

■ NORTHERN PANHANDLE

Panhandle Still Mostly Yellow on COVID Map

From STAFF REPORTS

The Northern Panhandle remained mostly yellow Wednesday on the Department of Health and Human Resources COVID-19 alert map. Three of four counties were in the second-safest category on the map.

Hancock, Brooke and Marshall counties all were yellow, and Ohio County was alone in green, the map's safest category. Statewide, there were two counties in red, the highest-risk category, six counties in orange, seven in gold, 14 in yellow and 26 in green.

Hancock County had an infection rate of 17.85 cases per 100,000 residents and a percent positivity of 3.94. Brooke County had an infection rate of 16.93 cases per 100,000 residents and a percent positivity of 3.81.

Ohio County had an infection rate of 17.59 cases per 100,000 residents and a percent positivity of 2.32. Marshall County had an infection rate of 17.78 cases per 100,000 residents and a percent positivity of 3.57.

The Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department reported 10 new positive COVID-19 cases in its Wednesday night update, bringing that county's totals to 4,179 confirmed cases and 83 related deaths since the pandemic began.

The Marshall County Health Department announced four new confirmed positive COVID cases and four new probable cases. The department is sending people to the DHHR website for the county's latest numbers, which were 2,399 confirmed positive cases, 848 probable cases and 76 related deaths.

COVID-19 by the numbers

COUNTY	POSITIVE*	RECOVERED	ACTIVE	DEATHS
OHIO	3,993	3,797	111	85
MARSHALL	3,247	3,120	51	76
HANCOCK	2,686	2,533	56	97
BROOKE	2,104	1,982	61	61
WETZEL	1,177	1,087	61	29
TYLER	671	631	31	9
BELMONT	5,864	5,441	311	112
JEFFERSON	5,271	4,887	237	147
HARRISON	1,063	1,033	6	24
MONROE	1,287	1,206	40	41

WEST VIRGINIA

Total cases	147,203
Recovered	137,238
Active	7,309
Deaths	2,756

OHIO*

Total cases	882,363
Deaths	18,917

UNITED STATES

Total cases	31,420,418
Deaths	564,388

*Numbers from the West Virginia DHHR, Ohio Department of Health.



Photo by Scott McCloskey

Participating in the official ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday at Labcorp's recently opened Woodsdale location are, from left, David Mathieu, The Health Plan senior vice-president, underwriting & regulatory services; Antoinette Geyer, The Health Plan senior vice-president provider daily services; Grant Allen, Labcorp managed care executive; Todd Homan, Labcorp regional vice president and Jeff Knight, The Health Plan president and chief operating officer.

■ WHEELING ■

Labcorp Opens New Office

Wheeling Location Offers Screening for Members of The Health Plan

By SCOTT McCLOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Health Plan of West Virginia, Inc. announced their expanded access and continued partnership Wednesday with the recently opened Labcorp patient service center Wheeling's Woodsdale neighborhood.

Officials with Labcorp, The Health Plan and The Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce, gathered in front of the Woodsdale Labcorp office Wednesday afternoon for a formal ribbon cutting ceremony.

Labcorp, which operates an extensive network of PSCs throughout the United States, is also the exclusive independent laboratory provider for outpatient and clinical testing services for The Health Plan insured members. Patient service centers are community-based sites where patients can have blood drawn and provide a urine specimen for diagnostic tests that their

healthcare providers recommend and pre-employment screens.

According to Health Plan officials, using an in-network laboratory helps members maximize their lab benefits and minimize out-of-pocket expenses. For providers, the expertise and efficiency that Labcorp delivers helps instill confidence in the quality of test results and speed of service.

The Health Plan president and chief operating officer Jeff Knight, said he is extremely excited about Labcorp opening a Wheeling site.

"This is really a win-win-win," he said. "Together, The Health Plan and Labcorp are improving services and the patient experience for members, providing a reliable, top-notch resource for providers and bringing a new site here to the Wheeling community."

"We are proud of our partnership with Labcorp, which is an outstanding company with an excellent rep-

utation, and we are thrilled to bring this service to our members, providers, and the Wheeling community," Knight added.

Todd Homan, regional vice president of Labcorp, said the company relishes opening a new PSC in Wheeling and bringing quality testing and service to members of The Health Plan.

"This opening reflects our ongoing and growing relationship with The Health Plan and we look forward to improving the health and lives of those in Wheeling," Homan added.

The patient service center, located at 951 National Road is open and accepting appointments and walk-ins. Appointments can be made by visiting labcorp.com. This location does not perform nasal or throat swab collections for COVID-19 PCR testing to detect a current infection; those samples must be collected by a doctor or other health care provider.

■ WHEELING

National Drug Take Back Day Event April 24 In Wheeling

From STAFF REPORTS

Those looking to dispose of expired prescription drugs will have their chance to get rid of them April 24 at locations around Ohio County.

The Community Impact Coalition, the Wheeling Police Department and the Ohio County Sheriff's Office are coming together to sponsor a Drug Take Back Day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 24 at the Elm Grove Pharmacy at 102 E. Bethlehem Blvd., Elm Grove, and at the Mount de Chantal Kroger, at 200 Mount de Chantal Road, Wheeling.

Volunteers and law enforcement personnel will be on hand to collect expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. The Drug Enforcement Administration can take only pills or patches, not liquids, needles or sharps. The service is free and anonymous.

Studies show that most abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. During the National Drug Take Back in October, more than 492 tons were collected nationwide.

Those who miss the April 24 event can also stop by a local permanent prescription drug drop box 24 hours a day at the Wheeling Police Department, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Triadelphia Police Department and 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Bethlehem Police Department.



AP Photo

In this 2018 file photo, pharmaceuticals are seen in North Andover, Mass.

■ WHEELING

George Remembered for Human Touch in Banking Industry

By DEREK REDD
Managing Editor

Ned George II never forgot that, among all the numbers and the dollar signs that the banking industry entailed, it was a business about people.

Friends and coworkers say that George's spirit, personality and love of people allowed him to build a deep and significant influence in the Ohio Valley banking community and the Ohio Valley community as a whole.

George, who served as president and CEO as well as chairman of the board of directors at WesBanco, died Sunday at age 84 at Liza's Place. His time in the banking community spanned more than five decades in a number of roles.

That career was rooted in his desire to help others, said former WesBanco senior vice president Dave Pell.

"He was really concerned about the welfare of other people, both the customers and the employees," Pell said. "He always measured every decision

on how it would impact the customers. Whenever we faced a decision, he always measured the impact on customers and employees."

A 1954 Wellsburg High graduate and 1958 graduate of Washington & Lee, George started as a bank examiner at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland in 1966. He returned to the Ohio Valley in 1973 as a vice-president of Half Dollar Trust & Savings Bank, now United Bank. In 1981, he was elected President and CEO of Wellsburg National Bank, now WesBanco, and held that job until 1983, when he moved to Wheeling Dollar Savings & Trust Co., now WesBanco.

At WesBanco, he was a vice-president, senior vice-president and executive vice-president before being elected president and CEO in 1993. He held that role until his 2001 retirement. He also was named to the WesBanco Board of Directors in 1991 and stayed there until 2009, serving as chairman and



GEORGE

vice chairman during that time. He also was a member of the bank's executive loan committee until 2017.

George earned several accolades in his career. A longtime board member and chairman of the West Virginia Bankers Association, he was named the group's Banker of the Year in 1998. He also was a former member of the State of West Virginia Banking & Financial Institutions Board and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's Small Bank Advisory Council.

Attorney Jim Gardill worked with George in several ways. He was WesBanco president when Gardill was the bank's board chairman. He was Gardill's client. George's son, Ned III, is a partner at Phillips, Gardill, Kaiser & Altmeyer.

Gardill said that as a strategic thinker and quick study, George was very instrumental in moving WesBanco forward as an organization.

"He could have a serious con-

versation, but have a good time with it," Gardill said. "He was able to blend both humor and business to keep things light, which really helped us solve a lot of issues. He could do that at any level, face to face with a customer or in a group environment at a board meeting or a regional board."

George was a trustee of several organizations, including Bethany College, Ohio Valley Health Services & Education Corp. and Wheeling Country Day School. He also was a former director and chairman of the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce and the Ohio Valley Industrial & Business Development Corporation, now known as RED.

George also loved golf and was able to play at such legendary courses as the Old Course at St. Andrews, Carnoustie in Scotland, Pebble Beach, Oakmont, Firestone. He played many rounds at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, and was a member of the Ohio Valley Seniors Golf Association and a member and former President

of the Wheeling Country Club. As a member of the Williams Country Club in Weirton, he scored a pair of holes-in-one on that course's No. 8 hole, 16 years apart.

Pell and George were part of a foursome that tried to golf at least one round a week. Pell said that, above everything, George loved golfing for the camaraderie.

George enjoyed being around people, former WesBanco Bank President and CEO Kris Molnar said, and enjoyed getting the best out of people. George hired Molnar in 1976 and the two became lifetime friends. She watched him discern what motivated the people who worked for him and used those strengths to bring out the best in them.

"I've redefined what a mentor means to me because of what Ned did to help me," she said. "I look at it much differently. He set an example for me for leadership, for community support and involvement and I've met the objectives I've had in my life and that's had to do with the input I've received from him."