



Rick Campbell, left, and John Kearney, from the Office of Oil and Gas, chat with State Capitol visitors during DEP Day at the Legislature on Feb. 15.

DEP visits Legislature

The Department of Environmental Protection was well represented during the annual DEP Day at the Legislature on Feb. 15.

Seventeen display booths from various divisions and offices were set up in the State Capitol's upper rotunda.

"We had a great representation of the agency and I received several comments from Senate members, delegates, and citizens regarding our helpfulness on answering questions," said event coordinator Annette Hoskins.



DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman stops to talk with the DWWM's Mavis Layton, left, and Renee Clevenger.



The Division of Air Quality's Renu Chakrabarty, far right, and Gene Coccari talk about energy efficiency.



More than 300 representatives from oil and gas-related fields turned out for the Natural Gas Horizontal Well Control Act Industry Workshop earlier this month at the Charleston Marriott. The DEP's Office of Oil and Gas conducted the workshop.

OOG receives positive response to workshop

By Tom Aluise

An Office of Oil and Gas workshop on the state's new Horizontal Well Act played to a full house at the Charleston Marriott earlier this month.

More than 300 oil and gas industry representatives packed into a meeting room at the Marriott to learn more about the bill and how it will affect horizontal drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale. The governor signed the Horizontal Well Act in December after it was passed during a Special Session of the state Legislature.

DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman told

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Progress being made in Session

With just over half of this year's Legislative Session complete, my administration and I continue to work in partnership with state legislators so that we may build a brighter future for all of West Virginia.

The first 2012 Legislative Session bill that I have signed into law speaks volumes regarding our commitment to job development.

With the passage of House Bill 4086, we opened our doors to opportunity and demonstrated that West Virginia is a state that wants companies to invest and create jobs. Specifically, this bill enhances our efforts to recruit an ethane steam cracker. By signing House Bill 4086 into law, we establish tax relief for ethane cracker development. This legislation, coupled with the landmark Horizontal



Message from Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin

Well Act, relating to Marcellus Shale development, sends a clear message to investors that we remain committed to rebuilding our manufacturing base.

Just last week, the state took a monumental step forward, growing our financial strength and stability. Recently, West Virginia had a \$10 billion unfunded Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability, due primarily to past promises that became too expensive to maintain.

Late last year, the PEIA Finance Board

made some very difficult choices that reduced this liability to \$5 billion. Now, with last week's passage of Senate Bill 469 addressing OPEB, this unfunded liability will be gone by 2036.

The bill will save the county boards of education \$485 million in future OPEB liability payments. Today, the counties who have saved money for the payment toward this debt can now utilize \$20 million, that they have saved, for their local needs.

Our state has experienced recent developments in job growth because we have remained steadfast in maintaining a responsible tax structure, a stable government and a ready and able workforce.

However, we still have work to do for the places in our state where we do not have enough qualified, drug-free, West Virginians to fill the available jobs.

I believe we must

address the substance abuse problem so we can maintain a workforce that is educated, trained and ready to work.

I have proposed legislation that would strengthen the Prescription Monitoring Program, limiting the number of controlled substances prescribed in a specific time period and requiring health professionals who prescribe controlled substances to receive drug diversion and "best practice" prescribing training.

We have made significant progress during this legislative session, addressing outstanding liabilities, establishing tax relief, and enhancing job development for the state of West Virginia.

I look forward to continuing my work with our legislators in the coming weeks so we can complete this session successfully for the great citizens of West Virginia.

EPA recognizes state for Chesapeake Bay progress

West Virginia's draft Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay was the most improved among submissions from the six Bay states, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Jim Edwards, the deputy director of the EPA's Chesapeake Bay program office, said New York submitted its plan late and the agency hasn't finished evaluating that state's plan.

The Phase II WIP comes on the heels of the Phase I Plan and continues the process of defining how West Virginia, in partnership with federal and local governments, will achieve the pollution load reductions required to support the EPA's Bay Total Maximum Daily Load. The TMDL grew out of a 2009



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

Executive Order from President Obama.

West Virginia's Phase II WIP was developed by the state departments of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, as well as the state Conservation Agency, with significant input from The Conservation Fund-Freshwater Institute, Cacapon Institute, WVU Extension, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and many other partners.

The final Phase II WIP is due on March 30.

Fairmont office continues tradition on Valentine's Day

By Colleen O'Neill

February is known as the month of love. What better way to celebrate than to help those less fortunate by lending aid? In Marion County, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Fairmont Office donated pet items and food items to the Humane Society and Soup Opera.

"We have been contributing to the Marion County Soup Opera and the Marion County Humane Society since we moved into this building 12 years ago," said Donna Betonte, an office assistant with the Division of Air Quality. "Most people donate to these organizations during Christmas, so we have chosen Valentine's Day as a good time to deliver the items."

The two charities chosen encompass both the two-legged and

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Pace fast for lawyer

Rob Pichardo has to be quick learner in OOG

By Tom Aluise

Attorney Rob Pichardo studied abroad in places like London and Surfer's Paradise, Australia.

He worked a summer in New York City as an intern at Rolling Stone and Men's Journal magazines, where it wasn't unusual for rockers, like John Mellencamp, or movie stars, like Owen Wilson, to stroll by his desk on a given day.



Attorney Rob Pichardo said there is a sense of urgency every day working in the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Oil and Gas.

Life is a tad less glamorous for Pichardo these days. Still, the 29-year-old associate counsel for the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Oil and Gas wouldn't have it any other way.

"I wanted to get into oil and gas from the get-go," said Pichardo, who's been with the DEP since June 2010 and took over as the OOG's attorney last summer. "It's an emerging field and I wanted to be there on the ground floor."

A former DEP intern, Pichardo joined the agency full-time right out of law

school. The Boone County native has an undergraduate degree in literature and journalism from the University of Charleston and a law degree from Thomas M. Cooley, located in Lansing, Mich.

His early work with the DEP centered on mining and underground storage tanks.

"That was a great opportunity to learn the nuts and bolts of how the legal profession works," Pichardo said. "But now I've been given an opportunity to develop a niche, which is very

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OOG

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the workshop crowd the day was an important step in smoothing out the permitting process for the type of horizontal drilling that's covered under the new law.

"We felt like this was necessary for you folks who work in the permitting process at all levels," Huffman said. "We want to provide you with everything we know, as of today, in order to make the permitting process as smooth as possible."

Huffman also praised DEP Deputy Cabinet Secretary Lisa McClung, OOG Chief James Martin and the OOG staff for their hard work in dealing with the many changes in the industry. He also recognized the efforts of the OOG field inspectors, several of whom attended the workshop.

"They're running around every day, trying to stay caught up," Huffman said.

The workshop, which ran from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., dealt with several different aspects of the Horizontal Well Act, including permitting, public notice requirements, water management plans, bonding requirements, casing and cementing programs, well site safety plans, impoundments and pits and site construction and reclamation.

Presenters from the OOG included included Martin, Gene Smith, David Belcher, John Kearney and Rick Campbell.

Other presenters were Communications Chief Kathy Cosco; Division of Water and Waste Management Program Manager Brian Carr; and OOG legal counsel Rob Pichardo.

Martin said the industry was appreciative of the DEP's efforts to help drillers understand the new regulations. He said the OOG received several positive comments about how informative the day was.



Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Randy Huffman
Cabinet Secretary

Kathy Cosco
Communications
Director

Tom Aluise
Editor

Public Information Office
601 57th St. S.E.

Charleston, WV 25304

Email: Kathy.Cosco@wv.gov;
or

Thomas.J.Aluise@wv.gov

*InDEPth is published monthly
by the Department of
Environmental Protection, an
affirmative action, equal
opportunity employer.*



The Division of Water and Waste Management’s booth at the recent West Virginia Hunting and Fishing Show was a popular stop at the Charleston Civic Center.

DWWM stays busy at show

There wasn’t a lot of down time for the Division of Water and Waste Management during the recent West Virginia Hunting and Fishing Show at the Charleston Civic Center.

The 26th annual event attracted over 15,000 people during its three-day run and many of them stopped by the DWWM’s booth to chat with staff and check out the fish and bugs on display.

“We stayed busy,” said Steve Young, who helped coordinate the DWWM’s participation in the show, which featured a wide range of outdoors-related vendors.

This year, almost all of the show’s 240 booths were filled.

The DWWM’s space was staffed mostly by employees from the division’s Watershed Assessment Branch and focused on erosion and sediment control issues.



DWWM Director Scott Mandirola, left, and Ben Lowman, from the Watershed Assessment Branch, interact with some of the many visitors.

It also had 10 small aquariums stocked with fish, which drew the curiosity of young and old alike.

“Predominantly it was school kids, but we did have a fair share of adults who stopped by and enjoyed looking at the fish,” Young said. “The bugs were a lot more popular with the kids.”

Stream Partners Yearbook on Web

The DEP’s Non-Point Source Program has released its 2010-11 Stream Partners Yearbook.

It can be found on the Non-Point Source Program Web site at: http://www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/getinvolved/WSA_Support/Pages/StreamPartners.aspx and on the state Conservation Agency’s site at: <http://www.wvca.us/stream.cfm>.

The Stream Partners Program is a cooperative effort of the DEP, the Division of Forestry, the Division of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Conservation Agency.

The program’s purpose is to support community groups in their efforts to make sure their local rivers and streams are safe

for swimming, fishing, recreation, public and commercial purposes and provide habitat for plant and animal life.

The Stream Partners Program provides the volunteers with a small financial resource, technical support, and organizational skills.

The annual Stream Partners Yearbook highlights each association’s individuality and successes.

The West Virginia Stream Partners Program is truly a state-wide cooperative effort. Program support is provided by staff from each of the four partner agencies and the grant fund is an annual legislative appropriation.

— Stephanie Ferrell

Rebate program will keep on giving

By Colleen O’Neill

Final numbers show the DEP’s West Virginia Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program was a success and will continue to benefit West Virginians for years to come.

The program, which began in June 2010 and exhausted all of its funds 14 months later, was geared toward helping state residents replace older, inefficient appliances with new ENERGY STAR-qualified models.

The federal government, through its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, funded the program.

West Virginians received 20,411 rebates totaling \$1.6 million. They bought 8,944 refrigerators, 6,193 clothes washers, 4,707 dishwashers, 323 freezers and 244 room air conditioners under the rebate program.

It is estimated that state residents who took part in the program will save more than \$486,000 in annual energy bills over the lifetime of these appliances.

“ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances use up to 50 percent less energy than older models or less-efficient counterparts currently on the market,” said Jeff Lasater, a Lowe’s store manager. “That translates into huge savings year after year on household energy costs.

“The West Virginia Appliance Rebate Program allowed many consumers to take advantage of these savings.”

“Some of the objectives of the Rebate Program were to stimulate West Virginia’s economy, create jobs, save energy, and reduce pollution” said Greg Adolfson, sustainability officer for the Department of Environmental Protection.

“By taking advantage of this program, West Virginia

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DEP youth program adds members

By Colleen O'Neill

The year 2011 brought growth to the Youth Environmental Program. Its statewide message of being good and responsible environmental stewards reached 76,400 West Virginia youngsters in 859 clubs.

In 2010, the program included 74,136 members in 829 clubs around the state.

In 2011, YEP members worked 24,884 volunteer hours which, according to the Independent Sector's estimated value of \$21.46 per volunteer hour, saved the state \$531,522.

Why this added interest?

"Luckily, the YEP has been maintaining enrollment over the last few years," said Diana Haid, coordinator for YEP.

"We would lose a few and gain a few. With the addition of four newly hired employees within the last two years in positions that had been vacant for a while, they are actually promoting the program and increasing our enrollment, which is one of their goals as district environmental coordinators."

The district environmental coordinators are an intricate part of YEP, from recruitment to outreach with volunteer



The YEP's Youth Day annually attracts good crowds to North Bend State Park.

groups, to conducting presentations, to networking with local, county, state, or federal governments, civic organizations, solid waste authorities, grass roots organizations such as watershed associations and community clean-up groups.

They also play a key role in the annual YEP activities.

"They make sure the Youth Environmental Day activities run smoothly, they teach classes and serve as counselors at Junior Conservation Camp, and lead groups during the Youth Environmental Conference." Haid said.

"They also provide programs and presentations, as a part of our outreach and

2012 YEP events

May 19, Youth Environmental Day, North Bend State Park
 June 10-16, State Conservation Camp, Camp Caesar
 June 18-22, Junior Conservation Camp, Cedar Lakes
 Oct. 12-14, Youth Environmental Conference, Hawks Nest

education efforts that promote environmental stewardship."

Through the efforts of those coordinators, YEP members have taken to heart what they learned and turned their actions toward being good and responsible stewards of our natural resources.

In 2011, for example, they planted 3,306 trees and 5,542 flowers and scrubs.

They also collected 1,405 bags of trash and recycled nearly 500,000 pounds of materials such as steel, glass,

paper, plastic and copper.

YEP has also boarded the social media train. The program has a presence on Facebook, which, according to 2011 statistics, has 500 million users. One in every 13 people use FB, and 72 percent of all Internet users are on FB. Haid said she believes this has helped with the increase in YEP members, as well.

The program can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/depyouth>.

Logan Mining and Reclamation Office searching for lost soles

By Colleen O'Neill

What if you had to walk along a gravel road and you had no shoes? Or on a city street that was littered with broken glass and cigarette butts? And what about the disease and parasites that can be contracted by not wearing shoes?

Three women from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Mining and Reclamation Office

in Logan are participating in a shoe collection drive, hoping to help a few people. It is estimated that Americans have 1.5 billion pairs of unused shoes in their closet.

"Kelli Adkins, Phyllis Jeffrey,

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Kathie Thacker, Phyllis Jeffrey and Kelli Adkins, left to right, are collecting shoes for charity in the Logan office and hope others will help.



REWARD AND RECOGNITION

► Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman recognized four DEP employees for their outstanding contributions to the agency. Honored were Gene Coccari, Jamie Chambers, Renu Chakrabarty and James Ebert.



Gene Coccari
DAQ, Charleston

- In December 2010, division directors were approached regarding placing artwork in the hallways of their respective office hallways. Coccari was asked to manage his division’s project, in addition to his current workload.
- Coccari set up meetings not only with his DAQ co-workers, but also with those of three other offices located within the same proximity to ensure that each program area’s concerns were met.
- In an effort to save money, he thought to have all photos printed in-house, instead of contracting out the printing.



Renu Chakrabarty
DAQ, Charleston

- Chakrabarty has worked tirelessly to develop a program which has received national recognition. She assembled the DAQ air toxics workgroup; and, as coordinator, she is responsible for ensuring that the workgroup and staff are informed of various new EPA air toxic requirements.
- Chakrabarty almost single-handedly accomplishes as much as states who have well-staffed program sections exclusively dedicated to air toxic implementation.
- At the end of August, she spearheaded the first-ever training workshop for DAQ permitting and compliance and enforcement staff. The training was well received by those in attendance with many suggesting the training be scheduled on a quarterly basis.



Jamie Chambers
Fiscal Services, Charleston

- The federal government requires grantees to make a good faith effort to do business with minority and women-owned businesses. The DEP had difficulty attracting these businesses over the years until Chambers took the initiative to research and develop a presentation to educate those businesses on how to do business with the state.
- After review, the U.S. Small Business Administration asked Chambers to participate in a statewide webinar to educate and encourage businesses to become a state vendor.
- At a spring EPA training session, the EPA did an Internet search on the subject and acknowledged that West Virginia was the only state that has a wealth of information on the Internet.



James Ebert
DAQ, Charleston

- Ebert assumed the responsibility of replacing and upgrading an ambient air monitoring site located in Moundsville. To accomplish this task, he had to first develop a proposal, locate and obtain a lease for a new site location, and then develop bid specs to be sent to contractors.
- As a result of the efforts of Ebert, this site now meets EPA’s siting requirements and is a safe and secure air monitoring site.
- The installation of this site will be used as an example for other statewide ambient air monitoring site installations and upgrades in the future.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Jason Morgan — April EOM

Morgan works for the DWWM’s Watershed Assessment Section and has taken the lead in collecting fish from wadeable streams. He also is involved with the DEP’s triennial collection of fish tissue for mercury content, which will demonstrate the effectiveness of improved power plant emission controls.

Working largely on his own, Morgan developed the DEP’s Standard Operating Procedures for fish monitoring to assure that collections are made in a safe and scientifically defensible manner.



Susan Wheeler — November EOM

Wheeler works for Administration out of Charleston and provides excellent customer service to all DEP travelers. She is very conscientious and constantly seeking ways to improve the process.

Many times, procedural changes to the travel reimbursement process are unpopular. Still, Wheeler uses great patience and tact in dealing with employees’ frustrations. In addition to her already busy schedule, she most recently took on the added duty of the agency’s Travel Card Coordinator.



Kenna DeRaimo — December EOM

DeRaimo, who currently works for the Executive Office, has proven to be invaluable in all of her roles within the agency. She is very conscientious about her job and, on many occasions, has gone far above what is expected of her, especially if it means helping a fellow employee.

The main focus of DeRaimo’s position is dealing with citizen complaints and often very irate people. Still, she is able to maintain her pleasant attitude and will always go that “extra mile” to handle the situation.

SOLES

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and I are all members of the Logan Church of God,” said Kathie Thacker, who works in the permitting section of the Logan Office.

Thacker said her daughter was looking and praying for a mission, did some research and came across the program for collecting shoes.

“She was asking God to show her a mission that she could do and that wouldn’t cost anyone anything,” Thacker said. “And she thought it would be something that the youth of our church could do.”

The group sponsoring the collection is Soles4Souls, a non-profit organization that began with one person wanting to help victims of the 2004 earthquake and subsequent tsunamis in southeast Asia that killed hundreds of thousands of people in several different countries.

After Hurricane Katrina hit in the United States in 2005 and more people needed help, Soles4Souls snowballed into the worldwide charity it is today.

The organization has given out over 16 million shoes to people.

“They will accept used, new, one shoe, any size, any kind, any gender,” Thacker said. “Just no holes in the bottom. And if they’re suppose to have shoestrings, they need to have them.”

Examples of the types of shoes accepted are sneakers, flip-flops, boots, dress shoes, heels, crocs, and one shoe.

“The shoe boxes aren’t needed,” Thacker said. “Each pair will have a rubber band around it, and put into a big box. Then, my son-in-law will load the boxes into a U-Haul, and transport them to Columbus, Ohio.

“The youth of our church have gotten quite a number of places to participate,” Thacker said.

The DEP, West Logan Church of God, Logan Elementary School, Logan High School, The Closet Swap, Ages & Stages Daycare Center, Gilbert Church of God, 14 Whitman Freewill Baptist, Beth Haven Christian School, LEASA, Parkaway Drive-In, Dan & Dave’s Sporting Goods, and a church in Huntington all offered to be drop-off locations.

All through the month of February, the Logan office will be a drop-off location.

DEP headquarters in Charleston also will accept donated shoes in Room 1083 until noon on Monday, Feb. 27.

New Additions

Recent DEP hires

- ▶ Joshua Bonner, DMR
- ▶ Christopher Hobt, DMR
- ▶ Owen Mulkeen, DLR
- ▶ David Nichols, DMR
- ▶ Michael Pastine, DLR
- ▶ Russell Sova, DWWM
- ▶ Candice Stone, DMR
- ▶ Sharon Wriston, DMR

PACE

Continued from Page 3

valuable. I feel very fortunate to be in my 20s and be the DEP’s oil and gas attorney. And what better way to learn the field than to be on the front lines at this time.”

Pichardo, who succeeded Jody Jones in the OOG, came on board at a tumultuous time in the natural gas industry.

The rush to tap into the Marcellus Shale formation using new twists on horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing technologies created a strain on the state’s regulatory agencies, especially the OOG.

Last August, at about the same time Pichardo was replacing Jones, an Emergency Rule was promulgated by the DEP to better regulate the drilling industry.

And last December, during a special session of the Legislature, lawmakers passed the Natural Gas Horizontal Well Control Act, adding

even more rules and regulations to horizontal drilling.

“It was a quick transition,” Pichardo said. “It was great timing, but it was also hectic because right when he (Jones) was leaving was the same time the Emergency Rule was passed.

“That was the end of August. Then, a few months later, you think you’re getting your bearing on something and they pass the new Act. It’s been very hectic.

“But I enjoy it because it’s a new field and it’s an emerging industry.

“Plus, you have a new Act and new rules that you have to constantly interpret and constantly convey the message to operators, attorneys and surface owners.

“Pretty much every single day there’s a new issue that comes up, whether it’s a new interpretation of the Act, certain surface owners have concerns over something that’s happened on their property, or an operator

has an issue with casing that we have to figure out.

“But that’s the way the industry is right now, everything is evolving very quickly.”

Pichardo is quick to give credit to his colleagues in the Office of Legal Services, as well as the OOG staffers for making his transition into their world easier.

“I had a very limited background in oil and gas — just what I learned in law school and from what I read in newspapers and magazines,” Pichardo said.

“Then I got thrown into the mix, where I had to know the legal side; the engineering side, as well as the environmental side.

“But the Office of Oil and Gas has been great in giving me the tools and education I need.

“And it’s a pleasure to work with people who are passionate about what they do.

“They get here before they’re supposed to in the morning and leave

extremely late every single work day. The office is small, but everyone works efficiently because they have to.”

Pichardo said the OOG dissected the new Horizontal Well Act and determined he would be the best person to deal with the extensive notice provisions outlined in the bill.

“I don’t know if I was given the pleasure or punishment of having to do the notice section,” Pichardo said.

“There are many different elements that no one has dealt with before. We had to dissect that and put it into language that was easy to comprehend for the industry.”

Are there ever times Pichardo feels he’s bit off more than he can chew?

“Really, you don’t have time to feel overwhelmed because the work never stops,” he said.

“All you can do is keep your head down and keep moving forward.”

REBATE

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consumers could lower their energy bills, protect our natural resources, and put money back into their wallets,” Adolfson said.

Rebate amounts were \$75 and \$50 for clothes washers; \$75 and \$50 for dish washers; \$100 for refrigerators; \$25 for freezers; and \$20 for room air conditioners.

“The West Virginia Appliance Rebate Program allowed many consumers to take advantage of these savings.”

**— Jeff Lasater,
Lowe’s**

“Who doesn’t like saving money?” said Diana Haid, coordinator of DEP’s Youth Environmental Program.

Haid replaced a refrigerator in her rental property and received a rebate.

“The tenant called to say the original refrigerator in the apartment had died, so I replaced it. Replacing a refrigerator is a rather large expense, so receiving a rebate made the decision easier,” she said.

So did purchasing an ENERGY STAR-qualified model.

“Saving energy is the smart thing to do,” Haid said. “As the coordinator of a statewide program that promotes saving our natural resources, the choice was obvious to me.”

State retailers who participated in the Rebate Program also were required to take back the old appliances consumers replaced and properly recycle them.

TRADITION

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the four-legged. Both are organizations that care for those in need.

“The Soup Opera has been feeding and clothing those in need for almost 29 years,” Betonte said.

“Last year, they served better than 37,000 meals. The Humane Society is a No-Kill Shelter in need of pet food, cleaning supplies, and many other items.”

In order to raise money, the Fairmont office hosted a hot, home-cooked meal for its employees. A soup and sandwich lunch was served on Feb. 9. The menu included grilled cheese, vegetable soup, and dessert. Some homemade cornbread was also enjoyed.

The charities drop-off began in early January. Receiving boxes were placed in the front hallway of the Fairmont office, and monetary donations could be given to either Donna Ammons or Betonte.

“Our Department of Environmental Protection’s Fairmont office of 26 staff members has been very generous in donating food and pet items,” Betonte said.

“This year, we collected at least 100 items. I am proud to work with such a charitable group of co-workers.”

The Doc is in



Marshall University football Coach Doc Holliday took time out this month to visit DEP headquarters, talk about the state of his program and answer questions during lunch hour.

Lunchtime visit from MU coach, AD draws large crowd

By Tom Aluise

The decision to bring Marshall football Coach Doc Holliday to DEP headquarters for a day wasn't hatched from some high-level meeting.

"Honestly, the idea was conceived in the DEP parking lot," said the agency's Ed Hamrick, who organized Holliday's visit with the help of his brother, Marshall Athletic Director Mike Hamrick.

"I kept noticing a number of employee vehicles sporting Marshall license plates and Big Green logos," Ed said. "After my brother was named athletic director, DEP and PEIA employees, who I had previously not known were Marshall graduates, would see me in the hallways and the conversation would often turn to Marshall athletics. I knew then there would be interest in having some kind of an event."

During lunch hour on Feb. 9, Holliday, along with Mike Hamrick, stopped by



More than 100 DEP and PEIA staffers turned out to listen to Doc Holliday. At right, Marshall AD Mike Hamrick addresses the gathering in the Coopers Rock Room.



the DEP's Coopers Rock Training Room where they were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd of more than 100 DEP and PEIA employees, as well as other guests. After addressing the gathering, Mike Hamrick showed video clips from Marshall's 2011 season, including a bowl win over Florida International.

Holliday spoke as well, answered questions and then remained well after the event to sign

autographs and pose for pictures.

"The immediate and overwhelming response to the event was somewhat of a surprise," said Ed Hamrick, a former Marshall kicker and student body president. "The Coopers Rock room was maxed out with over 120 in attendance."

"The feedback I received regarding the event was outstanding and I know the folks from Marshall were pleased."

YMCA extends Corporate Cup, moves to June

The 27th annual YMCA Corporate Cup has been extended from a two to three-week competition and moved to June.

Conducted in the past during July, this year's Corporate Cup will run from June 9-30 and include some new events.

The Department of Environmental Protection, which has won 10 consecutive Corporate Cup championships, will have a 60-person roster, said DEP CC Coordinator Dan Roberts.

Those who participate will receive a YMCA trial pass, YMCA T-shirt and a DEP team T-shirt.

Make It Shine deadline near

Those interested in participating in this year's Make It Shine Statewide Cleanup have until March 1 to register with the DEP.

The annual event is jointly sponsored by the DEP and the state Division of Highways.

During the first two weeks of April, the Make It Shine program will provide resources such as cleanup materials, waste hauling and landfill fees to community groups volunteering to conduct litter cleanups on state streams or public lands.

Last year, more than 3,800 West Virginia citizens participated in the statewide cleanup.

To obtain an application, contact Travis Cooper of the MIS Program at 1-800-322-5530, or email:

Travis.L.Cooper@wv.gov.