

Heating oil leaks into adjacent home, creek

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS TOWNSHIP - The owner of two small houses at Hildebrandt and Upper Demunds roads had a close call Wednesday afternoon after approximately 100 gallons of home heating oil leaked from a broken tank into the ground and a small creek.

The two homes, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Cybul and Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Myers, are owned by Ed Van Horn. Most of the oil was recovered, van Horn said Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Cybul said they had come home in the early afternoon and smelled something which they thought might be pro-

pane gas and called PG&W. A repairman from PG&W found the oil in their basement and shut off their gas furnace as a precaution until the source of the oil could be found.

According to Department of Environmental Protection liaison Mark Carmon, the oil leaked from the tank through the basement floor of the Myers home into the ground water, where it flowed into the basement of the Cybul home next door. A sump pump picked it up and discharged it into the creek.

The unnamed creek, which drains several small wetlands along Upper Demunds Road and a pond at Glendalough, flows into Toby's Creek near Mill Street in

Dallas. DEP personnel set several booms in the creek to trap as much of the remaining oil as possible, but were hampered by the swift current, Carmon said. Van Horn hired Team Environmental from Dunmore to finish the cleanup, he added.

Initially, Carmon said the cleanup could have involved digging out all the dirt contaminated by the oil, but he didn't know the extent of the contamination.

"It's like a mouse maze underground between the house and the creek," he said.

"We're lucky the creek is so high," said Pennsylvania Fish Commission officer Jim Stout, who

inspected the creek Wednesday after hearing about the spill on his two-way radio. "There's plenty of oil there, but the water will dilute it and shoot it right out to Toby's Creek and the river very quickly. Our main concern would be if it collected along the banks or in eddies, where it could harm aquatic life."

Although the Fish Commission doesn't stock Toby's Creek with trout, several businesses in Luzerne, approximately five miles downstream, release fish for area children.

DEP doesn't plan on fining Van Horn, Carmon said. "Basically it was an accident. He has been very cooperative," he added.

DISTRICT COURT BRIEFS

Man to faces trial for theft, forgery

Plymouth resident Kevin J. Clocker, 23, waived his right to a preliminary hearing April 18 on two counts each of theft by unlawful taking, receiving stolen property and forgery.

He was arrested April 12 by Dallas Township patrolman Wayman Miers at his place of work after Dallas Township resident Jane Nakkache told police Clocker had taken a blank check from her checkbook, made it out to himself for \$450 and cashed it.

Clocker works for Harry Barke of Realty Construction Co. and had done some work at Nakkache's home. Nakkache learned of the missing check after her bank notified her the account was overdrawn April 6. Four days later she and her husband learned the account was overdrawn again and their checkbook was missing.

When police arrested him, Clocker had three more checks for a total of \$1,800 drawn against the victims' account in his wallet. He also had their checkbook containing more blank checks, a receipt from an automatic teller machine and an insurance card for the couple's 1994 Mazda, which he said he took so he could get a license plate.

He told police he took the checks and ATM card from Mrs. Nakkache's purse and tried to use the card on April 2, but the machine took it because he couldn't enter the correct PIN number. He said he cashed the \$450 check April 4 and took the checkbook April 10. In his statement to police, Clocker said he cashed the check to feed his family.

Represented by public defender Jonathan Blum, Clocker is free on \$7,500 bail.

D.U.I. CASES WAIVED TO COUNTY COURT

Nanticoke resident Michael Powell, 25, and Sweet Valley resident Edmund Pish, 52, waived their rights to preliminary hearings on charges of D.U.I. April 18 before District Justice James Tupper. They are free on \$300 bail each.

Pish was arrested Jan. 28 by Jackson Twp. patrolman Joseph Kasper after flipping his van onto its driver's side on Rte. 29 near Ceasetown. He told police he had lost control of the van after hitting a patch of ice.

After failing field sobriety tests, he took a blood test which showed his blood alcohol level to be .21, more than twice the legal limit of .10.

A related citation for driving at an unsafe speed was dismissed, according to court records.

Powell was arrested Feb. 11 by Kingston Township officer Charles Rauschkolb after police observed him driving erratically on Route 309, swerving between the two northbound lanes and nearly hitting a curb.

After failing field sobriety tests, Powell took a blood test which showed his blood alcohol level to be .170.

A related citation for careless driving was dismissed.

VISITOR TO S.C.I.D. NABBED WITH DRUG

Philadelphia resident Esperita Carter, 46, waived her right to a preliminary hearing on two charges of possession of a controlled substance April 18 before District Justice James Tupper.

The charges stemmed from an incident April 8, in which Carter was arrested by Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Walter J. Koehler after corrections officers at the State Correctional Institution at Dallas found a small plastic bag containing approximately two grams of marijuana in her wallet during a routine search when she visited an inmate.

Carter told police she forgot she had placed the marijuana in her wallet.

Represented by public defender Jonathan Blum, she is free on \$2,500 bail.

CHARGES AGAINST TWO MEN DISMISSED

Charges against two area men were dismissed April 15 because the victims refused to testify before District Justice James Tupper.

Wyoming resident John Candeloro had been accused of making terroristic threats, reckless endangerment, harassment and disorderly conduct.

Noxen resident Edward Lee Engleman was accused of simple assault, harassment, making terroristic threats and disorderly conduct.

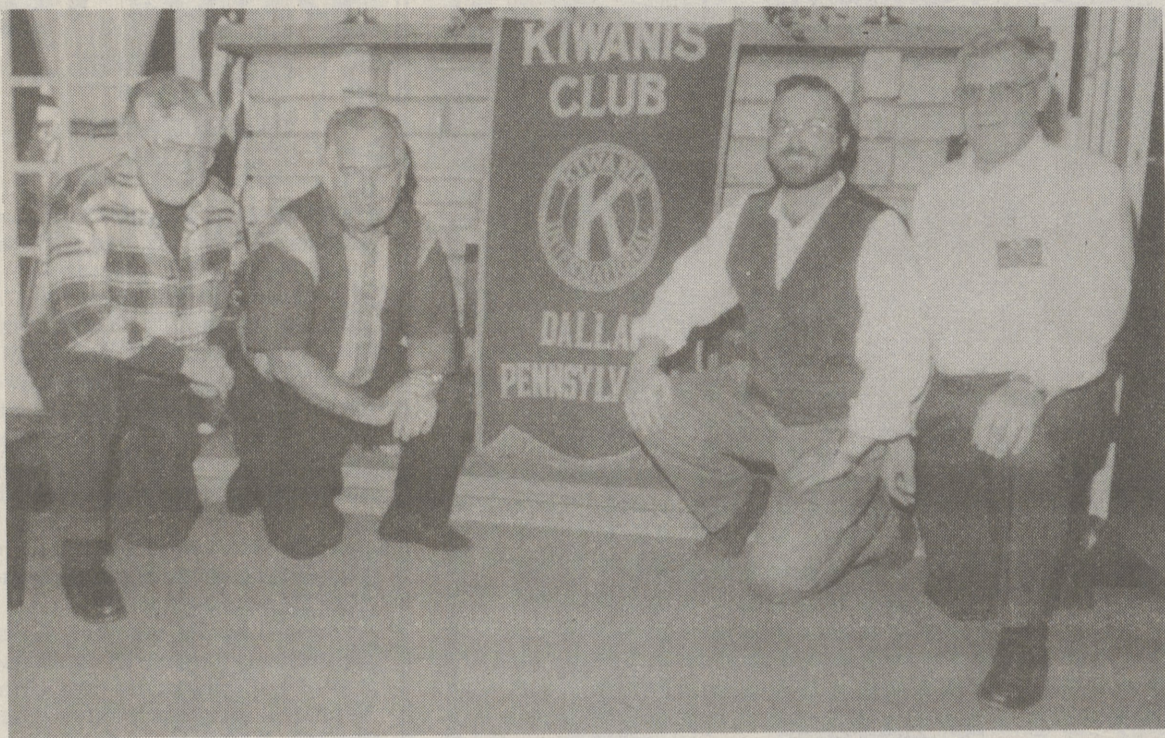
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Kiwanis to hold rabies clinic

April 27

Planning the Dallas Kiwanis Club's annual rabies clinic for cats and dogs, slated for April 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dallas Township garage are chairman Cliff Parker, Kiwanis president Tex Wilson, grounds chairman Paul Bella and publicity chairman Charlie Kishbaugh.

Rabies shots are \$6 each and will be administered by Dr. Brock Phillips. All pets attending the clinic must be either on leashes or in carriers.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Borough may take over road

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - If the borough and the 20 families living in Hemlock Gardens can hammer out the details, the borough could take possession of another road.

Residents asked council for the specifications for upgrading the road, which they understood to be pavement six inches deep and 16 feet wide, and said they are willing to pay part of the costs.

Solicitor Charles McCormick said the specifications may be different, depending on what the ordinance requires. The borough engineer will inspect the road at no cost to the residents.

Located off Second Street, Hemlock Gardens is presently a private road which was never deeded to the borough. After it is brought

up to specifications, the borough must pass an ordinance to assume responsibility for its maintenance.

The council voted unanimously to hire Tunkhannock resident Barry Stubela as a part-time police officer for \$7.75 per hour, pending the outcome of his physical and psychological examinations. He will serve a one-year probationary period. Stubela is a graduate of Lake-Lehman High School and is a part-time police officer in Jackson Township.

The council also voted to accept the Taylor subdivision on Cook Street, pending its approval in Lehman Township. The property straddles the municipal boundary. William Wilson abstained from voting because he is a member of the borough planning commission.

Jackson Twp. closes Bulford Road

Bulford Road between Fairfield and Stonington roads in Jackson Township will be closed periodically and traffic detoured for pavement and reconstruction work weekdays 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. between April 24 and May 6.

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ENTERTAINMENT

<p>Friday, April 26</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Dave & John</p>	<p>Saturday, April 27</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Die Hard</p>
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PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property deeds were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of April 5 - 11.

Mark L. Hufand, et ux, to William J. Adams, 128 White Birch Lane, Dallas Twp., \$160,000.
Ethel H. Yalick, et al, to Michael F. Willover, et ux, 3.26 ac., Dallas Twp., \$250,000.
Daniel A. Gormley, et al to Shawn A. Titus, .35 ac. Fairmount Twp., \$66,000.
Robert T. Masinkavitch, et al, to Albert Krasavage, et al, Fairmount Twp., \$16,000.
Christopher N. Shenefield, et ux, to

John T. Dructor, E. Hemlock Dr., Harveys Lake Bor., \$15,000.
Peter R. Fela, to Charles F. Kopetchne, Jr., et ux, 2 parcels, Jackson Twp., \$41,000.
Scott Heidel, et ux, to Stanley M. Ballown, et ux, Marilyn Dr., Jackson Twp., \$134,000.
Akeline DeLuca to Frank L. Jones, et ux, 8.08 ac., Lehman Twp., \$119,000.
Ruth Strass, to Joseph Hillard, et ux, Mra-Mal Ave., Ross Twp., \$2,000.
Lakeside Const. & Mngmt., Inc. to Peter W. Specki, et al, 2 parcels, Ross Twp., \$105,000.

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