

NEWS IN BRIEF

Legislation for Rockview land signed

Gov. Ed Rendell signed a piece of compromise legislation Friday that divides 1,829 acres of contested Rockview prison land between Penn State, state commissions and Benner Township.

The deal should in time open a parcel of pristine land near the Spring Creek Canyon that has been untouched for years to the public, ClearWater Conservancy Executive Director Jennifer Shuey said.

Shuey said most of Spring Creek is already open to the public, save a stretch on prison land about a mile in length.

Penn State purchased 452 acres for \$407,570, according to the legislation. The land will be used for hands-on agricultural research, College of Agricultural Sciences Dean Bruce McPherson said.

The state's Game Commission and Fish and Boat Commission, meanwhile, will receive 1,351 acres of mostly forested lands.

Body of 14-year-old girl identified

PITTSBURGH — Allegheny County authorities say the body found near a Pittsburgh high school was a missing 14-year-old girl.

The Allegheny County coroner says Lauren Dries died of multiple stab wounds. Police believe she was killed several days ago and then her trash-bag wrapped body was dumped at Langley High School, where it was found Tuesday.

The school was empty at the time, but several hundred students later arrived for summer school classes.

Authorities are reviewing surveillance video near the school for possible leads into the girl's killing. She had been missing from her East Liberty home for several days.

Natural gas well fire under investigation

HARRISBURG — The state Department of Environmental Protection is trying to find out what started a fire at a natural gas well pad in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Local fire crews and company workers put out Tuesday night's blaze at the Chesapeake Energy site in Auburn Township, Susquehanna County, after about two hours. State officials said Wednesday there were no injuries and no evacuations. Department secretary John Hanger says there does not appear to be any "significant environmental contamination."

The well was drilling into the Marcellus Shale formation underground. The DEP says the fire occurred at a production unit where a valve failed and leaked natural gas. The site is closed while repairs are made and the state finishes its investigation.

Second man accused of child porn ring

PITTSBURGH — A second man accused of using a social networking site to share child pornography has pleaded guilty in western Pennsylvania to exploiting children.

Twenty-one-year-old Ryan Chiles of Hampton, Va., entered the plea Wednesday in federal court. On Tuesday, 56-year-old Stephen Sims, of Palm Springs, Calif., pleaded guilty in the case. Officials say both will be sentenced in February and face mandatory minimum terms of 20 years and maximum sentences of life in prison.

Authorities say the two and others distributed thousands of sexually explicit images and videos to members of the group formed on the site.

Officials say the case was the first prosecution of a child exploitation enterprise that makes use of a social networking site under a federal law created by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

Treasurer embezzled fire company

OLDSBORO - Police say the former treasurer at a central Pennsylvania fire company embezzled more than \$116,000 over the past seven years.

Miles Hummer was charged Wednesday with receiving stolen property and several counts of theft.

Court records indicate the 70-year-old Harrisburg resident recently suffered a stroke.

The alleged theft came to light after the Goldsboro Fire Co. appointed a new treasurer.

Hummer is also owner of Goldsboro Marina. It's not clear if he's represented by an attorney.

ON THE MENU

LUNCH

Pollock: Turkey noodle soup, beef ravioli, chicken cheesesteak, edamame fried rice

DINNER

Pollock: Baked chicken breast, chicken fritters, garlic roasted pork with rosemary, stuffed shells



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Weather: Today: High 90



Tonight: Low 65



Tomorrow: High 89



Extended forecast at campusweatherservice.com Courtesy of Campus Weather Service

Steel plant explodes, 21 injured

By Jennifer C. Yates ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CLAIRTON — An oven at a U.S. Steel plant near Pittsburgh exploded Wednesday, injuring 21 workers, at least three critically, causing a fire that burned for hours, emergency officials said.

The powerful blast in the coke oven at United States Steel Corp.'s Clairton Coke Works happened around 9:30 a.m. Allegheny County spokesman Kevin Evanto said. Most of the workers suffered burns; one suffered chest pains.

"It's a miracle that anybody even walked away from that," Allegheny County Emergency Services Chief Bob Full told reporters at the scene. He said the explosion was so mighty it bent steel beams and destroyed block walls.

Everyone had been accounted for, and the cause of the explosion was being investigated, union and company officials said. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration had a team of investigators on site, spokeswoman Leni Fortson said.

"It was a big boom and then everything just went black," janitor John Chappell, 59, of Clairton, told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review as he left UPMC Mercy. He was not injured.

"It was pitch black but you could tell there was debris flying all over the place," Chappell told the newspaper. "I'm just blessed because I know it could have been worse."

An air quality inspector at the plant at the time of the blast said he saw a large cloud of smoke that dissipated quickly, said Jim Thompson, manager of the Allegheny County Air Quality Program. Thompson said that and other factors indicate the explosion may have been caused by the gas used to heat one of the coke ovens.

Neighbors said they heard alarms at the plant but didn't know at first whether it was a real emergency.

"They always play their siren," said Tierra Williams, 17, who lives on a hill overlooking the plant.

A maintenance worker died in a September 2009 explosion at the plant, which sits in a valley along the Monongahela River about

"It was a big boom and then everything just went black."

John Chappell Clairton Coke Works employee

20 miles south of Pittsburgh. About 1,500 people work at the plant, said Michael Wright, head of the health, safety and environment department for the United Steelworkers union.

Coke, a raw material used in steelmaking, is coal that is baked for a long time at a high temperature to remove impurities. The coal is baked in special ovens, several of which make up a coal battery; there are 12 batteries at the Clairton plant.

The explosion happened during maintenance in the B battery, which consists of 75 ovens. The battery is located on the northern side of the sprawling plant and was shut down after the explosion, but a U.S. Steel spokeswoman said the rest of the plant was operating normally.

U.S. Steel calls its Clairton plant the biggest coke manufacturing facility in the U.S., producing about 4.7 million tons per year.

At Pittsburgh's West Penn Hospital, two workers in their 50s were in critical condition with chemical burns in their airways as well as burns to their heads, necks and faces, said Dr. Larry Jones, the hospital's director of emergency medicine.

"The burns themselves are serious burns, but with the inhalation injury on top of it, these are very, very serious, a very serious situation," Jones said.

A third worker, in his 40s, was in serious condition with burns on his head, neck, face and hands, and an ankle fracture, Jones said.

Six workers, men ranging in age from 20 to 50, were taken to UPMC Mercy, said Dr. Alain Corcos, medical director of UPMC Mercy's trauma and burn centers. One of those was in critical condition with airway burns.

"They are all expected to recover," Corcos said.

One injured worker was taken to UPMC McKeesport, and three were

taken to UPMC Presbyterian, she said.

One person was admitted to Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Jefferson Hills with chest pains, spokeswoman Candy Williams said. Three other workers were treated and released for injuries including burns and inhaling dust, she said.

The company said four other workers were treated at the plant's medical facility and released.

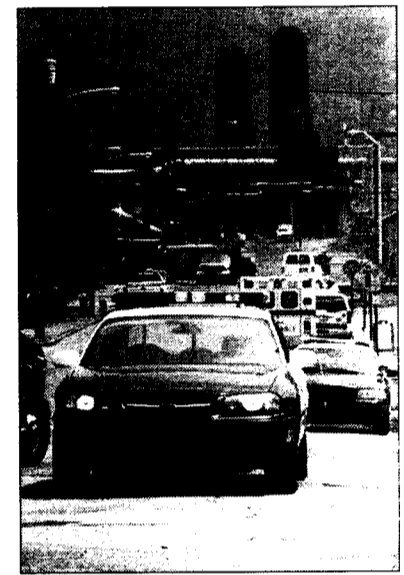
William Magyar, 44, of McKeesport, was cleaning a rental property near the plant when he said he heard alarms around 10 a.m.

"I figured it was a fire I didn't smell," Magyar said.

Elaine Lawrence, 53, whose son works at the plant, was lying on the couch at her Clairton home when her daughter told her there had been an explosion. The daughter drove her to the plant, but they weren't allowed in; they headed to a hospital, and that's when her son called.

"He said he had just passed where the explosion happened to go to the other block and suddenly he heard an explosion," Lawrence said. Martin Lawrence, 19, was not injured and remained at work, she said.

"I was real concerned, because that's my only son," she said.



Keith Srakocic/Associated Press Police monitor traffic at the plant.

Dado

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The Pennsylvania Criminal Code specifies that a person must "intentionally and knowingly" furnish alcohol to a minor to be convicted, according to court documents.

Yurchak said she argued in court that ATO never knowingly furnished

alcohol to minors, which is why prosecutors dropped that charge, she said.

The two original charges brought against ATO are so similar in their language, Yurchak said, that if the prosecution could not prove one of the charges she believes they will not be able to prove the other.

Kistler did not return calls for comment by press time Wednesday.

A trial date for Fiji has been set for Aug. 2, according to court documents.

A trial date for Penn State student Jack Townsend, also charged with furnishing alcohol to Dado and who last saw him alive, is set for later in the summer, according to court documents.

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Research

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tax revenue by more than a billion dollars.

The alliance wants the university to denounce the findings, but it is not university policy to take a position on any of its faculty research, university spokesman Geoff Rushton said.

Though the Marcellus Shale Coalition funded the study, the report had a disclaimer at the beginning so readers could be aware of who was funding the research, Rushton said.

A big part of the university mission is promoting research and dis-

covery — and conclusions are a natural part of that scientific process, Rushton said.

There are always going to be those who disagree with the researcher's findings but it is important that the university maintains its role as a "safe haven" for researchers to explore complex issues like Marcellus Shale, he said.

Critics can debate the study's conclusions, but the Penn State researchers are within the bounds of economic analysis, he said.

Rushton said the study has been examined by experts and it has been determined that the research was on solid ground scientifically.

Considine said he was "vaguely" aware of the letter the RDA sent to

the university, but he said his team's research is well regarded and studied.

"We stand by the research," he said. "Penn State can do whatever they want as far as I'm concerned."

Rushton said the university will abide by its policy and not take a position on the research.

The only "position" the university has is that they are dedicated to helping the state develop what Rushton calls a "unique opportunity" by providing the best scientific information available.

The RDA did not respond to requests for comment by press time Wednesday.

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Webster's

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the area who are interested in the possibility of providing Webster's new location.

Meder-Wilgus said what she needs from supporters are letters of support to take to banks to show the level of interest in the return of Webster's at another location.

"There are many banks that want to talk to me," Meder-Wilgus said. "Wouldn't you want to be the local hero? You could say, 'I love you, bank, because you saved Webster's.'"

Overall, Meder-Wilgus said she needs one question answered.

"If I build a bookstore," Meder-Wilgus said, "Will you all come?"

A woman in the crowd eagerly answered "yes" to show her unwill-

ing support of keeping Webster's open.

Coupled with letters of support, Meder-Wilgus also proposed several methods of fundraising and future investment.

One form of fundraising is the sale of collectable postcards that patrons can purchase for \$5, \$10 or \$20, she said.

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Eco-Rep

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think I can handle the requirements and attend the mandatory meetings."

Since 2009, over 50 different universities across the United States have started their own Eco-Rep programs, but this is the first year the

program is being offered at Penn State, Perry said.

The Eco-Reps are expected to reduce electricity use during the fall semester, and focus on recycling in the spring, all while encouraging their peers to go green, Perry said.

"I want them to be visual on campus," Perry said. "Go outside and use less electricity."

The remaining two informational

meetings will be held on July 20 and July 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Pollock Cultural Lounge.

Potential candidates interested in the program can submit their resume, cover letter, and two references to Perry via email at map40@psu.edu. The deadline for applications is July 29.

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Author

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chairman for THON 2011, is responsible for reaching out to potential donors year-round on behalf of THON.

Even though the fundraiser has long been established and is now very well known, donations still require effort to collect and are not taken for granted, McCready (senior-finance) said.

"We are really appreciative of Mr. Levine's donation," he said. "It's great to see an alumnus joining the

fight against children's cancer."

Levine decided to donate to the fund after THON 2010, and said that though THON didn't exist when he was a student at Penn State, he has been following its coverage in The Daily Collegian since the dance marathon first began.

A former editor-in-chief of the Collegian, Levine has since expanded on his first novel with a seven-part series about Jake Lassiter, a Penn State linebacker-turned-Miami lawyer.

The story of Levine's fictional protagonist slightly relates to that of the author.

Levine went into law himself, covering court cases and lurching with judges and prosecutors, after reporting for The Miami Herald for years.

Now a novelist and television writer based in Los Angeles, Ca., Levine incorporates his law background into his legal thriller novels and continues contributing to the field of journalism through his blogs.

Copies of the Ebook are available at Amazon Kindle and the author's own website, www.paullevine.com/content/jake-lassiter.asp

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