

Reconnecting McDOWELL

www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org

Stay connected with McDowell

McDowell County is an American story that deserves a new chapter—one filled with promise, with goodwill, with the type of shared commitment that offers solid reasons to believe in a brighter future. Be a part of this historic partnership and show your support for McDowell's children and the greater community by joining the effort at www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org.

EdVenture Partners with Reconnecting McDowell

Reconnecting McDowell recently joined forces with EdVenture to organize a one-day leadership education training across the County and to develop student mentoring activities. EdVenture is a nonprofit educational institution dedicated to creating new generations of lifelong learners through museum experiences, after-school programming and camps. Its mission is to inspire children and the adults who care about them to experience the joy of learning as individuals and together.

Reconnecting McDowell served as the fiscal agent when EdVenture

successfully applied for a grant through the West Virginia State Development Office's Flex-E Grant Program. The \$10,000 that was awarded will be used to support the logistical and material needs for the countywide training for high school and middle school students. The training will provide skills that enable college and career readiness and expose the student participants to teaching as a viable career path, with breakout sessions focusing on attitude and vision; team building and time management; coaching and commitment; and comfort zone and college readiness. The leadership

training will also entail a student-to-student mentorship component that will allow high school students to mentor K-8 students. Reconnecting McDowell will work with the school district to assist with student outreach and coordination of the mentorship activities.

Broader Horizons Spotlight on Joseph Hayes

Joseph Hayes, a senior at Mount View High School has been selected to play in the High School All American Bowl Presented by Bret Cooper Football in February, with the date and location to be determined. Coaches nominate football players for the honor; the student athletes must have at least a 3.0 grade point average and demonstrate good character. Joseph will play with and against other top high school athletes in the country, and college scouts will be on hand to watch the game and check out the talent.

Joseph plans to enroll in college next year and major in either physical therapy or construction, both of which have been passions of his from an early age. Reflecting on the past year, Joseph talks about the impact that Reconnecting McDowell's Broader Horizons mentorship program has



▲ Joseph Hayes

had on his life: "I've learned many things about public speaking and a lot about politics. I've also gained very influential mentors and met people who will drop anything to help me in all the things I plan to do." Joseph plays basketball and baseball in addition to football, noting that he also loves deep-sea diving, parasailing, jet skiing and anything that has to do with the beach and the ocean.

Federal Grant Will Be Used to Improve Sewer Line

Former West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin announced in December that the state has received a \$12 million federal grant that will be used to improve water and sewer lines. McDowell County will receive \$1.3 million from the grant, which will help to replace the current sewer system that led to pollution of the Clear Fork River. This is a welcomed direct investment in infrastructure that moves the needle forward not only on health and well-being but also on future economic development in the County.

Upcoming Events

- McDowell County Schools' Early Childhood Fair will be held April 28 at the Welch National Guard Armory, with the time to be determined. The fair is designed to highlight the importance of early childhood education and encourage family learning by providing a fun learning environment. For more information, contact Amanda Fragile at afragile@k12.wv.us or call 304-436-8441, ext. 250.
- Southside K-8 School will hold a free movie night on Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. and food and beverages will be available for purchase. If there is a weather-related school closing, the event will be rescheduled for Feb. 10. For details, contact Sarah Muncy at 304-320-5607.
- Family Advisory Council meetings will be held Feb. 28, March 28, April 25 and May 23 at the Phoenix Center in Welch at 10:30 a.m. The monthly meetings are organized by the McDowell County Schools for parents and community residents to encourage parent involvement and provide family learning tools, including information on literacy and good nutrition. A light lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Amanda Fragile at afragile@k12.wv.us or call 304-436-8441, ext. 250.
- Dates have been set for the class of 2017-18 licensed practical nurse pre-entrance tests. They will be administered at the McDowell County Career and Technology Center in Welch at 9 a.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in February and March. Pre-registration is required, and there is a \$50 fee. To pre-register, call 304-436-6180. Registrants must provide a high school transcript and photo ID.
- The International Economic Development Council will offer a series of six webinars on topics of immediate relevance to community leaders in coal-impacted counties in southern West Virginia. IEDC is working in partnership with the West Virginia Community Development Hub and its five Innovation Acceleration Strategy communities to deliver this series of educational webinars, made possible by funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission, which are open to all; the second session, "Marketing for Small and Rural Communities," will be held from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 2. Registration is free, and you can sign up at <http://bit.ly/iedcweb>. Topics will include:
 - How to tell your story and improve your community's image;
 - The technology platforms that will help you succeed; and
 - How to put your resources to work in the most effective ways.
- Tug River Health Association's Spring Fling will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, at Linkous Park in Welch. For more information, contact Sharon Waldron, community education specialist, at 304-448-2101, ext. 225.
- Big Creek People in Action will host the next annual Community Baby Shower in April in War, with the date to be determined. The shower will provide supplies, toys, baby food, and surprise giveaways to expectant or new mothers. If you would like more information, to provide donations or host a table, contact Laura Hagerman, healthy lifestyles coordinator, at 304-875-3418.
- The Healthy Lifestyles Task Force—a part of the HOPE Coalition—holds its meetings on the third Monday of each month at 2 p.m. at the McDowell County Commission's office. The next meeting will be held Feb. 20. Plans are being finalized for "McDowell on the Move," a six-week walking program that will be funded by a grant from McDowell County FACES and the Appalachian Diabetes Control and Translation Project. If you are interested in a walking program for your community, would like to assist with this project, or need more information, you may attend the next meeting or contact Jennifer Graham at jennifer.graham@mail.wvu.edu or Loren Wells at loren.wells@mail.wvu.edu.

Social Media



Follow us on Twitter @ReconnectMcD



Follow us on Instagram: @ReconnectMcD



Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/ReconnectMcD](https://www.facebook.com/ReconnectMcD)

For a list of Reconnecting McDowell partners, visit <http://www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org/partners>

Want to get involved or learn more?

For more information about Reconnecting McDowell or to find out how you can get involved, contact Kris Mallory, kmallory@aftwv.org, or Debra Elmore at delmore@aftwv.org or 304-552-5766.

