

**METRO VALLEY**

**CHARLESTON**

**Kroger protests:**

The Kroger supermarket chain is under fire from some building trade unions for not agreeing to hire local workers for West Virginia construction projects.

**Steve White**, executive director of the Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation, says Kroger's use of "imported" workers means fewer West Virginia jobs.

Kroger, which operates 41 stores in West Virginia, has announced plans to spend \$200 million annually for the next five years to renovate and add new sections to stores nationwide.

**HUNTINGTON**

**Confederate collection donated:** Marshall University's Rosanna Blake Collection has some new items: an 1867 letter from Gen. **Robert E. Lee** to the widow of one of his generals and other items with ties to the Confederacy.

**Dr. John O'Brien** and his wife donated the Lee letter, 200 books and a rare bronze shield made by engraver and illustrator **Adalbert J. Volck** that features vignettes of Civil War scenes and is inscribed, "To the Brave Women of the South."

**NORTH-CENTRAL**

**BRIDGEPORT**

**Coal meets pizza:**

There's a unique new pizzeria in North-Central West Virginia that's bound to get West Virginians stoked: The pies are baked in a coal-fired oven.

**Mia Margherita**, located in Charles Pointe, will open this weekend and then stage a formal ribbon-cutting on Dec. 11.

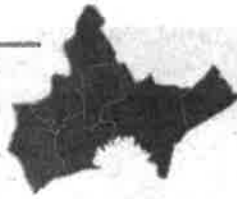
The restaurant offers Italian specialties, including Neapolitan-style pizza, sandwiches and salads.

Manager **Scott Duarte** said Mia Margherita is the only coal-fired pizzeria in the state. "The idea was to bring in an authentic pizzeria that demonstrates the way pizza came to America back in 1905," he said. "It was in coal-fired ovens."

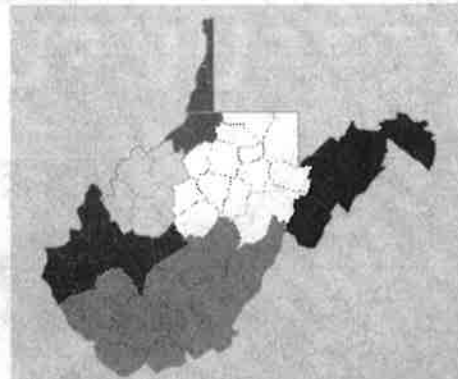
Those original pizzas, he said, featured just tomato sauce, mozzarella and basil — the now-trendy Margherita formula.

**CLARKSBURG**

**Local businesses try Cyber Monday:** **Deanna Mason**, owner of **Oliverio Italian Style Peppers** in Clarksburg, offered special deals to entice online shoppers Dec. 1 as the holiday shopping season marked "Cyber Monday."



# ACROSS THE STATE



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6, according to **Blair Montgomery**, a volunteer with the nonprofit mining heritage association.

Association President **Mike Rohaly** said the primary purpose of the swap meet is to bring together collectors of mining memorabilia.

The men say the organization was founded to promote the culture and heritage of coal mining in Appalachia. The event happens on National Miner's Day, which recognizes the contributions of miners to the nation.

The nation's deadliest coal mining disaster, an explosion in Monongah in Marion County, killed at least 362 and perhaps as many as 500, happened Dec. 6, 1907.

**SOUTH**

**BLUEFIELD**

**United Way**

**shakeup:** The United Way board of directors announced

Dec. 2 it had removed the **United Way of the Virginias** from the organization's membership.

The action came after the discovery several months ago that the charity, which served Mercer and McDowell counties, had lost its charity and corporate status with the State of West Virginia.

Not long after the change in the organization's status was announced, the executive director of the United Way of the Two Virginias, **Michelle Carter**, resigned.

Now the Beckley-based **United Way of Southern West Virginia** will take

River initiated the upcoming procedures in 2009, which included three opportunities for public input and comment.

Other park trails will remain open only to pedestrians.

**SHADY SPRING**

**Instagram threat, instant repercussions:** Administrators at **Shady Spring High School** and the **Raleigh County Sheriff's Office** say they took swift action after a student on Instagram threatened students.

Deputies on Dec. 1 arrested a teen, whose name is being withheld because he is a minor.

Authorities say the boy's post included curses, violent images from the deadly 1999 shooting at **Columbine High School** in Littleton, Colo., and the statement: "There's 900 of you that have no idea what's comin'."

**EAST**

**CHARLES TOWN**

**Building boom in Jefferson:**

Gov. **Earl Ray Tomblin**

was in Jefferson County Dec. 2 for the formal groundbreaking on projects that will inject more than \$100 million into sister cities Charles Town and Ranson.

The growth includes another expansion for **American Public University System**, a variety of federal funding for infrastructure upgrades in Ranson



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## REAL ESTATE

**Dec. 19 - 11:0**