

## State Tax Department Offers Amnesty Program

Contributed by Dale W. Steager of the State Tax Department.

During the past legislative session, Governor Bob Wise worked diligently to enact the 2004 Tax Amnesty Program. This program offers all West Virginia taxpayers the opportunity to come into compliance with the State Tax Department for taxes accrued after January 1, 1986 and prior to January 1, 2004.

**Tax Amnesty will be held this year from September 1 to November 1.** During this time, individuals and businesses can take advantage of amnesty to eliminate almost all taxes, licenses, and fees administered by the State Tax Department. By participating in this program, taxpayers with outstanding debt will

have all penalties and additions to the tax waived, as well as 50% of the interest waived. If amnesty is granted, no civil, administrative, or criminal actions will be brought against the taxpayer for the periods covered by the application.

If you have a debt that qualifies for amnesty but you do not participate in the Amnesty Program, there will be a 10% penalty added to the current tax liability. Once the amnesty program is over, the Tax Department will mobilize its skilled audit teams and utilize technological advances to find non-filers and under-reporters to collect all money owed.

**State employees should be aware that the State Tax Department will utilize other State data sources, such as State payroll information, to match against outstanding personal income tax liabilities when the Amnesty Program is over.**

This is an excellent opportunity to settle with the State if you owe back taxes. If you're not sure you owe, take time to find out by calling 558-8753 or 1-800-982-8297 or check out [www.wvtaxamnesty.gov](http://www.wvtaxamnesty.gov).

Remember – It's Your Choice  
Pay the Tax ... or Pay the Max



*West Virginia State Parks and Forests is accepting entries for its anniversary celebration kickoff photo contest.*

## Parks and Forests Holds Photo Contest

Think you have a keen eye through the lens? Have a knack for just the right light or angle? Then you might be a prime candidate for the West Virginia State Parks and Forests' *Through Your Lens* photo contest!

The contest is being held as a kickoff event to celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### WHO CAN ENTER:

The contest is open to any visitor to a West Virginia State Park or Forest, excluding judges and employees of West Virginia State Parks and Forests. There are categories for children (ages 4-12) and teens (ages 13-17), and adult categories (age 18 or older) for both amateur and professionals.

### IMAGE REQUIREMENTS:

Photographs must be taken on or after January 1, 2004 within the boundaries of any West Virginia State Park or Forest. The subject can be nearly anything from scenery to wildlife to flora to historic sites to people to ...

## Lottery Sets Record \$1.3 Billion in Sales for the Year

Taken from a press release issued by the West Virginia Lottery.

The West Virginia Lottery topped a record \$1.3 billion in sales by the end of the fiscal year June 30, according to Lottery Director John Musgrave.

In a report to the Lottery Commission, Musgrave said sales for the fiscal year represented an increase of more than 20% over the previous year. It also represented the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the West Virginia Lottery had double digit increases in sales.

At \$512 million, the State's net profit from lottery sales also set a record, according to Musgrave. He said that figure represented an increase of more than 24% over last

fiscal year, noting that the Lottery transferred \$418 million to State programs for education, senior citizens, parks, tourism, and economic development through the end of June. Net profits earned above estimates were transferred in July toward the Lottery's budget for FY 2004/05.

Musgrave said approximately \$123 million in prizes was won by players last year. "Traditional" lottery retailers, those who sell instant scratch off games and online games such as Powerball, earned \$14 million in commissions and bonuses, while the State's four licensed racetracks and other related entities received \$478 million. Limited Video

Lottery retailers and operators received approximately \$137 million in commissions.

According to Musgrave, video lottery sales at the racetracks set a new record of \$855 million in sales, an increase of 19% over last year's figure. Limited Video Lottery, operated in taverns and other adult establishments, contributed nearly \$242 million in sales.

The lottery's instant scratch off game sales generated a record high of more than \$109 million for the year – the highest in the lottery's 18-year history. Musgrave said traditional games also performed well with sales of \$207 million.

## DEP Moving Computer Operations; Website/E-mail Temporarily Down

Information provided by Jessica Greathouse of the Department of Environmental Protection.

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's website and e-mail system will be unavailable to the public in mid-August while the agency prepares to move its operations to Kanawha City.

**The webpage outage is scheduled to begin at the close of business August 11 and will be available again the morning of August 16.**

Jerry Forren, DEP's Chief Information Officer, says DEP's computer operations center move will be a temporary inconvenience to those who frequent the agency's web resources.

"The webpage and all of its components will be down while we move our server to the new building," said Forren. "Those who rely on electronic permitting, interactive mapping, and other information available on the Internet need to take note of the move dates and plan accordingly."

The agency's e-mail system will also be unavailable during the move.

DEP's computer network is the first component to move into the new building. As the construction activity winds down, employees will begin moving in September, and will continue through October.

Effective October 1, DEP's address will be 601 57th Street, Charleston, WV 25304. The main phone number will be 926-0449.

## Workers' Comp Receives Record Premiums

*Edited and reprinted from an article appearing on the Workers' Compensation webpage ([www.wvwc.org](http://www.wvwc.org)).*

The West Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission this month received more than \$52 million in premiums, a new single-day record that exceeds the previous mark by nearly a half-million dollars.

Deposits by check or credit cards totaled \$52,161,227.17 for the Workers' Compensation Fund, the Employers' Excess Liability Fund, and the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Fund. The Commission administers all three funds.

"Employers are becoming more and more conscientious about getting their payments to us in a timely manner, and I think that's reflected in the record deposit," said Executive Director Gregory A. Burton. "We appreciate their renewed commitment to a healthy workers' compensation system for West Virginia. We will continue to work closely with the State Treasurer's Office to properly administer these funds."

The funds collected today reflect premiums due for the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2004, which ended June 30.

The previous single-day record was recorded on May 3 – \$51,687,102.62, or \$474,125.09 less than the new record total.

## Labor Day, September 6

# Labor Day Holiday Originated as a Day of Rest

If you've decided to have a relaxing and restful day this September 6, you've got the right idea!

In the late 1800's, Samuel Gompers, first president of the American Federation of Labor, called Labor Day "the day for which the toilers in past centuries looked forward ... that the workers of our day may not only lay down their tools of labor for a holiday, but upon which they may touch shoulders and feel the stronger for it."

And that's what the original promoters of the holiday had in mind back in 1882.

The first actually Labor Day Parade was held on Tuesday, September 5, 1882. Organized by the Central Labor Union (which was a lodge of the secret Knights of Labor), more than 20,000 workers marched on Broadway carrying banners demanding an eight-hour workday. On September 5 of the next year, the second celebration was held. In 1884, the Central Labor Union passed a resolution to hold future parades, always on the first Monday in September, and urged similar organizations in other cities to follow along

and celebrate a "workingman's holiday."

People liked and accepted the idea of a workingman's holiday. The concept spread, and by 1885, Labor Day was commonly celebrated in many of the country's industrial centers. On June 28, 1894, Congress passed legislation recognizing Labor Day as an official national holiday to be celebrated on the first Monday in September, which then-President Grover Cleveland signed into law. (It's also celebrated in Canada on the same day.)

How we were to observe the day came from guidelines offered in the first proposal of the holiday. The proposal outlined a street parade to exhibit strength and esprit de corps to the public, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. After a few years, speeches by prominent figures were included.

### Labor Day Signals the End of Summer

The Central Labor Union didn't know their holiday would be famous for another reason. It has become the unofficial end of summer with vacations ending, swimming pools closing, and the new fall season on the way.

Labor Day is one of the most popular days of the year for picnics and swimming parties. So if you don't want a day of rest, do something enjoyable and exciting, and make it a day of fun!

## Time Approaching to Honor Our Public Servants

September 20-24, 2004









September 20-24, 2004 has been designated as Public Service Recognition Week in West Virginia. Although the noontime activities and bake-off that have been held in the past won't take place this year, we are still focusing on one of the most important purposes of the program – honoring our employees for their hard work and long service.

Qualified employees who have reached 20, 25, 30, 35, etc. years of service between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004 will receive their recognition certificates and lapel pins. And as before, Governor Bob Wise will host a ceremony to honor those with 30 or more years of service (in increments of five years). The ceremony is by invitation only and will be held on Thursday, September 23, 2004 at the Cultural Center Theater. Those who attend will receive their awards from Governor Wise.

The certificates and lapel pins for employees with 20 and 25 years of service are generally given out at agency ceremonies or events. Agencies are encouraged to plan special events throughout the week for this purpose, and to say 'thank you' to all their employees for the fine work they do.

### From the West Virginia Board of Medicine:

## DID YOU KNOW?

-  In 1881, there were 843 licensed physicians in West Virginia.
-  The cost of taking the medical examination in 1886 was \$10.
-  In 1901 it was determined that any applicants presenting themselves for the examination under the influence of intoxicants would be dismissed from the examination.
-  In 1922 it was determined that all medical examinations in West Virginia were to be given in English with no interpreter or dictionary.
-  Osteopaths didn't have their own licensing board in West Virginia until 1923.
-  In 1930 it was determined that an applicant wouldn't be eligible to sit for the medical examination unless the applicant held a professional degree.
-  In 1965 the fee for biennial registration of physicians in West Virginia was \$2.
-  Before the FLEX was given in West Virginia beginning in 1968, the State was responsible for developing its own medical examination for license applicants.



## CONTEST – Continued from Page 1

well, anything. All photographs submitted must be acceptable for general public viewing.

Images may be submitted as color or black and white prints, no larger than 8x10. Digital photographs are acceptable, but they will need to be printed out for submission. Neither film nor digital pictures can be altered in any way.

### ENTRY DETAILS:

There is NO entry fee for this contest. Entry forms are available from the State Parks and Forests webpage at [www.wvstateparks.com/photoentryform.pdf](http://www.wvstateparks.com/photoentryform.pdf). By submitting the photo along with the entry form, you are agreeing that you are the owner of the picture. Individuals may submit a maximum of five photographs, but each must have a separate entry form. On the back of each photograph, you are required to list the following information: Your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address; the category in which you wish the picture to be entered; and the park/forest at which the picture was taken. You should also include the date the picture was taken.

By entering a photograph, you understand and agree that the picture may be used by Parks and Forests for educational, information, and/or promotional purposes. In addition, an advertisement featuring each winner's name and winning photograph will appear in the media.

### DEADLINE and ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS:

All entries must be postmarked by September 7, 2004. Winners will be announced at a press conference on or before September 17, 2004.

For a list of prizes or other information, visit the Parks and Forests website at [www.wvstateparks.com/photocontest.htm](http://www.wvstateparks.com/photocontest.htm). You can also e-mail your questions to [photocontest@wvstateparks.com](mailto:photocontest@wvstateparks.com).

Good Luck and Happy Snapping!

## News From the Medical Front

**Chronic sinus infections** can require several courses of antibiotics per year and still make it hard for people to work and enjoy life.

Sinusitis develops when the sinuses are blocked. Causes and/or triggers include bones in the nose which have shifted, nasal polyps, allergies, and certain types of asthma.

Outpatient surgery is often recommended for patients with blockages from polyps or shifted nasal bones, but doctors at Harvard Medical School say **some people prone to sinusitis can benefit from irrigating their sinuses with salt water each day**. Irrigation products are available at drug stores. The saline water is squirted into the nose and allowed to drip out. The patient then blows his/her nose.

Since taking repeated courses of antibiotics is discouraged and can potentially weaken their effectiveness, you may want to schedule an appointment with your doctor if you suffer repeated sinus infections. Together, you can explore the potential causes and possible remedies so you can ... breathe easier.

## Pencil In ...



**Happy Birthday to Smokey the Bear who turns 60** on August 9. Smokey became the U.S. Forest Service fire prevention mascot in 1944.



American Red Cross

You may want to contact your local Red Cross office. **Blood donations are in critical demand, and all types are needed.** If you haven't given in the past 56 days, you are eligible.

**Thinking of purchasing a timeshare vacation?** Consider the following from Bill Rogers of Timeshare User's Group:



- Don't buy new - they're priced higher.
- Consider renting. You can often rent a week at a timeshare for less than "owning" that week.
- Know the area. Orlando has good bargains, but poor trading power because it's overbuilt.
- Visit the property. Photos don't tell the whole story.