

SALS Journal

*A publication of the
Southern Appalachian Labor School*

Issue 2 Volume 44

Winter 2021



SALS Going the Extra Mile for Affordable Housing in Appalachia

by Marcus Wilkes, SALS Housing Counselor

When grit-packing Brenda Warrick came to Gauley Bridge, she took on one difficult job, taming the Regina Apartments community. Nary a man would cross her, as she ran away squatters in unrented units and other undesirables to transform the SALS housing complex into a safe, affordable housing community for low-income families. One contractor said the complex was one of the most run-down jobs he's done. Now, with her Mother Jones demeanor and with her trusted canine friend Bella, and tenant volunteers, Brenda manages a 24-unit facility full of families with children, disabled persons, and seniors.

Brenda spent sleepless hours, days and nights, protecting elderly and disabled tenants from becoming victims of the culture of abuse. Tenants became accustomed to sitting on their patio and enjoying the conveniences of a newly remodeled apartment complex. Among other attributes, she became well known by many volunteer groups for dinners served.

Over two decades ago, SALS director, Dr. John David sought to acquire Regina Apartments from a firm that built and managed dozens of housing complexes throughout Appalachia. Some of those units are in communities of Crown Hill, Ansted, and White Sulphur Springs, WV. By 2012, this property on Scrabble Creek, which was in serious disrepair, was acquired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Soon after, a job-training program, coupled with volunteer support from faith-based and education-based groups, conducted clean-ups and small repairs for the handful of families living there. By securing a temporary \$1.6 million loan the apartments were remodeled with all units set aside for low-income families including



Brenda Warrick, takes a minute to chat with residents at the Regina Apartments on a sunny afternoon.

Section 8 vouchers.

After John David acquired the loan from the West Virginia Housing Development Fund under the leadership of Joe Hatfield, Community Housing Partners began to work on structural issues and safety hazards with SALS doing small repairs and cleanup projects. David is quoted as saying "You have to start at the Bottom". He says that there is a real problem with affordable housing in the upper Kanawha Valley region of Fayette County with the loss of industry, business, and youth who chose to move on to seek livelihoods.

Based on a study cited by Habitat for Humanity, owning a home leads to wealth creation. When

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A Plan for A New Tomorrow

by John David, an op-ed published by the Charleston Gazette-Mail 9-21-21

There has been much said about the shortage of workers in the post-pandemic period. Unfortunately, this might not be universally true, or a permanent sign that full recovery is around the corner.

The first reason pertains to a likely resurgence of COVID-19 through the delta variant. Dr. Clay Marsh, at West Virginia University, already has expressed concern for those not vaccinated, which covers nearly half the population of West Virginia. The new variant spreads rapidly and is deadly. Even those already vaccinated likely will need booster shots by winter, as well.

The second reason pertains to the fact that many lost jobs are being permanently eliminated. The pandemic created an opportunity for many businesses to change their employment configurations.

As noted by Brad Hershbein, senior economist at the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, as reported in The Wall Street Journal, “when demand falls, it’s a natural time to re-tool or invest because you won’t lose customers or sales while you tinker and shut things down.”

The result will cause a major transfer to digital technology, ranging from production to personal services at all levels.

Current tax code also highly favors the write-off of investments in capital expenditures, thereby indicating the surge in labor-intensive job openings will be short-lived and might be relegated to part-time work that will not provide a sustainable, livable existence.

The effects will be major for workers in West Virginia who will have to be retrained for skills needed in new careers. Previously, this occurred for miners as a result of the 1950 Mechanization Agreement between the United Mine Workers union and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association, which caused a major population exodus and cost a congressional seat. But then, conditions were different because of blue-collar opportunities elsewhere.

The problem is more serious today. Many of those here who will be displaced by the new technology and job configurations do not have the educational background to adapt, thereby necessitating a major need for retraining programs, coupled with educational attainment for new professional careers. This also will be a problem for incumbent workers vying to advance in their careers or from part-time employment.

Equally troublesome are “training repayment agreements,” in which workers might initially grab any job available at the immediate moment but are forced to pay back employers for the cost of job training if they are



fired or quit — thereby relegating them to subsistence low-wage servitude.

One proposed program that has come into focus is a special project of the Southern Appalachian Labor School. It is a program that would create a new lifeline for displaced coal miners who would obtain GEDs (if needed), be enrolled in an associate degree technical program, receive professional construction competency certifications and construct rehabilitated housing in coal camp communities, as well as the proposed infrastructure projects envisioned by Congress.

The proposal, endorsed by members of West Virginia’s congressional delegation, UMW President Cecil Roberts and many others in the economic development community, is pending approval by various agencies that are focused on creative recovery initiatives and worker transition in the coalfields.

There is a desperate need for something basic and innovative to be done. As noted by reporter Phil Kabler in the Charleston Gazette-Mail, CNBC summarized in its 2021 report, “America’s Top States for Business,” that “West Virginia offers low costs, but poor education and a lack of innovation leaves it in a deep hole.” It also noted that West Virginia ranks near the bottom for technology and innovation, access to capital and education.

Clearly the program proposed by the Southern Appalachian Labor School is a breath of fresh air that combines workforce transitions, housing and community development into a viable economic transformation that is needed for a new tomorrow in West Virginia.

John David is a Gazette-Mail contributing columnist and director of the Southern Appalachia Labor School.

The SALS Journal is published by the Southern Appalachian Labor School, a grassroots effort dedicated to social & environmental justice and workers rights.
We welcome articles and submissions by our readers.
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United Assoc. of Labor Education
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Director's Report Rolling the Dice

By John David

This year has been extremely difficult. Our funding dried up as YouthBuild and other major funders rejected our initiatives. We were fortunate with USDA but basically we are operating on fumes, donations, and reserves as we await announcements about re-submission opportunities.

Perhaps even more sad has been the loss of key friends and supporters. Jim Hores, who has been a loyal supporter and Board Member since our beginning, died earlier this year. Upon retirement, Jim turned to pottery and crafted most of the mugs that we provided to donors.

Another supporter who passed was Guy Dooley, a local banker in Montgomery. Guy, who was born in Page, provided advice and Jeeps. He was appreciative of what we were doing with water, sewer, and houses in his home area.

We were sad about other deaths as well. They include LaToya Ray's father, Virginia Allen who was the daughter of original Board Member Samantha Allen, office neighbor Paul Kelly who provided watchful security for me at our own Kincaid office, and Vickie Smith's sister Diane. Also we are saddened that Bob Bastress, SALS Attorney, recently lost his sister.

SALS received a multi-year renewal as an HUD approved Housing Counseling Agency and sponsored hundreds of young volunteers during the summer. They did incredible work repairing houses in the Upper Kanawha Valley and painting houses in the Beards Fork area.

These accomplishments were partly sponsored by the Kanawha County Commission and the Benedum Foundation, in addition to the sponsoring organizations of Group Missions and the Church of Latter Day Saints.

Our summer school program was transformed into a remote Feed/Feed Initiative that served near 1000 meals to children in four low income apartment complexes scattered throughout the county.

SALS sends out a BIG "Thank You" to the Mountaineer Food Bank for donating 4 refrigerators for our food distribution programs!

We wish to thank the Directions for Rural Action Fund for making a generous donation to SALS in memory of Elaine Purkey and Anne Feeney. Both Elaine and Anne played major roles in our past Solidarity Festivals and they were extremely supportive of our work in the coalfields.



Volunteers pose outside a local home that has been repaired

As noted elsewhere, the housing efforts slowed but continued. The effort was supported by a dozen summer VIS-TAs, who provided background support to all of the SALS programs.

Maintaining our facilities at the Historic Oak Hill School, SALS Community Center in Beards Fork, and Regina Apartments in Gauley Bridge has become a constant challenge. Roofs are a serious problem and there has been damage. Theft is also an issue, as we have suffered extensive losses of building material and vehicle exhaust converters.

Without question, we are blessed with a long-time loyal staff. They all wear many hats and bear stiff lips. Several suffer serious health issues but continue to make a major contribution. Those who have suffered the most are Ruth, Vickie Smith, Barbara, and Brenda, who are all long-time heroines and warriors for economic and social justice. Please thank them for their incredible dedication and service.



SALS provides a space for this Veteran's Ambulance to park at its warehouse and US Post Office property in Kincaid so it can serve our rural veteran's community needs.

Kincaid Office News

By Ruth Lanham

Hello, this is Ruth at the SALS Office in Kincaid. John has worked diligently to prepare grant proposals for me to type and submit. There are a lot of different things going on at SALS. Since I have not been able to walk very well so I am mostly working from home. I come to the office at least 2 days a week.

We receive calls daily from folks asking for help with repair on their bathrooms and other things. A tremendous amount of the calls are for new roofs. Roofs seem to be a major problem in this area because most of the houses are old coal camp houses in need of much repair. Some requests are for wheelchair ramps so they can get in and out of the house to go to the doctor.

Most of the residents do not have funds to be able to fix these things. To us it is a big regret that we can't help everybody. There are also some people who do not have heat in their homes.

We are blessed beyond measure for all that we have. So we should help the less fortunate with anything we can help them with.

Again, we are still in need of vehicles so that we can replace some of our very old ones with high mileage. We are also in desperate need of a pickup truck. John just announced we have 2021 and 2022 WV Tax credits for donated vehicles and other high value donations. We are also in need for some washers, dryers, stoves, and refrigerators. Some families need one when it quits working and they have no money for repairs or replacements. If you would like to donate to SALS you can call our office at 304.250.7627 or drop it by our office on Route 61 in Kincaid.

Thanks in advance for your kindness to our community.

Constructing Change from the Ground Up

By Vickie Smith

Summer has passed us by and we are now moving into winter. This has always been a busy time of year for SALS. Our volunteer regiment has been somewhat off since the pandemic. We have had some young people helping in the Upper Kanawha Valley area painting for homeowners. We always appreciate our volunteers and look forward to seeing them.

We have two houses under construction in the Page area and a rehabilitation on Miller Avenue in Oak Hill, all in Fayette County. We are trying to complete the

Miller Avenue house so it can become a home for someone.

We need to close in the Page homes for the winter work schedule. These two homes will also become owned homes for families in the community.

The work crew finally got one small pickup truck donated by a board member to enable us to get materials to the work site. All of our other work vehicles gave out on us this past year and this has definitely complicated and slowed down work sites.

Joe's Hello

By Joe Webb, AmeriCorps VISTA

My name is Joe Webb and I have been a long-time friend of SALS. I am a former AmeriCorps State member and I'm currently serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA, and on the board. I began my year of service this past February working with our low-power FM radio station 106.5 WAGE and with many volunteers on other projects, including our monthly food bank.

W.A.G.E. RADIO is a low power FM station located in the Historic Oak Hill School. Our purpose is to provide information on events and services available in the surrounding community.

It has been a challenge trying to figure out how everything is networked. With an organization like this there is always a lot to do. We have had a lot of ups and downs this past year, including some financial concerns. We are always in need of volunteers, donations, and grants. We hope to update our programming and work with other local organizations to keep our community informed about events that will benefit individuals in our area.

This summer I had the pleasure of working with Active Southern West Virginia (Active SWV) along with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) on Active SWV's



Two new affordable homes are under construction in Page WV

Workplace Wellness program. This provides structure and support for a multi-year approach to increase physical activity and wellness in the workplace. They are using the CDC Health Scorecard to measure results. We also participated with Active SWV and The Arthritis Foundation to implement a 6-week Walk With Ease (WWE) Program. It is a community-based physical activity and self-management education program. While walking is the central activity, Walk with Ease is a multi-component program that also includes health education, stretching and strengthening exercises, and motivational strategies.

We are also finishing up some construction projects that have been put on hold from last year, including repairs for some folks in need. We spent a lot of time preparing for volunteer groups that arrived this past summer. We hosted Humanitarian Experiences for Youth (HEFY) group from June 5th until July 17th and Group Workcamps during that period as well.

When they arrived, they assisted our community by performing service projects like painting, building wheelchair ramps, and other much needed construction projects. Global Volunteers is another group that arrived late July to assist our organization and community. All in all it has been a busy year! A lot of work has been done so far and there is much more to do in 2022. Hope all is well with you and yours. Kind Regards, *Joe*

A WORTHWHILE SUMMER IN 2021

By Kathryn South

This has been a difficult new beginning for some of the programs SALS has sponsored for many years. The after-school program ended before the school year ended in 2020 and things just seemed to go backwards after that. We are not fully staffed at the Beards Fork site, and the YouthBuild program grant has ended for this project. We are constantly trying to get back to normal with offering programs that provide children the needed educational and nutritional benefits that we offer.

SALS was on track to continue with Energy Express for this year. However, the problem was with getting the needed mentors to work with the children for six weeks during the summer months. The Covid-virus has folks a little cautious about getting around groups of people and since most of the children in the program were then too young to be vaccinated, parents felt it may be too risky to send the children to our program. Hopefully, we can resume Energy Express next year.

SALS did have a good summer by providing many families with needed home projects. In the Beards Fork area, about 16 houses were painted and some porches



Global Volunteers from all over pose in front of the Mother Jones mural on display in the Historic Oakhill School

were painted along with a handicap ramp that was built for a lady in the area. The youth from the six Humanitarian Experiences for Youth groups, who were housed at our dorm in Beards Fork, were all so very friendly and happy to be offering services to folks here and each Friday evening we thanked them by having a cookout at the Beards Fork Center.

In the Upper Kanawha Valley, we hosted 117 youth through Group WorkCamps, who with staff, repaired over 20 houses for low-income families. The youth were housed in the Ratliff Dorm on the former WVU Tech campus in Montgomery and had their meals/evening program at Valley Elementary in Smithers.

The Feed & Read summer foods program was in full swing this year with several summer VISTAS providing the service to about 45 children in the Smithers and Oak Hill areas. The program started in early July and ended in August before school started. Several folks from Global Volunteers participated in passing out books and readings to the children who were also provided with lunch.

The Global Volunteers also brought lots of supplies and craft materials for the children to use for school. I saw the same children each day when I pulled up with the lunches and they were pretty excited to see me come with whatever meal was prepared for that day. One thing most of the children wanted was chocolate milk, so I always tried to make sure I ordered a lot more chocolate than white milk. Thus, if there was a shortage of that delicious commodity, I guess you can blame me for that.

Even though some of our programs were not around this summer, we can still say we had a successful few months with lots of work being done on homes, children being fed, and child being given an opportunity to meet some really nice folks who wanted to make a difference in their lives.

Extra Mile, continued from page one

owning a home, owners find that they have additional financial resources to secure needed investments for themselves and their families.

Among the findings, the study suggests that children of homeowners are more likely to stay in school than children of renters, especially in low-income neighborhoods. Also, the graduation rates for children of homeowners are 19 percent higher than for children of renters and are twice as likely to acquire some post-secondary education.

When homeowners invest in their home, they increase the equity in their homes. The net wealth of low-income homeowners is higher than the net wealth of low-income renters.

HUD is endorsing programs that allow use of Section 8 vouchers toward the purchase of homes. In some undeveloped communities the creation of wealth is related to home ownership. Local units of government can benefit from property obtained through auctions, then utilize HUD's policies to move low-income people into permanent housing.

Lisa's Reflections

By Lisa Manley, Housing Specialist

As some of you might know the Kincaid office was hit by COVID last fall. 4 out of 5 of us got it and we all survived. Yay! We are still being super cautious since the virus just won't go away.

We have been giving out food to community members who need a little extra help and we are also passing out free masks and hand sanitizer. Just trying to help when and where we can.

This year we did get to have Group Workcamp volunteers come and do repairs on 25 homes. That number is down from previous years but everyone is being careful. The volunteers followed mask guidelines and only did painting and repairs on the outside of the homes. The residents were very grateful for the kids and their adult supervisors who took time out of their summer to come here.



A Farewell Fest for Global Volunteers

A Global Volunteer team of seniors and faculty at the College of Saint Benedict in Minnesota, as well as members of the community, were treated to a farewell evening concert by Billy Payne at the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork, WV on November 11, 2021.

Payne, from Page and Beards Fork, has become a national and internationally recognized country music singer

The nursing students provided health services for the SALS staff at the Historic Oak Hill School and for residents at Regina Three Rivers Apartments in Gauley Bridge. They also worked with the Fayette County Health Department and four locations of the Cabin Creek Health Center during the week.

The team was part of a new initiative by Global Volunteers and SALS to focus on rural health care and healthy nutrition for vulnerable residents in the coalfields.



A Global Volunteer team of seniors and faculty from the BSN nursing program at the College of Saint Benedict in Minnesota, along with Paula Settle of the Fayette County Health Department conducted NARCAN and CPR training for SALS staff at the Historic Oak Hill School. A second training with the residents of the SALS Regina Three Rivers Apartment Complex in Gauley Bridge in November. SALS staff and residents all became authorized to dispense NARCAN nasal spray in case of emergencies and learned basic CPR techniques when needed for both adults and children.

Reading is Fundamental for Fundamental Change

By James Oxendale, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, WVU Institute of Technology

It had been nearly two years since SALS held a monthly book sale. For the price of one novel on Amazon you can buy 5, 10, 15 or more books at a book sale. SALS has a mission to educate, and books are integral to that mission. Yet books are increasingly more difficult to acquire. Local book stores are largely a thing of the past, and internet purchasing is beyond the means and or access of many.

SALS decided that in a small way our used books sales might appeal to and benefit a number of LOCAL people who enjoy reading or wish to instill good reading habits in their children or grandchildren.

Jan Young and I have largely been responsible for the sales during the past few years, and we talked from time-to-time over the past 20 months about when would be the safest time to re-initiate them. We tacitly concluded that there is no best time.

In April or May I decided to take a few dozen books which had been piling up in our house during the pandemic to the SALS bookroom. This was apparently the opinion of multitudes. The bookroom was swamped. It was obvious that COVID stopped the book sales, but not the book donations. We had thousands of books piled or boxed or bagged not only in the bookroom but also on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Historic Oakhill School.

Fortunately things worked out. We decided that we would have a "By the Bag Clearance Sale." Rather than sell one book at a time, we would allow buyers to fill a bag and buy it for \$2.00. We would borrow the SALS cafeteria for the sale. But before we could do anything the books had to be carted from the upper floors.

Fortunately, a hardy group of Global Volunteers were with us and they volunteered to move the books from floors 2 and 3 to the cafeteria. They were remarkable: cheerful, hard-working, friendly, and it's only because of them that the sale occurred.

My daughter Ana and two of my grandchildren, Bella and Madison White, came down from Arlington, VA to help prepare for the sale and to work on the days of the monthly sale (Aug 14-15th). Jan sent press notices to the local newspapers and I contacted local television.

The first Saturday arrived and at dawn I drove through town putting up signs. We hadn't a clue whether anyone would show, but we would soon find out. At about 9:25, 35 minutes before the scheduled opening, a woman in a nursing uniform came in and asked if we were open. Of course we were. She was coming off a shift and noticed the sign on Main Street. (They work.) She shopped for about an hour and bought 3 bags of books!

By the time she left 8 or so people were shopping, and this pace continued throughout the morning. Every visitor in the morning purchased at least one bag of books,



Bella & Madison, the author's granddaughters help out at SALS book sale at the historic Oak Hill School's cafeteria

and most had two or more. The afternoon was not as hectic, but there was a fairly consistent flow throughout the afternoon.

Over that first two-day period 900+ books went out the door and into homes throughout local communities. Our little sales will never significantly affect SALS' financial burdens but making these books available to local folks is clearly appreciated and can enhance their lives.

The book sale is enjoyable for we who volunteer, but it is also enjoyed by readers, and their children. Little kids are sometimes awed by the number of books, and then euphoric when they start to look in the children's shelves. We always let them select a book or two at no cost. (Many have never owned a book.)

Today buying is a solitary activity, just you and your other end of the internet, the Amazon behemoth. The sales in our bookroom or the cafeteria are different. I was surprised at a number of things, but none more that the tendency of readers to talk with other readers who were total strangers. People who would never have any reason to associate together will do so at a booksale.

SALS takes in very little from these booksales (in our latest sale only a bit over \$100.00) but creating a venue in which a tatted Gen-Zer discusses favorite sci fi writers with a middle-aged white collar worker, or to hear a retired miner talking with a young professional about West Virginia histories or the best thriller writers is something to relish, and it never happens on Amazon, in Wal Mart or at Dollar General. But you see it at most of our booksales.

But perhaps the most important result of our sales is that people who don't have the financial wherewithal to spend \$10 or \$20.00 for a book can come to our regular monthly sales and buy a hardback for \$1.00 or paperback for 50 cents, or parents with young children can light up those young eyes at no cost from the selection of children's books available in the hallway, or 25 cents from the children's section in the bookroom.



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Charleston Gazette-Mail

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021 • A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER

The result of continued economic apartheid

RECENTLY, TESLA founder Elon Musk and Amazon's Jeff Bezos got into a public dispute over who is the richest American.

According to The Wall Street Journal, Musk taunted Bezos with a second-place medal when he climbed to \$318 billion, surpassing Bezos, at around \$200 billion. According to Forbes data, analyzed by Americans for Tax Fairness, Musk has gleaned a 12-fold increase in net worth during the pandemic and an increase of \$109 billion in the past month. In 2018, Musk paid zero in federal income taxes and recently moved from California to Texas, to avoid state taxes.

Musk and Bezos are not unique. As noted by Katherine Clarke in The Wall Street Journal, the richest Americans greatly increased their wealth during the COVID-19 pandemic. A decade ago, Business Week issued an alarm bell that "for capitalism to prevail, the widening gap between rich and poor must be addressed." At that time, George Soros made a similar observation in The Atlantic, saying, "un-



JOHN DAVID

bridled self-interest and laissez-faire policies may destroy capitalism from within."

The Biden administration has proposed an increase in the income tax for wealthy Americans. The argument is simply that those who have benefited from the system should give back more to maintain the system that allowed that to happen.

Where it gets complicated is distinguishing between "wealth" and "income." Income can be legally and easily diluted with exemptions, such as unrealized capital gains, loans taken against assets at low rates to fund luxurious lifestyles and creative estate planning. As noted in The Journal, economists Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman in their 2019 book, "The Triumph of Injustice: How the Rich Dodge Taxes and How to Make Them Pay," found the top 400 households by income paid an average

individual income tax rate of only 9.2%.

More significantly, under existing law, someone whose net worth is, for example, \$100 billion and sold nothing would have no income to report and no tax. As noted by Ken Thomas and Richard Rubin in The Journal, "At death, those unrealized gains aren't subject to income taxes and heirs only have to pay capital gains taxes when they sell and only on gains since the prior owner's death."

Perhaps feeling guilty, Elon Musk recently tweeted, "Much is made lately of unrealized gains being a means of tax avoidance, so I propose selling 10% of my Tesla stock."

Eighty years ago, in the grip of the Great Depression and social upheaval, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed a number of ways to redistribute income to avoid economic apartheid. Some were implemented, but many have since been diluted or repealed. Now, our society is once more breaking apart on the basis of income, and efforts to redistribute benefits in our society is long overdue.

Those who claim that proposed changes will substantially increase the national debt need, instead, to look at the recent report by the Joint Committee on Taxation, a nonpartisan panel that prepares official revenue estimates of all tax legislation considered by Congress. It found that the funding for the Build Back Better bill would raise \$1.476 trillion in revenue over a decade and would be unlikely to add to the national debt.

However, the few at the top strive to protect what they have and seek to fling their wealth into space joyrides, such as Virgin Galactic, Blue Origin and SpaceX expeditions. Meanwhile, the many at the bottom perceive that they have little to gain from maintaining the system.

Overall, worsening conditions for more and more people have led the escalation of disorder. The threat to the present economic system is from within, and the rhetoric that foreign battles must be fought "in the interest of national security" sounds increasingly shrill and

hollow. The real battlefield is at home, because a system of economic apartheid, which offers a future only to a shrinking minority, cannot endure.

Interestingly, 50 years ago, President Richard Nixon warned about the American decline. As noted by Tom Switzer, executive director of the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney, Australia, Nixon said, "I think of what happened to Greece and Rome, and you see what is left — only the pillars. What has happened, of course, is that the great civilizations of the past, as they have become wealthy, as they have lost their will to live, to improve, they then have become subject to decadence that eventually destroys the civilization."

Nixon's lament? "The United States is now reaching that period."

Nixon concluded by urging his countrymen to concentrate on building a nation that is "healthy," both "morally and physically."

John David is a Gazette-Mail contributing columnist.

Southern Appalachian Labor School - Who We Are

www.SALS.info

www.ConstructingChangeAndBridgingGaps.com

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SALS engages in solicitation 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.



This season marks the 40th anniversary of the Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS) – 40 years since the spark for worker education and community service was lit in 1981 from its start at West Virginia Tech five years prior. And to celebrate this momentous occasion, we have a very exciting announcement: we are launching an annual matching campaign!

In honor of our legacy and future as one of the coalfields' longest running social change agents, an anonymous donor has promised SALS a matching gift of \$25,000.

This means that for every dollar you donate to SALS, we'll get two dollars. And if we reach a total of \$25,000 in donations from supporters like you, we'll receive a total of \$50,000 to protect and sustain SALS. You can give any amount that is meaningful to you, and your gift will be doubled by our matching donor. Please share the news and help us with your match by December 31st. Thank You!!

John David

 Director

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: ___ \$1000 ___ \$500 ___ \$250 Other \$ ___

Please send me a thank you gift.. ___

\$50 + Donors will receive a hand-crafted SALS pottery mug, license plate or keychain

Give on the WEB at: www.sals.info/donate

Email _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/ZIP _____
 Telephone _____

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SALS Journal
POB 127, Kincaid, WV 25119

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SALS GOES THE EXTRA MILE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN APPALACHIA

NASA's OSIRIS-REx is now returning to Earth from the asteroid Bennu carrying the largest space souvenir from a NASA mission since Apollo astronauts brought moon rocks home.

Courtney Mario, a former SALS volunteer who played a key role in designing the mission, placed SALS names on two different parts of the spacecraft before it was launched in 2016. One name is on the return capsule part which falls to Earth while the other is on the spacecraft which will remain in space over Earth checking on our progress with affordable housing.

Courtney reported that the OSIRIS-REx return capsule with the SALS name on it and with what appears to be much more than the required 2.1 ounce sample from Bennu will parachute down to NASA's Utah Test and Training Range in September 2023.

This roundtrip mission is 4.4 billion miles including 4 laps around the sun plus even more since SALS continues to travel in space, thereby clearly proving that SALS goes the extra mile for affordable housing in Appalachia!

