



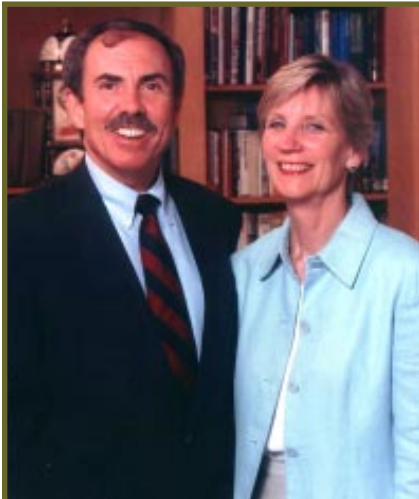
Stateline

A Newsletter For West Virginia State Government Employees

November 2002

Volume 13 Number 11

Holiday Greetings from Governor and Mrs. Wise



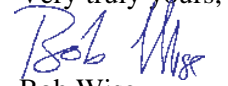
Governor and Mrs. Wise extend their best wishes to everyone for a safe and wonderful holiday season.

The holiday season is a time that binds all of us together in a very special way. It is a time that we, as families, share our blessings. It's a time we celebrate our successes, and a time when we look forward to a bright future.

My gratitude is extended to our military for their commitment in fighting to ensure the freedom of our country and our State. It is because of them that we here at home are permitted to celebrate the true meaning of the holiday season. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all humankind, here and throughout the world, whose family members gave their lives fighting for our freedom.

As State employees, I know that you have worked tirelessly to provide West Virginia's citizens with quality services. To honor your hard work and dedication, and to allow you time with your families, I am declaring Friday, November 29 as an additional day off without charge to annual leave.

Sandy and I extend our best wishes to you and yours, with our hope for a safe and wonderful holiday season, and a successful year in 2003.

Very truly yours,

 Bob Wise

Gov. Wise's allowance of additional time off for State employees does not create a legal holiday within the definition of the West Virginia Code, nor does it create a legal holiday for private businesses or local governments.



Joyful Night

Joyful Night, the annual tree lighting ceremony at the State Capitol, is a wonderful way to usher in the holiday season. All West Virginians are invited to join Governor Bob Wise and First Lady Sandy Wise on Wednesday, December 4, 2002 as they host Joyful Night from 6:00-8:00 P.M. The tree lighting ceremony will take place on the North side of the Main Capitol Building from 6:00-6:30 P.M. and feature performances by children from a number of our schools (see box for list of schools). Once the tree is lighted, the festivities will continue until 8:00 P.M. at a number of locations around the Capitol. Governor and Mrs. Wise invite you walk around the complex to enjoy a variety of holiday entertainment and decorations at the following locations:




SOUTH SIDE OF CAPITOL:

CAPITOL ROTUNDA:

GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM:

CULTURAL CENTER:

GOVERNOR'S MANSION:

 Cabell Midland and St. Albans High School Bands
 West Virginia Youth Symphony (Youth Orchestra, Youth Strings, Cadet Strings, and Wind Ensemble)
 Dunbar Singers from Dunbar Middle School
 Capitol High School Jazz Ensemble
 Appalachian Children's Chorus

If at all possible, you are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped children's gifts for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program and/or adult gifts for the Salvation Army. Collection sites will be available.

SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN JOYFUL NIGHT 2002

Bible Center Christian School
 Brookview Elementary School
 Holz Elementary School
 J. E. Robins Elementary School
 Kanawha City Elementary School
 Piedmont Elementary School
 Richmond Elementary School
 Ruffner Elementary School
 Sacred Heart Elementary School
 Scott Teays Elementary School
 West Teays Elementary School
 DuPont Middle School
 Elkview Middle School
 John Adams Junior High School
 Stonewall Jackson Middle School
 Magnolia High School Band
 George Washington High School Band

Sharing the Harvest - Hunters Helping the Hungry

Edited from the Governor's Weekly Column found at www.state.wv.us/governor/columns.asp.

As the fall hunting seasons get under way, it's appropriate to review one of the State's most successful programs for helping needy families: *Hunters Helping the Hungry*. Through this program, hundreds of West Virginians receive a quantity of high-quality ground venison, which is sometimes the only red meat they can get during the year. Since its inception 11 years ago, *Hunters Helping the Hungry* has provided more than 385,000 pounds of venison to needy West Virginians.

Many people and organizations deserve thanks for the success of this program, including the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, the Mountaineer Food Bank in Gassaway, the Huntington Area Food Bank, and especially the hunters who donate the meat as well as the thousands of generous donors who pay for processing and distribution. The process is simple. Participating hunt-

ers deliver the donated deer to selected meat processors across the State, where the meat is ground and frozen into 2-pound packages. It's delivered to the food banks, which then distribute it to approved church pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, local food banks, and needy families throughout West Virginia.

All costs for the processing, storage, and distribution are paid by contributions from caring businesses, outdoors groups, and individuals. In 2001, hunters donated a record 1,715 deer, which produced almost 70,000 pounds of venison.

The West Virginia Council of Churches has been highly supportive of this program with its *Share the Harvest Sunday* collections, but more help is needed. Businesses, churches, organizations, and **individuals may make tax-free donations**, large and small, which will help place a balanced, healthful meal before someone who needs it. Checks can be made to *Hunters Helping the Hungry* and mailed to:

**West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Section
State Capitol, Building 3, Room 821
Charleston, WV 25305**

West Virginians have a tradition of taking of their own. We also have an abundance of deer this year, and this is a wonderful opportunity for hunters to share their harvest. If you need more information, call the Wildlife Resources Section at 558-2771.

DNR IS ENCOURAGING THE HARVESTING OF ANTERLESS DEER THIS YEAR



*The Beauty of
West Virginia
in the Fall*

These rich-in-color Fall pictures were captured on an early November Sunday afternoon drive through Roane County near the town of Reedy. To see the full views of these and other West Virginia in the Fall photographs, go to Page 5 on our internet version.

DOP REVISES TESTING TIMES

Beginning January 6, 2003, the Division of Personnel (DOP) will adjust its testing schedule. Examinations given on Mon., Tue., and Wed. will begin at 8:30 A.M. and consist of only one testing session each day. The current schedule for Thu. and Fri. will remain unchanged as follows:

THU. - Office Assistant 1,2,3 (typing and non-typing), Secretary 1-2, Word Processor, and Data Entry Operator at 7:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. Applicants taken on a first-come first-serve basis with seating limited to 27 per session.

FRI. - Correctional Officer 1 at 7:00 A.M. **by appointment only** - call 304/558-3950, ext. 503 to schedule an appointment.

Call the DOP (558-3950, ext. 503) or visit their website (www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel) for more testing information.

Acrobat Reader is a Helpful *FREE* Program

Because we are switching *Stateline* to a primarily internet publication, we are rerunning a previous article from last year on how to download Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Many documents put on the internet, including *Stateline* and various other State agency documents, are done in a format called PDF, which stands for portable document format. This is a convenient way to make information available to everyone on the internet, but in order to view or print the documents, you need Acrobat Reader. *The good news is this is a FREE program.*

How can you tell if the program is installed on your computer? Here's a simple test: Go to www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/Stline.htm and click on any of the issue links. Did a program open up and the *Stateline* issue appear on your screen? If yes, you're all set! However, if you got an error message, then you probably need to download and install the program.

NOTE: Before proceeding with the following instructions, be sure to check with your supervisor about your agency's policies on program downloading and installation. Some agencies require their information services staff to conduct any type of program installation. DO NOT VIOLATE YOUR AGENCY'S POLICY.

Once you have the go-ahead, here's what to do (don't worry - it's simple):

1. Close and exit all programs except your internet connection and browser, then go to the following website: www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html - on the righthand side of the page, click on the Reader download link.
2. Scroll down to Step 1 and click on English, then click on your appropriate platform (generally your version of Windows). In the "Location nearest you" box, make sure USA is selected, then move down and check the Search and Accessibility Support box.
3. Move to Step 2 - note that you are NOT required to fill in this information.
4. Move to Step 3 and download the installer file. Write down the file name and the folder to which it will download (generally it's the My Files or My Documents or something like that). You probably won't need this information, but it's helpful if the setup feature locks up and you have to reboot and reinstall. The file name will end with '.exe' but the actual file name will vary depending on what version of Windows you have selected in Step 1. Downloading the installer will take a few minutes - you will see a screen showing the download as it progresses.
5. Once it's finished, an install window will appear. Click the "install" button. You'll see compressed files unpack and then a setup window automatically open.
6. Read through the information in the setup program and follow the prompts. Once the setup program completes, you will be asked to restart your computer. Click on the option that asks you to restart your computer now.

That's all there is to it! When your computer reboots, you're ready to read and print PDF files. Wanna check? Use the test at the top of this article. The *Stateline* issue you click on should open up Adobe Acrobat Reader and the issue should appear on your screen. If you have questions or run into any problems, contact your agency information services staff or call the State's Information Services and Communications Help Desk at 558-1257.

**TAKE
A
BREAK!**

A study by NFO WorldGroup shows that about 84% of Americans were in contact with their offices during their last vacation. More than half of those interviewed said their workplaces tracked them down with a call or a page.

PSC Investigates Alternative Power Pilot Program

Contributed by Robert Teets of the Public Service Commission.

How would you like to make your electric meter run backwards?

The State Public Service Commission has launched a general investigation into "net metering," a concept that would change PSC rules and allow homeowners to be reimbursed for any excess electric they may generate from alternative sources like solar, wind, and other means. As part of the effort, the Commission has asked the State's electric companies to develop a suggested system for reimbursing homeowners and handling the additional power.

"In essence, net metering allows homeowners to generate power for the home and to supply any excess electricity to the power company," explained PSC Chairman James D. Williams. "This power moving onto the grid has a value, but there's also a cost for the company to maintain the lines and to safely move that power. So, we've asked the companies to suggest what they think would be a fair way to compensate the supplier, how that compensation for the new power could be efficiently tracked, and what other considerations they think would be prudent to make sure such a program would work."

According to Williams, all states that have deregulated their power industries have allowed some form of net metering, but the concept is rather unusual in regulated states. So far, only 7 of 33 states without deregulation - Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin - offer net me-

See POWER – Page 4

POWER – continued from Page 3

tering, according to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) website (www.awea.org/default.htm). Kentucky, which like West Virginia is a regulated state, recently instituted a pilot program to test the concept, the Chairman noted.

The methodology of reimbursing the generator differs in each state, according to AWEA, and in some cases includes provisions that allow a homeowner's generated power to actually feed back through the electric meter, reversing its readings.

But Williams cautioned that "the issue is more complicated than it may first appear, so we will move judiciously in determining whether net metering can be of benefit to all West Virginians." This investigation, he said, "is geared to the future when the cost of alternative power is more in line with present costs of generating power from more traditional means."

The Commission has asked the utilities to provide their suggested plans on or before January 2, and for Commission Staff to provide an evaluation of those proposals by April 2 of next year.

The PSC investigation, he said, will also require a thorough examination of net metering laws in other states, and will result in detailed discussions with energy companies, consumer groups and others interested in the subject.

"Our goals in looking at net metering are to encourage private investment in renewable energy sources, promote the diversification of energy resources to assure reliable and economical power to West Virginia customers, and to do what we can to help protect the environment," the Chairman said.

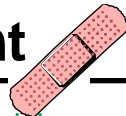
Williams said the Commission sees a time when the cost of alternative energy will come down. Industry developers agree.

Mike Bergey, President and CEO of Bergey Wind Power Co. in Norman, Oklahoma, a retailer of home wind systems, said a 10 kilowatt system, enough to supply heating, cooling and power for a 2,500 square foot, all-electric home can cost approximately \$35,000. Demand and technology improvements are reducing those costs, he said. Also, many states offer tax incentives and grants that can significantly reduce the price further, he said.

The West Virginia PSC has approved 2 large wind-powered generating plants for the state, and 2 additional applications are pending. "These are large commercial operations," Williams said. "They are great for West Virginia and for our economy. And they also prove that the state has a great energy resource that few people have considered using on a small scale, now or in the near future."

To view the Commission Order visit www.psc.state.wv.us/orders/2002_10/021495c.htm on the internet.

News From the Medical Front



What's the key to staying well this winter? Five things: **Drink water** regularly to replenish natural winter dehydration, **eat chicken soup** often for it's disease fighting abilities, **wash your hands** frequently to prevent the spread of germs, **exercise routinely** to keep your body fit, and **get enough sleep** to allow your body to replenish itself.

Want to do more? **Increase your intake of carrots, squash, and pumpkin.** The USDA says these foods can increase our immune cell counts by up to a third!

Pencil In ...



The **Appalachian Children's Chorus**, which will perform at the Governor's Mansion on Joyful Night (Dec. 4 - see Page 1), will hold it's annual Holiday Concert at the University of Charleston on Dec. 6 (7:00) and Dec. 7 (3:00). Tickets are \$8 adult, \$6 student. Also, boys (grades K-6) and girls (grades K-10) can **audition for the chorus** on Jan. 5. For ticket or audition info, call 343-1111 or email selina@wvacc.com.



Treasury investigators say they received 611,560 tax returns for 2001 on which people could have claimed **child tax credits of up to \$238**, but didn't. Most earned less than \$25,000. U.S. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neil notes that the Internal Revenue Service knew about the problem but did little or nothing about it. Check with a qualified tax consultant to see if you are due additional credit.



The Beauty of



West Virginia



in the Fall

