



## Appalachian Students Shoot to the Top of State Archery Tournament

*Ohio Department of Natural Resources offers \$2,500 grant to teach archery in schools*

Philo High School earned top team honors at the 2014 National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Ohio State Tournament on Friday, Feb. 28, with a score of 3,396 points. The team score is determined by adding the scores of the 12 shooters on the team with a maximum of 3,600 points being possible.

The 2014 NASP tournament was held at Franklin County Veterans Memorial in conjunction with the Arnold Sports Festival, the annual fitness event developed by Arnold Schwarzenegger. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife coordinates the Ohio NASP tournament.

A total of 1,606 archers from 83 teams competed in the 2014 tournament. Each competitor could score a maximum of 300 points by shooting arrows as close to the center of a target as possible.

Rachel Hampp, an eighth-grader from Maysville, shot a 294 for the top individual score. Olivia Bean, a seventh-grader from Athens, scored a 293 and Elizabeth Vrana, a sixth-grader from Fairfield Christian



Academy, scored a 292. Jordan Carrell, an eighth-grader from Logan-Hocking, scored a 292 for the top score for boys.

Hocking College in Nelsonville offered scholarships to the first, second and third place individual high school finishers by final score. Awards also were given for teams and individuals with high scores in the elementary, middle school and high school divisions. Qualifying teams are eligible to participate in the NASP National Invitational Tournament on May 9-10 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Prizes were awarded after 18 high scorers from each division competed in a shoot-off. They won a Cabela's

package that included a fully-outfitted bow, bow case and gift card, as well as a Morrell arrow target.

The ODNR Division of Wildlife introduced NASP in 2004 with 12 pilot schools. Today, 680 schools are involved in the program. ODNR offers up to a \$2,500 grant to help schools start NASP programs. NASP is used to teach target archery in a school's gym which includes archery, safety, equipment, technique, concentration skills and self-improvement. Visit [ohio-nasp.com](http://ohio-nasp.com) for more information about the program.

The ODNR Division of Wildlife thanks the sponsors for this year's NASP Ohio archery tournament. Cabela's, Field Logic, Morrell Targets, NASP USA and the Hunter Education Association all helped make the event memorable for the participants and their families.

*ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at [ohiodnr.gov](http://ohiodnr.gov).*



## Ohio State Parks Hiring for 250 Jobs

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is hiring for more than 250 jobs at [State Parks](#) in Ohio's Appalachian counties. Most of the jobs are Natural Resource Specialists that perform routine administrative or clerical tasks like answering public inquiries, providing customer service, typing, data entry into a personal computer, working in the camp store, taking inventory, working the cash register and balancing receipts.

Some Natural Resource Specialists also mow grass, trim bushes, paint, build and repair boardwalks, trails and fencing as well as clean facilities. Naturalist aides, lifeguards and custodians are also needed at various state parks in Ohio's Appalachian Region. **Interested applicants can visit their local park office directly to fill out a job application.**

## *Taking charge of workers' comp premiums with money-saving programs*

Increase workplace safety, save money on your workers' compensation premiums and help injured workers return to work more quickly by using Destination: Excellence, a portfolio of seven programs offered by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC).

Enrollment begins soon for private employers to take advantage. It occurs later in the year for public employers.

The seven programs of Destination: Excellence are:

- Industry-Specific Safety Program** (3 percent premium rebate) helps businesses learn best practices related to their industries and practical methods for improving workplace safety and health;
- Drug-Free Safety Program** (4 or 7 percent premium rebate) involves incorporating alcohol and drug testing in the workplace;
- Safety Council Rebate Program** (up to 4 percent premium rebate) includes participating in monthly meetings at one of BWC's 80 safety councils;
- Transitional Work Bonus Program** (up to 10 percent premium rebate) rewards employers for having a transitional work plan and successfully returning an injured worker released with restrictions back to work with accommodations;
- Vocational Rehabilitation** allows employers to avoid rehabilitation services charges by using vocational rehabilitation strategies or services to help injured workers safely return to employment;
- Go-green discount** (up to 1 percent premium savings) is obtained by choosing the go-green option when paying bills online. With this option, employers submit payroll reports, report payroll and pay premiums online at [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov);
- Lapse-free discount** (up to 1 percent premium savings) is an automatic discount for paying bills on time, as long as there hasn't been a lapse in coverage in the past 60 months.

Destination: Excellence can significantly impact your company's bottom line when it comes to workers' compensation premiums as well as help increase safety in the workplace and prevent injuries. When combined, employers can save upwards of 25 percent of their premiums. The deadline for private employers to sign up for several Destination: Excellence programs is April 30, so hurry and sign up now! For more details, visit [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov) and click on "Employers," then "Destination: Excellence." Or, call us at 1-800-644-6292.



## **State Extends Energy Assistance Program**

*Winter Crisis Program to continue until April 15*

The state announced that the Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program will extend its application deadline from March 31 to April 15, 2014.

The program provides assistance to eligible households that are threatened with disconnection, have been disconnected or if their tank contains 35 percent or less of its capacity of bulk fuel.

Since the start of the program in November 2013, more than 130,000 Ohioans have participated in the program.

To qualify for the Winter Crisis Program a household must be at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. For a family of four the annual income must be at or below \$41,212.50.

Individuals interested in receiving assistance must have a face-to-face interview at their Winter Crisis Program provider. A list of providers by county can be found [here](#).

Ohioans can call the toll-free hotline at (800) 282-0880, Monday through Friday (hearing impaired customers may dial (800) 686-1557 for assistance) or visit [ener-gyhelp.ohio.gov](http://ener-gyhelp.ohio.gov) for more information about the Winter Crisis Program.

## ***This year the Governor's Office of Appalachia newsletter will feature articles on workforce training. Our first article is from the Ohio Board of Regents and is about the new lab at Stark State.***

Ohioans don't have to dig very far to find a well-paying job in the state's growing oil and gas industry. According to data provided by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, approximately 169,000 Ohioans already work directly or indirectly in the industry, and that number is expected to increase dramatically over the next five years. But in order to tap into many of these jobs, additional education is necessary.

That's where schools like Stark State College come in. Utilizing state and federal grant money, Stark State plans to open a new class/lab site dedicated to training students for the oil and gas industry in northeast Ohio. The new facility will be built in downtown Canton as part of the Stark State Downtown Canton Satellite Center and Energy Institute. It plans to open in time for the fall 2014 semester.

Sitting atop both the Marcellus and Utica shale plays, Stark County ranked fifth in the state for the number of new wells drilled (36) in 2012, and neighboring Carroll County ranked first (87). Utica shale permits have

been issued to 29 different companies, and 609 wells have been drilled to date. The Satellite Center and Energy Institute aims to train the workforce that will man the wells in the coming years.



The energy institute's new lab will include both indoor space and an outside well site trainer that simulates a fully operational, producing well.

According to Kathleen Steere, Stark State College coordinator of oil and gas programs, "The goal is to have the students train in a realistic but controlled safe environment." Construction will begin in March, 2014.

Through the ShaleNET program,

students at Stark State can already take noncredit floorhand and welder's helper classes, as well as IADC Rig Pass, SafeLAND and SafeGULF training. They also can earn one-year and applied associate of science degrees in petroleum industrial mechanic technology, industrial process operation, petroleum technology (pipeline technician major) and petroleum technology (instrumentation and electronics major).

In fall 2013, there were 36 declared majors, with 60 anticipated for spring 2014. Eastern Gateway Community College is the only other Ohio school offering noncredit ShaleNET courses, but other Ohio institutions are developing classes with direct and indirect impact on the industry. "Support received from the Oil and Gas Advisory Council, college leadership and the Ohio Board of Regents has tremendously helped get the programming up and running in one year," said Steere. Adding that "by working closely with industry, the training will evolve as the plays develop to establish a sustainable infrastructure."

For more information about the Board of Regents visit: [www.ohiohighered.org/](http://www.ohiohighered.org/)

## **2014 Ohio Travel iPad App, Guide, Events Calendar Now Available**

For the first time TourismOhio is offering an iPad application (app) to assist visitors with their travel research and planning. With articles and images about the things to see and do in Ohio, the app creates a truly interactive experience for viewers.

To download the app just search "[Official Ohio Travel Guide by TourismOhio](#)" in the Apple App Store.

The app offers these bonus features:

- Regional sections feature videos that will draw viewers into Ohio travel experiences
- A built in Spring/Summer Ohio Calendar of Events
- Stunning photos from destinations across Ohio

The *2014 Ohio Travel Guide* and *2014 Spring/Summer Ohio Calendar of Events* are both available in print, free of charge, by visiting [DiscoverOhio.com](http://DiscoverOhio.com) or by calling 1-800-BUCKEYE. The [Travel Guide](#) and [Calendar](#) are also available in a digital format on [DiscoverOhio.com](http://DiscoverOhio.com).

The *Travel Guide* has a new layout and new features, including a pull-out state map featuring attraction locations, more than 3,000 listings for attractions, lodging facilities, restaurants and more. It also has ideas to help visitors explore Ohio in a budget-friendly way. The *Spring/Summer Ohio Calendar of Events* includes listings for more than 800 festivals, shows, concerts and other

activities from March through August, 68-pages of full-color images with events color-coded by region and a monthly calendar listing holidays and events.

For additional information on planning your Ohio getaway, contact a trained travel counselors at 1-800-BUCKEYE on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.





## It's a Taxing Time of Year...

Just about everyone hates to see April 15 roll around, that time every year when Americans file and pay their federal, state and local taxes.

It's a safe bet that our Ohio veteran and military community is no different.

But for military service members and military retirees who are Ohio residents, there are some very important tax benefits:

- Military income for those stationed outside of Ohio for 30 days or more is not taxable by Ohio.
- Military retiree and survivor benefits income is not taxable by Ohio.
- Ohio resident federal retirees who are military veterans and have a part of their federal pension attributable to military service can exclude that part of their pension from Ohio taxes.

More information is available on the Ohio Department of Taxation's website at:

[http://www.tax.ohio.gov/ohio\\_individual/individual/military\\_tax\\_provisions.aspx](http://www.tax.ohio.gov/ohio_individual/individual/military_tax_provisions.aspx)

The tax department website also contains detailed information on filing Ohio taxes.

For military service members, retirees and veterans who need tax assistance, free help is available. Ohio-resident military service members who are deployed anywhere outside Ohio can get free tax preparation help from the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants (CPAs). To take advantage of this service, the eligible military service member, their spouse or a family member can call the Ohio Society of CPAs toll-free at 1-888-959-1212 or e-mail [cpanswers@ohio-cpa.com](mailto:cpanswers@ohio-cpa.com).

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has a network of volunteers who provide free tax preparation service to the elderly, veterans and all who meet the income guidelines. The volunteers work under two primary services, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax

Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), which is operated in coordination with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Each program provides free tax assistance at a number of sites across Ohio.

To qualify for either program, taxpayers seeking assistance must have an income of \$52,000 or less. Qualified taxpayers can find the site nearest them, and find out what to bring for the tax preparation session, by calling:

- VITA: 1-800-906-9887

- TCE (for elderly taxpayers): 1-888-227-7669

To locate these free tax preparation sites by zip code, and for details the tax preparation session, see the information beginning at "Self-Help Tax Preparation" at:

<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers>

Limited assistance is also available for federal taxes through the IRS's "free file" program.

Taxpayers with income below \$58,000 can receive free tax preparation software; those with incomes above \$58,000 can receive free electronic fill-in forms. More information is at:

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Free-File:-Do-Your-Federal-Taxes-for-Free>

It may not be everyone's favorite time of year, but taking advantage of the services available can make it less painful for many taxpayers.

*This article was provided by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. To sign up for the Veterans Services' newsletter visit: [https://apps.dvs.ohio.gov/list/email\\_registration.aspx](https://apps.dvs.ohio.gov/list/email_registration.aspx)*

## To Reach the Governor's Office of Appalachia

To reach the Governor's Office of Appalachia you can call (614) 644-9228 or email Director Wilson at [Jason.Wilson@development.ohio.gov](mailto:Jason.Wilson@development.ohio.gov) or Deputy Director Padgett at [Joy.Padgett@development.ohio.gov](mailto:Joy.Padgett@development.ohio.gov)

## OHIO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Serving on a state Board or Commission is a great way to serve Ohio and your community.

To learn more about the state's various Boards and Commissions and how to apply, visit the Ohio Boards and Commissions [website](#).



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If you have a story idea for the newsletter, please sent it to our [editor](#)