

Local library becoming *Germ City* for a day thanks to WVSU Extension Service

Institute, WV – The South Charleston Library will transform into *Germ City* on Tuesday, July 1, when staff members from West Virginia State University Extension Service's 4-H program present the exhibit from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

"People often do not realize that there is a right and wrong way to wash your hands," said Paul Henderson, 4-H Extension Agent. "There is actually a technique to proper handwashing, and this program shows people whether or not they are doing it properly."

In the *Germ City* program, participants are given a light-sensitive lotion containing pretend germs to apply to their hands. They then walk through a black light-equipped tunnel, revealing the "germs." After the initial walk-through, participants wash their hands and visit the tunnel again to gauge effectiveness.

WVSU Extension Service 4-H staff will present the program to local daycare centers earlier in the day and will open the display up to the public beginning at 11:00 a.m.

"Everyone from children to adults will have an opportunity to learn about the importance of frequent, effective handwashing and see immediate results," said Henderson.

Germ City was initially developed by Washington State University Extension and has been delivered to over 400,000 participants since 1996. For more information about West Virginia State University Extension Service's *Germ City* demonstration, contact Paul Henderson at (304) 344-2764.

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