

# Less Energy Display

DEP's LED Tree Uses 90 Percent Less Energy Than Traditional Lights

by Jake Glance

Normally, LED stands for "Light Emitting Diode."

But for the next few weeks at the DEP's headquarters in Kanawha City, it means "Less Energy Display."

The enormous Energy Tree looks like it would be an energy hog only the Grinch himself could love - but since the lights are LEDs, it uses 90 percent



less energy than it would if traditional lights were used. In fact, the entire tree can be illuminated by a small child turning a hand crank.

The tree was lit during a holiday celebration on Dec. 3 where people could learn more about not only energy efficiency, but also about DEP's mission of promoting a healthy environ-

ment.

The event was organized and hosted by the DEP's Division of Air Quality (DAQ) and featured many interactive displays that showed the different ways a home can be made more energy efficient, including installing solar panels and using LED light bulbs. **See DISPLAY, Page 7**

## Excavation Under Way at Former Freedom Industries Site

by Jake Glance

Excavation work at the former Freedom Industries site in Charleston is under way, with the goal of removing thousands of tons of soil possibly contaminated with spilled chemicals.



The environmental contractor for the Freedom restructuring team, Core Environmental Services, plans to remove approximately 10,000 tons of soil from the site along the Elk River.

The soil will be taken from the Freedom site to the Charleston Landfill for proper disposal.

At the site, the excavated area will be backfilled with clean soil. The work is expected to last about three months, barring any weather delays.

**See FREEDOM, Page 7**

## Counties Giving U.S. Navy Recycling Gear New Life

by Jake Glance

Pendleton County, West Virginia, isn't a place most people would guess the U.S. Navy would have a base. In fact, Sugar Grove is only about 19 miles from the state's highest point but is more than 200 miles away from the Atlantic Ocean.

But the Navy did have a base in Sugar Grove for years, and just recently moved to cease operations there.

The fate of the facility, and all of the equipment on site, was up in the air



over the facility, despite federal government offers to transfer ownership at no cost. Gov. Tomblin said it would cost at least \$19 million to turn the facility into a prison and another \$16

million per year to maintain it. So, for months, the facility and all of its equipment were in limbo. Just days before the facility was to shut down for good, the Division of Natural Resources contacted the DEP regarding recycling equipment that was used at Sugar Grove. Though more than 20 years old, the equipment was in exceptionally good condition, due to regular maintenance and indoor storage.

million per year to maintain it.

So, for months, the facility and all of its equipment were in limbo.

Just days before the facility was to shut down for good, the Division of Natural Resources contacted the DEP regarding recycling equipment that was used at Sugar Grove. Though more than 20 years old, the equipment was in exceptionally good condition, due to regular maintenance and indoor storage.

"Initially, we thought it was going to be a couple recycling trailers," said Dennis Stottlemeyer of the DEP's Office of the Environmental Advocate.

**See RECYCLING, Page 7**

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# DEP Presents More Than \$2.2 Million in Recycling Grants

35 organizations will split funding generated by solid waste disposal fees

by Jake Glance

Department of Environmental Protection Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman presented more than \$2.2 million in recycling grants Dec. 9.

The funding is provided by the Recycling Assistance Grant Program a (REAP) and is generated through the \$1 assessment fee per ton of solid waste disposed of at in-state landfills.

This year's grant recipients are:

**Boone County:**

Boone County Solid Waste Authority: \$18,200 to assist with fuel for recycling trucks, utilities for the recycling center, baling wire and annual conference attendance for the county-wide program.

**Braxton County:**

Braxton County Solid Waste Authority: \$25,800 to assist with utilities for the recycling center, recycling bins, a vertical baler, educational material, advertising and part-time driver/labor for the county-wide program.

**Brooke County:**

Brooke County Solid Waste Authority: \$50,600 to assist with wages, transportation costs, truck maintenance, utilities for the recycling center, fuel for recycling truck, kerosene, advertising, conference attendance, supplies and recycling totes for the county-wide program.

**Cabell County:**

Marshall University Sustainability Department: \$2,652 to purchase recycling containers with lids for the ongoing program.

**Calhoun County:**

Calhoun County Solid Waste Authority: \$98,631 to assist with net wages, utilities for the recycling center, a baler, box dumper, equipment maintenance, lettering for box truck and printing for the county-wide program.

**Gilmer County:**

Glenville State College: \$31,133 to purchase recycling bins with compartments, a concrete pad for bins and

collection bins for offices and dorms for the recycling program.

**Grant County:**

Region VIII Solid Waste Authority: \$141,100 to purchase a baler, storage building, forklift, materials, supplies and to assist with labor and the electrical contractor for the county-wide program.

**Greenbrier County:**

Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity: \$16,110.02 to assist with personnel, employee benefits, door mailings, a pallet jack and a convertible hand truck for the ongoing operation.

Greenbrier County Solid Waste Authority: \$150,000 to assist with building expansion for the recycling drop off and storage for the county wide program.

**Hampshire County:**

Hampshire County Commission: \$120,500 to assist with site preparation, fencing, containers and signage for the new county-wide recycling initiative.

**Hancock County:**

Hancock County Solid Waste Authority: \$50,200 to assist with site attendants, site improvements and to install a sprinkler system for the recycling facility.

**Harrison County:**

Harrison County Recycling Center: \$75,000 to purchase a horizontal baler for the ongoing operation.

**Kanawha County:**

City of Charleston: \$12,000 to assist with quarterly educational mailings for the ongoing city-wide program.

Charleston Main Streets: \$47,177.50 to purchase solar recyclers, solar recycling bags and wraps for compactors for the ongoing program.

Goodwill Industries of Kanawha Valley: \$39,795 to purchase a floor scale, stretch wrap machine with ramp, shrink wrap, gaylord boxes, pallets, forklift and pallet jack for the ongoing operation.



Thirty-five organizations in 26 counties received grant funding for recycling efforts Dec. 9. The funding is provided by the Recycling Assistance Grant Program and is generated through the \$1 assessment fee per ton of solid waste disposed of at in-state landfills.

Habitat for Humanity of Kanawha and Putnam: \$59,708.98 to assist with construction costs and building survey for the ongoing operation.

City of South Charleston: \$91,000 to purchase a recycle collection truck for the ongoing city-wide program.

**Logan County:**

Vance Trading: \$75,000 to purchase a trailer and shear for the ongoing operation.

**Marion County:**

Marion County Solid Waste Authority: \$149,657 to assist with the purchase of a horizontal baler with conveyor, sort line conveyor and recycling containers for the county-wide program.

**Mercer County:**

Empire Salvage and Recycling: \$75,000 to purchase a material handler for the ongoing operation.

**Monroe County:**

HAM Sanitary Landfill: \$50,000 to purchase a compact track loader for the ongoing operation.

Monroe County Solid Waste Authority: \$134,897 to assist with wages, building construction and vehicle expenses for the county-wide program.

**Ohio County:**

Wheeling Area Training Center for the Handicapped: \$13,163 to assist with personnel for the ongoing operation.

**Pleasants County:**

Pleasants County Solid Waste Authority: \$85,800 to assist with wages, recycling truck, equipment maintenance, fuel/vehicle expense, office equipment/supplies, utilities, legal ads and security light for the ongoing program.

**Pocahontas County:**

Pocahontas County Solid Waste Authority: \$150,000 to purchase a skid steer, a portable loading dock, roll-off

containers with covers, recycling costs, labor, transportation, conference attendance and educational pamphlets for the county-wide program.

**Preston County:**

City of Kingwood: \$75,000 to assist with the installation of three phase electric, a recycling truck, a skid steer loader, floor scales and printer, a loading ramp, tires for skid steer and recycling truck and recycling bins for the ongoing city-wide program.

**Putnam County:**

Putnam County Solid Waste Authority: \$145,900 to assist with the recycling roll-off box pulls, mobile home recycling, a pre-recyclable chopper and conveyor, a sorting conveyor, picking station, a magnetic separator, recycling roll-off boxes, recycling advertising and education, floor scales and self-dumping hoppers for the county wide program.

West Virginia Cashin Recyclables: \$75,000 to purchase a wire granulator plant for the ongoing operation.

See GRANTS, Page 3

**Recycle your  
(real) Christmas Tree!**

Remove all ornaments and lights  
and bring it to  
**Capitol Market on Jan. 2**  
**from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

It will be recycled as fish habitat  
in our lakes and rivers.



The fish would say thanks, but fish can't talk.

# Star Wars is More Than a Movie For Loyal Fans

by Colleen O'Neill

They're environmental inspectors by day, and Star Wars characters by free time and weekends. DEP employees Michel Boyer and Amy Higgs are part of a Star Wars character troupe. The group brings to life both the good guys of Star Wars, that include the members of the Rebel Alliance, and "dark side" characters such as Darth Vader.

They're able to share their passion for the ultra-popular movie franchise while having fun, raising money for charity, and lifting the spirits of hospitalized children.

Higgs and Boyer took very different paths to get to where they are.

"I began with cosplay (costume play) by being a video game character," said Higgs, a hazardous waste inspector with the Division of Water and Waste Management's Environmental Enforcement unit (DWWM-EE). "In June 2013, when I attended a Special Olympics event in Charleston, I met other members of the 501st. By March 2014, I was an official approved member of the 501st."

The 501st is the name of the legion she and Boyer are in and Garrison Corellia is the garrison for West Virginia, Higgs explained.



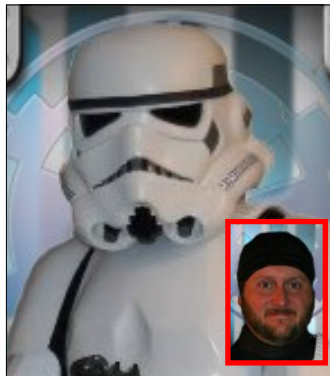
Amy Higgs as Bo Katan

Boyer's interest in Star Wars costumes is shared by his wife Jeniver and their four children.

"My wife and I initially made Star Wars Halloween costumes for ourselves and our two daughters in 2004," said Boyer, a tank inspector with DWWM-EE. "When I went to Dragon Con in 2007, I realized two things. First, my costume wasn't anywhere near accurate, and second, that there was a group of Star Wars costumers called the Rebel Legion who had amazing costumes for all the good guys of Star Wars."

"When I went back to Dragon Con in 2008, I had just received approval for my first costume, a Rebel Fleet Trooper," he said. "Over the next two years, I added a Jedi costume and an X-wing pilot costume to the mix. In 2010, I joined the 501st Legion with a Snowtrooper costume. Then in March of 2011, I added a Stormtrooper costume to my list of approved costumes."

Boyer's wife has a Jedi, an X-wing pilot and a Rebel Fleet trooper costume and their kids have a total of eight costumes: four Jedis, two X-wing



Michel Boyer as TK 9720

pilots, one original trilogy Stormtrooper and one 'The Force Awakens' Stormtrooper.

Boyer isn't alone in getting family involved. Higgs got her husband to join in as well.

"My husband's character is Darth Vader," she said. "He was a little unsure at first, but now he loves it. We have a lot of fun."

They're not only having fun, they are also helping the community.

"We dress up as the villains in Star Wars and make appearances for charities and non-profit organizations to raise money," Higgs said.

Her character, Bo Katan, is from the Clone Wars cartoon series. She is a Mandalorian, like Boba Fett, Higgs explained.

"We have done individual fundraisers to help specific children and their families when needed, and also do conventions where we can recruit new members and raise money for charity with our Blast-a-Trooper activity," Higgs said.

See STAR WARS, Page 4

# Huntington Hosts "Making a Visible Difference" Forum

by Jake Glance

The city of Huntington is one of just 53 municipalities nationwide that is taking part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "Making a Visible Difference in Communities" initiative.

The city hosted a forum on Dec. 8 to help coordinate technical assistance across EPA programs and other agencies to support communities as they pursue environmental improvements that enhance economic opportunities. Several DEP officials participated.

"Our expectation in Huntington is to discuss the projects that we are pursuing and then as we are pursuing those, to be able to talk to federal, state, and other local officials to help them become familiar with what we're doing and then get some direction and create a dialogue," said Huntington Mayor Steve Williams.

Mayor Williams said he attended a recent meeting at the White House where President Obama said that communities cannot work with projects in silos - meaning agencies and municipalities must communicate.

For more on Huntington's "Making a Visible Difference" initiative, check out the next edition of Environment Matters on the [DEP YouTube channel](#).

## GRANTS

con't from Page 2

### Randolph County:

Randolph County Recycling Center: \$48,300 to assist with the purchase of a recycling truck, advertising, fuel and insurance for the ongoing operation.

### Tucker County:

Sunrise Sanitation Services: \$13,768.40 to purchase single stream recycler containers and baling wire for the ongoing operation.

### Upshur County:

City of Buckhannon: \$75,000 to assist with a skid steer loader, self-dumping recycling bins, a self-dumping front loader, a grapple tine attachment, a truck and lift gate for the ongoing city-wide program.

Upshur County Solid Waste Authority: \$9,025 to assist with recycling bins, the school "Bounty" program, to attend the annual conference, telephone costs and paper shred event for the county-wide program.

### Wetzel County:

Wetzel County Solid Waste Authority: \$36,400 to assist with personnel, insurance for vehicles, signage for

building, fuel, advertising for recycling and special events, storage sheds, stone for parking area and a new roof for the WCSWA building for the county-wide program.

### Wood County:

Latrobe Street Mission: \$26,700 to assist with personnel, fuel for vehicle, bins for collection of clothes, baling wire, and the public information and educational campaign for the ongoing program.

Wood County Solid Waste Authority: \$19,925 to purchase a recycling trailer for the county-wide program.



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# No Formal Training Required

DEP art classes focus on fun, encourage artistic expression

by Jake Glance; Photo by Jeremy Davis

The most important thing to take away from an art class might be that you don't have to be Pablo Picasso or Bob Ross to get pure joy out of putting a brush to canvas.

That's what Jeremy Davis and Lynn Dunlap, who both work in the DEP's Office of Legal Services, want people to know. The pair have hosted several painting classes at DEP headquarters this fall where students pay a small fee of \$20, which covers the cost of brushes, paint, and the canvas for that evening's work.

"There is a place in Charleston called 'Uncork and Create,' and myself and some friends from DEP have been going there for years. I started picking it up a lot and bringing the paintings in to work. People saw them and asked questions, and it snowballed into enough people asking about it that I decided to start a class here," said Davis.



DEP employees are taking part in an art class set up by Jeremy Davis and Lynn Dunlap of the Office of Legal Services.

In the Cooper's Rock conference room, Davis sets up the picture that the students are going to be painting, and shows them the steps to paint their own.

"I am not a trained artist, I am a musician," Davis said. "I had carpal tunnel surgery a few months ago and can't play music for a little while so this really kept me from going crazy."

Davis said if you're thinking about signing up for a class but are concerned about a lack of formal training, don't worry about it.

"No one has any training. We are all beginners. We are all there just to

have fun. Everyone's picture is going to look a little bit different but we will go through how to make the picture step by step from beginning to end."

Davis borrows from Bob Ross, creator and host of a well-known PBS instructional painting show, in saying there are no mistakes - only "happy accidents."

At the very least, the pictures can be hung in an office as a conversation piece. More importantly, they can foster a sense of pride.

More classes are planned for January and Davis says employees will be notified of the dates via email.

# STAR WARS

con't from Page 3

"We also visit the children's hospital," Higgs said. "Visiting the children is really the most important mission we have, to bring hope and encourage their imaginations."

"The 501st Legion has always been involved in visiting children's hospitals and wings to try to lift the spirits of the children," Boyer said.

Doing so much good for the community has resulted in a lot of wonderful experiences and lasting memories.

"Our best memory was last year when a little boy, about seven years old, while being held by his mother, lunged to give Darth Vader, my husband, a hug," Higgs said. "He had just had surgery on his brain to remove a tumor."

"Six months later, we were doing an event at the Clay Center and the same little boy came running in to see us. His mother heard we were going to be there and wanted to bring her son to see us again. His hair was coming back and it was as though he was never sick."

"It was wonderful and was the first time we had seen a child outside of the hospital doing so well. Needless to say, we were pretty choked up."

One of Boyer's most memorable experiences involves his own daughter, Charis. Charis was a patient at WVU Children's Hospital last June while battling pneumonia and was visited by members of the 501st and Rebel Legion.

"Although it was an impromptu visit, it was great to brighten the day of my own daughter along with multiple other children who we had the opportunity to see," said Boyer.

The visitors also brought along a few presents for the kids in order to cheer them up.

To learn more or find out how to book a visit by the Star Wars characters, or to join the 501st Legion, go to [www.garrisoncorellia.com](http://www.garrisoncorellia.com).

You can also donate toys to be delivered to kids during the group's hospital visits. Unwrapped toys can be dropped off in Higgs' office at DEP's Charleston headquarters (room 1029) or in Boyer's office in Fairmont.

# O, Christmas Tree



The DEP's Christmas tree is shining brightly in the lobby of the Charleston headquarters thanks to some festive volunteers. Despite burned-out lights, the decorating team pushed forward to complete their duty. On the left, Helen Ford of the Business and Technology Office places the angel atop the tree. On the right Lori Saylor, Brianna Hickman and Annette Hoskins trim the tree.



# 2015 ReFashion Show Highlights Creativity and Recycling

Annual event shows what can be fashioned from everyday items

by Jake Glance

The 2015 ReFashion Show, held Nov. 21 at the Charleston Town Center Mall, highlighted more than just environmentally friendly fashion.

It showcased the creativity of dozens of young people from 13 counties across the state, each competing for hundreds of dollars in prize money.

“The show went really well. I am always amazed at the quality of some of the entries,” said Paul Hayes, the president of the Recycling Coalition of West Virginia, who also works with the Solid Waste Management Board.

“Even after 13 years, I am pleasantly surprised to see new ideas and new materials being used.”

This year’s winners are:

Ages 14 and over: First place, Irelan Duffer’s design modeled by Brianna Moss; Second place, Alexa Gerrard’s design modeled by Katie Castellucci; Third place, Sally Shepherd’s design modeled by Amy Gillenwater.

Ages 13 and under: First place, Sailor Lucas and Kami Lucas; Second place, Carly Chapin’s design modeled by Madison Griffith; Third place, Emily Carothers.

The Newspaper category winner was Jenny Stump’s design modeled by Lori Stump.

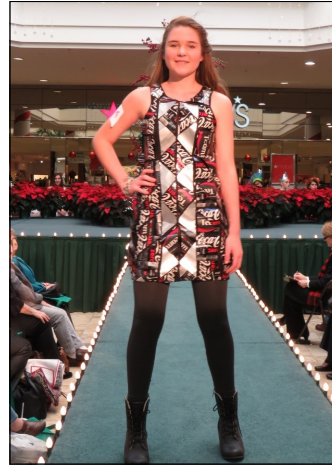
The Coca-Cola category winner was Carly Chapin’s design modeled by Madison Griffith.

The Shopping Mall category winner was Sally Shepherd’s design modeled by Amy Gillenwater.

The general theme winner was Lauren Fritz.



First Place -13 and Under: Designed by Kami Lucas and Sailor Lucas and modeled by Sailor Lucas from Kanawha County. Her dress was made from black and white trash bags accessorized with an old hat and shoes.



Coca-Cola Challenge Winner and Second Place - 13 and Under: Designed by Carly Chapin and modeled by Madison Griffith of Kanawha County. The skirt is made from Coke Zero aluminum cans and an old dress.



Third Place - 13 and Under: Designed and modeled by Emily Carothers from Fayette County. This dress recycled a Girl Scout uniform and added pet food bags, Girl Scout cookie boxes, pop tabs, bottle tops, a recycled tote bag, and plastic grocery bags.



First Place - 14 and Over: Designed by Irelan Duffer and modeled by Brianna Moss both representing Ritchie County High School. This design used bingo cards and tulle over a repurposed dress and shoes accented with leftover dance decorations.



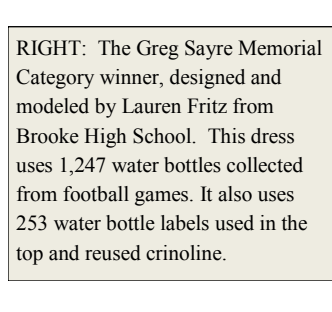
Second Place - 14 and over: Alexa Gerrard designed the dress worn by Katie Castellucci. It’s made from West Virginia magazines accented by wings made from recycled cardboard and magazines.



Shopping Challenge Winner and Third Place -14 and Over: Designed by Sally Shepherd and modeled by Amy Gillenwater from Kanawha County. The dress is made from coffee bags, coffee filters, and accented with coffee beans.



LEFT: Newspaper Challenge winner, designed by Gennie Stump and modeled by her daughter Lori Stump from Wyoming County. The top to this dress was made from weaving strips of newspapers. Men’s neckties embellish the trim. The newspaper skirt resembles a tropical grass skirt.



RIGHT: The Greg Sayre Memorial Category winner, designed and modeled by Lauren Fritz from Brooke High School. This dress uses 1,247 water bottles collected from football games. It also uses 253 water bottle labels used in the top and reused crinoline.





# Two Beloved Christmas Classics Were Box Office Bombs

Now fantastic family favorites, they were first forgettable flops

by Jake Glance

It might be difficult for modern holiday audiences to comprehend, but two of the most beloved Christmas movies were box office bombs.

One of them even had critics saying the director was “no longer capable of turning out the populist features that made his films the must-see, money-making events they once were.”

But now, no Christmas is complete without watching “It’s a Wonderful Life” and “A Christmas Story.”

“It’s A Wonderful Life,” released in 1946, only made about \$3.3 million at the box office after costing about \$3.2 million to make. It was the 26th highest grossing movie of 1946.

It was a shock to RKO studio executives, given the star power of the production. The director, Frank Capra, had already won three Oscars for Best Director for “It Happened One Night” in 1934, “Mr. Deeds Goes To Town” in 1936, and “You Can’t Take It With You” in 1938. Its actors and actresses were some of Hollywood’s best. James Stewart (George Bailey), Donna Reed (Mary Hatch Bailey), Thomas Mitchell



(Uncle Billy Bailey), Lionel Barrymore (Henry Potter), Henry Travers (Clarence Odbody), Beulah Bondi (Ma Bailey), and Gloria Grahame (Violet Bick) were all either nominated for Oscars or had won Oscars by the end of their careers.

This movie was nominated for Best Picture, but lost. In the dollars and cents world of Hollywood, it was deemed a failure - especially because Capra’s previous films had made so much more money and were wildly popular. In fact, “You Can’t Take It With You” cost about half as much to make and made more at the box office.

But the movie has enjoyed an incredible rebirth. Its TV run as a holiday staple began in the 1970’s, and now Christmas isn’t complete without hearing “Isn’t it wonderful - I’m going to jail!” or “Every time a bell rings an angel gets its wings!”

“It’s the damndest thing I’ve ever seen,” Capra said of the movie in an interview with The Wall Street Journal



in 1984. “The film has a life of its own now, and I can look at it like I had nothing to do with it. I’m like a parent whose kid grows up to be president.”

In 1990, the movie was preserved in the National Film Registry at the Library of Congress. It also appears on many lists of “The Best Movies Ever Made.”

Another holiday favorite was originally a book entitled “In God We Trust; All Others Pay Cash.”

“A Christmas Story,” released the Friday before Thanksgiving in 1983, earned about \$2 million in its first weekend. It went on to make about \$19 million at the box office, after costing about \$3 million to make.

By comparison, 1983’s biggest movie, “Return of the Jedi,” cost about \$40 million to make but took in \$572 million.

By the time Christmas rolled around, “A Christmas Story” had been pulled from most theaters. By January of 1984, it was only showing in about

100 theaters nationwide.

When Ted Turner bought the rights to MGM’s pre-1986 library, “A Christmas Story” was one of the movies included. Time Warner now owns the film’s rights.

And boy, do they get their money’s worth! It’s shown for 24 hours straight and millions of people watch every year.

The holiday wouldn’t be the same without hearing about the Bumpass hounds as you sip eggnog and open gifts.

In 2012, a Marist poll found that “It’s A Wonderful Life” and “A Christmas Story” were the two favorite holiday movies, placing ahead of “Miracle on 34th Street” and “White Christmas.”

Surprisingly, “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” did not appear on the list. That’s odd, especially since that movie mentions something about the tap dancing Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, who star in “White Christmas.”

## DMR Logan Field Office Names Christmas Door Decoration Winners

The Logan field office of the Division of Mining and Reclamation (DMR) has named the winners of the first annual office door decorating contest.

“A little friendly employee competition is a good thing in my mind, and promotes a positive workplace environment - especially when everyone enjoys the fruits of their labors,” said Benny Campbell, who heads up the Logan field office.

The door decorations were judged by a DMR employee from the Kanawha City headquarters.



First place: Sissy Mounts and Kelli Adkins



Second place: Robin Wolfe and Kathie Thacker



Third place: Janet Napier and Melissa Johnson

## Making His List, Checking it Twice



Jaxon Chakrabarty, the son of DEP's Neil and Renu Chakrabarty, sits on Santa Claus' lap during the Energy Tree lighting event on Dec. 3. The jolly one himself appeared so the little ones could learn about energy efficiency and learn if they are on the naughty or nice list all at the same time.

## DISPLAY

*con't from Page 1*

The Energy Tree allowed members of the public - youngsters in particular - to see and feel the difference in the amount of electricity it takes to light LED bulbs and traditional bulbs. The small tree of 100 traditional bulbs took as much effort as some children could

muster, while it took much less work to turn the crank to light the 1,030 LED bulbs that made up the huge Energy Tree.

"This is one of the events that we look forward to every year," said the DAQ's Stephanie Hammonds, who helped plan the Energy Tree event.

"All outreach is fun, but this one in particular is always a good time."

Hammonds said the best way for

## RECYCLING

*con't from Page 1*

Stottlemyer said Mike Park, who recently retired from the DEP's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP), went to investigate what gear was left and reported that the gear was heavy-duty and very valuable.

"There were bailers and crushers, a bunch of stuff," Stottlemyer said.

Sandy Rogers with the DEP's REAP program estimates the equipment is worth at least \$50,000.

"Some of the bailers that were recovered are tens of thousands of dollars new," Stottlemyer said.

REAP contractors and DEP workers went to Sugar Grove on extremely short notice and unbolted the equipment and loaded it onto trucks, taking it for temporary storage at a Division of Highways facility near Franklin.

## FREEDOM

*con't from Page 1*

The details of the excavation plan had to be approved by the DEP's Office of Environmental Remediation.

Residents of the area have been notified that they may smell the signature licorice odor associated with MCHM, which is a chemical used in the coal mining process to wash coal before it goes to market.

During the excavation, precautions will be taken to reduce the odor, including covering any stockpiled dirt and dosing the excavated dirt with lime once it is loaded onto trucks for removal.

Core will also be performing air quality monitoring.

Approximately 10,000 gallons of MCHM and another chemical called PPH leaked from a storage tank along the Elk River in January 2014, less than two miles from the Charleston intake for West Virginia American Water. As a result, a "Do Not Use"



Truckloads of soil from the former Freedom Industries site are being taken to the Charleston Landfill for proper disposal.

order went into effect for approximately 300,000 water customers in nine counties for several days. Truckloads of fresh water had to be brought in for residents to drink and cook with.

Once the excavation is complete, Core will do additional soil sampling to test for remaining contamination. These tests will determine the extent of any additional remediation measures at the site.

The entire remediation project is expected to be completed in the second half of 2016.

For more on the Freedom cleanup, watch the December edition of [Environment Matters on YouTube](#).

children to learn about energy efficiency is hands-on displays like the ones built by Mike Rowe, DEP's inventor-in-residence.

"It is so important to start talking about energy efficiency when the children are young," Hammonds said.

"It is a lot like seatbelts. There were problems with adults not wearing seatbelts so we started telling children that you have to wear a seatbelt. And

now, it is rare that you see anyone without a seatbelt. All these children that we are talking to are going to be buying lightbulbs and energy efficient devices one day. So educating them now and developing lasting habits is what it is all about."

"The children are so receptive. And some of the questions they ask really challenge you to do the best you can to help them learn."

The equipment wouldn't stay idle for long. Solid waste authorities across the state, as well as at least one state park, received some of the equipment just weeks later.

Pipestem Resort now has some of the equipment as do solid waste authorities in Greenbrier, Kanawha, Marion, Pocahontas, Region 8 (Eastern Panhandle), the West Virginia Cash In recycling facility in Putnam County, and a veterans camp near Smoke Hole Cav-

erns.

"Some of the solid waste authorities that received these items would have had to submit grant applications in order to buy them," Stottlemyer said.

"Had DEP received grant applications to buy all of this equipment new, we wouldn't have been able to approve them all. This allows us to really stretch our dollars."

### New Hires

Heather Balladares, Division of Mining and Reclamation  
Stephanie Burdette, Business and Technology Office  
Daniel Flack, Office of Oil and Gas  
Tyler Harman, Business and Technology Office  
Cody Howdyshell, Division of Water and Waste Management  
Jeremiah Johnson, Business and Technology Office  
Alemayehu Mengste, Business and Technology Office  
Justin Painter, Division of Water and Waste Management

Glennnda Parsons, Division of Water and Waste Management  
Michael Ray, Division of Mining and Reclamation

### Recent/Upcoming Retirements

Charles Armstead, Division of Land Restoration  
Earl Holt, Division of Mining and Reclamation  
Rhod Mills, Division of Water and Waste Management  
Mark Rudolph, Office of Legal Services  
Louis Tangeman, Division of Mining and Reclamation

