

Gas spill

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ments when ingested. Shannon Brewer, Sun Oil Company Director of Media Relations, said fluctuations are to be expected. "I think the levels we've been seeing are mixed," she said. "Some have come back higher but others have been lower. The changes can be attributed to the spill's movement."

The company has conducted tests at more than 30 households in an effort to determine the direction of movement. "Were doing this sampling for two reasons," said Brewer. "The first is obviously to assist the homeowners with filtration needs and the second is to identify the range of the spill."

It will be several days before officials can say how large an area has been contaminated. "Not all of the data has been collected at this point," said Brewer. "We can say with some certainty that it is moving down grade, but just how many homes have been affected or will be affected is not clear yet. We intend to hold another public meeting a week from this Thursday to discuss these issues with residents."

The state Department for Environmental Protection (DEP), which is overseeing the clean-up, has collected its own samples from an even larger number of households. "Our sampling started last Friday and I would estimate we took somewhere between 50 and 60 samples," said Mark Carmon, DEP spokesman. "What we're trying to do is go from Chase Corners down Chase Road to the intersection with Hillside Road. I would say we were able to take samples from most of the homes in that area but some people didn't want us to take a sample and still others weren't home at the time our hydrogeologists were in the neighborhood."

"I'm not only talking about our property values I'm also thinking about our health."

John Hritz
Jackson Twp. homeowner
affected by spill

DEP officials expect results to be available later this week. "Right now we have some good initial data pointing to the area between Chase Corners and the little bridge which passes over the creek (Brown's Creek) as the most affected area," said Carmon.

Long range cleanup plans will be discussed once the test results are available. "Our goal is to determine the extent of the contamination and hopefully that will give us some good information to pass along to Sun so they can design and install a permanent filtration system," said Carmon.

Personal water purifiers have been installed in a number of homes where gasoline has been found. "We put carbon filters in

Senior volunteers offer help with taxes

The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Bureau for the Aging is pleased to announce volunteers from the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) will be available to give assistance with federal and state income tax, PACE, and PA Rent/Property Tax Rebates. Volunteers will be at the Dallas Senior Center (675-2179) Tue. March 7. Taxpayers will be taken by appointment only. There is no charge for this service.

Please bring with you: all 1099's, social security 1099, W-2's, Tax or Rent Receipts, copy of last year's taxes and rebate, and any other income you received in 1999. Forms cannot be completed without all the necessary information.



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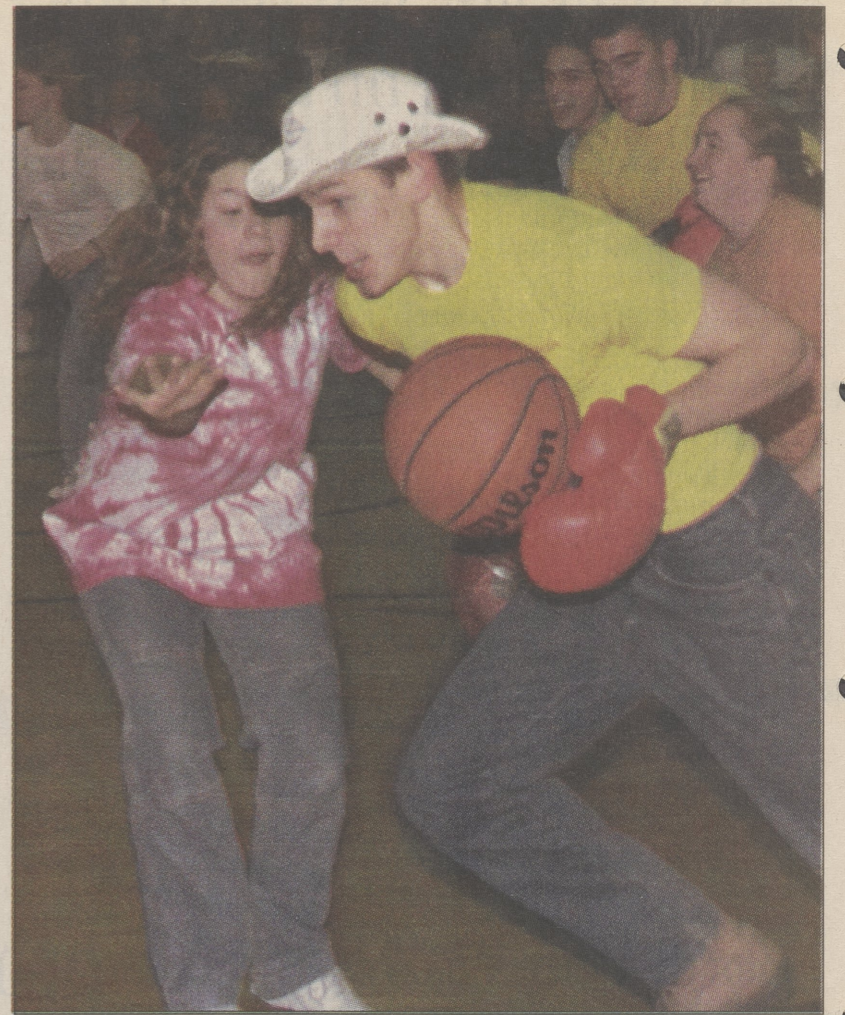
674-2900

Playing their way to D.C.

The annual (40+ years, according to Rich Gorgone, even organizer) donkey basketball game filled the Lake-Lehman High School gym to overflowing last week. Gorgone said the event raises \$3,000 to \$4,000 that is used to finance the senior class trip to Washington. A preliminary contest had the senior boys and girls playing, with the boys wearing boxing gloves. Gorgone said the student/staff donkey basketball game was decided when teacher and coach Ed Narkiewicz hit a shot in overtime. The staff has never lost, Gorgone said. The end was meaningful, since "Nark" has said he will retire after this year, and this time he really means it!

In photos, clockwise from right: Jackie Sikora tried to get a hand on the ball as Tom Brislin lit out for the basket; Laura Maslowski passed around Matt Loftus; Matthew McMahon tried to slow down his spirited mount, which dragged him and others around the gym several times.

POST PHOTOS/RON BARTIZEK



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