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A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Chuck Parker, President | John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer | Justin Williams, Director

Open House Held for New Ritchie County Annex

Earlier this month, an open house was held to celebrate the completion of construction on the Ritchie County Judicial Complex, located behind the Ritchie County Courthouse in Harrisville, West Virginia.

After a year and a half timeline for construction, the \$13 million facility will now house all the necessary county judicial offices under one roof including: the Ritchie County Sheriff's office, Magistrate Court, Family Court, Probation office and day Report Center, Circuit clerk, and the Prosecuting Attorney's Offices.

Ritchie County Commissioners say that the need for the complex came from the fact that these judicial offices were spread across different buildings throughout town, some of which were rented and others that are owned by the county.

With the building's completion, those judicial offices will be in one facility behind the Ritchie County Courthouse, which is connected to the complex through a walkway.

As of now, the three-story building is only occupied on the first and second floors. Commissioners say

the third floor was added to ensure office space is available when needed as the county continues to grow.

Steve Parks, Executive Director of the Ritchie County Economic

Cont. on p. 3>>



An aerial view of the newly completed Ritchie County Judicial Complex building with a walkway to the older Ritchie County Courthouse. A ribbon cutting and open house was held for the new building earlier this month.

\$3.5 Billion Project

Nucor Receives Additional \$75 Million in State Funding from West Virginia

Last month, the West Virginia Economic Development Authority approved another \$75 million in state funding to Nucor Steel.

This most recent allocation is in addition to the initial \$315 million

promised by the state in 2022, when the company announced plans to build a state-of-the-art sheet steel mill in Mason County.

The new funding came in late December, as one of the final acts of for-

mer WV Governor Jim Justice, who has since been sworn in as the new junior United States Senator from West Virginia.

The additional \$75 million from the state will bring Nucor's total

commitment to \$3.5 billion, making it the largest economic development in both the state and the company's history.

The steel mill is well under con-

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U.S. Department of the Treasury Releases Final Rules for Clean Hydrogen Tax Credits

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released final rules for the section 45V Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit established by the Inflation Reduction Act.

The final rules include significant changes and flexibility that address several key issues to help grow the

industry and move projects forward, while adhering to the law's emissions requirements for qualifying clean hydrogen.

They also clarify how producers of hydrogen, including those using electricity from various sources, natural gas with carbon capture, renewable natural gas, and coal mine methane can determine eligibility for

the tax credits.

To qualify for the full credit, projects must meet prevailing wage and apprenticeship standards, continuing the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to put workers at the center of the clean energy economy and ensure clean energy jobs are good-paying jobs.

The final regulations provide rules for determining eligibility of hydrogen produced using methane reforming technologies, including with carbon capture and sequestration (so-called "blue" hydrogen)

With the inclusion of these changes, the final rules provide clarity, investment certainty, and flexibility, including for participants in projects planned as part of the Department of Energy's Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program.

While this is good news for now, leaders of the WV Building and Construction Trades are wary of changes that could happen due to a change in

federal representation.

"We are encouraging our federal representatives to protect the measures that have been put in place," said John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer of the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades.

"These tax credits have the potential to encourage billions of dollars of investment in the new hydrogen industry. That means

good paying jobs for workers," said Epperly.

For more information on the final rules for the section 45V Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit, log on to www.home.treasury.gov. ■

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John Epperly
Secretary-Treasurer

West Virginia Building and Construction Trades

Charleston Trades Raise \$13,183.13 for Salvation Army



Robbie Morris, Jennifer Morris, Melissa Green, Ray Flanagan (Business Manager of Roofers 185), Daphne Ashworth, and Bruce Ashworth with Roofers Local 185 pose for a picture outside of Kroger in Kanawha City.

The group was a part of the Charleston Building and Construction Trades larger effort to raise money for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Drive, during the holiday season.

Each Charleston Building and Construction Trades craft held a Red Kettle donation center across the Charleston area. The groups raised a combined total of \$13,183.13.

However, between the Red Kettle Drive and the Angel Tree Program, the Charleston Building and Construction Trades raised a grand total of more than \$29,000 for the Charleston area Salvation Army during 2024.

"There are no words that can express my sincere gratitude for our members who helped us achieve this accomplishment," said Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council.

"I want to wish everyone an amazing 2025 and thank you again for your support," said Chandler.

Nucor Steel

Continued from Page 1

struction with hundreds of workers.

When completed sometime in 2027, company representatives say it will employ up to 1,000 workers.

As a condition of the state funding received by Nucor, agreements require that the company meet certain benchmarks on investments and employment in the coming years or the company will have to pay back the money.

While no direct reason was given for the additional \$75 million dollars, the Justice administration stated that the Nucor site will attract related industries creating a multiplier effect

for the economy.

Leaders from the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades are hopeful that an ongoing relationship with the company will only develop even more over time.

"We appreciate the relationship some of our contractors have with Nucor Steel," said John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades. "We will continue to do all we can to strengthen the pipeline of skilled labor to the construction industry in hopes that even more union labor will be hired onto the project." ■

Election Results

2024 General Election Endorsements

	<u>US Congress</u>	26th	Matthew Rohrbach (R) ✓
	Riley Moore (R) ✓	27th	Michael Amos (R) ✓
	<u>State Treasurer</u>	28th	Ryan Browning (R) ✓
	Larry Pack (R) ✓	29th	Wayne Bug Williamson (D)
	<u>Attorney General</u>	30th	Jeff Eldridge (R) ✓
	John "JB" McCuskey (R) ✓	33rd	Jordan Bridges (R) ✓
	<u>State Senate</u>	34th	Mark Dean (R) ✓
2nd	Chris Rose (R) ✓	35th	Adam Vance (R) ✓
5th	Ric Griffith (D)	40th	Roy Cooper (R) ✓
9th	Brian Helton (R) ✓	43rd	Chris Toney (R) ✓
13th	Joey Garcia (D) ✓	44th	Carl Bill Roop (R) ✓
	<u>House of Delegates</u>	46th	Jeff Campbell (R) ✓
1st	Pat McGeehan (R) ✓	47th	Ray Canterbury (R) ✓
4th	Bill Flanigan (R) ✓	48th	Thomas Clark (R) ✓
5th	Shawn Fluharty (D) ✓	49th	Stanley Adkins (R) ✓
7th	Chuck Sheedy (R) ✓	50th	Elliott Pritt (R) ✓
8th	David Kelly (R) ✓	51st	Marshall Clay (R) ✓
9th	Trenton Barnhart (R) ✓	53rd	Tristan Leavitt (R) ✓
12th	Vernon Criss (R) ✓	54th	Mike Pushkin (D) ✓
13th	Scot Heckert (R) ✓	55th	JB Akers (R) ✓
14th	Dave Foggin (R) ✓	56th	Kayla Young (D) ✓
15th	Erica Moore (R) ✓	57th	Hollis Lewis (D) ✓
20th	Sarah Drennan (R) ✓	58th	Walter Hall (R) ✓
23rd	Evan Worrell (R) ✓	59th	Andy Shamblin (R) ✓
25th	Sean Hornbuckle (D) ✓	60th	Dana Ferrell (R) ✓

67th	Cody Thompson (D)	79th	Evan Hansen (D) ✓
68th	Chris Phillips (R) ✓	80th	John Williams (D) ✓
70th	Shannon Welsh (D)	81st	Anitra Hamilton (D) ✓
71st	Laura Kimble (R) ✓	88th	Rick Hillenbrand (R) ✓
73rd	Bryan Smith (R) ✓	90th	George Miller (R) ✓
75th	Stephanie Tomana (D)	96th	Lisa White (R) ✓
76th	Rick Garcia (D) ✓	97th	Lucia Valentine (D)
77th	Joe Statler (R) ✓	99th	Wayne Clark (R) ✓
78th	Diane Market Gaston (D)	100th	Maria Russo (D)

Ritchie County Annex

Continued from Page 1

Development Authority and Project Coordinator for the Ritchie County Commission, says this new building is a massive step forward for Ritchie County.

"Our courthouse is 100 years old this year and it's just not built for today's technology and today's growth in offices and judicial system and everything we need to do as a county on a day-to-day basis," said Parks.

Parks went on to say that the project turned out well specifically

due to West Virginia Building and Construction trades members who worked on the project.

"We'd like to thank Grae-Con Construction of Marietta, Ohio and the local union contractors and workforce for their hard work and dedication," said Parks.

"Their commitment and attention to detail on this new government building will make it last for the citizens of Ritchie County for many years to come." ■

Morrissey Administration

WV Governor Signs New Executive Orders Which Could Affect Craft Licensing Laws

On the day after his inauguration, new West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrissey started his term in office by signing a package of executive orders, setting the stage for his new administration.

Most of the media coverage surrounding these orders focused on his order to provide a religious exemption for previously required public school vaccines and his commitment to eliminate DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) regulation.

However, among these executive orders are five that, when considered all together, could potentially affect occupational licensing laws in West Virginia.

One of the orders even directly suggested that "workforce and licensing rules have created a barrier to peoples' ability to live, learn, and work in West Virginia."

In short, these five executive orders direct state officials to do a review of all departments and agencies, comparing roles with neighboring states.

In addition, the orders would require departments and agencies to review proper functions to eliminate inefficiencies and redundancies in state government.

Furthermore, it directs state officials to examine legislative rules and regulations that have been created in

the past.

Morrissey says this is all a part of his "Economic Backyard Brawl," to fight neighboring states in commerce and make West Virginia look more economically attractive to businesses.

West Virginia Building and Construction Trades officials are wary of another discussion surrounding occupational licensing laws, as regulations surrounding electrical, HVAC, and Plumbing licenses were already rolled back during the 2021 legislative session.

"We have heard from several sources that Governor Morrissey has had plans to take another look at li-

ensing laws," said George Capel, Government Relations Director for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council.

"While it is unclear, at this time, what the Governor may decide related to licensing, our message remains the same," said Capel.

"Occupational licensing is a public safety issue. We must uphold these standards to ensure our citizens receive good service and limit on-the-job errors that could put peoples' lives at risk."

For more information on Governor Morrissey's executive orders, log on to www.governor.wv.gov/executive-orders. ■

Labor-Management Partnership Project BEST Raises \$40,000 for New WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital Campus Project

Earlier this month, Project BEST raised and donated \$40,000 all under one roof. Project BEST's contribution added to the almost \$5 million raised for the \$11 million project, according to WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital President and CEO Douglass Harrison.

The facility will combine all WVU Medicine's pediatric practices under one roof, and Morgantown-based pediatric specialists will be co-located there.

The facility will feature an entrance designated for sick children and another entrance for wellness visits, as well as having imaging and lab capabilities

outpatient center, is contributed by local building trades members. The contractors the trade members work with match their contributions to

“I have four children myself, and I bring my kids here to WVU Medicine facilities, so it means a lot to me to have an up-to-date facility for them to visit...”

Nathan Butts
Director
Project BEST

tion encompassing over five hundred contractors and six thousand building trades craftsman and apprentices serving the Upper Ohio Valley re-

“We’re happy to support those who support our trades and our contractors,” said Project BEST Director Nathan Butts. “That’s where this contribution comes from.”

Butts says half of the funding for Project BEST donations, including Thursday’s donation to the children’s

outpatient center, is contributed by local building trades members. The contractors the trade members work with match their contributions to

tion encompassing over five hundred contractors and six thousand building trades craftsman and apprentices serving the Upper Ohio Valley re-

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(From left) Project BEST Co-Chair Doug Giffin, Associate Vice President of Foundation and Community Relations for Wheeling and Reynolds Hospitals Jessica Moore, WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital President and CEO Doug lass Harrison, Project BEST Executive Director Nathan Butts and Project BEST Co-Chair Justin Klempa.

Project BEST funds.

“We’re all local people,” Butts said. “I have four children myself, and I bring my kids here to WVU Medicine facilities, so it means a lot to me to have an up-to-date facility for them to visit. I’m sure everybody else in the trades feels the same about providing for the children in our community.”

Project BEST is a construction industry labor-management organiza-

tion.

Project BEST represents a joint effort by the Upper Ohio Valley Building & Construction Trades Council and the Ohio Valley Construction Employers Council to create a positive labor-relations climate in the construction industry.

For more information on Project BEST, log on to www.ProjectBEST.com ■

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