that they gave up a week of laying on the beach to come here and work. "I just wish there were more young people like those who were here," she said.

March is gone and so are our A.S.B. volunteers, but we will remember them and their work.

Traveling with Ron

Ron Yellets, Site Supervisor

Ron Yellets and crew completed the Arthur site and moved to the Beards Fork area to work on the Johnson rehab. During weekends and off hours Ron helped Neil Arthur install insulation, windows and a new kitchen. With Neil's help and the weekend schedule, there won't be an occasion for Ron's crew to have to report to that site for any further work. Ron and crew have also been working at the Hilltop site prepping the foundation for yet another new home. Ron's crew consists of Heather Plumley, James Harvey, Gary Underwood, and Jason Canaday.

Department of Labor YouthBuild Re-Entry Program

Jimmy Adkins, Site Supervisor

This has been a very productive winter. My crew has been very busy rebuilding a house in Robson. Since the beginning of December, we have gutted most of the house to insulate and redo the wiring and plumbing. We put in a new kitchen and bathroom for the family of 5 to give them more efficient living space. The family also received a new heating system, which will make winter and summer more comfortable. New walls, paint, siding for the outside, and adding onto the porch completed this project.

We have not yet worked on a new structure, but we are looking forward to building new homes in the Hilltop area. My crew would like to be able to go to the Gulf Coast to work on the houses devastated from

Katrina. I believe we would do a good job taking what we have learned together to help other folks in need.

So far this winter and spring, my crew has worked with five different groups of volunteers from all over the U.S. The crew enjoys meeting new folks, learning about their lives, and the kind of work they do, and appreciating the opportunity to let others know about the good work they are doing in the community. Two of my crew, Cindy O'Hara and Becky Stark, went to DC for a YouthBuild Rural Caucus and Youth Conference and were excited about meeting other youth with similar backgrounds and interests.

I have been working with Ben Vargas, Aaron Yarber, Jason Canaday, and Cindy O'Hara on weekends doing a community service project that involved working with the local soccer team and getting the field ready for the season. We look forward to doing more fun activities this summer, including another whitewater rafting trip down the New River and other field trips.

Mankin Avenue in Oak Hill

Terry Black, Site Supervisor

My crew is working on a house on Mankin Avenue in Oak Hill. The house is in very bad condition. First, we had to stabilize the roof. How the roof had not fallen in over the years is unbelievable. It had no rafters holding it together. Then it was time for the demolition to take place. All of the walls inside the house had to be stripped. Taking the walls down was fun but the cleanup part was another story. We have already replaced the old windows (most didn't work) with double pane insulated windows. The fanfold has been started so the siding will be next on our agenda, weather permitting. The old fireplace in the house had to be removed block by block. The smoke pipe ended, not out of the roof, but in the loft. There was absolutely no insulation in the house. That will be the next step to improve the inside of the old coal camp house as we work on the many improvements that have to be made. When it is all complete, the homeowner will hopefully be more than thankful that SALS has helped in more ways than he could have imagined. I would like to say from all of my crew, namely Stacy Richmond, Steven Lanham, Charles Johnson, and all who have volunteered, thank you for giving us the opportunity to work on a house for someone who really deserves it. We are learning a lot and enjoy working on this old coal camp house.

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Construction Managers Report

Vickie Smith

The Labor School has many new things underway. We are digging the footer for our new Dormitory in Beards Fork, WV. This facility will enable us to house groups that volunteer with the organization. This facility will be adjacent to the SALS Community Center and is funded by a Community Block Grant through the Fayette County Commission. Pentree Engineering is donating engineering services for plans and specifications.

We also have a 3.5 acre tract that we are now digging the footers for a housing subdevelopment. We have one home that is 95% complete and the second home has its foundation walls and footers complete. The Fayette Institute of Technology Building Construction Class and Instructor Mr. Vincent Smith have so graciously volunteered to help us with our project. They have made great strides with this project. We expect to construct another seven houses on this land and West Virginia American Water is now relocating a major water line to permit the land to be fully developed.

We are using The Frame Shop in Oak Hill as a subcontractor on this project. This contractor also repaired the service station in Kincaid. This building had been vandalized and neglected for years and is now sporting a new roof, windows and doors. It is now an asset to the organization.

We have completed five rehabs in various locations in the county. We have one new home completed in Page, WV. This leaves one more new home to be completed in the Page development.

Our John Deere back hoe has to be rebuilt and will be busy as soon as it is repaired. We are also in need of a large roller to compact dirt in fills. We need to buy a reasonably priced one to help with our many projects. So if anyone knows of one for sale or would donate one for tax credits it would be greatly appreciated. This will allow the organization to keep helping the wonderful people in Fayette County.

In the youth training area, we are now training youth with the NCCER Craft Skills. This is a national Construction Education course that will enable the youth to be placed on a National Registry. This will help with job placement and allow prospective employers to hire component employees.



Billy Payne entertains volunteers after a long day...

We are now in full swing with the 1800+ volunteers that the organization has recruited. These people will be an asset to us in the next several months. They will enable us to complete our many projects.

Taking Care of Business at SALS

Dave Shaver, YouthBuild Trainer/Supervisor

This has been a mild winter and our sites have been busy working most of the time. I believe we had one snow day this season. So that means that I am on the road a lot going from job site to job site checking on what each site needs and making sure that supplies are on site for the youth and volunteers to do a good day's work.

The volunteers are starting to come back to the area about now and that means lots of extra supplies and tools on various job sites to keep everybody busy. We have four job sites scattered over the county and three of the jobs are rehabs, which means the job may take longer than building a house from the ground up. However, all sites generate a lot of trash and debris that needs to be taken to the landfill and that poses a problem sometimes. If folks throw debris on the ground it makes the sites look really bad and we try not to let that happen too often.

I have also been working on keeping the maintenance up on the various SALS vehicles. If anyone needs to take a vehicle to the shop, I will try to give them some idea what is wrong with the vehicle before calling the repair man to fix it. I am looking forward to warmer weather and getting out there and finishing some projects that have been put on the back burner.

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...later they relax and share their experiences.

School Day Plus

Charlene Newkirk, Coordinator

21 Century "Accent Education's" after school program School Day Plus operates Monday through Thursday from 2-6 PM. The program at SALS Community Center serves nearly forty children from Oakhill Elementary, Collins Middle, Valley Elementary, Valley Middle and Valley High.

School Day Plus offers homework tutoring, crafts, cooking and various other activities to promote learning. Both a snack and supper are served each day. Our recent field trips included children's day at the legislature, a basketball game between Collins and Valley Middle Schools, and a performance of the Collins Band of which six of the players attend our after school program!

Two Valley Elementary students who come to School Day Plus entered the math fair and the spelling bee. They both came in fourth place.



Solidarity, continued from page one

booths. The SALS staff will provide food and drinks for a nominal fee.

Mark this day on your calendar and come out to show your support for SALS and to enjoy a day of fine music, food and solidarity with friends and family.

The cultural festival is open to everyone. Admission is free! Exhibits of SALS Housing and Youth projects will be on display and the facility has both indoor and outdoor play areas for the children. The festival will take place at 1 PM, and ends in the early evening on Saturday, May 13. The Festival is held at the former Beards Fork Elementary School located on Beards Fork Road, 2 miles east off WV 61 in Fayette County. The turnoff from WV 61 is located about 8 miles from Montgomery and 17 miles from Oak Hill. For further information, call 779-2772, 779-2280, or 800/515-1349.

Buffalo Creek, continued from page one

1972 collapse of a coal-waste dam had on the West Virginia communities it devastated. A wall of sludge, debris and water tore through the valley below, leaving in its wake 125 dead and 4,000 homeless. The Pittston Company, owners of the dam, maintained that the disaster was “an act of God.” Interviews with survivors, representatives of union and citizens’ groups and officials of the Pittston Company are juxtaposed with actual footage of the flood and scenes of the ensuing destruction. The film contends that the disaster was not an isolated incident: rather it was an example of an industry-wide attitude that places a greater value on profits and production than the health and safety of coal miners, their families, and their communities.

THE BUFFALO CREEK FLOOD: AN ACT OF MAN was recently named by the Librarian of Congress to the National Film Registry. The Librarian described the film as a “powerful documentary” that “represents the finest in regional filmmaking, providing important understanding of the environmental and cultural history of the Appalachian region.” Under the terms of the National Film Preservation Act, each year the Librarian of Congress names twenty-five “culturally, historically, or aesthetically” significant motion pictures to the Registry.

BUFFALO CREEK REVISITED was filmed ten years after the collapse of the coal-waste dam and looks

at the second disaster in which the survivors’ efforts to rebuild the communities shattered by the flood were thwarted by government insensitivity and a century-old pattern of corporate control of the Appalachian region’s land and resources. Through the statements of survivors, planners, politicians, psychologists, and community activists the film explores the psychology of a disaster, the importance of community, and the paradox of a poor people living in a rich land.

Since its beginning in 1969 as a War on Poverty economic development project, Appalshop has trained hundreds of young people and produced over 100 films and videotapes that document the reality of life in Appalachia. Appalshop films have aired nationally on PBS, and screened everywhere from mountain hollows to big city museums, from Kingdom Come in eastern Kentucky to cultural centers in Europe, China, India, Indonesia and the Middle East.

Over the last thirty-six years, Appalshop has grown into a nationally recognized collective that also produces music, audio recordings and radio, literature, theater, visual arts and photography. The subject matter of Appalshop’s works range from depicting traditional arts to exploring history to dealing with the social issues that affect the region today.

Links: Appalshop -

www.appalshop.org

Buffalo Creek Flood -

www.buffalocreekflood.org

Part D Disaster, continued from page two **of- pocket costs at any time and may not meet their needs.**

• **Efficiency: The federal government should be negotiating prices with the pharmaceutical companies, not wasting money by permitting pharmaceutical companies to charge high prices to people with Medicare and squandering millions on misleading marketing by middlemen insurers paid to administer the drug benefit.**

With these reforms, people with Medicare will finally have the security of knowing they can fill their prescriptions. Only then will we see the efficiencies that Medicare can deliver that the private health insurance marketplace cannot.

Southern Appalachian Labor School - Who We Are

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 Terri Harlin Project Coordinator
 Benitez Jackson Project Director
 Lisa Manley AmeriCorps/VISTA
 Iris Adkins AmeriCorps/VISTA
 Lisa King AmeriCorps/VISTA
 Jessica Williams AmeriCorps/VISTA
 Debbie Ferri Teacher
 Lisa Keffer Teacher

New River/Beards Fork Health Clinic Project

Dr. Dan Doyle, M.D.

G.E.D. Instructors/Fayette Co. Schools

LeeAnn Gore & Mary Lynn Flint

Energy Express

Jason Crouch

Bookkeeping Team

Valarie Cowley, Ruth Lanham
 Tom Bass, Brenda Winter

* Indicates members of the SALS Leadership Team



Yes, in these difficult times I understand the importance of an organization like the Southern Appalachian Labor School. Enclosed is my contribution to keep your essential work on track and moving forward..

Contributions to SALS are Tax deductible: Mail to SALS POB 127, Kincaid, WV 25119

Enclosed is: ___\$250 ___\$100 ___\$50 ___\$25 Other\$_____

Or Print a donation form at www.sals.info

Please send me a thankyou gift..

___\$50 +: *SALS Handmade Coffee Mug or similar item*

___\$100 + *SALS License Plate*

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SALS engages in solicitation for the purpose of acquiring funds to support the Southern Appalachian Labor School. WV residents may obtain a summary of our registration and financial documents from the Sec. of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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