

Dry conditions hit Happy Valley

By Nathan Pipenberg
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Due to drought-like conditions across Pennsylvania, the university is urging staff and students to be mindful of water consumption.

According to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Centre County is one of 43 counties in the state under a drought watch — 24 others are under the more severe “warning” advisory.

DEP spokesman Tom Rathbun said that under a drought watch, the department urges large water consumers like Penn State to take efforts to curb water consumption by 5 percent voluntarily. A drought warning is accompanied by a request to cut consumption by 10 to 15 percent and a drought emergency is often followed by mandatory caps on water usage set by the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA), Rathbun said. Penn State sent out a request on Tuesday for students and staff to cut down on water usage levels via Penn State Live.

Office of Physical Plant (OPP) spokesman Paul Ruskin said Penn State is taking the steps outlined by the DEP and urging students to report leaks and drips from toilets and faucets.

“No. 1 is that students report all leaks to OPP,” Ruskin said. “We can’t fix it if we don’t know about it.”

This sentiment was echoed by Rathbun, who said a leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water every day.

Ruskin also requested students take shorter showers, only wash full loads of laundry and turn off faucets while shaving and brushing their teeth.

Rathbun said a 90-day prediction by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) shows that precipitation, ground and surface

water will likely be at normal levels in the future, meaning drought conditions here are unlikely to get worse.

But other regions in Pennsylvania, such as Somerset County, won’t be so lucky.

Somerset County currently has dangerously low levels of ground and surface water, and according to the USGS 90-day prediction, the county’s situation is extreme, Rathbun said.

The last time Centre County faced a drought emergency was in 2002, he said.

That year, Ruskin said Penn State was forced to reduce water consumption drastically by limiting water used for the Penn State Golf Courses, landscaping and athletic fields.

But reducing water usage now may prevent a drought emergency from occurring later this year, Ruskin said.

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Sarah Finnegan / Collegian

UPUA and CCSG members talk with Marissa Knaus (senior-communication sciences and disorders) about the Grassroots Network campaign.

Students spread word on budget campaign

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday afternoon, members of the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) and the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) teamed up to distribute information and free T-shirts about the Penn State Grassroots Network.

“[The Grassroots Network] is an entity of the university that deals with Harrisburg and legislators in terms of tuition,” UPUA President Christian Ragland said. “The more students that we can get that are educated about this, the more the legislators will see that we’re passionate about this.”

The main issue the Penn State Grassroots Network addresses is Penn State’s annual budget appropriation. Members advocate for the state to increase the amount of money given to Penn State’s annual budget so tuition and other costs can be lowered.

CCSG Vice President Peter Khoury said the pamphlets the group was handing out included a registration card for the Penn State Grassroots Network.

Ragland (senior-political science) said it is the responsibility of student leaders to get other students involved in the Grassroots Network.

That’s why the two student gov-

ernments decided to hold the event.

“There are things out there that students can directly get involved in outside of the student government, and that’s what we need,” he said. “This is something you can be a part of after you graduate, since it’s a part of the Penn State Alumni Association.”

Khoury (junior-biology) said students can get involved by contacting their local legislators and “advocating on behalf of students” through the Grassroots Network.

Lauren Sauter — who filled out the registration card — said she thinks it’s important to get involved with the network so future students can benefit from the organization’s efforts.

“I think [the Grassroots Network] is good,” Sauter (junior-marketing) said. “Tuition does need to be lowered because it’s really high.”

Kyana Garvin said high tuition is an issue at Penn State — she’s happy to hear that the Grassroots Network advocates on behalf of students.

“From what [Ragland] was saying about the tuition, I think it’s a really good idea that students are getting involved,” Garvin (junior-human development and family studies) said. “[Tuition] shouldn’t be an issue.”

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Students compete for cities in drive

By Jennifer Lewis
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Philly vs. Pittsburgh: It’s an age-old battle, and this time Philadelphia has the lead.

Philadelphians currently have the edge over Pittsburgh fans in a blood drive battle by about 100 units of blood.

Students can participate in the Penn State Student Red Cross Club’s blood drive by donating blood and showing support for their favorite cities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in HUB-Alumni Hall today and Thursday.

But there is also an option for “other” if students root for another city, or have no preference for either.

It’s all part of an effort to collect 125 productive units of blood each day because of a blood donation shortage, said Wendi Keeler, donor resources field representative and PSU Red Cross Club adviser.

PSU Red Cross Club Vice President Julie Agee created the “Pitt vs. Philly” campaign.

The campaign has been going on for two weeks.

“I wanted to create a campaign that would create competition among students, so I just listened to what people debated

“I stress that everyone donate. It could be you one day.”

Cydney Actie
sophomore-public relations

about on the Blue Loop,” Agee (senior-marketing) said.

A Philadelphia native, Agee said she hopes her city wins, which could be likely — the City of Brotherly Love is currently in the lead.

Agee said “the drives wouldn’t be successful” without volunteers from more than 100 different Penn State organizations.

Interested students can go to psuredcross.org to register to donate, but walk-ins are also welcome, said Cydney Actie, a volunteer with Helping Across the Community.

Actie (sophomore-public relations) said she recognizes the necessity for blood donors because her grandmother received a blood transfusion.

“I stress that everyone donate,” Actie said. “It could be you one day.”

Donor Kayla Foster (sophomore-chemistry) agreed.

“I think that if you’re young, it’s easier to give blood to people who really need it,” she said.

“So why not save lives?”

By representing their hometown cities, students can also be entered to win a jersey of their choice, Agee said.

The city with the most donations will have one person entered into the raffle to win a jersey from Dick’s Sporting Goods.

Any donor has the chance to win a Kaplan Test Prep Course or a certificate from Dick’s Sporting Goods or Rapid Transit Sports, said Agee.

Pizza from Pizza Mia is being served at all drives, as well as cupcakes from Sugar on Top, 121 1/2 E. Beaver Ave.

If you go

What: Penn State Student Red Cross Club blood drive

When: Today and Thursday

Where: Alumni Hall

Details: Students can register online at psuredcross.org

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by remarkable
people, free
to the
world.

TEN
TEN
TEN

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October 10, 2010