

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Due to recent computer and software upgrades, we are experiencing formatting conversion difficulties. We've worked out most of the problems, but are still having some graphics trouble. Since the basic format is now readable, we wanted to get the issue to you. Please be assured we will work out the remaining problems and make the necessary corrections. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



# Stateline

A Newsletter For West Virginia State Government Employees

September 2003

Volume 14 Number 7

## West Nile Virus Continues Assault on West Virginia

Information provided by Joe Thornton of the Department of Health and Human Resources.

West Virginia now has 32 counties (58%) reporting dead birds testing positive with West Nile Virus (WNV). Infected birds have been found in the following counties:

Barbour	Monongalia
Berkeley	Monroe
Boone	Morgan
Cabell	Nicholas
Fayette	Ohio
Gilmer	Pendleton
Greenbrier	Preston
Harrison	Putnam
Jackson	Randolph
Jefferson	Ritchie
Kanawha	Roane
Lewis	Wayne
Marion	Webster
Marshall	Wetzel
Mason	Wood
Mineral	Wyoming

The findings are significant because WNV can be spread to people through a bite from an infected mosquito. Although the temperatures are beginning to cool, warm weather is still in the picture, and that means that adult mosquito flight activity is still prominent. Once the temperatures drop and remain consistently cool, mosquito activity will decrease, as will the replication of the virus in the mosquitoes themselves.

The Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) announced the first case of WNV in a human. An elderly man in Berkeley County was diagnosed late this month.

"The first probable human case this year for West Virginia only fur-

ther stresses the importance of awareness and protection for State residents," said Loretta Haddy, State Epidemiologist. "It can't be said often enough that residents need to be aware of their surroundings and take steps to control the mosquito population in their communities."

How can you protect yourself and help control mosquitoes? See *Don't Let "Skeeters" Bug You This Summer* in our June 2003 issue of *Stateline*. You can find it online at: [www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/Stline/Jun03-02.pdf](http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/Stline/Jun03-02.pdf). For more information, contact your local health department or DHHR's Division of Surveillance and Disease Control at 558-5358 or on their website at [www.wvdhhr.org](http://www.wvdhhr.org).



*Way to go, Peggy and Kathy!*

*What's YOUR idea? Call Belinda Eggleston or Denny Rhodes at 347-4800, or email them at [esab@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:esab@mail.wvnet.edu), to get information and find out the name of your agency's idea counselor.*

## Agriculture Employees Split Suggestion Award

Department of Agriculture employees **Peggy Powell** and **Kathy Martin** are the most recent recipients of an award by the Public Employee Suggestion Program. They knew their agency purchased study guides for anyone wanting to take pesticide exams at a cost of \$5.20 each. They developed the idea to produce the guide in-house, reducing the cost of each manual to \$2.37, resulting in a savings of almost \$4000 per year. The employees split an award of \$768.20. Agriculture Commissioner Gus Douglass noted that the idea took a lot of personal effort to make the savings happen.

## Your Telemarketing Rights



Even though the National Do Not Call List, scheduled to become effective in October, is in legal limbo at press time, you still have "do not call" rights.

When you receive a call from a telemarketer, you can tell the caller to place you on that company's "do not call" list. The company must keep a record of your request for 10 years and cannot make any further calls to you during that period of time.

In addition, you can remove your name from many call lists by sending a letter (which includes your full name, address, and signature) to:

Telephone Preference Service  
Direct Marketing Association  
Post Office Box 9014  
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

## Lottery Wins 6<sup>th</sup> CAFR Award

*Information taken from a press release issued by The West Virginia Lottery.*

For the sixth consecutive year, the West Virginia Lottery has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR), awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The Lottery received the award for its financial reporting for the year ending June 30, 2002.

Lottery Director John Musgrave announced the award. "To be continuously recognized for good financial management and reporting is an assurance to the public that we are doing our best to carry out our mission," he noted. "For the past six fiscal years, we have managed revenues in excess of \$2.8 billion."

Musgrave stated that profits for fiscal year 2002 were more than \$316 million. "Clearly, the Lottery is charged with administering significant public funds. It is imperative, therefore, that the public has confidence in this agency's administration of their trust." Musgrave further added that, "The integrity placed on a CAFR Award, indeed the value with which it is held by bond rating entities as well as those professionals who review our financial statements, cannot be overestimated."

## Well Done!

Dr. Karen LaRoe, President of West Virginia University Institute of Technology (Tech), has announced that U.S. News and World Report's 2004 Edition of America's Best Colleges ranks Tech fourth among all public comprehensive colleges in the South, and number one in West Virginia.



## Public Employees Golf Tournament RESULTS

Despite previous heavy rainfall, the course at Pipestem State Park was in good shape. On June 9, 2003, 118 golfers enjoyed the annual event, which is sponsored by the WV State Park System. Winners were:

### LOW GROSS CHAMPS:

John Anderson  
John Welch  
Tom Oxley

### LOW NET CHAMPS:

Roger Keaton  
Gabe Frances  
Todd Armstrong

### WOMEN'S CHAMP:

Cheryl Booker



*Kudos to Division of Highways workers from Taylor County who volunteer on their own time to participate in the Adopt-a-Highway Program.*

*The employees cleared their participation through appropriate staff in Charleston and adopted a stretch of highway on Trap Springs Road. Pictured above in a photograph by Roseann Hurst are: (front, left to right) Robert Rucker, John Lucas, Bob Caltrier, John Corio, and Traci Chocky; (back, left to right) Mike Lucas, Rick Freeze, Lewis Poling, Kenneth Mayle, and Larry Weaver. Not pictured: Russ Peterson.*

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## Culture & History Publishes West Virginia History, Volume 59

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Contributed by Ginny Painter of the Division of Culture and History.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History announces publication of Volume 59 of *West Virginia History*, the State's journal of history, biography, genealogy, and bibliography.

This latest issue of the journal highlights military service. Civil War historians will be interested in Eddie Woodward's study of the December 13, 1861 Battle of Allegheny Mountain in Pocahontas County. The action pitted forces under Union General Robert H. Milroy against Colonel Edward Johnson's Confederate troops, who were garrisoned at Camp Allegheny. Residents of western Virginia were participants on both sides of the conflict.

World War I is the focus of another article. Arthur Greenlee served in the U.S. Marine Corps during that war and was wounded in combat. The Division's West Virginia State Archives has a collection of contemporary letters Greenlee exchanged with members of his family in Mason County and with his girlfriend in Raleigh County. These letters provide a glimpse of one soldier's experiences in the service, as well as a view of life on the home front.

The Meadow River Lumber Company of Rainelle (Greenbrier County) is also explored in a 1916 report written by forestry student Andrew H. Larson. Milling its first lumber in 1910, the company cut more than 25 million board feet in 1915 and became one of the leading hardwood manufacturers in the world. Larson's account details the logging and milling operations of Meadow River and is a valuable source for documenting the early history of the company, and logging and lumbering operations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Volume 59 of *West Virginia History* also looks at the West Virginia Archives' online database of John

Brown materials from the Boyd B. Stutler Collection. Stutler was an historian and collector who focused his attention on John Brown and the Civil War in West Virginia. Brown items that may be accessed in the database include, among other things, photographs and letters.

*West Virginia History* is a publication of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. Since 1939, the journal has featured some of the best scholarship on the economic, political, military, social, and cultural history of West Virginia and

the Appalachian region. *West Virginia History* also reviews recent State and regional history books. Volume 59 is available for the subscription fee of \$15 (\$18 for anyone outside the United States). **To purchase a copy, send a check or money order to: West Virginia History, Archives and History Section, WV Division of Culture and History, The Cultural Center, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, WV 25305-0300.**

If you need more information, call Mary Johnson at 558-0230.

*Thinking about starting a new business but not sure where to begin?*

Take a peek at *Smart Steps to Starting a Business in West Virginia* on the Secretary of State's webpage. It can answer some of your basic questions and get you started on that dream idea. The web address is [www.wvsos.com/business/startup/startsteps.htm](http://www.wvsos.com/business/startup/startsteps.htm).

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## Job Classes See Pay Equalization

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Contributed by Priscilla Gay, Counsel to the Equal Pay Commission.

More than 1,800 State workers in more than 20 affected job classifications will receive \$26 more in their monthly paychecks. The distribution of funds is based on a comprehensive study by the Equal Pay Commission.

The pay increase for each affected employee totals \$312 per year, and will be added to the base salary. The pay adjustment will become effective September 16 and appear on the employees' September 30 paychecks.

This year, \$250,000 in State funds will go toward equalization of salaries, most of which are in the middle range of State pay. The State funding will be leveraged to draw a federal match for a total of more than \$570,000. Although the Commission spent \$200,000 last year to equalize pay, the program was almost eliminated this year when the Legislature did not reauthorize it during the regular 2003 session. To save the program, Governor Bob Wise added a bill continuing the Commission to the recent special session agenda. The Legislature passed the Governor's bill.

The Commission was created by 1998 legislation intended to provide State employees with equal pay for work of comparable character without regard to gender. The Commission closely examined the relationship between job duties and pay for job classifications which are male-dominated and those which are female-dominated.

**The Commission decided to distribute the money by job classification. The affected positions are spread among more than 20 different job classifications, including Economic Service Worker, Paralegal, Protective Service Worker, Social Service Worker 2 and 3, Claims Representative 2, and Deputy Claims Manager.**

**Fire Prevention Week is October 5-11**

## At Work and at Home: Preventing Fires is Everybody's Business

### IN THE WORKPLACE

The cost of fire in human and financial suffering is reason enough to take time to review your safety.

Fires wreak havoc among businesses, workers, and their families, killing about 200 workers each year and destroying \$2.3 billion worth of property.

The U.S. Department of Labor urges you to survey your workplace for fire hazards. Point out hazards to your fire safety marshal and make sure you have at least two emergency exits. Also, remember these fire safety tips:

- Eliminate fire hazards. Keep your workspace free of waste paper and other combustibles. Have damaged electrical cords replaced, and avoid overloading circuits.
- Know the potential fire hazards of your job and the procedures called for in the fire prevention plan.
- Be ready for an emergency. Make sure smoke detectors in your area work.
- Report any obstructed fire exits, or move anything standing in the exit route that could interfere with evacuation.
- Report even the smallest fire immediately. Know how to sound the fire alarm and call the fire department should that action fall to you.
- Know what fire extinguishers are available to you, which ones are used for various types of fires, and how to operate them.
- Know who to call in an emergency, and participate in fire drills. Practice safe evacuation. Leave the area quickly in an emergency. Use the stairs instead of the elevator, and assist co-workers in getting out if necessary.

### AT HOME

Consider the age of your home's electrical system and do a check. Fire in the walls of your home could be disastrous. Each year, more than 38,000 home fires are caused by defective wiring, and 350 people die as a result of those fires.

Older homes have the highest risk. Their systems weren't designed for the high electrical use we have today. Many were designed for about half what their homeowners now use!

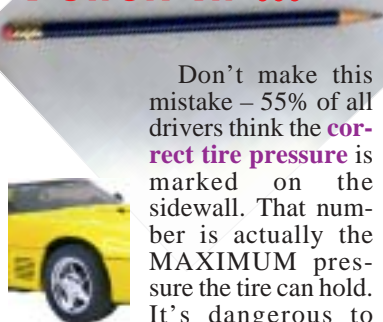
According to the National Fire Protection Association, more than half of all homes are 30 years old or older. The oldest homes were wired at 30 amps. Today, homes need an average of 150-200 amp service.

In addition, some homes built during the 1960's and 70's have aluminum wiring instead of copper, which can oxidize, loosen at the connections, and cause overheating.

Engineers at the Consumer Product Safety Commission say outdated wiring is an urgent problem. Fifty million homes are in need of electrical updating. If your fuses blow or circuit breakers trip repeatedly, if lights dim or you smell burning metal or plastic, you have either overloaded a circuit or there is a problem with your wiring.

**Also remember that dangerous amateur wiring is a fire waiting to happen. Make sure all electrical work is done by a licensed electrician.**

### Pencil In ...



Don't make this mistake – 55% of all drivers think the **correct tire pressure** is marked on the sidewall. That number is actually the **MAXIMUM** pressure the tire can hold. It's dangerous to maintain that level. You'll find the correct pressure for your car in the owner's manual.

**Flu and pneumonia shots** will be given by the Kanawha-Charleston Health Dept. in the Main Capitol Upper Rotunda on Oct. 22, 2003 from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. They accept the following insurance, subject to plan terms: PEIA, Carelink, Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP. Be sure to bring your insurance card and identification.

**Each year, the flu kills about 36,000 Americans.** The New England Journal of Medicine states that flu shots reduce flu hospitalizations by 32% and also lowers the risk of death.



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