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Removing gasoline from Lehman wells could take months

By ERIC FOSTER Post Staff

The gasoline which has tainted the well water of some Lehman Township residents will eventually be removed from the ground and treated.

But there's a lot of work to be done first.

According to Mark Carmon, spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Resources (DER), the contaminated well water will be treated after the residents with tainted wells are supplied with safe water, and after a study is done to show the extent of the contamination.

"It's not going to be cleaned up overnight," said Carmon. "It's not

like an accident where you can just clean up the soil and go."

The most common method for treating the water would be to drill a well into the midst of the contamination and pump out the contaminated water, said Carmon. Once pumped to the surface, there are several methods of treating the water, including filtering.

"The first step is to protect the well users. Then you have to determine the extent of the contamination," said Carmon. "And then design your clean-up plan."

"Hydrology is a little like black magic," said Carmon of the process of tracking water underground. "You can't see it, you can't touch it

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CHARLOT M. DENMON At her desk at The Dallas Post

Back Mountain loses a loyal friend

Charlot M. Denmon, a Dallas Post reporter for the past 20 years and one of the Back Mountain's best-known personalities, died Saturday, September 28 after suffering a stroke at home the previous evening. Mrs. Denmon was 74 years old at the time of her death, and was known throughout the Back Mountain for her years of reporting and photography that appeared in the newspaper.

Mrs. Denmon, who was affectionately known by her childhood nickname "Tooties," had at one time or another reported on virtually every community and organization in the region. In the course of her years of taking photographs and writing, she had become well-versed in the Back Mountain's history, and was often approached by researchers and other news media when questions arose about a past event or personality.

She was devoted to The Post, and during her years with the newspaper had served in every area of the business, including a time as editor of the newspaper. She

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researched and wrote a history of The Post in 1985, and gathered and wrote all the material for the newspaper's 100th anniversary edition in 1989.

Mrs. Denmon was highly respected for her straightforward reporting of local government news and for feature stories about area people. Friends and news sources this week expressed their appreciation for her style and accuracy.

"I'll remember her for her fairness," said Clarence Michael, a Dallas school director and parent. "I always felt comfortable when she was there at school board meetings. She would do a story on your kids or the school and she had a way with it."

Joseph "Red" Jones knew Mrs. Denmon as a friend, one-time coworker and subject of news stories

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Dallas hopes fact-finder can settle contract

90 days to find a middle ground

By CHARLOT M. DENMON Staff Writer

Hoping to avoid a strike by teachers, the Dallas School District last week requested that the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board (PLRB) appoint a fact-finder to help reach agreement on a new contract between the district and the Dallas Education Association.

Negotiations apparently have moved the two sides closer together as the union continues to work under the previous agree-

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ment which expired just prior to this school year. Earlier reports have said the teachers were asking for a five-year contract with wage increases averaging nearly 10 percent yearly while the district had offered a two-year contract with an average \$2,000—about five percent—raise each year.

The PLRB responded by appointing John Hamrick of Bethlehem, a professor and arbitrator. Hamrick has a law degree and is an associate professor in business at

Kutztown University as well as an adjunct professor of business and labor at Lehigh University and at Northampton Community College. He also has had the wide experience in other contract cases prior to the Dallas School District.

As fact-finder, Hamrick is expected to provide both parties an opportunity to make known the supporting reasons for their positions in an effort to produce a new agreement. The fact-finding process also provides the public with an opportunity to react, since the fact-finder's report is made public if no agreement is reached.

Fact-finding is a tool to document the issues and place them in

proper perspective. District and union representatives present documentation to support their positions.

The fact-finding process proceeds for a period of 40 days from the date of the PLRB order, during which time the union is barred from its legal right to strike.

Once the fact-finder issues his report, the parties have 10 days in which to respond. The report can be accepted or rejected; neither party is obligated to the report.

If both parties accept the report, the dispute is settled. If one or both parties reject the report and the

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Judge will decide fate of Commonwealth building

By ERIC FOSTER Post Staff

Luzerne County President Judge Patrick Toole, Jr. will decide within the next several weeks whether Commonwealth Telephone Company can go ahead with plans to build a 40,000 square-foot building on land zoned agricultural in Dallas Township.

On June 18, the three-member township zoning board unanimously approved a special exemption so the company could construct the building near the Maples housing development.

Jack Graham, whose home is adjacent to the proposed building site, and Jeffrey Pace, who recently built a home in the Maples, appealed the board's decision before Judge Toole on September 26.

"First of all it's not zoned commercial," said Pace. "I have a home within 300 feet of the (proposed) building and I have two small children and I fear for their safety."

"I think in contrast to other requests to appeal zoning board decisions, this has a lot of merit."

Erik Dingle Attorney for Jeff Pace

"Then you have the wetlands," he said. "They say it's not on the wetlands but they are right above it and the road is going to go through them."

"The environmental issue is not addressed by the zoning board at all," said Robert Bayer, chairman of the zoning board.

Instead, Bayer said that the zoning board must base its decisions strictly on the township's ordinances.

"I know there were a lot of comments that we didn't care

See JUDGE, pg 8

Dump owner says he's cleaning fast as possible

By ERIC FOSTER Post Staff

The Department of Environmental Resources (DER) set the end of September as the deadline for a dump along Outlet Road in Lehman Township to be cleaned up.

But the owner of the land where the dump is located, Ignatius Hozempa, estimates that the earliest he can finish the clean-up is the middle of October.

"We're doing the best we can. I'm trying and I'm getting busted. I'm not even supposed to be on my legs," said the 57-year-old Hozempa. "On Sundays we're down there from about 9 a.m. to 6 p.m."

"When you're trying and still getting blasted it isn't fair," said Hozempa. "We're making progress. I don't have a lot of money I can go around and spend. A dumpster is \$700 and they give you five tons. Anything over five tons they want \$60."

Mark Carmon, spokesman for DER, said that he hopes the that agency will be able to reinspect the property sometime this week.

"It depends on the workload," said Carmon. "We've got a limited staff."

The Lehman Township supervisors filed a complaint on June 17 against Hozempa for the dump.

"It's a politics move," said Hozempa who is a Republican candidate for Lehman Township supervisor. "This has been here 15 or 20 years and they don't say anything about it until after the primary."

Hozempa said that he's sorting through the rubbish on the 10 by 75 foot tract of land to collect the recyclables from the pile of bottles, many of them from his bar in Dallas, along with aluminum cans, cardboard, wood and cinderblock debris.

"I'm tired of this. We've got a 30

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CHEFS & ARTISTS PURCHASER - Tina Puffenberger purchases one of the Chefs Artist Cookbooks from the library director Susan Frey last Thursday. (Post Photo/C.M. Denmon)

Library cookbooks are a big hit

By CHARLOT M. DENMON Staff Writer

"Chefs & Artists," the Back Mountain Library cookbook, is selling like hotcakes.

"I thought it was a great idea to help raise some money for the library," said Maryann Daily, who chaired the cookbook committee. "But I never thought it would catch on like it has."

In fact, the book is selling so well, that bulk orders are not being accepted until more are ready. "Nine hundred of the first 1,000 have been sold and until the next 1,500 come from the printers we are not selling 15 or 20 at one time. We will take orders for the future and if we sell our total 2,500, we certainly will plan for a second printing."

To spur sales even further, the committee has taken a table for the October 6 Craft Show sponsored by the Dallas High School Soccer Club. "They make wonderful gifts and people are purchasing them to give as Christmas gifts," Daily said. "They are great to send to former Back Mountain residents because there are so many pictures and recipes in the book that will appeal to them."

Daily said that Ellen Casey, Pennsylvania's First Lady, will be at the local library on November 6, and from 10 to 10:20 a.m., she will read to the children

during their story hour. This will be followed by a reception at which Mrs. Casey's recipe for chocolate cake (published in Chefs & Artists) will be served. Several members of the library and Book Club will make the cake from the recipe. Hors d'oeuvres will also be served. Residents are invited to attend the 'Books & Brunch' with Ellen Casey. The cookbook will be available for purchase that day.

"Before Christmas we plan to put some of the books in the Back Mountain Book Store and also in the Tudor Book Shop. We will also put some in the College Misericordia Book Store and in the Wilkes University Book Store."

Daily said the book's variety has attracted a wide range of purchasers. "People are also enjoying the book because of the different categories. Everyone has a favorite section," she said. "The pictures and the Something Special, which includes recipes from famous chefs, are of great interest. Others enjoy the recipes submitted by different groups or by friends from the past whose daughters or other relatives submitted a favorite recipe. It amazes me how enthused people are about the book. I hope it continues, it will be great for the library," Daily concluded.

Halloween story contest features fun, prizes

Have a chilling tale to tell? Then tell it to the Dallas Post. The Dallas Post is sponsoring a Halloween story contest. There will be three age groups for story submissions: 12 and under, 13 to 17, and 18 and above. Stories should concentrate on suspense and the supernatural, rather than violence. Entries should be 600 or less words in length and should include the entrant's name, age, address, phone number, high school and grade level. The stories should be sent to: The Dallas Post, Halloween Story Contest, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612. The deadline for entries is Tuesday, October 22. Winning entries in each category will be published in the October 30 issue of The Dallas Post. Each winner will also receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond from the Post.

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Community Events

SALSAMBA, LATIN JAZZ QUINTET - Thurs., Oct. 3, 7:30 PM, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, Lehman. Free. THE MIRACLE WORKER - Performed by the National Players, Tues., Oct. 9, 8 PM, Walsh Auditorium at College Misericordia. Free. Pre-theater dinner (\$20) begins at 5:30. 674-6307 for reservations. FLEA MARKET - Sat., Oct. 5, Sweet Valley Vol. Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary. Refreshments available.

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