



Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

A Monthly Employee Newsletter Published by the Department of Administration

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Employee of the Month

Alice Thibodeaux is a Valuable Resource of Information

Alice Thibodeaux, a Procurement/Accounting Officer for the West Virginia State Agency for Surplus Property under the Purchasing Division, is the Department's **Employee of the Month** for July.

A 24-year veteran of state government, Alice is responsible for maintaining personnel records, including overtime. She also handles all procurement, travel and accounting for the agency.

Alice also supervises the

"Showroom" sales, and handles the preparation for the public auctions, such as scheduling security, concessionaires, and auctioneers.

According to one of her co-workers, "Alice is always willing to perform whatever job that needs to be done in her area as well as in other areas." Another co-worker adds, "She has performed a large variety of jobs within state government and has developed knowledge in many different areas."

In her spare time, Alice enjoys spending time with her family, including her two grandsons. Other hobbies include reading, cooking, sewing, boating and working with the people in state government.

Please join Cabinet Secretary Jack Buckalew at the **Employee of the Month** presentation at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, July 3 in Dunbar at the West Virginia State Agency for Surplus Property.



Alice Thibodeaux
July Employee of the Month

Governor Underwood Swears in Jack Buckalew as Department of Administration's Cabinet Secretary



On May 26, Governor Cecil Underwood joined Jack Buckalew's friends and colleagues during his swearing-in ceremony at which he became Cabinet Secretary of Administration.

Many friends, family and colleagues joined Governor Cecil Underwood on May 26 to swear-in Jack Buckalew as Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Administration.

Buckalew succeeds Joseph Markus, who held the position since 1997 and recently accepted a position as chief financial officer with e-Security in Florida. In January of 1999, Buckalew was appointed Deputy Secretary for the Department.

"Jack Buckalew has contributed the past five decades to honorable public service to the state of West Vir-

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Sneak Peek INSIDE...

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- ◆ Governor's Internship Program Assists Agencies
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- ◆ People Talk

Department of Administration Welcomes the Children's Health Insurance Program



CHIPS Director Lynn Sheets is pleased with the popularity of this new program which is now administered under the Department of Administration.

*By Meghan Nutter
Communications Intern*

Thousands of West Virginia children have a better chance of growing into healthy adults as a result of a new state program offering free health insurance to youngsters whose parents meet specific eligibility guidelines.

The West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enables eligible children up to the age of 18 years old to receive free medical, eye and dental benefits. Over 80 percent federally funded, this program was placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Administration during the 2000 Legislative Session.

Beginning July 1, 1998, Phase I of the program provided health care to children ages 1 to 5 years old, whose families do not exceed 150% of the Federal Poverty Level. This phase is serviced by the West Virginia Medicaid Program.

Phase II includes children ages 6 to 18 years old and is serviced by the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA).

Scheduled to begin soon, Phase III include children of families whose income level is between 151-200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

These families will have a small co-payment when they use the insurance.

Applicants are screened through this program and, if deemed eligible, will receive a Medicaid or PEIA card. CHIP Director Lynn Sheets stressed the popularity of this program.

"I really can't think of any bad points to the program. Phase I currently has 1,424 children enrolled, Phase II has 10,074, and 4,540 children were enrolled with Medicaid because we found that they

were eligible," Sheets said. "The idea is to educate parents to get their kids preventive care. With this insurance, they can get them to the doctor for immunizations and check-ups so that serious health problems can be prevented."

CHIP has teamed up with the Healthy Kids Coalition to help spread the word to parents. "We have a 100% success rate," Sheets said. "We expected to have 700 kids eligible for Phase I, but we have 1,424 enrolled."

For additional information on the Children's Health Insurance Program, please visit its website at www.wvdhhr.org/wvchip/default.htm.

Applications are free and are available at its website, at all local Department of Health and Human Resources offices or by calling 1-888-WV-FAMILY.

We have a 100% success rate. There were supposed to be 700 kids eligible for Phase I, and we have 1,424 enrolled.

**Lynn Sheets, Director
Children's sHealth
Insurance Program**

Got Milk?

State Officials and Local Celebrities Joined to Celebrate Dairy Week

In celebration of Dairy Month, the Department of Agriculture held Dairy Day at the State Capitol on June 7.

The events included a celebrity milk mustache contest, followed by an 8 ft. sundae made with vanilla ice cream, chocolate syrup, caramel, nuts, whipped cream and a 12-inch cherry.

Free samples were offered to the crowd that gathered for the event.



Tenured Workers Receive Bonus

Employees with three or more full years of service as of June 30, 2000, shall receive an increment check equal to \$50 times the employee's years of service, not to exceed 20 years of service or \$1,000.00.

Increments will be disbursed as a separate check on July 31.

Up Close and Personal ...

Cabinet Secretary Buckalew Discusses Future Initiatives

Cabinet Secretary Jack Buckalew did not seek the job of leading the Department of Administration...in reality, the proposition came to him. "I did not ask for the job but decided that when Mr. Markus left, things would never be the same and my existing job also would be changing...West Virginia has been very good to me, so when the Governor asked me to do this, I saw it as "pay back" time," Buckalew said.

Before short- or long-term goals will be established,

Jack Buckalew

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ginia," said Governor Underwood. "I believe that this qualifies him to lead the Department of Administration."

Buckalew complemented his predecessor by describing his contributions as a "positive legacy" to follow. He concurred with the Governor in vowing to continue to see the \$4 billion pension obligation bond proposal move forward.

Joining Buckalew at this special ceremony was his wife, Eula, son Kenneth, granddaughter Laura, brother Marshall and sister Inez. He also noted other in-

dividuals attending the ceremony who had made an important impact on his life.

"I can't promise success, but with the help of the people I work with and of God, I know we will be successful," Buckalew concluded.



A Family Affair....Joining Cabinet Secretary Buckalew and Governor Underwood was (l-r) son Kenneth, wife Eula, granddaughter Laura, brother Marshall, and sister Inez.

Buckalew and Deputy Secretary Dot Yeager are meeting with all division/agency directors to discuss various plans, activities and potential problems, and to learn more about the responsibilities and duties of each office. "As a result of these meetings, we will set some departmental goals and may possibly make some changes," he said.

One of the Department's most publicized projects is the \$4 billion bond proposal which Buckalew vows will continue to be pursued. "This project is really out of our hands now...it has a life of its own," he said, indicating that the State Legislature approved the proposal.

There are many factors, such as the interest rate fluctuation, which affects its implementation. "The Legislature added into the scenario safeguards which have to be met. The bond market has to be right and at this time, it is not right...but, I think it is an excellent concept."

Buckalew stressed the variance in the responsibilities within the Department, ranging from employee insurance, budgeting, personnel, retirement, information services, purchasing, grievances, ethics to aviation.

"Basically, we are a service organization to other state agencies and from what I have seen so far, the employees do an excellent job. I want

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West Virginia has been very good to me, so when the Governor asked me to do this, I saw it as "pay back" time.

Jack R. Buckalew
Cabinet Secretary
Department of
Administration

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is published by the Department of Administration

Cecil H. Underwood
Governor

Jack R. Buckalew
Cabinet Secretary

Diane Holley
Public Information Officer/Editor

Special Thanks
Meghan Nutter
Kaye Parks

Department Interns Gain Valuable Skills



Jayson Cabell



Meghan Nutter

CPRB's Makes Enhancements to its Website

Have you checked out the Consolidated Public Retirement Board's website lately?

Phase II of the site implementation is complete, allowing for the public to download forms electronically!

CPRB Director Better Ireland credits these enhancements to employees Vicki Sutton and John Beane.

Visit its website at www.state.wv.us/admin/cprb!

By Meghan Nutter
Communications Intern

Have you notice a few new faces lately in the Department? Nine student interns have been hired through the Governor's Summer Internship Program to help assist our agencies and divisions with special projects.

Since 1989, this program has been designed to keep West Virginia college students in the state after graduation. To participate, students must meet specific GPA guidelines, have completed at least one year of college, and attend a West Virginia college or be a West Virginia resident attending an out-of-state college.

Let's get to know our student interns a little better!

Ray Henson, an accounting major at Marshall University, is working at the Public Employees Insurance Agency. "I decided to participate in the internship program to gain experience with computer networking and to apply my skills to the 'real world,'" he said.

Also working for PEIA is **Jon Abraham**, a biology graduate from West Virginia University, who plans to attend WVU's Dental School in the fall. "After dental school, I will be working with insurance companies on a daily basis. It will be nice to have some experience with a health insurance agency."

A senior journalism major at WVU, **Meghan Nutter** is using her writing skills in the Purchasing Division by working on various publications. "I wanted a job in the field of journalism, but didn't want to be the gopher at a local paper. Hopefully, this internship will help me find a job

in West Virginia after I graduate."

Jayson Cabell, an intern at the Division of Personnel, has participated in the internship program for the past three years. He is pursuing a double major in Finance and Marketing at Concord College. "This internship is an educational experience that is also fun. The knowledge you gain when working with deadlines and how to handle co-workers is something you can't learn in a classroom."

There are four interns working for the Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB). **Crystal McLaughlin** attends the West Virginia University Institute of Technology, majoring in Elementary Education. "I think this internship is an honor, and hopefully it will open doors to many opportunities in the future."

Terri Spurlock plans to major in either Finance or Public Relations at Marshall University and has been focusing on business courses. "In the future I can see myself working with people in a business environment. I hope to be in a career that I enjoy, which also allows me to support myself." Terri is looking forward to the challenge of being a Resident Advisor next year at Marshall.

Meredith Foster believes that the internship program is worthwhile because it offers college students good experience for future jobs, and it certainly adds dimension to a resume. A senior at Virginia Tech, she is majoring in financial planning, with a minor in business administration. "I decided to do this internship, because retirement planning and loans are such big parts of financial planning. Any experience I could gain in this area would be helpful to me in the future." Her future plans include going to law school.

Christopher Stone, a business/marketing major at West Virginia State College, chose to participate in the internship program to improve his business skills. "Everyone here is patient, friendly and helpful. I actually feel that I am doing something worthwhile." Chris strives to live by his strong values, and hopes to some day be a Dale Carnegie Instructor and motivate people to do good in their lives.

James Ashwell, an environmental science major at the University of Charleston, is working with the General Services grounds crew. "I enjoy this work because it keeps me shape and it fits into my major by teaching me about types of soils and plants and the proper ways to use chemicals to treat grass."

Welcome each of these student interns to the Department of Administration!



Terri Spurlock, Christopher Stone and Crystal McLaughlin



Jon Abraham and Ray Henson

Wild, Wonderful West Virginia

State Tops the Rank for Favorite Vacation Spots

By Meghan Nutter
Communications Intern

As the summer season gets into full swing, the question arises as to where to go for vacation. Before spending hours in the car going across several states, consider a retreat in your back yard.

West Virginia has so much to offer...How about a family trip to the mountains? ...White water rafting down the New River Gorge? ...Dining at The Greenbrier?

A GroupWise electronic survey asked our Department employees to share their favorite West Virginia spots. The most popular was Canaan Valley, located in Davis, due to the various activities it offers, including fishing, horseback riding, hiking, swimming, golfing and, most importantly, the beautiful scenery.

Many employees concurred that all state parks are a good choice because they offer something for everyone. Other favorite parks noted in the survey were Pipestem, Holley River, and Watoga. Cass Scenic Railroad and Summersville Lake were also considered prime choices.

Several employees gave two thumbs up to The Greenbrier Resort because of its exquisite beauty and location; however, others opted for a more rustic stay at a cabin in the Greenbrier Valley and cooking on a wood stove.

Several employees shared their own "best kept secrets"

in the state, many of which you may have not known existed. Roughing it with no electricity or running water is a great way to get away from the busy life, according to some employees. The sounds of a lazy river and rustling leaves are a nice break from the hectic business world.

"There is nothing more gorgeous than canoeing or rafting through the New River Gorge, because it is so wild and you see a lot of things you can't see from the road or a trail," one employee said. "You might think you wouldn't have time to notice the scenery because you are shooting down the rapids, but there are slower parts of the river where you can look around and catch your breath." The Gorge is also a favorite of rock climbers and mountain bikers.

A recent Division of Tourism survey conducted at eight state welcome centers indicated that travelers from 43 states, Canada, and Europe selected West Virginia as their favorite destination of choice in this region. **Why?** The beautiful scenery is what attracts people and makes them prefer to visit West Virginia rather than other states in the area.

If you are not into outdoor adventures, there are plenty of other activities that you can enjoy. Try taking a tour of historic towns or glass factories, or visit one of the many community fairs this summer.

West Virginia Celebration 2000 is a statewide millennium celebration, which is associated with many fairs and festivals throughout the



Photograph Courtesy of the Division of Tourism

summer months. For more details on **West Virginia Celebration 2000** events, please visit its website at www.wvcelebration2000.org.

As you can see, a vacation traveling throughout West Virginia could be the alternative to your summer vacation plans. Since you do not have to travel such a long distance to our 'state treasures', a trip closer to home can start earlier and end later...in short, there will be more time to enjoy your vacation and relax!

Remember... shouldn't you feel rejuvenated after a vacation, not physically exhausted?

Whether you want to be pampered at The Greenbrier or rough it camping at a state forest, there is something for everyone in our beautiful state. This summer, try white water rafting or llama trekking...Find the adventure that best suits you!

For a complete listing of activities and events in West Virginia, please visit the West Virginia Division of Tourism's website at www.state.wv.us/tourism.

White water rafting has become a popular activity for state residents as well as individuals from around the world.

Travel West Virginia!

Here's Our TOP TEN List...

Based on responses from our Department employees, below are the top ranked vacation spots in West Virginia:

1. Canaan Valley
2. Pipestem
3. Cass Scenic Railroad
4. Summersville Lake
5. The Greenbrier
6. Pocahontas County
7. New River Gorge
8. Watoga State Park
9. Holley River
10. Monongahelia

Jack Buckalew

Continued from Page 3

to continue and possibly enhance this level of service to other agencies."

One of the existing programs with which the cabinet secretary has been most impressed is the **Employee of the Month** program.

"When visiting the different division during the recognition ceremonies, I see a good group of people and this program is an excellent way of showing our appreciation by offering some rewards and recognition for the hard working people that we have," he said. "I've always thought, maybe because I was one of them, that West Virginia had a great workforce of public employees. They are very conscientious and dedicated people and I feel very proud to be a part."

Buckalew explained that over his 40 years of public service, he has learned many things along the way. "Hopefully, I can take those past experiences and draw from them so I won't make the same mistakes. When you are working and moving forward, mistakes will happen because you are dealing with the unknown. Hopefully you won't make the same mistakes twice," he said.

After serving in the military, Buckalew joined the West Virginia State Police until 1983, retiring as Lieutenant Colonel.

He completed his masters degree, served as assistant supervisor for International Training at Northwestern University and taught at the Institute of Police Technology and Management, University of North Florida.

In 1989, he returned to the State Police as its Superintendent until 1993. In 1994, he was elected to the West Virginia State Senate and served until 1999.

Welcome...to James Fisher (General Services); **Michael Gray** (Personnel); and, **John Hoover** and **Betty Lanham** (Secretary's Office).

Best Wishes...to Teresa Martin (Personnel), **Pat Loudin** (Purchasing), **Jennifer Moses** (PEIA), who recently resigned, and to **Nancy Love** (Purchasing), who retired from the Department of Administration. **John Beane** recently transferred from IS&C to CPRB.

Congratulations!...to Rhonda Cole (IS&C) who was promoted from an Office Assistant I to a Telephone Operator, and to **David Gilbert** (Purchasing) who was promoted from an Office Assistant I to an Information System Coordinator I.

PEOPLE TALK

Marriage Vows Exchanged...Leasing's Carolyn Coiner married Herschel Thomas on April 22 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Carolyn's son, Josh, was presented with a medalion from Herschel during the ceremony, making the wedding a 'family affair'. **ALSO...Personnel's Tamra Young** married P.J. Rogers, owner of North Putnam Hardware, on May 20.

Diplomas Abound!...Public Information Officer Diane Holley completed her masters degree in Corporate and Organizational Communication from West Virginia University. **ALSO...IS&C's Joe Perks** completed his bachelor's degree in mathematics from West Virginia State College.

A Class Act Speaker...BRIM's Director Chuck Jones recently offered the commencement address to the associate degree recipients of Bluefield State College, which is Jones' alma mater.

Aerial Port Rodeo Champs...The 130th Air National Guard Aerial Port Squadron, commanded by Major Randy Huffman (DEP) and Chief Master Sergeant Ronald "Dee" Bowe II (husband of Personnel's Jeanie Bowe), won the World RODEO Engine Running On load/Off load (ERO) competition held at Pope Air Force Base, NC., on May 10. Personnel's Judie Kessler's son, Brent, also served on the rodeo team. *Congratulations to these world champions!*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY... in July!

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Sharon Prueett CPRB | 19 Arthur Hendricks IS&C |
| Mike Riggs IS&C | 20 Jennifer Hanna IS&C |
| 2 Forrest Loudin Purchasing | 22 Earl Guthrie Finance |
| Roselie Price IS&C | 23 Daniel Eddy General Services |
| 3 Kathy Young CPRB | John Gibson IS&C |
| 5 Priscilla Bickley PEIA | Mike Michaelson General Svcs. |
| Kristi Shew IS&C | Cricket Powell Grievance |
| Paula Van Horn CPRB | Brian Pratt IS&C |
| Roger Williams IS&C | Terry Tallman IS&C |
| 6 Debbie Anderson Personnel | 24 Jim Bone IS&C |
| 8 Georgia Armes Finance | Patricia Powers CPRB |
| Michael Belcher IS&C | Frank Stopher IS&C |
| Vanessa Cox Purchasing | Yvonne Wilhelm Personnel |
| 9 Marie Terry PEIA | 25 Melvin Ashbrook Aviation |
| 10 Jim Jackson Purchasing | 26 Dolores Huffman Personnel |
| 11 Kevin Kinder IS&C | 27 Kelli Doyle Purchasing |
| Serena Marty Personnel | Joyce Kinder IS&C |
| 12 James Fisher General Services | Harold Matthews General Svcs. |
| John Johnston Purchasing | Sue McMinn BRIM |
| Jack Pullen IS&C | Denise Russe IS&C |
| 15 Mable Jones Finance | 28 Barbara Beane PEIA |
| 16 Margo Perkins PEIA | Joe Smith Personnel |
| Terasa Robertson CPRB | 29 Tammy Haynes IS&C |
| 17 Robert Kilpatrick General Svcs. | Mick Olah IS&C |
| 18 Mary Jane Arvon CPRB | Danny Sizemore General Svcs. |
| Sue Lore IS&C | 30 Lee Ann Carnohan Grievance |
| | Denise Spatafore Grievance |

