

An electric day

E-cycling event nets nearly 18 tons of waste

By Tom Aluise

A portion of the Fayetteville Lowe's parking lot turned into a sea of discarded televisions and computers during the Department of Environmental Protection's free electronics recycling event on March 12.

Nearly 1,000 electronic appliances, mostly TVs, were dropped off at the e-cycling event, which was sponsored by the DEP's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) program.

eco International, an electronics recycling company out of New York, drove two tractor-trailers' worth of materials off the Lowe's lot on a sunny and warm Saturday afternoon.

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Close to 300 cars dropped off over 35,000 pounds of electronics during the Department of Environmental Protection REAP e-cycling event in Fayetteville.



Water moving toward eDMR, ePermitting

Beginning in July, state will mandate electronic submission of water data

By Tom Aluise

Less paper.
 Less time.

More accurate information.

There really isn't much downside to the Division of Water and Waste Management's move to mandate electronic submission of all discharge monitoring reporting (DMR) and water resources permits beginning July 1.

"This will make life easier for everybody," said Yogesh Patel, who heads up permitting for the DWWM.

The Division of Mining and Reclamation also is requiring



eDMR on July 1, said Mining's Angela Dorsey. About 30 percent of the mining industry is now using eDMR technology.

Like mining, a portion of the regulated community has been voluntarily submitting to the DWWM water resources permit applications and DMRs electronically for years.

"In late 2008, when we were preparing to roll this out, we conducted some training," said Terrie

Sangid, who oversees discharge monitoring reporting for individual industrial and municipal facilities for the DWWM. "We told them then that it would probably become mandatory at some point."

The eDMR program for Water went on line in January 2009.

"Quite a few people use it now," Sangid said. "It grows every day because people have already gotten word that it's going to become mandatory."

"Most people who have started using it like it. I think some of the smaller facilities that might not have a good computer system or Internet connection may be a little more reluctant."

Mavis Layton, of the DWWM's permitting branch, said she's re-

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Members of the Berkeley Springs-based Sleepy Creek Watershed Association install biolines.

Filling a need

Stream Partners Program is lifeblood of watershed groups

By Tom Aluise

Funding to complete stream-improvement projects is not always easy to find for the state's volunteer-driven watershed associations.

For 15 years, the West Virginia Stream Partners Program has been the lifeblood of these hard-working citizen groups.

"They (watershed associations) pretty much depend on this," Stream Partners Program Coordinator Jennifer Pauer said. "It's a resource that's very valuable to them. It's a way for volunteers to fund an organization without taking money out of their own pockets."

Stream Partners also offers technical assistance through the Department of Environmental Protection's four basin coordinators, who are trained to assist local groups in watershed planning, project development, partnership building, community education and

grant writing.

In addition to the DEP, the state divisions of Forestry and Natural Resources, along with the West Virginia Conservation Agency, have an active part in administering the Stream Partners Program.

This year, more than \$70,000 in grant funding is available to groups interested in improving local stream health. Watershed associations are allowed to apply for up to \$5,000 in grant dollars every year for projects such as tree planting on stream banks, educational outreach and stream monitoring.

Pauer said 20 to 25 watershed associations are funded each year.

"It's competitive," she said. "You need to write an application that shows you have a good plan to create a sustainable organization and to put some sort of project on the ground."

"The older groups usually apply for and are able to get \$5,000,"

Pauer said. "The newer groups apply for what they think they might need — \$5,000 is a lot to spend in a year for a volunteer organization."

The deadline to apply for a grant this year is April 15. Groups will know by July whether they will receive funding. The grant year begins on Sept. 1.

"Once the grant is awarded, our basin coordinators make sure the money is being spent the way it's supposed to be spent," Pauer said. "The watershed groups have to submit reports to our basin coordinators and provide receipts for items they've purchased. They also have to provide photos and a summary of what they've accomplished."

All grants must be matched 20 percent by the receiving group.

The grant process, Pauer said, is relatively easy for groups to maneuver through.

"We realize they're volunteers," she said.

DEP camp seeking youth

Applications are being accepted for the 31st annual state Junior Conservation Camp, scheduled June 20-24 at Cedar Lakes in Ripley.

Sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection's Youth Environmental Program, the camp is open to young people, who are ages 11-14.

The cost is \$160 per child and the deadline for paying the application fee is May 1.

Junior Conservation Camp offers a wide variety of classes that focus on a sound environmental education.

Approximately 200 campers will learn how to conserve West Virginia's natural resources by attending classes on subjects such as wildlife, recycling, soil conservation, geocaching/orienteering, hunter safety, water study, forestry, fishing and more.

Sports activities will include basketball, kickball, volleyball, Wiffle Ball and relay races.

Campers also will have an opportunity to try the electronic La-

See **CAMP**, Page 7

New Additions Recent DEP hires

- ▶ Ryan Butcher, DLR
- ▶ Sarah Surber, OLS
- ▶ Anthony Willard, DWWW



A new group of UC pharmacy students is getting practical experience at the DEP. From left are, Megan Joseph, Joey Fama and Mina Pham.

DEP a unique challenge for trio

By Colleen O'Neill

A new group of pharmacy students from the University of Charleston is on board to assist the DEP's Wellness Program.

The Wellness Program aims to help employees improve their lives by equipping them with information and health-conscious practices.

"I was pleased with the input and overall performance of the last group of UC students, so I am confident in saying that our employees will benefit greatly from these three students," said Teresa Weaver, Wellness coordinator for DEP.

The students are Mina Pham, Joey Fama and Megan Joseph.

Fama is from Beckley, Joseph from Charleston and Pham from Houston.

"I chose the University of Charleston because the pharmacy program, although relatively new, is an excellent program," Pham said. "Coming to West Virginia offered a chance to get away and be totally independent.

"And the University of Charleston offered hands-on training that will allow me to use my biology degree to educate the public," she said.

Both Pham, 28, and Fama, 28, have some life experience under their belts. Joseph, 20, is entering the program immediately after doing her two years of biol-

ogy undergraduate studies.

"I knew this was what I wanted to do with my life," Joseph said. "I enjoy helping people and with my biology background, I can positively influence people in developing good health habits."

The students are tackling their first major task in helping to fine tune "Shape Up," the new Wellness program. The eight-week program, which runs through April 24, concentrates on building good health habits through repetition.

The program uses a point system to track the employees' efforts.

"Shape Up is a fun way to build the good health habits of daily exercise and water consumption," Weaver said. "And we've sweetened the pot by having weekly incentives for those who are committed to the program and do their weekly paperwork.

"The pharmacy students have proved to be an excellent resource in developing the challenge of this program," Weaver said. "This program is proving to be highly successful and a lot of that success can be traced back to the students' input."

For the students, the DEP can be challenging because it's not considered a typical site for training. Pharmacy students usually gain their experience with the public at hospitals, nursing homes, and outpatient clinics

"Pharmacy involves work-

See TRIO, Page 4

Health screening offers employees many benefits

By Colleen O'Neill

A wellness health screening is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, March 17 in the Coopers Rock Training Room at DEP headquarters.

A limited number of reservation spots are still open for DEP employees.

The Public Employees Insurance Agency will provide blood work through its Pathways to Wellness Program.

The health screening provides certain tests that are free of charge to PEIA members. The tests are blood pressure, waist circumference, total cholesterol, HDL/LDL, glucose, and triglycerides.

PEIA is offering the Improve Your Score Program to make you and your doctor aware of your individual health risks. If your score from the blood work is a healthy level, PEIA will give a premium discount. By staying healthy, you could save money.

"For most people, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease and obe-

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indepth

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Future is hazy for Clean Air Act

Fred Durham is the deputy director for the Division of Air Quality and also serves as the assistant director for Planning.

He works as the principal assistant, for all non-clerical functions, to the division director in the day-to-day management and administration of the state air pollution control program.



Durham

He directs staff in the development and submission to the EPA of complex plans to meet state obligations under the Clean Air Act and also interprets air quality monitoring and modeling data.

Durham grew up near Nashville, Tenn., and earned a physics degree from Georgia Tech. He started with the Air Pollution Control Commission in June 1992.

1. How does our state's air quality stack up against the rest of the country?

There are six "criteria pollutants" such as ozone, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide. EPA sets health-based standards for such pollutants and we are currently meeting all the standards for these pollutants throughout the state. However, the EPA periodically revises these standards to reflect the most recent health studies. So, even though our pollutant concentrations have decreased and con-



With Fred Durham

tinue to get lower, we may violate future, more stringent standards.

2. Do you think the average West Virginian is concerned about air pollution?

I believe most people care about their health and that of their loved ones. I hope the DEP, EPA, states, and organizations like the American Lung Association are providing enough information to the general populace so that they understand some of the health risks presented by air pollution. Reducing air pollution significantly improves health and can literally save lives.

3. What will be the most significant effect on West Virginia's power plants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's push for increased regulation of greenhouse gas emissions?

The new rules do not require GHG reductions from existing power plants. They do have to report GHG emissions. Many new power plants will have to meet Best Available Control Technology (BACT) and New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for GHG, but that does not necessarily require Carbon Capture and Se-

questration (pump and store in the ground).

4. How much will your job change in the wake of the EPA's focus on greenhouse gas regulations?

That's very difficult to say. Pollution can be local, statewide, regional, global and a combination of them all. Pollutants like GHG and mercury definitely present a global challenge. It is likely the U.S. will eventually have to deal with them in a more comprehensive manner. Meanwhile, what we have seen from the EPA, while groundbreaking, hasn't radically altered my day-to-day job. It just adds another layer of complexity and confusion.

5. The federal Clean Air Act is 40 years old. How do you think it will change in the next 40 years?

It is absolutely amazing to me how little the CAA has changed since the 1990 amendments. Despite some of the difficulties and implementation issues, it is a remarkable piece of legislation that has stood the test of time and achieved remarkable improvements in air quality. Sadly, given the polarization of Congress and the sometimes hostile assaults on environmental regulations, I worry whether the CAA will survive another 10 years, much less 40, in a meaningful form.

6. In 2008, a strong temperature inversion combined with industrial contributors in

the Kanawha Valley to form a blue fog with a chlorine bleach odor. Residents were alarmed. Is it likely that we'll have another "Blue Haze" incident in the Valley or in another part of the state?

The DAQ concluded that "a preponderance of evidence" clearly showed the John Amos power plant was a major contributor to the haze problems, precipitated by meteorological inversions. No one can guarantee that such inversions won't occur in the future. And if they do, they could trap and concentrate all the emissions within the valley: residential, cars and trucks, industrial and power plant, leading to another "haze" incident.

7. What's the most important thing the average citizen can do to improve our state's air quality?

Cliché though it may be, knowledge is power. Visit our website. Visit the EPA's website. Read our Annual Report. Pick one or two subjects that catch your interest and dig into them in more detail. Think about your activities that generate air pollution. Every time you flip on a light; every time you drive or idle your car; every time you spill gasoline while fueling your lawn mower or weed-trimmer, you are contributing to air pollution. So, consider car-pooling, buying Energy Star appliances and avoid topping off gas

See HAZY, Page 6

Corporate Cup set for July 9-23

Mark your calendars — and start getting into shape.

The 26th annual Charleston Family YMCA Corporate Cup is scheduled for July 9-23.

The Department of Environmental Protection will be vying for its 10th consecutive team championship in Division III, which includes the largest companies in the Kanawha Valley.



competition on the final day.

For more information about Corporate Cup contact Dan Roberts at 304-926-0499, ext. 1210 or: Daniel.P.Roberts@wv.gov.

Last year, the DEP trailed first-place Dow by 15 points going into the track and field

TRIO

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ing, sometimes closely, with the public," Fama said. "The fact that the DEP is not a health care environment makes interaction that much more of a challenge. I know we're up for the task."

"I'm excited about this opportunity to work with the public," Pham said. "It's rewarding to see that things we've learned in class really do make a positive difference in someone's life."

Logan worker responds to call

Kathie Thacker helps collect thousands of pairs of glasses for mission trip

By Colleen O'Neill

Kathie Thacker of the Department of Environmental Protection's Logan office is helping people in Sri Lanka see better.

"My son, Brent Thacker, is 33 and lives in Charleston, S.C.," said Thacker, who works for the Division of Mining and Reclamation. "He is going on a medical mission trip with the Seacoast Church to Sri Lanka. They were collecting glasses for the optometry part of the trip.

"So, he e-mailed his sister and me to see if we could collect some glasses for the trip."

What began with an e-mail ended with thou-



Kathie Thacker, who works out of the Logan office, enlisted the help of DEP co-workers in collecting eyeglasses for charity.

sands of pairs of glasses. Thacker sent an e-mail to her co-workers in the Logan office. That e-mail was forwarded to others in the DEP, including Angela Dorsey, who works for the DMR out of Charleston.

"Angela Dorsey contacted me and said that she was with the Lion's Club and they collected glasses for people overseas, so she would see if they would like to donate," Thacker said.

As it turned out, Dor-

sey sent Thacker five boxes of glasses, totaling more than 1,000 pairs.

Thacker's daughter spread the word and collected 80 pairs.

"People are so moved that at McDonald's, someone gave my daughter a pair of glasses when she was in line!" Thacker said.

The need for glasses in Sri Lanka is high, Thacker said. She explained that last year the missionary group quickly gave out more



than 500 pairs. This year, the group had a goal of collecting 1,000 pairs.

Thanks to Thacker's efforts, that goal was exceeded.

"We collected more than 1,200 pairs and Brent informed me that they will be leaving with more than 2,200 pairs of glasses for the people there," Thacker said.

"The people who have gone on these trips before say it is amazing to see the smiles and big grins on the faces of people who have found the right pair of glasses to help them see more clearly," Thacker said.

Everything Irish St. Patrick's Day has special meaning to many

By Colleen O'Neill

The employees of the Department of Environmental Protection celebrate St. Patrick's Day in different ways.

Some visit their local pub and consume green beer. Some eat traditional Irish meals that include foods like corned beef, cabbage, and boiled potatoes. Some go shopping. Some sing old Irish tunes. Still others have cherished personal memories of St. Patrick's Day.

"I eat corned beef, cabbage and potatoes," said Joe McCourt, an environmental inspector with the DEP's Office of Oil and Gas.

He gets the ingredients and prepares the feast.

"Then we go to our favorite pub, drink green beverages and sing the old Irish tunes, as well as others. I go out with my brother, our sons, and a few close friends. It's a guy thing."



Eating and singing seem to be a popular way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Jeff Gibson, an inspection coordinator with the federal government, has spent past St. Patrick's Days at restaurants, where he would partake of specialty cuisine and listen to an Irish folk group

called the Cassidy Brothers.

"I used to go to the Cassidy Brothers' gigs at Ernie's Esquire back in the 1980s and 90s," Gibson said. "I even sang with them a time or two."

One DEPer likes to celebrate by shopping.

"I usually spend as much of the day as possible watching QVC's Irish Day celebration," said Betty Cinalli, an office assistant with the Division of Mining and Reclamation.

An avid watcher of QVC, she celebrates the day by enjoying Irish treasures.

"The shopping channel features unique items made in Ireland — Connemara Marble jewelry, Belleek pottery, and Merino wool sweaters, to name a few," she said. "They spend the whole day with guests who have traveled from Ireland just for that day."

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Springtime means cleaning time

By Colleen O'Neill

Spring is the awakening of life. It is also a time for cleaning.

The Department of Environmental Protection's Make-It-Shine and Adopt-A-Highway programs are planning for their annual spring cleaning of West Virginia's outdoors.



"The Make-It-Shine Statewide Cleanup goes from April 1 to April 15, and the Adopt-A-Highway Statewide

Cleanup is scheduled for April 30," said Travis Cooper, temporarily the coordinator of both programs for the Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP). "We have more than 100 areas registered for cleanup with Make-It-Shine. Since Adopt-A-Highway doesn't happen until the end of April, registration hasn't started yet."

The Make-It-Shine sites are spread throughout the state. Some are:

- In the central part of the state, the Friends of North Bend out of Cairo, in Ritchie County, are registered to clean up the state park. They are expecting 100 volunteers.

- In the Northern Panhandle, Grand Vue Park out of Mounds-



Volunteers will be busy during April's Make-It-Shine and Adopt-A-Highway cleanups

ville, Marshall County, is registered for a park cleanup. There are 20 volunteers expected.

- In the Eastern Panhandle, Shepherd University in Jefferson County, is registered to complete various cleanups in its area. Seventy-five volunteers are expected.

- In the southwestern part of the state, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, out of Beech Fork Lake in Wayne County, is registered to complete a lake cleanup with 70 volunteers.

- In the southern part of the state, the Elkhorn Creek Watershed Association, out of McDowell County, is registered

for a creek cleanup with 65 volunteers expected.

REAP supplies the bags, gloves, and trash grabbers, and it arranges for the trash disposal. Volunteers supply the labor.

There are two ways to register — by filling out the application that can be downloaded from <http://www.dep.wv.gov/dlr/reap/wvmis/Pages/default.aspx> and printed, or by calling Cooper at 304-926-0499 ext. 1117.

"We need people to register, so we can plan for and have enough supplies," he said. "The crowd of people that sign up do a great job. It's nice to see people interested in taking care of their own backyard."

HAZY

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containers, including your car's fuel tank.

8. How did you end up in your field after earning a physics degree from Georgia Tech?

I started out in a high-technology segment of the oil and gas industry, where I became a field

engineer making down-hole measurements in wells. My first post was in Lake Charles, La. Later I took a management position in West Virginia. I changed careers in 1992 when one of the periodic oilfield downturns caused the closure of the Charleston facility.

9. Growing up near Nashville, Tenn., you

must be a country music fan, right?

I heard far too much country music growing up and hated it for years. In the mid-1980s, I lived near Buckhannon and got a company car that only had an AM radio. THAT'S when I started really appreciating country music. I would sing along with the lyrics in the car and around the

house.

10. What's an interesting aspect of your life that co-workers might not know about?

Those who work closely with me already know that I have a strong interest in Hindu and Buddhist philosophy. Of course, that's somewhat counterbalanced by my affinity for fine food and spirits.

IRISH

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"They usually broadcast in an Irish pub setting. They feature Irish singers and dancers, then sell the singers' CD's.

"I leave the TV on and go about my routine and stop to watch when I hear something interesting.

"They also show lots of beautiful scenery during the day — probably

as close as I'll come to Ireland."

Another DEP employee made a life-changing decision on one past St. Patrick's Day.

Nate Walker, a paralegal with the Office of Legal Services, and his wife, Jennifer, were married on St. Patrick's Day in 2001, exactly one year after they rekindled a relationship that started when they were in high school.

"Some mutual friends wanted to meet in Charleston for drinks on St. Patrick's Day in 2000," Walker said. "I was informed that Jennifer was back in town — living just down the road from me — and was asked if I could bring her. We made arrangements — she actually came and got me — and went to the bar."

It was the first time the two had been together since high school.

"No one else showed up," Nate said. "It was just us. We talked, laughed, danced and had a great time."

A year later, they were married on St. Patrick's Day.

"The ceremony was Celtic and there were many drinks shared with many friends," Nate said.

"Now, to honor this special day, every year we get friends together and go skiing."

DEP Earth Day celebration set

By Colleen O'Neill

The Department of Environmental Protection is celebrating Earth Day a little early this year.

Earth Day officially falls on April 22, but the DEP's annual Clay Center event, which attracts hundreds of school children from around the area, is set for April 15.

"April 22 lands on Easter break for many schools, so they'd be out of school. We

thought it would be better to celebrate it early," said Travis Cooper, coordinator of the DEP's Earth Day event.

"Last year, activities included interactive displays such as groundwater flow and watershed models, wa-

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Jeanne Chandler, left, and Stephanie Hammonds, of the DAQ, interact with kids at last year's Earth Day event.



HEALTH

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sity can be prevented or controlled through lifestyle changes, regular checkups and medication or other therapies," said Teresa Weaver, the DEP's Wellness coordinator.

"You'll notice that this year we don't have the added services, like acupuncture and massage therapy represented," Weaver said.

"I thought it was important to put the focus on the health screening, as it can really be

beneficial by detecting a problem early."

Here are some facts to ponder:

► High blood pressure, or hypertension, is a common health problem. About one in three Americans have it. Most of the time, HBP has no symptoms.

► HBP can lead to coronary heart disease, heart failure, stroke, kidney failure, and other health problems.

► One out of five people have high cholesterol. Fifty percent of Americans have levels above the suggested

limit.

► Cholesterol is a direct contributor to cardiovascular disease, which can lead to strokes and heart attacks.

► Blood glucose levels that remain high over time can damage your eyes, kidneys, nerves, and blood vessels.

► Diabetes affects the body's ability to use blood sugar for energy. Symptoms may include increased thirst and urination, blurred vision, and fatigue.

► High triglycerides

increases the risk of stroke, heart attack and heart disease.

"I really hope the employees take advantage of this health screening," Weaver said. "This eliminates the need to have the doctor or hospital do it.

"There's also the health benefit, perhaps saving a life. It's a win-win."

Those interested in signing up for the health screening should contact Melinda Campbell at 304-926-0499, ext. 1560, or Melinda.S.Campbell@wv.gov.



For Charity

After the Christmas holidays, the Department of Environmental Protection's Fairmont office collected items for both the Marion County Humane Society and the Marion County Soup Opera, a homeless shelter. Janice Palmer, who helps organize the annual collection, said her office's theory is that people need help all through the year, not just during the holidays.

The items pictured above were delivered around Valentine's Day to the Soup Opera and the Human Society, a no-kill animal shelter that needs help with supplies such as dog and cat food, collars, leashes, garbage bags, bleach, paper towels and other cleaning materials.

"Not a bad amount for a group of only 27 employees," Palmer said.

CAMP

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ser Shot, a video hunting game provided by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

Camp assemblies will take place Monday evening and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

Possible guest speakers include representatives from the National Wild Turkey Federation, DNR Wildlife Resources, DEP Division of Air Quality and others.

Campfire programs are scheduled for Monday through Wednesday nights, with a dance scheduled for Thursday night.

Camp counselors and leaders will include dedicated and knowledgeable employees from the DEP, DNR and Division of Forestry.

For more information and application forms, please contact Youth Environmental Program Director Diana Haid at 304-926-0499, Ext. 1114 or email: diana.k.haid@wv.gov .

Two webinars remain in series

Two free webinars remain that are designed to help West Virginians save money and protect the environment through energy-efficient products and practices.

The webinars are sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection, in partnership with the U.S. EPA and ENERGY STAR®.

The webinars are designed for individuals who have a vested interest in business, industry and academia; community members involved in development; environmental, social and community non-government organizations; natural resource, planning and government officials; hotel owners, tour operators, guides and

transportation providers; and representatives from other related services in the private sector.

Webinar Schedule:
Thursday, April 28, 1 p.m.

ENERGY STAR — Changing Behaviors and Getting Buy-In — Webinar discusses ENERGY STAR tools for promoting energy awareness.

Tuesday, May 24, 10 a.m.

Using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager — Webinar provides detailed introduction to the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager building benchmarking tool.

To register for one or both of the Webinars go to: <http://apps.dep.wv.gov/registration>

WATER

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ceived positive feedback as well from those who have already begun electronically submitting permit applications.

“I’ve heard more favorable responses than negative responses,” she said.

Technical requirements to submit electronically are an Internet connection, an email account, and Internet browser software such as Microsoft’s Internet Explorer, version 7.0 or higher.

The DWWM has organized a number of

training sessions for this spring and summer at the Department of Environmental Protection headquarters in Charleston.

Those who are unable to participate in the mandatory ePermitting/eDMR process are required to send a letter to the DWWM explaining why.

As with any change, Patel expects resistance from some to scrapping the old paper method in favor of a computer-based system.

“We are here to help them,” Patel said. “We’ll help folks as much as we can so they can sub-

mit electronically. They can call us and we’ll guide them step-by-step.

“Once they’re familiar with the system, it will become easier for them.”

Currently, those who don’t use eDMR or ePermitting must submit hard-copy bundles of forms and documents to the DWWM.

That information, in turn, must be reviewed and then manually entered by staff into DWWM databases or onto spreadsheets for analysis.

Electronically supplying the same informa-

tion will save time for both the regulated community and DWWM staff, not to mention the enormous cutbacks in paper.

“This will result in a huge paper reduction and we’re happy about that,” Sangid said.

Also built into ePermitting and eDMR are programs that quickly flag incorrect or missing data before that information is pulled into the DWWM system.

“You don’t have to have someone visually looking for mistakes,” Sangid said. “The system is finding them for you.”

EARTH

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ter Jeopardy, and live birds of prey,” Cooper said.

The DEP’s Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) is sponsoring the Earth Day event. “This is the second year we’ve held our

celebration at the Clay Center,” Cooper said.

“It’s a great place because, other than all the great Earth Day displays and activities, the Clay Center is a great place to spend time.

“If they want to do any of the Clay Center’s activities, they need to arrange it ahead of time.”

Schools interested in participating in Earth Day at the Clay Center have until April to register.

“It is a great day filled with informational displays and hands-on activities for the children,” said Cooper.

For more information, contact Cooper at 304-926-0499, ext. 1117.



Nixon honored

DEP Environmental Advocate Pam Nixon, left, was honored by the EPA for her work with the Port of Huntington Tri-State Collaborative Initiative. Nixon helped develop an integrated strategy for inspections, community outreach and compliance for the largest inland port in the country. It includes West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.

Despite bill’s failure, Marcellus issues are still on front burner

By Tom Aluise

DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman said the “sky is not falling” in the wake of failed legislation to better regulate the state’s oil and gas industry.

“But we need to get moving today,” Huffman said.

The state Legislature ended its session on March 12 without passing a bill aimed at increased regulation of natural gas drilling, particularly in the Marcellus Shale.

But Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin still wants lawmakers to find money in the state budget for more well inspectors and would like to see the DEP develop additional rules to regulate the industry.

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Employees of the Month

■ Pictured with Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman



Judy Smith — January

Smith, who works in Administration out of the Charleston office, is always on board when a co-worker needs help and always up to the challenge with a great attitude. She recently was put in charge of an organizing effort that has helped the agency tremendously. In addition to her assigned duties, Smith serves on various committees that benefit the agency.



Patty Hickman — February

Hickman, an ERPM in the Division of Land Restoration, works out of the Charleston and Wheeling offices. She has worked to initiate projects that have improved the overall function of the units she works within and has provided exceptional leadership in her program. She joined the section when inspections were behind and established goals to ensure that deadlines were met.



Jody Jones — March

Jones, an attorney for the Office of Legal Services, has shown a strong desire for learning and becoming familiar with operations of the Office of Oil and Gas and, more broadly, the industry. His knowledge of the authority of the OOG, coupled with his understanding of the industry's activities, has proven invaluable in providing guidance to the OOG staff. Jones provides tremendous customer service and is always willing to help.

Reward and Recognition

■ Pictured with Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman



Pasupathy Ramanan

Ramanan, who works in DLR out of the Fairmont office, agreed to help his supervisor by immediately jumping on board with a situation that might not have happened if it weren't for staff shortages. He helped agency recruitment efforts by providing a college student with an observation opportunity and gave that student a good first impression of DEP.



Greg Adolfson

Adolfson, the DEP's sustainability officer, worked closely with federal agencies in establishing the Appliance Rebate Program for West Virginia. His attention to detail and desire to make the project beneficial to both the consumer and the environment helped create a successful program. Adolfson continues to work closely with vendors who process rebates and addresses consumer questions with professionalism and courtesy.



Louis Spatafore

Spatafore, who works for Homeland Security and Emergency Response, has an ability to repair almost anything, from delicate equipment to large vehicles. His talents have resulted in great benefits for the agency, including savings in time and repair costs. Spatafore was not hired to perform these types of services, but is always willing to complete them, in addition to his normal responsibilities.



REAP's Sandy Rogers said she hopes to conduct two more e-cycling events in the state this year. The next is scheduled for Flatwoods.

ELECTRIC

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According to its website, eco International "has 20 years experience in the electronics recycling industry that started with collaboration among International Business Machines (IBM), Digital Equipment and Corning Glass to find a recycling solution for cathode ray tubes (CRTs)."

REAP's Sandy Rogers said 267 cars, most carrying multiple pieces of electronics, passed through the 9 a.m.-to-4 p.m. Fayetteville event, which was co-sponsored by MRM Recycling.

Final numbers revealed that 35,372 pounds (nearly 18 tons) of electronics were collected.

Rogers said the day was a success and plans to hold two more e-



REAP Chief Danny Haught (left) and a worker take a curious look at an old television set that was dropped off during the DEP's e-cycling event on Saturday, March 12, in Fayetteville.

cycling events around the state.

"Nobody really knew what to expect," Rogers said.

Products that were accepted included televisions, computers, laptops, CD players, tape players, mice, keyboards, speakers, webcams, monitors, cables,

hard drives, circuit boards and cell phones.

eco International did not take printers, scanners, copiers, fax machines, gaming devices, kitchen appliances, refrigerators, washers, dryers, freezers and air conditioners.

West Virginia law prohibits televisions, com-

puters and other electronic devices with video screens 4 inches and larger from being discarded into landfills. The law went into effect Jan. 1, 2011.

Among those attending the Fayetteville e-cycling event were the town's superintendent, Bill Lanham, and mayor, Jim Akers.

"When you get city leaders to come out and show their support, that sets a good example for the rest of the community," Lanham said.

In 2006, Lanham started a recycling program for the city.

Today, the city collects paper, cardboard, metal cans and some appliances for recycling.

"I was glad the DEP had this opportunity for us," Lanham said. "This was one of the things I have been wanting to do."

BILL

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"Gov. Tomblin has taken a leadership role," Huffman said. "We're going to look at our regulatory authority and, within that existing framework, see what can be done in terms of beef-

ing up our rules.

"We can't sit here another year and do nothing.

"We're going to try and maintain this momentum. The issue is not going away."

Huffman said an enormous amount of work went into crafting the DEP's pro-

posed legislation for oil and gas.

"A lot of stakeholders put a lot of effort into this," he said. "We had a good bill. We just didn't get it done."

The Senate took up the DEP's bill, made changes and ultimately passed it on to

the House, where it died.

"There were just so many different things that people wanted," Huffman said. "It was like a Christmas tree. Everybody just kept hanging ornaments on it until it collapsed under its own weight."