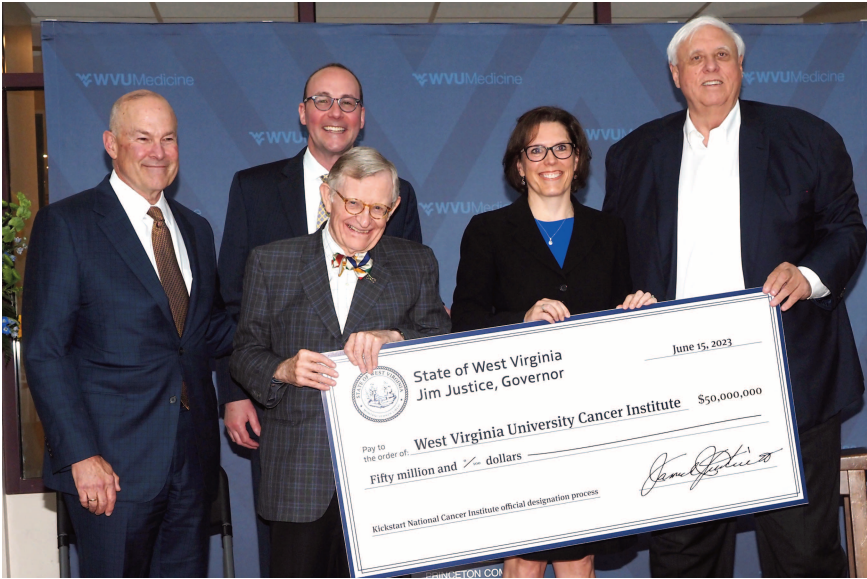
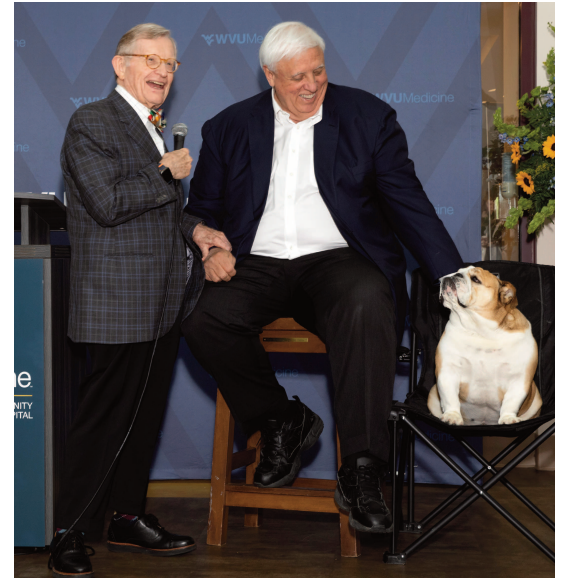


## PCH Hosts Landmark Event: Governor Announces \$50 Million State Investment for WVU Cancer Institute



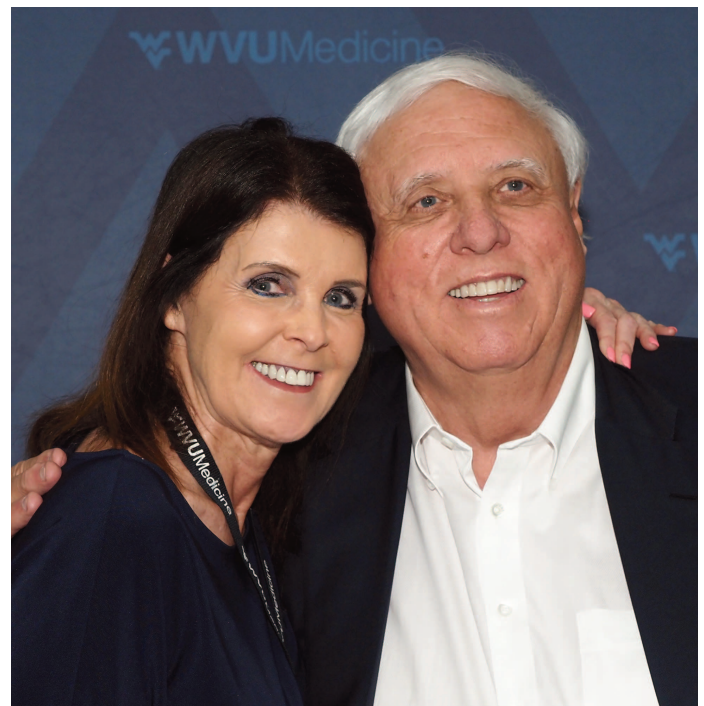
From left, Dr. Clay Marsh, WVU Health Sciences chancellor and executive dean; Albert Wright, Jr., WVU Health System president and CEO; WVU President Gordon Gee; Dr. Hannah Hazard-Jenkins, WVU Cancer Institute director; and Governor Jim Justice.



President Gee, Governor Justice, and Babydog.

West Virginia University's efforts to reimagine and expand cancer care received a \$50 million boost as Gov. Jim Justice joined WVU academic and Health System leaders at WVU Medicine Princeton Community Hospital on June 15 to announce state surplus funding that will support investment to attain National Cancer Institute Designation for the WVU Cancer Institute. This would be the first NCI-designated cancer center in West Virginia.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) leads cancer research across the country. An official NCI designation is the highest federal rating a cancer center can attain and is considered the gold standard for cancer programs. This accolade is bestowed upon the country's top cancer centers while saluting their innovative research and leading-edge treatments. Currently, there are 71 NCI-designated cancer centers in 36 U.S. states, and centers with this designation represent the top two percent of cancer centers in the country.



President and CEO Karen Bowling and Governor Jim Justice.

(continued)



*From left, David Hess, United Hospital Center president and CEO; Thomas Heywood, vice chair of the WVU Health System Board of Directors; Albert Wright, Jr., WVU Health System president and CEO; Karen Bowling, WVU Medicine PCH president and CEO; Governor Jim Justice; Khristy Shrewsbury, RN, BSN, MSN, Cancer Services director; Dr James Mackey, oncologist; Stacy Sizemore, LPN, oncology clinic; Tracy McKenzie, APP, oncology clinic; Melissa Bogle, APP, oncology clinic; Julie Lilly, RN, BSN, nurse manager, oncology clinic, infusion supervisor; and Heather Yahya, RN, nurse navigator, oncology clinic.*



*Senator Tom Takubo and Dr. Hannah Hazard-Jenkins.*



*Jodie Croy, Food Service manager, and Stephen Gray, Nutrition Services director.*

PCH President and CEO Karen Bowling said attaining the NCI designation would benefit all West Virginians and that PCH was proud to be the site for the announcement. The gathering was held in the hospital's Parkview Center Atrium.

Bowling called the funding "profound" saying, "It's not just offering a monetary gift...it's also a shot of encouragement." She explained that the \$50 million is "seed money" that will be used in working toward the NCI designation that will eventually lead to "improving outcomes...and quality of life" for cancer patients.

"It will be very beneficial for all the people of West Virginia," she said, adding that becoming a national leader in cancer care is an especially exciting opportunity for the state and its residents.

"I am thrilled to deliver this \$50 million check to the West Virginia University Cancer Institute in their pursuit of an official cancer center designation by the National Cancer Institute," Justice said. "I want to express my deep gratitude to the West Virginia Legislature for allocating these crucial funds, and to WVU Medicine for pursuing this incredible goal, because we all recognize the importance and significance of obtaining this recognition from the NCI, as it is only bestowed upon the nation's top cancer centers. This funding will serve as a catalyst to jumpstart our progress towards that goal, and I couldn't be more proud."

The funding was included in House Bill 2024 as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget passed by the West Virginia Legislature. These dollars will be used for comprehensive research programs, faculty and facilities

that will directly lead to innovative approaches in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment for all residents of the Mountain State.

Officials joining the Governor for the announcement include: WVU President Gordon Gee; WVU Health System President and Chief Executive Officer Albert L. Wright, Jr.; WVU Health Sciences Chancellor and Executive Dean Dr. Clay Marsh; and WVU Cancer Institute Director Dr. Hannah Hazard-Jenkins. Also in attendance were PCH board members, administrators, department managers, and staff; officials with the City of Princeton; and media representatives. The crowd overflowed into the lobby with some staff and patients taking in the program from their vantage point on floors overlooking the atrium.

“Our goal is to place the WVU Cancer Institute in the top 2 percent of cancer centers nationwide, which will improve the health and wellness of the people in our state, particularly in southern West Virginia, by reducing cancer occurrence rates and increasing cancer survival,” Gee said.

This is especially significant for West Virginia where cancer affects one in 10 adults. West Virginia has the highest cancer death rate in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in part due to high tobacco usage, lack of access to nutritious foods, limited physical activity, and environmental influences such as poverty. Cancer occurrence and death rates in the state are well above the national average for nearly all types of cancer.

“There is a cancer epidemic in West Virginia,” Marsh said. “As West Virginia’s land grant institution, it’s our duty and honor to make sure our state’s citizens have access to the most advanced clinical trials, treatments, and care for cancer, and we are working closely with our WVU Medicine and state partners to bring this level of care to West Virginians. We are grateful to our state legislature and governor for recognizing the need that exists and for supporting a solution.”

According to Wright, NCI designation will allow the WVU Cancer Institute to expand beyond the traditional model of diagnosis and treatment to a more integrated and comprehensive approach with a stronger emphasis on cancer prevention, especially in underserved populations.

“Our long-term vision includes building the infrastructure necessary for a new NCI-designated Cancer Institute in Morgantown and for our existing network of Cancer Institute sites across the state to



*President Gee and Babydog share a moment.*



*President Gee greeting Lorinda Hart, Tim Anderson, Helena Griffith, and Stacy Smith.*

become NCI designated to bring patients increased access to better treatments, public education, pioneering research, and national clinical trials,” Wright said.

By working toward enhanced access to cancer care and programs in West Virginia, additional research staff and personnel infrastructure, and a future statewide, comprehensive NCI-designated Cancer Institute, the health and well-being of the people in the state affected by cancer will continue to improve by reducing cancer occurrence rates and improving long-term cancer survival rates.

“Our long-standing mission is to provide excellent care to patients with cancer and their families, while strengthening our research, education, and service programs to address the cancer health inequalities unique to the state of West Virginia and Appalachia,” Hazard-Jenkins said. “Together, we will work to build science that saves lives.”

A reception in the atrium followed the formal remarks. Attendees chatted with the visiting dignitaries and lined up to take selfies with Babydog, the Governor’s beloved English Bulldog who accompanied him on his visit to PCH. Refreshments included WVU Medicine themed cakes decorated with blue and gold icing and cookies, made by Cindy Weber, shaped like WVU logos and bow ties, served as a nod to President Gee.

# Babydog Makes PCH Smile

When Gov. Jim Justice visited Princeton Community Hospital, Babydog, his pet English Bulldog, accompanied him and stole the show. But that's something the Governor says he has come to expect whenever Babydog joins him during official engagements.

An admiring crowd of PCH patients and staff welcomed Gov. Justice and Babydog as they made their way through the Parkview Center's lobby and headed to the atrium where the Governor was scheduled to speak.

With Babydog by his side in her own special chair, Gov. Justice spoke to the guests at the afternoon program, recounting the scene from just moments before and explaining why he believes his beloved dog is good medicine.

"So we walk in the front door and everybody's going crazy taking pictures and saying 'Oh, there's Babydog, there's Babydog' and not a single person says, 'There's the Governor.'"

"And I'm okay with that, I'm okay with that, because you see I've got a great sense of humor and really and truly not only that, I really believe that God gave every single one of you the ability to smile and laugh. And, this journey's tough enough, that's all there is to it," he said.

"Now if I could give you some real-life wisdom, I would say you'd best better know how to smile and laugh a lot because every single day of this journey just gets tougher as you go. Now, the one thing that I promise you that she does, she makes you smile. And, the other thing she does, is she loves everybody, and it doesn't matter who you are, she loves everybody, and, in my world, I don't know how it gets any simpler than just that.

"If we could just carry that through our lives and we could make others smile and we could love everybody, wouldn't it be one whale of a lot better world," he said.



# Stacie Allen Earns New Certifications

Stacie Allen, BSN, RN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, IBCLC, has added several impressive credentials to her title recently by acquiring three certifications within the short span of six months.

She received the Electronic Fetal Monitoring Certification, C-EFM, from the National Certification Corporation (NCC) in January 2023. She also tested for the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners in March of 2023 to obtain the IBCLC which is an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant. Stacie has been a Certified Lactation Counselor since 2019, a certification she received from the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice. In June of this year, she obtained the Inpatient Obstetric Nursing, RNC-OB, from the NCC.

“Each certification requires sitting for the certification exam and the IBCLC also requires passing their exam, lactation clinical support hours, and 95 hours of lactation specific education,” Stacie explains.

“This is a major accomplishment,” states Stacie’s manager, Deborah Surface MSN, RN, Manager, Nursing and Clinical Education.

“I am very proud to have Stacie as a member of my team,” Debbie said. “She is intelligent, dedicated, and committed to her roles as lactation consultant, OB RN, and nurse educator. She consistently seeks up-to-date educational opportunities to enhance staff and community knowledge. She also serves as an instructor for BLS, ACLS, PALS, and NRP. Thank you, Stacie, and congratulations on these well-deserved accomplishments.”

Stacie has been a registered nurse since 2008. She received an associate of science in nursing degree from Bluefield State University and graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science in nursing from King University in Bristol, Tennessee, in 2009. She has worked at PCH since 2012.

“When I started at PCH, I worked in the Emergency Department as an RN. While I loved working in ER, I have always known since I was in nursing school that I wanted to work in OB,” she says.

Stacie assumed the role of lactation consultant nurse with PCH Learning and Development last July after working in the Women’s Center since 2014. She also teaches the Childbirth and Breastfeeding classes at PCH and is an adjunct clinical OB instructor for Wytheville Community College.

“I am very thankful for the opportunity Princeton Community Hospital has given me to grow in my career as a registered nurse and as a lactation consultant. I am even more excited to help the families of southern West Virginia bring their new family members into the world,” Stacie says. “As a mom of three, I remember what it is like to be a first-time mom and how it can be overwhelming at times. I hope in my role at PCH I’m able to help families feel more comfortable and help support them in their new role as parents.”



**Stacie Allen, BSN, RN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, IBCLC**



*Carrying on a West Virginia University tradition, Mikel Hager was named the new WVU Mountaineer mascot on March 4, 2023. The formal “Passing of the Rifle” ceremony was held on April 21.*

A native of Boone County, Hager said, “I am honored to have the privilege and opportunity to serve WVU and the state of West Virginia as the 69th Mountaineer. I hope to make the best of my time in the buckskins and have an impact on Mountaineer fans everywhere.”

Mikel certainly had a positive impact when he visited employees and patients at WVU Medicine Princeton Community Hospital healthcare facilities in Bluefield and Princeton. Everyone enjoyed meeting and spending time with the WVU Mountaineer.

He said, “Being selected as the Mountaineer is the single greatest honor a West Virginia University student can receive. My small hometown located deep in the heart of southern West Virginia has been hit hard by the opioid epidemic and loss of mining jobs and WVU has helped me rise above adversity. As the Mountaineer mascot, I want to be a source of encouragement and inspiration, and show others, like me, they are not bound by their circumstances.”

Thank you, Mikel and Jim Ferguson, for graciously honoring us with your time.

# WVU Mountaineer Visits Patients and Employees June 7, 2023



# With Over 32 Years of Service, Janice Rice Will Retire June 30, 2023

Born at Princeton Memorial Hospital, Janice Rice is a graduate of Princeton High School where she met her sweetheart, Dale Rice. They will celebrate their 49th anniversary this year.

Janice joined Princeton Community Hospital on November 11, 1990. She was interviewed and hired by Kevin Graham, then the manager of Communications. Two years later, Danny Farley became the department manager.

Janice has worked with four different department supervisors during her career: Gertie Burchette, Janice Hutchens, Tina Lewis, and Jenny Perdue (the current supervisor).

Janice said, "I loved my job back here. The girls have been super nice. I've probably seen 100 girls come and go over the years. Some retired. Some transferred. Some just didn't work out. All have been great to work with.

"There have been many changes over the last 32.5 years. Switchboard was originally in a tiny closet near the main entrance. We had a Code Blue phone that was actually blue. We had one radio for Security and one for Code Blue. At that time, our physicians used the small pocket pagers. We also did a lot of overhead paging at the time when doctors did not respond to the pocket page. Back in the day, we announced everything overhead. Very little of that is done now. Now, nurses often text physicians directly. In addition to answering calls for PCH, several of the MMG and Bluefield clinics' calls ring into the switchboard after hours."

Many of the departments have relocated since Janice's arrival. The snack bar was located where ER is now. The pharmacy was across from the snack bar on the first floor. Switchboard's current location was originally home to Central Sterile, next to the OR.

Janice recalled the 2017 cyber attack as being one of the most disruptive events of her career. Switchboard lost all contacts and phone numbers. Fortunately, they had paper copies of most of the numbers on file and were able to go "old school." Other memorable events that occurred under Janice's watch included a hostage situation in the old Behavioral Medicine unit, a gun fired in the old ER, and working through two blizzards in the 1990s.

She said, "All of the girls do their best. It is difficult sometimes when a caller is angry or distraught over an illness. We remain calm and try to point them in the right direction. I truly love my job and my coworkers, and most of our callers are very nice and understanding."

Janice is a lifetime member of The Salvation Army in Princeton. She grew up in the church, with her mother and grandmother in attendance. Her mother still attends. Janice is active with the Women's Ministry on Wednesday nights. In past years, she helped take applications and prepare Christmas gifts for hundreds of area children.

Janice and Dale have a daughter, Laura, and a grandson, Marshall. Their son-in-law passed away of cancer five years ago. After his death, Laura and Marshall relocated from Bluefield to Princeton.

PCH expresses sincere gratitude to Janice for her many years of outstanding service to this organization. We deeply appreciate that she has been one of the kind and understanding voices of PCH for 32.5 years and we wish her all the best in retirement.



**Janice Rice**



# Letters of Appreciation

Dear President Bowling,

I received very good care on 3-East, including from nurses, dietary, house-keeping, and doctors. I am a big Virginia Tech Hokie fan, but I have to give it up to WVU because you got it going on at that hospital!



The hospital is much better now, very different from previous stays. Staff were polite, professional, and responsive to my needs. I didn't need to ask for anything. Staff checked me frequently and offered their assistance.

I appreciated everyone who took such good care of me.

Sincerely,  
**Bobby Hardin**

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Princeton, West Virginia, Rescued Me!

At 79 and a half I found myself on my living room floor for half a day trying to get up. I don't remember falling and guess I passed out. After many hours I finally was able to slide on my seat across the floor to reach a cane to knock over the phone. I called 911.

Then the Princeton magic started. In no time two lovely people arrived in an ambulance, picked me up from the floor, and took me to the hospital. I can't say enough about the kindness and caring this team showed me. I told them truly they made me feel safe. We decided Princeton Community Hospital was closest, and that's where we went.

The hospital's super people emergency room teams took over and started the process of trying to find out what went wrong with me. I guess the fact that I haven't been to a doctor since 1993 was not a help. Nurses and doctors were compassionate and very kind to me while they found a bed to admit me to the hospital.

In the night, I was taken to the second floor to be admitted and put in a comfortable bed, A wonderful man was my night nurse who remained with me every night of my week-long stay. Other nurses and doctors also helped and cared for me in a loving and more than compassionate way.

Day came and another crew of wonderful people took over the daytime job of trying to take care and heal my really beat up carcass Everyone from the social workers, dietitian (who practically did cartwheels to help me to eat something) and the beautiful vampire ladies who took blood at dawn, were not only professional and helpful, but super nice.

Now at home regaining strength, all I can say is thank you, thank you, thank you. I Love You Guys!!!

With all sincerity,  
**Sheila Hinchliffe**

# JUNE TEENTH FREEDOM DAY

## The Pavilion Participates in Juneteenth Celebration



From left, Mental Health Tech Francine Saunders, Bluefield City Board Member Treyvon Simmons (youngest member in the history of the board), and Pavilion Administrator Bill Larrison.



Francine Saunders and Bill Larrison.



Bluefield City Manager Cecil Marson and Francine Saunders.



Cecil Marson, Francine Saunders, and Bill Larrison.

The Behavioral Health Pavilion of the Virginias participated in the Juneteenth Freedom Day celebrations beginning Saturday, June 17, 2023, on the campus of Bluefield State University. Festivities included a talent extravaganza, food trucks, vendors, exhibitors, live entertainment, music, dancing, the Ken Hunt Heritage Scholarship Award announcement, and much more.

Juneteenth (officially Juneteenth National Independence Day) is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Deriving its name from combining June and nineteenth, it is celebrated on the anniversary of the order by Major General Gordon Granger proclaiming freedom for enslaved people in Texas on June 19, 1865 (two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued).

Originating in Galveston, Juneteenth has since been observed annually in various parts of the United States, often broadly celebrating African-American culture. The day was recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law.



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Congratulations to Tammy Haynes, RN, CEN (pictured left) and Teal Cole, RN, CEN. Both nurses recently obtained Certification in Emergency Nursing.

The Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN) is the foundational nursing specialty certification for RNs working in the ED and across the emergency spectrum. Nurses with a CEN are lifelong learners who demonstrate expertise in clinical practice and are better prepared for professional development and overall career success.

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Congratulations to Kaitlyn Holt, Medical Imaging, the recipient of our May 2023 Good Catch Award. The Good Catch Award recognizes employees that correct a misstep or identify a better way of performing a task in the workplace. Thank you, Kaitlyn, for your outstanding work!

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*The award was presented June 23. From left, James Boggs, Radiology director, Kaitlyn Holt, Karen Bowling, president and CEO, and Al Boland, vice president of Operations.*



# The 2023 West Virginia Junior Nursing Academy

June 27 – 29, 2023: WVU Medicine Princeton Community Hospital and Bluefield State University have partnered again this year to sponsor the West Virginia Junior Nursing Academy, a program that enables middle school students with an interest in nursing or other areas of medicine to experience the profession in a real-world healthcare environment.

The mission of the West Virginia Junior Nursing Academy is to inspire middle school students to pursue a professional nursing career. The focus of this project is to show middle school students the exciting opportunities and rewards nursing has to offer and to help establish an educational pathway that will lead to a career in nursing. Reaching out to students before high school gives them the knowledge to select the correct preparatory high school classes. This 3-day camp exposes students to a wide variety of nursing specialties.

Participating this year were 18 eighth graders from Mercer, McDowell, and Monroe counties in West Virginia, and Tazewell and Giles counties, in Virginia.



*President and CEO Karen Bowling welcomed students to the PCH campus on the second day of the academy.*

