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Ex-GOP candidate charged in Clay shooting

By Travis Crum
Staff Writer

State Police arrested a former Republican candidate for West Virginia Attorney General and the U.S. Senate after he allegedly shot a Clay County man in the leg Wednesday.



Lewis
Ran for attorney general and U.S. Senate.

Hiram Carson Lewis IV, 41, of Morgantown, was charged with malicious wounding and wanton endangerment involving a firearm after shooting Steven Bogart at about 1:30 p.m., according to a criminal complaint filed in Clay County Magistrate Court.

State Police were called to Bogart's house at 3150 Elk River Road in Prociuous for reports of a break-in and shots fired.

Police discovered Bogart lying on the porch bleeding from the leg and Lewis inside the house, the criminal complaint said.

Lewis told troopers he shot Bogart after warning him to stay out of the house, but Bogart attempted to enter anyway, the criminal complaint said.

However, the criminal complaint said Bogart lives at the house and had "possessions present as proof."

Bogart said when he entered his house, Lewis was inside and pointed a handgun at him and shot him, the criminal complaint said.

Paramedics took Bogart to CAMC General Hospital, where he is listed in good condition.

Clay County Magistrate Mitchell King arraigned Lewis Wednesday night. He is currently being held in Central Regional Jail in lieu of a \$100,000 bail.

Lewis, a Morgantown attorney, was arrested in July 1999 for trespassing at the Arthur B. Hodges Retirement Center, according to reports.

Lewis was visiting his great aunt at about 10:15 p.m., when Hodges employees told him that visiting hours were over and asked him to leave.

SEE LEWIS, 11A

TRAIL HONORS LATE GRAD



CHIP ELLIS | Gazette photos

This trail, located behind George Washington High School, will be open to the public by the end of this week. The trail is named in memory of former student Willy Shuman, who was killed in a drunk-driving accident four days before he was to enter the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Willy Shuman died days before entering Air Force Academy

By Mackenzie Mays
Staff writer

Three summers ago, Willy Shuman had just graduated from George Washington High School and was looking forward to joining the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado, where he planned to play tennis and study law.

Shuman was killed in a car crash only four days before he was scheduled to leave for the Air Force. His friend, the driver of the vehicle, had been drinking and drove into a rock wall on Oakhurst Drive, sending the vehicle into Davis Creek.

"Willy loved life — every single minute of it. I never met anyone who enjoyed life more than him," his mother, Jane



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ryan Hayes, Mike Sloan, Charles Tucker and Grant Lares, members of the Junior ROTC at George Washington High School, grade out the gravel on the trail.

Shuman, said this week as she stood in front of a sign for the new nature trail being built at George Washington High

School.

The sign over the trail bears

SEE TRAIL, 11A

U.S. House committee wants inquiry into routers

By Eric Eyre
Staff writer

Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives have asked the inspector general to investigate West Virginia's use of \$24 million in federal stimulus funds to purchase oversized Internet routers.

U.S. Reps. Greg Walden of Oregon and John Shimkus of Illinois want Department of Commerce Inspector General Greg Zinser to scrutinize West Virginia's stimulus spending on the equipment.

"We have requested Inspector General Zinser investigate whether taxpayer funds were spent properly and efficiently," said Debbie Keller, press secretary for the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The state is installing the high-end routers in rural schools, libraries and small health clinics, even though the pricey devices were designed to serve research universities, major medical centers and large corporations. More than 1,000 routers were purchased at \$22,600 each. Walden and Shimkus say

federal officials have a duty to investigate "waste, fraud and abuse," according to a recent letter sent to the inspector general. Their request follows a May 16 hearing on Capitol Hill during which federal lawmakers grilled the Obama administration's telecommunications chief about West Virginia's router purchase.

"In the hearing, we learned that expensive and very large capacity routers were being put into rural libraries and other facilities with smaller needs," said Shimkus, chairman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy. "Chairman Walden and I just want to find out what process was used and how decisions were made with regard to spending this federal money."

The House committee chairmen also have asked West Virginia homeland security chief Jimmy Gianato to answer numerous questions and turn over documents about the state's use of the stimulus funds. Gianato leads the state's three-member

SEE ROUTERS, 11A

Capitol restroom bids \$3.36M over original estimates

By Phil Kabler
Staff writer

At \$9.36 million, the apparent low bidder for a state contract to renovate and upgrade all restrooms in the Capitol came in well over the estimated cost of \$6 million for the project.

Wiseman Construction of Charleston was the lowest of three bidders for the contract, to renovate 34 restrooms, nine janitors' closets and three women's lounges in the Capitol.

BBL Carlton of Charleston submitted a \$9.85 million bid, while Paramount Builders of

St. Albans bid \$10.02 million for the contract.

Last fall, then-Administration Secretary Robert Ferguson told members of the legislative Council of Finance and Administration that the project was budgeted at an estimated \$6 million, with an estimated completion date of late 2014.

On Wednesday, Administration spokeswoman Diana Holley-Brown said she could not comment on the bids while they are being evaluated.

"These are the bids, and

SEE RESTROOMS, 11A

'Too big for schools alone'

Marple urges collaboration on obesity, teen pregnancy, hunger

By Kate Long
Staff writer

State Superintendent of Schools Jorea Marple slipped out of her high heels in the corner of the Charleston Civic Center stage and jumped a bit of rope with kids from Putnam County's Lakeview Elementary, minutes before she began her

keynote address at the Department of Education's KidStrong wellness conference.

The children were there to demonstrate fancy jump-rope tricks. Marple was grabbing a little fun before she spoke.

A few minutes later, shoes back on, she shifted gears and challenged 800 attendees to find collaborative ways to tack-

le three heart-wrenching problems she said are "too big for schools to handle alone."

Teen pregnancy, obesity and child hunger keep many young West Virginians from learning effectively, "and we would be naïve to think that the schools can fix them in isolation,"

SEE MARPLE, 11A



State Superintendent of Schools Jorea Marple challenged more than 800 attendees at the KidStrong school wellness conference Thursday to join forces to help children.

KATE LONG | Gazette

MARPLE

FROM PAGE 1A

Marple said. "That's why we're committed to collaboration."

In each community, "teachers, health care workers, politicians, grandparents, aunts and uncles" must join forces to address each problem, she said. "It's a moral imperative."

Marple praised Sen. Jay Rockefeller's recent Charleston forum on hunger: "Hungry children often can't sit still. They may put their head down on the desk. They may misbehave and often say they're sick." All that gets in the way of learning, she said.

More than 40,000 West Virginia children live in extreme poverty, she said. "That means they don't eat sometimes."

"This year, we carried out a pilot project to feed all our children without cost in eight counties," she said. The preliminary results in Mingo County are startling, she said. "Their suspensions and discipline problems are down dramatically. Not a single kid was expelled this year, and attendance is up. The teachers say the kids are focus-

Marple reminded the audience that at least one in four West Virginia fifth-graders is obese, as measured by West Virginia University.

ing much better."

The state Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Resources are collaborating on these issues, she said. They have pooled funds to hire wellness specialists for each region.

As part of their jobs, the specialists are charged to go into communities and bring people together to address these issues, she said: "the parents, teachers, health care workers, grandparents, politicians."

They started with teen pregnancy this year. West Virginia is the only state in which the teen birth rate increased between 2007 and 2009 "West Virginia increased 17 percent," she said. "Wrong direction!"

"We know that 33 percent of teen mothers do not finish high school, and girl babies born to teen mothers often become teen mothers themselves." They live in poverty and have serious health and emotional issues more often, she said. One in five

babies is born with exposure to drugs or alcohol.

Next, the wellness specialists might tackle obesity. If so, they will help communities create opportunities for physical activity and help schools incorporate more physical activity into the children's day, she said.

Marple reminded the audience that at least one in four West Virginia fifth-graders is obese, as measured by West Virginia University. One in four have high blood pressure and abnormal cholesterol.

One in three young West Virginians is now predicted to develop diabetes. "That is preventable," she said. "We've got to get these young people moving!" she said. "It's starting to happen. I've seen kids doing Zumba first thing in the morning. I've seen teachers who get kids up and moving after 20 minutes of sitting, to keep them focused."

Marple praised dozens of

West Virginia schools that cooked from scratch this year. "We've got to get rid of the processed foods," she said. "The West Virginia Board of Education has adopted the strongest nutritional guidelines in the nation, but we've got lots more to do."

"We can't fix public education issues without thinking about the whole child," Marple said. "For way too long, we have thought that, if we simply do reading and math all day long and we drill and practice, it will turn out well for everybody," she said. "I don't think it works that way. We cannot tear the kid into individual pieces and only concentrate on what they might not be good at doing."

"Everybody is needed to solve these problems," she said. Adults need to encourage kids, model healthy behaviors and find ways to help kids be active. "If we work together, we can do it," she said.

The KidStrong Conference continues at the Civic Center today with sessions on school health services, physical education and wellness.

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