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CRAFTY CARVER

Nitro man relearns sculpting after losing fingers to medicine

By Lydia Nuzum
Staff writer

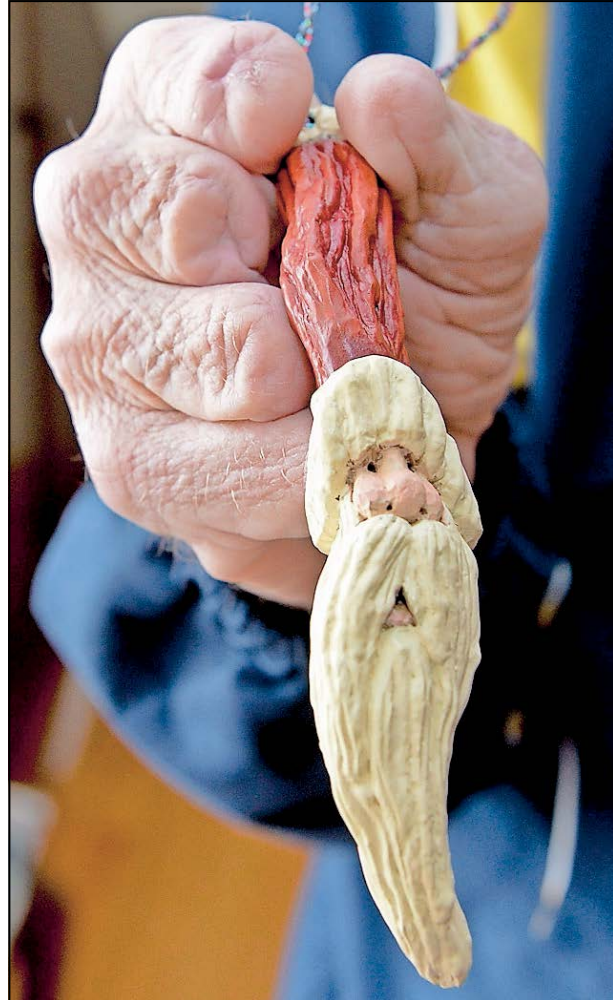
BACK in the 1970s, Doug Lindsey began woodworking and, as with any hobby, he started out small.

His first piece? A monkey. His first medium? His leftovers. "On my lunch hour, I used to sit around and carve these — I don't know how many I've carved, I've given so many away — but

they're peach pits," he said. "I'd eat my peach for lunch, and then I'd take the seed and start carving it. We call them 'peach seed monkeys.'"

Now 72 years old, Lindsey, a retired construction worker who lives in Nitro, has crafted everything from ornaments to plaques, but he has taken a special interest in walking sticks.

SEE **LINDSEY, 8A**



ABOVE: Doug Lindsey carves a walking stick in his home in Nitro. Lindsey, a wood carver whose work has been featured at local arts festivals, lost several fingers after undergoing a heart transplant three years ago.

RIGHT: Lindsey makes Santa Claus sculptures from sweet potatoes. See a video on Lindsey at www.gazette-mail.com.

CHRIS DORST | Sunday Gazette-Mail photos

A tale of two Lobbyists

W.Va.'s political party chairmen double as influence peddlers

By David Gutman
Staff writer

Last spring, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin held a lavish ceremony with hors d'oeuvres and a trumpet player to celebrate the signing of a tourism bill, amended and passed in the waning hours of the legislative session, that could provide up to \$25 million in tax credits to The Greenbrier resort.

In attendance were, among others, Jim Justice, owner of The Greenbrier, Sean Payton, coach of the New Orleans Saints, and Larry Puccio, chairman of the West Virginia Democratic Party.

Puccio had played a key role in the bill's passage, taking Senate President Jeff Kessler and House Speaker Tim Miley to an expensive dinner to lobby them on The Greenbrier's behalf just before they added the tax credit piece to the bill.

Tomblin's executive scheduler checked in with Puccio several times in advance of the bill-signing ceremony, according to emails obtained through the state's Freedom of Information Act.

Was Puccio attending the ceremony as



Lucas
Republican



Puccio
Democrat

SEE **LOBBYISTS, 5A**

Blankenship has contacted case's 'central witness'

Lawyers: Ex-Massey CEO not trying to alter testimony

By Ken Ward Jr.
Staff writer

Former Massey Energy Co. CEO Don Blankenship has been in contact with what his lawyers called the "central witness" in the criminal case against him, but the defense lawyers said Blankenship has not tried to influence potential testimony, according to a newly unsealed court record.

The witness is not identified in the available court record, an order in which U.S. Magistrate Judge Clarke VanDervort refused to loosen pre-trial restrictions on Blankenship's contact with former Massey employees.

SEE **BLANKENSHIP, 9A**

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SEE **CHANGES, 9A**

Science teachers group criticizes BOE for climate changes

By Ryan Quinn
Staff writer

The West Virginia Science Teachers Association is criticizing the state Board of Education's controversial changes to K-12 education standards on climate change, saying the changes compromise and misrepresent

sent the science.

"Climate change will be addressed in West Virginia classrooms, and teachers will continue to provide students with the data and skills they need to be informed West Virginia citizens," WVSTA President Libby Strong wrote in a statement. "The science was

compromised by these modifications to the standards, specifically by casting doubt on the credibility of the evidence-based climate models and misrepresentation of trends in science when analyzing graphs dealing with temperature changes over time." The group said it was

unaware of the changes before news media reported on them.

Strong also said that, while the association's representatives reviewed previous changes to the standards and the group has endorsed the requirements as a whole, the state school board "made these final

changes unilaterally."

At the request of school board member Wade Linger, who said he doesn't believe human-influenced climate change is a "foregone conclusion," the teaching requirements concerning climate change were altered

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