

AROUND THE PANHANDLE

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Organization works to educate, support cancer patients

BY MEGAN HUGHART
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MARTINSBURG — Judges and delegates from all over West Virginia attended Jazz Night at the Martinsburg Holiday Inn Friday to support a local nonprofit that is raising money for cancer survivors.

Breast and Body Health Inc. is an organization that educates and supports cancer patients. B&B Health Inc. collaborates with B&B's Health Boutique to bring comfort, care and services to cancer patients, according to its website. The group also provides cancer awareness, cancer prevention and education classes, offer breast self exam training and proper bra-fitting classes.

Bonnie Bell, the founder of B&B Health Inc., is a four time cancer survivor. While B&B Health Inc. supports groups that fund research, it focuses more on providing prosthetics and mastectomy bras.

"I make sure the survivor is whole again," Bell said. "When you lose a breast, you're uneven and it's a health risk. I make sure they have their prosthetics."

The organization has helped

with medicine, insurance co-pays, wigs, scarves, hats, prosthetics and mastectomy bras. They have also raised money for Susan G. Komen, WVU Foundation, the Ronald McDonald House and Rosenbaum Family House.

State political figures and candidates attended the event, including Supreme Court of Appeals candidate Judge Joanna Tabit, of Kanawha County, and West Virginia House of Delegates Democratic candidate John Isner.

Tabit said she attended the event because she believes in "people over anything else" and wanted to support the cause.

Isner wanted to show his support because his family has been affected by cancer.

"Cancer doesn't care about social status, religion or politics," Isner said. "So, we need organizations to help people feel normal and whole again."

By providing education and patient-centric services, we can outreach and connect to one of our most vulnerable groups of individuals, Bell said.

The organization will be holding a Paint the Town Pink event on Oct. 6.



Journal photo by Meghan Hughart

John Isner, right, and Bonnie Bell, second from left, talk at their table during Friday's Jazz Night at the Martinsburg Holiday Inn, an event to support a local nonprofit that is raising money for cancer survivors. Bell, the founder of B&B Health Inc., is a four time cancer survivor. While B&B Health Inc. supports groups that fund research, it focuses more on providing prosthetics and mastectomy bras.

Cedar Creek re-enactment canceled but show must go on

BY BRIAN BREHM
Special to the Journal

MIDDLETOWN, Va. — There won't be a re-enactment of the Battle of Cedar Creek this year, but that doesn't mean the 154th anniversary of the event will go unnoticed.

Officials with Belle Grove Plantation and Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park still plan to hold commemorative activities Oct. 19-21.

The annual re-enactment of the pivotal Civil War battle was canceled July 3 by its organizer, the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, in a message posted on its website.

"New circumstances beyond the control of the Cedar Creek Battlefield

Foundation, and our paramount concern for the safety of our re-enactors and visitors, have forced us to cancel this year's re-enactment," the foundation wrote.

During the re-enactment weekend in October 2017, law enforcement officials responded to a suspicious object at the battlefield, causing the foundation to end events early on the first day and bar spectators from attending the second day's re-enactment.

The FBI launched an investigation but has not disclosed the nature of the object or brought forth any criminal charges.

Prior to last year's re-enactment, the foundation announced it had received a letter threatening bodily harm to those who attended

the event.

Foundation officials have not elaborated on the reason for canceling this year's re-enactment, but their partners at Belle Grove and the national historical park have no intention of calling off the commemoration.

"We have a robust weekend of events," said Shannon Moeck, a ranger with the National Park Service.

Moeck said she will be offering talks and tours throughout the weekend to detail the battle that occurred on Oct. 19, 1864. Included among her presentations will be two-hour walking tours of the battlefield south of Middletown to highlight key locations and events from the clash that drove the Confederacy out of the Shenandoah Valley for the last time.

For those who would rather not walk, Moeck said she will offer several presentations of "Cedar Creek in a Box," which employs a small display to offer information about the battle, and a Friday-only driving tour to discuss Brig. Gen. George Armstrong Custer's role with Union Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah during the daylong battle.

Belle Grove Plantation also has a full calendar of commemorative events Oct. 19-21.

"We didn't want to miss the opportunity the weekend brings to talk about the Battle of Cedar Creek and its significance in the Civil War," said Belle Grove Executive Director Kristen Laise.

The battle was fought on

and around plantation grounds, and the manor house served as Sheridan's headquarters during the clash.

Laise said the 10th Virginia Volunteer Infantry will be on hand throughout the weekend with encampments and military demonstrations, including the firing of a cannon.

"They're all direct descendants of the men who fought in the 10th Virginia," a Confederate infantry regiment formed in 1861 in Harpers Ferry, Laise said.

Belle Grove will also offer tours of the manor house and several living-history displays.

At 2 p.m. Oct. 21, Moeck will be at the manor house to deliver a presenta-

tion on the life of Judah, an enslaved cook at the plantation, which will be followed by a discussion about ongoing archaeological efforts to detail slave life at Belle Grove.

The Hite family, which started building Belle Grove on 483 acres in 1794 and had descendants living there until 1860, owned a total of 276 slaves during that period.

All National Park Service events will be offered free of charge unless they are hosted on the grounds of Belle Grove. The plantation will be charging a reduced admission fee of \$5 for people 13 and up during the commemoration weekend.

For more information, visit nps.gov/cebe and bellegrove.org.

Conductor candidate builds community while making music

BY LINDA COMINS
The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Building community while making music remains a hallmark of conductor Timothy Hankewich's approach to the arts.

Hankewich, the current music director of Orchestra Iowa, is one of five candidates for music director of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra.

He is conducting the WSO's season-opening pops concert at the Capitol Theatre and the opening Masterworks concert Oct. 19. "You get a double dose of me early on," he quipped.

Hankewich, Andres Franco, Silas Huff and John Devlin were named as finalists for the post in April. Roger Kalia was added as a candidate later.

During Hankewich's tenure, Orchestra Iowa has rebuilt itself from the ground up, literally, and has expanded its audiences and programs, adding opera, ballet, chamber music series and jazz series to its regular

season presentations. Orchestra Iowa operates on a \$3 million annual budget and has 60 to 70 contracted musicians, he said.

The resident of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is impressed with what he learned from reviewing the Wheeling Symphony's current and past seasons. "You can tell a lot about an orchestra by the work it performs. It reveals a lot about the standard of orchestra you enjoy," he remarked.

He has studied the diversity of the WSO programming and its educational offerings. As a leader, he applauds programming with cross-over appeal and he advocates for tapping into contemporary culture.

"No man, or no orchestra, is an island," he said. Industry-wide, the best ensembles "are able to cater to a much broader audience," he added.

Today, an orchestra "has to battle for its relevancy in its own community, its standing in the community," Hankewich commented. "It has to be so much more than just a mu-

sical entity. It needs to be contributing to the education of the area, the social welfare of the area — what sort of quality of life does it offer, what type of economic impact does it incur for the community."

He added, "At the end of the day, a symphony orchestra is also a business. It must be fiscally responsible and accountable in a way that is sustainable."

Reflecting on his time with Orchestra Iowa, he said, "I've been here for 13 years and it has been a remarkable ride."

In 2008, large portions of Cedar Rapids — including the orchestra's building — were devastated by a hurricane-related flood. "A 6-mile swath of water destroyed the downtown business core as well as several neighborhoods," he said.

As a result of the flood,

Hankewich said, "At the symphony, we lost everything. We lost a theater, we lost all our equipment, all our patron and ticketing data, and we didn't even have an office to regroup in. We had to rebuild an orchestra from scratch at a time when the community was severely hurting."

"You really know what an organization is made of and its relationship with the community when times are that difficult," he related.

"Ten years later, not only did we survive it, we thrived through it. We rebuilt everything, including our building, increasing its quality and rebuilding its business model."

Hankewich commented, "I'm extremely proud of the community for banding together and not leaving anything behind. I'm most proud of my time here in Iowa."

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