

LOCAL & STATE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2009

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PCN Gears Up For Farm Show Coverage

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

PCN will start 2009 with its annual coverage of the Pennsylvania State Farm Show starting Saturday, January 10, at 10:15 a.m. with live coverage of the opening ceremonies. The show, which is in its 93rd year, is the largest indoor agricultural event in the United States.

Throughout the week, PCN will cover everything from the governor's address and high school rodeo to classic favorites like the Sheep-To-Shawl contest, the horse pull and the annual Sale of Champions. Each year the statewide network provides more than 140 hours of extensive coverage of the annual event, including more than 40 live hours.

This is the 16th year that PCN has moved its operations from the Camp Hill studios to the Farm Show.

A schedule of live events is as follows. Please note that the schedule is subject to change. Be sure to regularly check the PCN Web site at www.pentv.com for a complete program guide.

Saturday, January 10, 2009 - coverage airs from 10:15 a.m. until 2:00 a.m.

10:15 a.m. - opening ceremonies; 11:00 a.m. - PA State Police Drill Team; 11:30 a.m. - governor's address; noon - high school rodeo; 4:00 p.m. - Cumberland County 4-H Club Drill Team; 5:00 p.m. - high school rodeo.

Sunday, January 11, 2009 - coverage airs from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.

Noon - draft horse hitched competition; 6:00 p.m. - dog demonstration.

Monday, January 12, 2009 - coverage airs from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - maple syrup production.

Cooking demonstrations:

Noon - marinated flank steak; 1:00 p.m. - pan-seared cod; 2:00 p.m. - flat-iron steak; 3:00 p.m. - Thai veal sausage; 4:00 p.m. - beef roulade; 5:00 p.m. - gumbo; 7:00 p.m. - square dancing.

Tuesday, January 13, 2009 - coverage airs from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. - Farm Show scholarships; 9:30 a.m. - Sale of Champions; 10:00 a.m. - pony pull; 3:00 p.m. - carriage racing; 4:30 p.m. - horse pull.

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 - coverage airs from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. - flag racing; noon - kid's pedal tractor pull or cooking demonstration; 3:00 p.m. - Sheep to Shawl; 5:00 p.m. - carriage racing II or antique tractor pull; 6:00 p.m. - shawl auction.

Thursday, January 15, 2009 - coverage airs from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. - USTPA team penning; 5:00 p.m. - ranch horse challenge.

Friday, January 16, 2009 - coverage airs from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. - tractor square dancing; 11:00 a.m. - honey extraction.

Cooking demonstrations:

Noon - peanut butter banana breakfast shake; 1:00 p.m. - seafood omelet.

Floral demonstrations:

2:00 p.m. - flowers; 3:00 p.m. - flowers.

Saturday, January 17, 2009 - coverage airs from 2:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.

Landowners Fight To Save Land From Gas Companies

Firms intend to use land for gas storage field

CLEARVILLE (AP) - Some southcentral Pennsylvania landowners fighting an eminent domain lawsuit to take their low-ground mineral rights for an underground natural gas storage field say they feel they never had a chance to have a say on what happens to their land.

"It's always almost a done deal before landowners can get in there and do anything," said Sandra McDaniel, one of the landowners in Bedford county.

The 10 landowners fighting the Steckman Ridge gas storage

field say they believe they could get far more money from exploration companies interested in drilling in the Marcellus Shale rock formation.

The thick, black shale lies more than a mile below much of Pennsylvania and some expect it to become the nation's biggest gas-producing reservoir. Already, many of the country's largest gas exploration companies are rushing to Pennsylvania to drill on the Marcellus Shale. Exploration companies have given some landowners across Pennsylvania several thousand dollars per acre for the right to drill down to the Marcellus Shale, and as well as the promise of po-

tentially hundreds of thousands of dollars or more in royalties from a successful well.

But during early negotiations, the 10 Steckman Ridge landowners received a top offer of \$400 an acre from the group that wants to build the storage field, landowners said.

Last year, Houston-based Spectra Energy Corp. and New Jersey Resources of Wall, N.J., formed a joint venture to build the Steckman Ridge gas field, saying it will help supply gas to the heavily populated Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states.

In June, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved the companies' applica-

tion to build and operate the field in a process that the landowners say was far too complicated for an average citizen and virtually shut them out.

A month later, the companies sued the 10 landowners in federal court in an effort to force them to agree to a price, citing federal law that permits the use of eminent domain for natural gas projects.

The companies already had the below-ground storage rights for much of the land they needed after they bought the rights from an exploration company that had drilled there in recent years. McDaniel and the other nine landowners still owned their

gas storage rights, and say Spectra Energy has not dealt fairly with them.

Susan Waller, a Spectra Energy vice president, said the company is not using eminent domain as a negotiating tactic and would rather settle out of court with the landowners.

"We've talked to everybody and we've tried," Waller said. "At this point, we'd give anything if we could settle with them. They can still settle with us. We can still resolve this."

A federal judge has not decided on a compensation amount. The field is expected to be completed in the first half of 2009.

Sawdust Shortage Affecting Pennsylvania Businesses

By Tim Hahn

MEADVILLE, Pa. (AP) - Animal exhibitors would be wise to pack their own bedding material for the Crawford County Fair in 2009.

The mounds of sawdust that fair officials have provided at no cost have been shrinking in recently, thanks to higher demand for a material once considered waste.

Compounding the problem

Homicides Nearing Record Set In 2003

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Allegheny County is approaching its record homicide rate.

Police say 25-year-old Tyre Hill, of Duquesne, became the county's 120th homicide victim after he was shot about 3 a.m. Saturday outside the McKeesport Elks Club. He was shot once in the leg and pronounced dead at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital about 4:30 a.m.

Police say there were numerous witnesses, but they haven't said if anyone has been arrested.

The county's homicide record is 125 people killed in 2003. So far, 2008 is the second-deadliest year of the decade. Last year, 98 people were killed.

this year was a slump at lumber businesses and forced some local sawmills to shut down. Less work means less sawdust - and higher prices for the sawdust that could be found.

As a result, the 2009 Crawford County Fair book will include a message to exhibitors informing them that bedding will be provided if available.

"So they bring some of their own," Fair Board member Ken Hyde said.

It won't be an easy task, based on reports from other sawdust users and producers.

Ron Closky, a Cambridge Springs-area dairy farmer, said it has become more difficult for him to find a ready supply of sawdust for his herd of 130.

Closky said he had long relied on a supplier from Buffalo. But when the regular shipments stopped coming, he said he used straw that he bought in the fall.

Charles Alsdorf, an independent contractor who hauls sawdust from a Cochranon-area mill to local dairy and horse farmers, blames the situation on a variety of factors.

Much of the available saw-

dust is sold to companies that produce fuel for pellet stoves or use the sawdust to fire their heating systems, Alsdorf said.

The sawdust produced by Coastal Lumber Co. in Spartansburg, for example, is sold under a contract to a local company that uses it as boiler fuel, plant manager Gregory Welch said.

Weyerhaeuser Co. in Titusville uses some of the sawdust it produces at its dimension mill to power its lumber drying system at its concentration yard, and sells the rest to a pellet manufacturer in New York, operations manager Chuck Ellis said.

Lean times in the housing and furniture manufacturing industries have also reduced the amount of work at local mills, cutting the amount of available sawdust, Alsdorf said.

Thompson Lumber owner Norma Thompson, whose Linesville business sells its sawdust for \$15 per four-yard bucket, said that while her wholesale business remains strong, she has seen a bunch of smaller mills that flooded the local market when times were good shut

down in these tough economic times.

The sawdust situation isn't bad news for the lumber mills that are running. They are making more money from selling sawdust and other byproducts, including bark that is made into mulch, and wood scraps that are chipped up and used in the production of paper and fiberboard, said Chuck Henness, the owner of Thompson Maple Products in Corry.

"The truth is, they were never really castoffs. There has always been a market for this stuff," Henness said. "The prices have increased over the last couple of years just because the supply has decreased, and it's Economics 101."

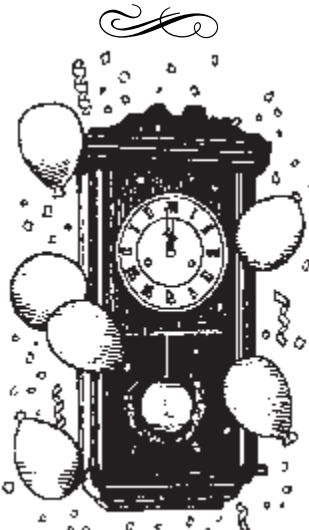
But it is bad for sawdust haulers like Alsdorf, who are finding it harder to grow their businesses with less to sell.

"I can only promise it to so many people, and that's where it gets tricky," he said. "The phone rings off the hook, and no one wants to hear, 'No, you can't get on the list.'"

It's also tough for users such as the Crawford County Fair, which spent \$6,985.72 on sawdust - much of it purchased for \$750 per 100-yard load - and shavings for the 2008 fair, up from \$4,400 spent in 2007.

"I used to get about 16 or 17 semi loads for the fair. It's just impossible to get that now," Hyde said.

Make Every
Second Count!



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and yours in the
New Year!

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AT THE NEW YEAR

Wishing you
good health,
happiness and
success
in the New Year.

Knepper's Mill
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5...4...3...2...1...
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NEW YEAR
EVERYONE!

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a wonderful year
filled with
happiness,
good health
and prosperity.

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Brett Cornelius, Supervisor

Is there a
Wedding in your future?
Did you receive the
much anticipated RING
during the holidays?

The Fulton County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
invites you to the
2nd Annual
Fulton County Bridal Expo
Sunday ~ January 18, 2009
2:00 p.m.
Bridal Fashion Show ~ 2:30 p.m.
American Legion
McConnellsburg, PA

The fine businesses of Fulton County
are ready and able to help you plan your dream wedding!

FLORISTS Invitations Gowns
CATERERS Ceremony Sites
Photography Legal Services HONEYMOON SITES
DJ/Videography Real Estate GIFTS

It's Your Life ... Remember It!

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'04 Kia Optima	\$5,950	\$1,950	'95 Chevy Cavalier	\$2,850	\$950
'03 Chrysler PT Cruiser	\$5,450	\$1,850	'95 Mercury Tracer	\$2,250	\$825
'02 Dodge Stratus	\$4,450	\$1,500	'95 Subaru S/W, 4x4	\$2,750	\$925
'02 Kia Spectra	\$3,450	\$1,250	'95 Ford Escort	\$2,150	\$725
'02 Chevy Malibu	\$4,950	\$1,650	'95 Chevy Lumina	\$2,450	\$825
'01 Hyundai Accent	\$2,875	\$975	'94 Chevy Cavalier	\$1,475	\$500
'01 Dodge Stratus	\$4,950	\$1,650	'90 Geo Prism	\$1,950	\$650
'00 Saturn, 5 Spd.	\$3,450	\$1,150	~VANS & 4X4s~		
'00 Chevy Cavalier, 2 Dr.	\$3,250	\$1,100	'02 Ford Windstar	\$5,750	\$1,950
'00 Chevy Sebring Convertible	\$4,750	\$1,600	'00 Ford Windstar	\$4,450	\$1,450
'99 Saturn S/W	\$2,150	\$700	'97 Dodge Caravan	\$2,950	\$1,000
'99 Ford Escort	\$3,250	\$1,100	'97 Ford Explorer	\$4,650	\$1,550
'98 Subaru Forester S/W	\$3,750	\$1,250	'97 Land Rover	\$4,950	\$1,650
'98 Saturn	\$2,350	\$775	'97 Chevy Blazer	\$3,450	\$1,150
'98 Ford Contour	\$1,950	\$650	'97 Chrysler Town & Country	\$3,950	\$1,150
'97 Ford T-Bird, 60K	\$3,450	\$1,150	'97 Jeep Cherokee		
'97 Ford Taurus	\$2,750	\$900	4x4	\$4,750	\$1,600
'97 Mitsubishi Galant	\$2,750	\$950	'95 Ford F150	\$2,950	\$1,000
'97 Chevy Lumina	\$2,250	\$750	'95 Ford Aerostar	\$975	\$325
'96 Ford T-Bird, V-8	\$2,150	\$750	'95 Ford Explorer	\$3,750	\$1,250
'96 Ford Taurus	\$2,450	\$825	'93 Mercury Villager	\$2,250	\$750
			'84 Ford F600		
			Box Farm Truck	\$1,575	\$525