

Gasoline

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volunteer firefighter and was among the first on the scene last Wednesday. "At this point, I do have concerns about the water," he said. "Being that we're all on wells, I think there is some concern that the gasoline may leak into the aquifer and cause some problems down the road."

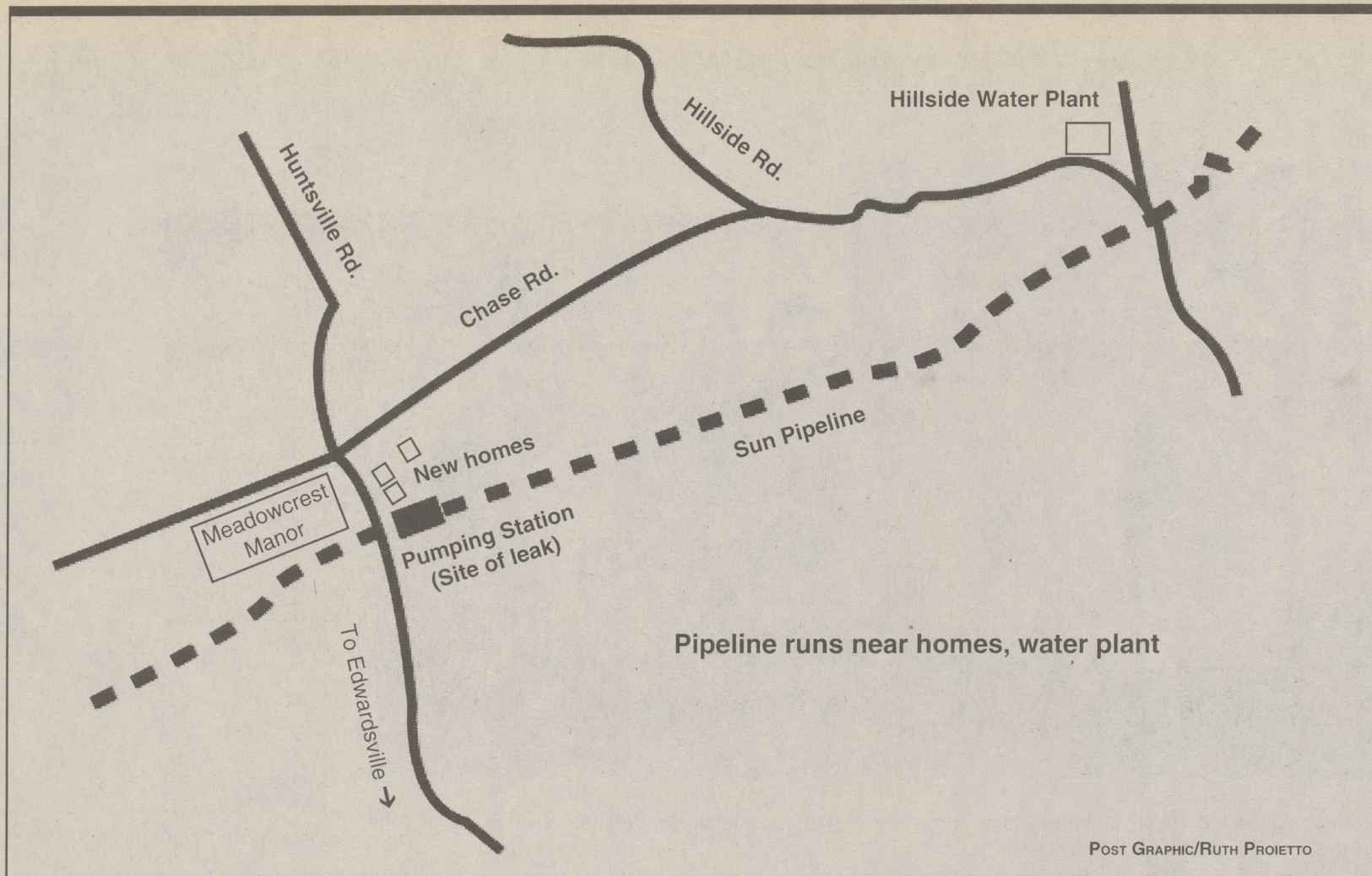
A public meeting, tentatively scheduled for later this week, will be held to answer any questions those living near the 70-year-old pumping station may have. "All those in the area potentially have been impacted and all deserve to have their concerns addressed," said Brewer. "We hope to do that in a meeting as soon as we can get all parties together, but in the meantime the easiest way to have questions answered is to stop by the pumping station and talk with our on-site personnel."

Brewer said letters, detailing how to contact Sun officials directly, were being delivered to residents living near the spill. "Our goal is to make it easy for residents to get information," said Brewer. "The last thing we want is for people to feel they can't reach us."

Workers from Teem Environmental Services are coordinating containment and recovery efforts. "They have a vac truck here now which is taking product from the little stream (Brown's Creek) that passes through the property," said Russell Jones, a manager for Sun Pipeline Co. "Some of the soil on our property has been excavated as well. That will be put into roll-off containers, covered with plastic and taken off the site."

The pipeline, which runs from Reading to Syracuse and carries an average of 512,400 gallons of liquid fuel each day, had been virtually unnoticed until this incident. "I had no idea it was there," said Stephanie Yevorchak, of Jackson Township. "It wasn't until I was watching the 6 o'clock news and they were talking about a pumping station that I finally put it all together. It was like, 'Oh, so that's what that thing is.' I guess I just never really thought about it before."

Initial uncertainty about the source of gas vapors made the experience a frightening one. "Everybody I've talked to was pretty scared because it wasn't stated whether this was natural gas or gasoline," said Yevorchak. "I went



Pipeline runs near homes, water plant

POST GRAPHIC/RUTH PROIETTO

"Being that we're all on wells, I think there is some concern that the gasoline may leak into the aquifer and cause some problems down the road."

David Bradbury
Meadowcrest Manor

nuts because my daughter was home sick from school and I was afraid the house was going to explode."

John Wilkes Jr., chairman of the Jackson Township Board of Supervisors and emergency management coordinator, said large scale devastation was averted thanks to the quick response of emergency units. "I think everyone involved from the EMA to our fire crews did an excellent job under difficult circumstances," he said. "We contained a lot of the product by arriving at the scene quickly."



POST PHOTO/IRON BARTIZEK

Crews from Teem Environmental Services worked to clean up a gasoline spill in Jackson Twp. A SunCompany pipeline leaked about 5,000 gallons from a faulty valve, company officials said.

Fires

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Paperback plant. A second fire, overnight Monday, Jan. 24, left the James Regan family of 23 Pioneer Ave., Dallas, without a home at least temporarily. "The fire is ruled accidental at this point, possibly electrical in nature," Slocum said. "Mr. Regan's insurance company is investigating."

The Regans, who have two children at home and one in college, lost nearly all their possessions in the smoky fire. "The house received extensive heat, smoke and water damage," Slocum said.

The fire started in the basement, Slocum said, then spread to the first floor. The house had been added on to over the years, and there were many spaces for the fire to travel. "Once we knocked out the original fire it was hell to chase it down," he said. He said crew were on the scene from midnight until about 5:30 a.m.

Slocum said Jim Regan was awakened by a smoke alarm and was able to get his family out, but the family's cat died. Dallas was assisted by the Shavertown and Trucksville fire departments.

Jayson Pope wins awards

Jayson Pope, of Dallas, was included in a delegation of 15 students and 2 advisors from Ithaca College who were selected to attend the NEACURH regional conference held at Syracuse University in mid-November. NEACURH is the acronym for the National Association of College and University Residence Halls. The largest student run organization in the world, NEACURH provides educational and leadership development opportunities for residence hall assistants.

Pope and his teammates received 3 awards including "Program of the Year" for their presentation entitled Not In Our City, Not On Our Campus, Not In Our Community, reflecting students' concerns about biased related incidents at universities.

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St. Paul's group aids PSU students

Youth members from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Shavertown recently participated in a service project at Penn State Wilkes-Barre in Lehman. The group assembled and distributed bags containing soda, fruit, and other snacks to Penn State students living at the Nittany Woodlands apartments adjacent to the campus during final exams week.

Shown from left: Rev. Cheryl Cavalari, director of the Northeast Regional Ministry in Higher Education; Nicole Sabatura; Laura Loeffler; Katie Dale; Ardeth Dale, Youth Group Advisor. Second row: Eric Kowalek; Andrew Dale; David Kowalek; Jordy Spencer; Chris Plominski, Penn State Student.



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