



**Saturday-Sunday**  
Saturday, April 21, 2007



TODAY: Sunny.  
TONIGHT: Clear.  
HIGH: Lower 70s  
LOW: Lower 30s  
SUN: Rise 6:28 a.m.  
Set 8:04 p.m..  
Complete report on Page A8



### What your pet says about you

Do animals mirror who we are? Experts reveal surprising answers, in this week's USA WEEKEND.

### Deaths

Robert Kitch, 89, of Greenville

Full obituaries can be found on Page A-2



SPORTS

PAGE B6



COMMUNITY/Week of the Young Child

PAGE D1

# Scenic vs. OGM

## Producer files complaint over ANF procedure

By CHUCK HAYES

Staff Writer

The supervisor of the Allegheny National Forest calls a claim that she is biased against oil and gas production on the forest "completely untrue."

But a Warren-based oil and gas producer has filed a complaint against the ANF supervisor's office because of the handling of plans to drill on the forest.

The focus of the complaint is five oil and gas wells which U.S. Energy Development Corp. has proposed drilling on the Allegheny National Forest in Mead Township, near Rt. 59.

PAPCO, Inc. has filed a formal objection against the supervisor of the Allegheny National Forest, claiming she clearly "dislikes oil and gas activities on the Allegheny

See ANF / A-8



Photo by Chuck Hayes

Kathleen Morse, left, supervisor of the Allegheny National Forest with the U.S. Forest Service, has denied any bias against the oil and gas industry. The head of an area oil and gas production company has filed a complaint with the regional forester, complaining of bias.

## Rexnord Building sale may be close

### WCCBI in talks for former plant

By EMILY WHITAKER

Staff Writer

After being on the market for over a year, the industrial facility that formerly housed Rexnord may soon have a new owner.

According to Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry President and CEO, Jim Decker, the sale of the facility — which was purchased by WCCBI in January of 2006 — should be determined within the next few weeks.

Described as the "imminent" sale of the facility within the April edition of WCCBI's public newsletter, Decker said the process of negotiating the final sale has been hard fought.

"My use of imminent simply meant that every week its going to have a next week," he joked with regards to the sale. "It's been a long process, but we are hoping for a positive outcome as early as next week."

Experiencing a number of unexpected delays throughout the process, Decker said that none of the "hold ups"

## Questions linger about VT election

## ANF procedure...

National Forest."

PAPCO owns the subsurface rights at the five sites and has leased the drilling rights to U.S. Energy Development Corp.

In the letter sent on Friday to Regional Forester Randy Moore, Darryl Pierce, secretary and treasurer of PAPCO, Inc., said that "the non-cooperative actions of Ms. Morse (forest supervisor Kathleen Morse) cannot be allowed to continue as they will only waste more of the taxpayers' money."

Plans for the wells were submitted to the ANF supervisor's office in late January.

U.S. Energy subsequently applied to the state's Department of Environmental Protection for the required permits.

On Feb. 8, Morse filed an objection with DEP, stating, "The wells in objection are located in very close proximity to State Route 59 which was nationally designated as the Longhouse National Scenic Byway in 1990 by Congress."

Morse told DEP, "We believe that this close proximity will jeopardize and cause irreversible damage to the scenic value and recreation quality of this National Scenic Byway."

PAPCO contends that the Forest Service, according to its own policies, is to work with subsurface rights owners to resolve drilling-related issues, rather than allowing producers to apply for a state permit and then filing objections.

In the letter from PAPCO, Pierce contends, "Ms. Morse waited until the permit applications were submitted to the DEP and then lodged an official objection under the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Act. This action was clearly contrary to established ANF policy."

"Ms. Morse's objection was improper," PAPCO said in the letter to the regional forester. "Moreover, it appears that Ms. Morse has decided to abdicate her responsibility under ANF policy by burdening the DEP's Oil and Gas Program to do her job."

PAPCO said, "We in the regulated community were unaware of the ANF's responsibilities had transferred to a state agency. The supervisor's objections to PAPCO have added to the confusion between the

ANF and one of its important constituency groups."

The ANF supervisor, PAPCO contends in the letter to the regional forester, "dislikes oil and gas activities within the ANF. The problem with her increasingly hostile and restrictive approach is that the United States does not own the mineral rights and mineral rights holders have constitutionally protected rights to secure their minerals."

PAPCO warned, "At some point, the ANF's combative actions will rise to the level of 'taking' and the Forest Service will be sued by the mineral owners."

If the regional forester agrees that the ANF has the responsibility to protect surface resources from the impact of oil and gas production, said PAPCO, "then Ms. Morse should be reprimanded and/or transferred to a staff position where her personal prejudice against multiple-use of forest lands does not jeopardize the rights of private citizens."

Pierce told the *Times Observer* on Friday that PAPCO operates sites on sensitive areas such as the McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge in Texas and has worked without problems with the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Texas Railroad Commission.

"But we've never encountered such a misunderstanding of property rights as we have with the present administration of the Forest Service," said Pierce. "We've never seen anything like it."

Morse said she regards the complaint as a "non-issue" because "the objection has been resolved."

Morse said Forest Service personnel met with representatives of U.S. Energy and "found another location for the wells that is more acceptable from a visual standpoint."

Meeting with operators prior to the filing of applications for permits with DEP is the agency's "preferred method" of doing business with producers, said Morse.

"We try to get with them early," she said, "We view our overall relationship (with producers) as being very positive."

What was different in the case leading to the PAPCO complaints, said Morse, is U.S. Energy applied

for the DEP permits at the same time company representatives notified the Forest Service of the drilling plans.

"What is not reflected (in the complaint)," said Morse, "is the time constraints. When we got the notice (from DEP) we had fifteen days to respond. We didn't have time to get on the ground."

Morse said the Forest Service would have preferred if the company had come to the agency well before applying for the DEP permits.

"It's a timing thing that prevented us from working up front," she said. "When we objected, it stopped the process and it worked for all of us."

"They should have come to us before they submitted an application to DEP," said Morse. "In this case, the two occurred simultaneously."

In the U.S. Energy case, Morse said the Forest Service had no choice but to "stop the clock" by filing objections with DEP because there were concerns about the visual impact of the proposed wells.

As for PAPCO's claim that she harbors a bias against oil and gas drilling on the forest, Morse said, "That's completely untrue."

"I recognize and appreciate the oil industry's part in the history, legacy and culture of this region and I accept the fact that drilling occurs on the Allegheny National Forest," said Morse.

If she owned subsurface rights on the forest, said Morse, should would be "very upset" if a federal agency attempted to prevent her from exercising her rights as a property owner.

But as the agency responsible for protecting the forest, the Forest Service is "trying to sustain the values of a national forest that is under extreme pressure from development," she said. "We are doing the very best we can but it's not an easy situation."

Morse acknowledged that with oil and gas production rising to record levels in the region and a limited staff, the response of the Forest Service to producers' plans to drill may seem slow.

But Morse said it is wrong to interpret the slow response as "some sort of bias. Nothing could be further from the truth."

## Quick thinking...

March 23, waiting for a scheduled hearing. He noticed something seemed to be wrong with Herzog, the way his head was dipping, like he was slowly falling asleep in a recliner in front of a Sunday football game.

"His head went down in increments, like he was nodding," Dougherty said. "We'd say something to him and he would open his eyes and respond to us."

Someone in the room speculated that maybe Herzog had a rough night, maybe he didn't get enough sleep.

Dougherty didn't think so.

Prior to joining the city police department, Dougherty worked for the Venango County Sheriff's Department. He pulled a woman over for a suspected DUI. It turned out, she was having a hypoglycemic episode. Dougherty thought Herzog was displaying similar symptoms. He walked over to the detective and immediately caught a whiff of something.

Herzog's breath smelled like fruit — a telltale sign of hypoglycemia.

Dougherty touched the back of Herzog's neck. Herzog's skin was soaked with sweat. Dougherty checked his pulse. "It was really high," he said, "Like 119."

Herzog was unresponsive.

Dougherty and another police officer grabbed Herzog by his arms and legs and lifted. They put him on the floor with a coat under his head for a pillow. Dougherty called for an ambulance on his radio.

By now, Herzog was barely conscious. He was headed for a diabetic coma. Next stop — possible brain damage or death.

Unknown to Dougherty or anyone else in the room, Herzog's doctor recently switched the brand of insulin he had been taking for the last 25 years. When a diabetic switches insulin, there is a period of adjusting as the doctor tries to regulate to the optimum dosage level.

Recently, Herzog had been testing his blood sugar level five times a day. He keeps a tester and insulin in his office. He injects himself with insulin once in the morning and once in the evening to keep his diabetes under control.

Until March 23, he never had a full-blown episode of hypoglycemia.

"Normally, that probably wouldn't have happened," Herzog said. "They are still

playing with the amount of trying to get the perfect level

Herzog said he doesn't remember the episode in the news Room. "I was sitting some people and apparently dozed off," he said. "Some noticed. They thought I was

"He was going into a diabetic," Dougherty said. "No body the point he was at. I'd say he would barely open his eyes. It was a stroke, because his breath was the same."

Dougherty stayed in control as emergency personnel, informed of Herzog's condition, tried to watch him and keep crew aware of what was radioed a couple of times the level was fading. His breath faint."

When emergency personnel they quickly hooked Herzog with a glucose-rich IV to replenish his low blood sugar. Herzog's level responded almost immediately.

"I remember when they got the ambulance outside," Herzog said. "I was a little rough going in. The paramedic asked, 'How are you feeling? I remember saying, 'entirely I don't feel so good. Oxygen mask on my face.'"

Herzog made a full recovery episode. As a measure of his appreciation, he wrote a letter to the City of Warren commending Dougherty's quick action.

City Council responded during its regular monthly meeting. "It makes all of us very proud of our police officers, without hesitating to take care of the individual," Warren Mayor Mark Phillips said. "That type of moral integrity is hard to find."

Phillips added, "Obviously our police officers are well trained as long as they implement training and potentially allows council to take great care of our citizens. We have a fine complement of employees in the city of Warren."

## Rexnord sale close...

product line looking to establish themselves in the Warren area.

"This is not just a company looking to move from point A to point B," he said. "This is a new, expanded operation."

The former Rexnord building on Main St. in Warren's South Side was vacant since December 31. Rexnord relocated their operations to a new plant in Auburn, Ala.