

## Bugs

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needs doing."

He even rides in the chopper with pilot Ted Ohlmer to point out landmarks denoting the boundaries of the areas to be sprayed, often getting up at 4 a.m. to start at 5:30. "It's a long day," he said.

"Ideally you need several large tracts of land together, for example entire streets or developments," he said. "You have to be careful to detour around anyone who has said they don't want their property sprayed. You have to know all the landmarks."

He has great faith in Ohlmer's piloting skills.

"Many crop dusters flew helicopters in the service," he said. "I feel a lot safer with them than riding with some people in cars."

Ohlmer landed his helicopter at the Dallas Township municipal building Monday at lunch time after spraying sections of Dallas Township that morning.

"I'm using a stronger BT than what we normally use for gypsy moths," he said. "The bugs are much larger and require more for it to work. It's a bit late to spray, but this is the time that we have the widest range of all of them hatching at once."

**Sevin, tree wraps may help**  
There isn't much home owners

can do now to protect themselves now, except to try Sevin, a pesticide available in lawn and garden shops and discount stores, Heffron said.

Tree wraps, made of either burlap or sticky tape, may help prevent them from climbing into trees during the day.

"Even then, we won't guarantee it will work," Heffron said. "You really have to get at them early, in late April or early May when they first hatch and are still in the nests."

The most effective way for home owners to curb a caterpillar population explosion is to destroy the nests as soon as they appear in the spring, either by cutting and burning the branches where they've set up housekeeping or by dabbing at the nests with a kerosene-soaked rag. The idea is to kill as many as possible before they leave.

Unfortunately, elm spanworm nests are difficult to spot because the bugs make them in inconspicuous spots on the undersides of leaves.

Destroying nests now won't do any good because they're empty.

"This is a never-ending battle," Wagner said. "We have run private spraying since the late 1970's,

mostly for gypsy moth. We won't get them all this time - some are ready to go into cocoons and have already quit eating. We'll see their offspring next year."

The gypsy moth and elm spanworm are the most destructive of the four, able to strip entire trees of their foliage, Heffron said.

Gypsy moth infestations once came in seven-year cycles, but now peak every three to six years. Their infestations are often accompanied by larger populations of their natural predators, the bald-faced wasp and yellow-shafted flicker.

The elm spanworm is relatively new to the area, first attracted to Northeastern Pennsylvania three years ago by the bright city lights, she added. In mid to late June they'll turn into small white moths, which congregate around street lights.

"There isn't much information available about the other three species yet," she said.

The tent caterpillar invasion is the worst Heffron's office has seen in 20 years, she said.

The elm spanworm mostly eats walnut, oak, elm, ash and hickory trees, while the tent caterpillars like to munch on oak, birch, apple, box elder, cherry, willow, aspen



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

**BUG PATROL** - Helicopter pilot Ted Ohlmer landed his chopper at the Dallas Township building for a lunch break Monday. He has been spraying the area for caterpillars.

and poplar trees, she said.

Gypsy moths will eat just about anything in sight, particularly during heavy infestations, when they have been observed eating cedar and poison ivy, which are toxic to them.

Compounding the problem, the

state only funds gypsy moth spray programs. "We're trying to get that changed," Heffron said. "We need to spray for all of them. Certain species of birds, bees, wasps, flies and beetles love to eat caterpillars, but they could use some help."

## Kingston Twp. lists zoning permit rules

The residents or anyone locating in Kingston Township are reminded that the zoning ordinance requires that a zoning permit be issued for the following residential and non-residential activities:

The use of land, the use of buildings, or the construction, enlargement, extension or modification of all buildings, accessory buildings, garages, decks, sheds, patios, fences, retaining walls, swimming pools, off street parking facilities, driveways or other projections into yard space. Also, the demolition of a structure and a home occupation require permits.

A building permit is required for all new construction, including accessory buildings, and enlargement, or exterior modification of existing buildings.

Permits or additional information may be obtained from the zoning officer, in the municipal office at 11 Carveton Road, Trucksville, daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Jobs

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than we are. I feel it would be a waste of taxpayers' money to close Tobyhanna."

Crain started working at the base when he moved here in 1983 from California with his wife, Kathleen, and son, Mike.

"Closing Tobyhanna would cause a financial crisis for quite a few businesses in the area," he said. "If people don't have jobs, they can't pay for anything."

Most of his co-workers are optimistic the base will remain open, with only a few concerned, he said.

"It makes you wonder," said technician Ralph Wall, 50, who has worked at the base since 1968 and lives in Shavertown with his wife, Gerri, and children Ken, Missy, Lisa and Kim. "The market is scary out there. I wouldn't like to leave but if I had to, I guess I would look for another job some place else. I don't know - I'll cross that bridge if we come to it."

Missy attends Bloomsburg University and Lisa plans to study music therapy at Marywood College after graduating from high school this year, he added.

"Tobyhanna is an important link - we make sure all the test equipment calibrations are constant. It goes a long way to maintain the quality of the electronic products," he said. "We supply the Army with a good product. For 30 years we have followed the slogan of 'zero defects'."

Keeping Tobyhanna open may mean the closing of the Letterkenny Depot near Chambersburg, whose operations would be moved to Tobyhanna.

"I would hate to keep my job at their expense," Wall said. "I have mixed emotions about it. I know some people down there and they also do a good job. They're dedicated, too, at least the ones I've met."

Tobyhanna is the Northeastern Pennsylvania's largest employer, with a civilian work force of 3,600, whose skills include electronics, accounting, clerical, computers, welding, sheet metal, carpentry, painting and electronics. Workers earn an average of \$30,000 per year.

Abington Journal reporter Maria Luchetti contributed to this article.



POST PHOTO/MARIA LUCHETTI

**SPECIAL SKILLS** - Harveys Lake resident Mike Crain tests the internal calibration of electronic equipment at Tobyhanna.

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