



## WEST VIRGINIA STATE SOCIETY ECHO NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER

### STATE

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#### WEST VIRGINIA APPLAUDED FOR STIMULUS MONEY EFFORTS

The Federal Highway Administration has applauded the state of West Virginia for their quick and effective use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. West Virginia used the funds on three “shovel-ready” projects: the Mon-Fayette Expressway outside Morgantown, an upgraded Route 9 in the Charles Town area, and the East Beckley Bypass.

<http://www.wvmetronews.com/news.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=49689>

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#### WEIRTON TO ADD STEEL JOBS

ArcelorMittal has announced it will hire at least twenty-three new employees at their Weirton plant. The steel industry in Weirton and the surrounding area was in decline for over ten years, but through a transformation is now doing more business.

You can read more here: <http://www.wvmetronews.com/news.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=49731>

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#### STATE'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS

West Virginia's unemployment rate fell to 7.1 percent in November, according to data released by WorkForce West Virginia Tuesday. The total number of unemployed state residents fell by 2,100 to 55,000, the group says.

The complete story is available at <http://www.wvmetronews.com/news.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=49750>.

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#### FOLLOW-UP: WV DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONSIDERS LIGHTING NEW RIVER GORGE BRIDGE

The West Virginia Department of Transportation has released the results of the online poll I mentioned last month. A whopping 76% of respondents voted against installing lights along the sides of the New River Gorge Bridge in an effort to illuminate the iconic landmark. For more on the story, visit

<http://www.wvmetronews.com/news.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=49684>

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## MARCELLUS PIPELINE TO BE BUILT FOR MID-ATLANTIC

Houston-based Crestwood Midstream Partners is proposing a 42-mile pipeline to deliver natural gas from Preston, Barbour, and Tucker Counties to the Baltimore/Washington region. For more information go to <http://www.wvmetronews.com/news.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=49752>.

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## LEGISLATURE PASSES MARCELLUS SHALE BILL

During a special session of the legislature, a bill was passed detailing requirements for Marcellus shale drilling. The story was reportedly widely by all media outlets. A compromise was drawn between environmentalists, land owners, and mineral rights owners.

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## MARSHALL HEADS TO BEEF O' BRADY'S BOWL

Congrats and good luck to the Marshall Thundering Herd! The Herd will face Florida International in St. Petersburg, Florida the night of December 20<sup>th</sup>.

## WVU

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## WVU TO FACE CLEMSON IN THE ORANGE BOWL

Good luck to the Mountaineers as they travel to Miami to face ACC Champion Clemson in the Orange Bowl. The two teams have only played once before, also in a bowl game.

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## KANSAS STATE SOCIETY WELCOMES WEST VIRGINIA TO THE BIG 12

The WV State Society enjoyed the hospitality of the Kansas State Society last Tuesday in an event marked, "West Virginia: Welcome to the Big 12." Fans of both KU and Kansas State were on hand to discuss future collaborations between the two states. Money was raised for charities that will support West Virginians. In general, a good time was had by all.