



Today's high: 65
Tonight's Low: 40
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Bad news on homes, goods adds to air of recession

By Daniel Wagner and Alan Zibel
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's starting to feel like another recession. Businesses are ordering fewer goods. Home sales are the slowest in decades. Jobs are scarce, and unemployment claims are rising. Perhaps most worrisome, manufacturing activity, which had been one of the economy's few bright spots, is faltering.

"The odds of a double-dip are rising and uncomfortably high," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, referring to the possibility that the nation will tip back into recession. "Nothing else can go wrong. There is no cushion left." On Wednesday, the government offered the latest dose of grim news about the economic recovery: Companies cut back last month on their investments in equipment and machines. And Americans bought new homes at the weakest pace in nearly half a century.

Earlier this week came news that sales of previously occupied homes fell last month to the lowest level in 15 years. Unemployment remains near double digits because job growth in the private sector has slowed. The economy has grown for a full year now, and many experts believe the recession technically ended in July 2009. But the pace of expansion has slowed significantly in the past six months.

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Bob's Creek helps aquatic habitats

By Elizabeth Kohler
Gazette Staff Writer

PAVIA — As part of an ongoing national public-private partnership to preserve freshwater and marine waters across the country, Bob's Creek has been revamped to help with aquatic habitats.

In July, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy removed five small structures from Bob's Creek and built 16 new structures for habitat improvement as part of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. On Wednesday, a team from the conservancy made a site visit to evaluate the effects of the structures on the stream's aquatic life through a fish survey.

The habitat improvements came from placing logs, large stones and rootwads strategically in the stream. By placing logs and large stone along the stream banks, these structures create a pool, slow down the current and keep the stream banks from eroding away. The log structures are called single-, double-, or multi-log vein. They also installed a bankful bench/saw tooth deflector along one portion of the stream where the bank was being washed away.

By placing rootwads, the exposed root system of a large tree, a nice habitat is made available, said Jennifer Bennett, watershed manager for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The conservancy also built structures made primarily of stone, called stone deflectors, placed in areas such as a sharp bend, that would protect the stream bank.

Limestone rock was used to build the stone structures within the creek. According to Bennett, they tried to cover as much of the lime-

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Eggs from Iowa farms could come to table near you

By David Mercer
Associated Press Writer



IWOA - Millions of eggs from the Iowa farms at the heart of a massive salmonella recall are not destined for the garbage but for a table near you. The recalled eggs that were already shipped to grocery stores and restaurants are being dumped by the truckload.

But the eggs still being laid by potentially infected chickens will be pasteurized to kill any bacteria. Then they can be sold as liquid eggs or put in other products such as mayonnaise or ice cream. It's a common if little-known practice in the

food industry — salvaging and selling products that may have been tainted with disease. After pasteurization, the bacteria "are all going to be dead, and if they're dead, they're not going to hurt anybody," said University of Illinois food science professor Bruce Chassy.

Officials from the two farms that have recalled more than a half-billion eggs said Wednesday there's no reason not to use the eggs while federal officials investigate the outbreak. Hill-andale Farms issued the recall after learning that salmonella

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Station modifications are underway at the Steckman Ridge natural gas storage compressor station in Mattie, Monroe Township. Residents will see increased activity until late October, and then, hopefully, experience less noise for station blow offs after the improvements are done.

Natural gas compressor to be more efficient

By Elizabeth Coyle
Gazette Associate Editor

MONROE - The natural gas storage company in Monroe Township is making improvements to its compressor station that it says will quiet the station during its blowdowns and improve its efficiency. Work began this week and will continue until mid-October, according to Spectra Energy spokeswoman Wendy Olson.

Neighbors of the 9,000-horsepower station, who have experienced the loud noise associated with blowdowns, were notified with letters dated on or around Aug. 20. Olson said landowners within 3,000 feet of the station, about 20 landowners, were notified by letter. Kevin McCrary out of the Bedford office, also has been talking in person with those whose properties abut the station. The state Department of Environmental Protection and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as a courtesy, Olson said via e-mail.

The station modifications were not in response to anything either the DEP or FERC said or did. "Station modifications are an ongoing part of station operations. These particular improvements were deemed to be a longer-term benefit to the station, its day-to-day operations, and the surrounding community," Olson's e-mail said.

Steckman Ridge, a partnership between Texas-based Spectra Energy and New Jersey Resources, was fined by the DEP earlier this year for two blow off incidents last year, one on Aug. 23 and the other, Oct. 26. The company paid \$22,000 as a penalty for venting lubricant during station shutdowns in both incidents and for not properly informing DEP of the incidents.

In addition to those incidents, the plant, which became operational in April, 2009, has seen its share of problems. Of the ones that were reported, electrical system problems

were the source and cause of the shutdowns.

Two shutdowns occurred in January, one attributed to an "electrical glitch in the control panel" and another because of a "loose wire on a transmitter." In April, another plant shutdown occurred because of a spark plug that wasn't firing correctly. In July, another blow off was triggered by a loose wire on a temperature probe. Olson said the improvements that started this week include:

- Installation of a new separator. "This will enhance the separation of material such as oil lubricant from the natural gas," she said.
- Installation of piping and diffuser vessels within the station to assist in minimizing noise during unit shutdowns
- Other minor improvements to existing piping to improve unit efficiency.

"We expect the improvements to

reduce noise during blowdowns and to help prevent the release of oily residue with the gas release," Olson's e-mail said. Residents will see increased traffic, more personnel at the site on a temporary basis, and equipment deliveries. "We don't foresee these things causing any sort of issue for area residents. The station is currently offline; however, some equipment tests may be conducted during this timeframe while the modifications are made," Olson said.

In its letter to one landowner, the company said that workers will make other changes such as dimming the lights at the station as well as planting of trees around the facility although those plantings began earlier this year. The letter said the work will continue until around Oct. 25.

The Steckman Ridge natural gas reservoir has the capacity to store 12 billion cubic feet of natural gas in

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All 2010 fair premiums will be paid in full

The Bedford Fair Board of Directors met last week and passed a motion to pay all 2010 fair premiums in full. Premium checks can be picked up at the fair office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. through September, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Sept. 4 and Sept. 11. Anyone who would like their check mailed should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the fair at P.O. Box 244, Bedford, PA 15522. The board also announced that the 2011 fair will be held July 24 through July 30.

Street fair and ox roast will be held in Schellsburg Labor Day weekend.

Shawnee Valley Volunteer Fire Company will host its Annual Street Fair & Ox Roast Sept. 2 through Sept. 5. There will be food and entertainment each day. The event kicks off with the annual Firemen's Parade at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 2. There will be evening entertainment by DJ Shane Imler. On Sept. 3, the 8th annual Shawnee Valley Volunteer Fire Co./Lincoln Highway Auto Center Cruise-In will be held from 5 to 8 p.m., with music by DJ Shane Imler. Friday evening entertainment will be provided by Country Rewind. Food stands open at noon on Sept. 4, with a craft show set

for noon to 8 p.m. Afternoon entertainment will be by Blue Grass Music, while on stage in the evening will be the Fabulous Flashbacks. Food stands open at noon on Sept. 5, and the craft show will be open from noon to 5 p.m. Firemen's games also get underway at noon. Gospel music will be presented from 2 to 6 p.m., featuring Crossroads, Gospel Messen-

State Sen. John Eichelberger will hold a Bedford County town hall meeting on Sept. 2

Eichelberger will offer a brief legislative and budget update at the meeting, then answer questions. The town hall meeting will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Breezewood fire hall.