

EDITORIALS

Thankfully, DEP is better at cleanup than public relations

People who live near the American Asphalt facility in Jackson Township are upset that the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) took an inordinate amount of time before notifying them of the presence of a chemical contaminant in wells both on and off the property. They have a legitimate beef with the agency regarding its failure to communicate, but that shouldn't obscure the message that contamination levels never were considered harmful and are rapidly decreasing.

It's understandable that people are concerned about potential health dangers, particularly in the absence of consistent information. It's not as though DEP has ignored those concerns, just that the agency has neglected to actively distribute test data and background information to neighbors of the plant. Fortunately, the agency has done a creditable job of searching out and monitoring the chemical, as it did up Chase Road when gasoline spilled from a ruptured pipeline. The result is that contamination, which never exceeded acceptable levels, is dropping and in many cases is on track to fall below detectability over the next few years.

Even with that assurance, it's reasonable to expect that DEP officials will be more careful to keep information flowing to those who are affected.

Police, township can do better in negotiations

Surely the Dallas Township supervisors and the union that represents police officers can reach a reasonable settlement of the present contract dispute if they set their minds to it. That's assuming each side accepts that its definition of reasonable may not match the other's.

According to reports, the officers want an immediate 15 percent raise that would bring them up to par with Kingston Township pay levels. The supervisors' response has been to make a "take it or leave it" offer of 3 percent. It's hard to believe either side believes their hard line will hold up if the dispute goes to arbitration, but perhaps each fears giving in more than an outside party would demand. That means one side is likely to be severely disappointed with whatever contract an arbitrator recommends, and perhaps both will be.

A protracted dispute could add to an already strained relationship between township officials and their police officers, and undermine public confidence in both. That is an outcome more costly than a few dollars either way.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Perhaps you've come across the story of grade inflation at our nation's most esteemed institution of higher learning, Harvard University. If you haven't, here are the highlights: About half of all the grades handed out at Harvard last year were A- or better, and 91 percent of the class of 2000 graduated with honors of one sort or another.

What, you may be thinking, does this have to do with me, or you, since neither of us graduated at the top of our high school classes or scored 1600 on the SAT. (If you did, please skip to last paragraph.) Well, let's bring this down to the real world level. Most of us have jobs, and this is the time of year that our bosses present evaluations and wage recommendations, right? And I'd venture a guess that most of us think we're in the top half of our "class" in terms of job performance. After all, those early morning meetings and late nights on the computer ought to count for something.

You can probably see where I'm going (you'd better, if you think you're in the top half); we all deserve an A, which of course translates into a nice raise, or at least, in today's climate, a job for another year.

Some people are concerned about this grade inflation thing; they worry that students are being cut some slack just because they're good enough to be accepted into a school like Harvard. Others blame it on a system in which students grade teachers, so any professor handing out Cs must be a masochist of the first order, or else too dumb to continue teaching at Harvard.

Me, I think it's the parents who are the target - as the saying goes, "follow the money." I figure every one-tenth of a GPA point probably adds \$1,000 to the old endowment, proving that Harvard really does understand the real world.

Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week?
A: Only in The Dallas Post

The Dallas Post

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Photo by Ron Bartizek.



70 Years Ago - Dec. 11, 1931

SISTERS OF MERCY CELEBRATE CENTENARY

The centenary of their founder is being celebrated by Sisters of Mercy throughout the word this week. At College Misericordia the centenary celebration began. Bishop Thomas C. O'Reilly D.D. of the Scranton Diocese will be present at the Solemn High Mass observing the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Order.

The second season of the rural league was opened at Meridian Hall with a good sized crowd. "Red" Swartz was introduced as the new president. The opening game between Dallas and Beaumont started right out to give the type of game that has always featured in the league.

At the Himmler Theatre some of the shows that played were: Get Rich Quick New Wallingford, with William Haines; The Star Witness with Walter Huston; Side Show with Winnie Lightner; and Alias The Bad Man starring Ken Maynard.

60 Years Ago - Dec. 12, 1941

TWO DALLAS BOYS LEAVE FOR FORT MEADE

Two Dallas boys and one Trucksville man were among thirteen selectees under the jurisdiction of Draft Board No. 1, Wyoming, who left for Ft. George Meade, Maryland. They are: Joseph Maculis, Dallas; Richard Peter Williams, Dallas and Donald M. Gabel, Trucksville.

In addition to its work of training youths in the metal trades for National Defense, Dallas Township Defense Schools assisting local farmers by repairing all kinds of farm machinery as another phase of its national defense effort.

The central office of Commonwealth Telephone Company in Dallas has noticed an increased volume of telephone traffic since the attack by

Japan on Sunday. During Sunday afternoon and evening all lines were loaded, with a continued surge of calls reaching their peak on Tuesday morning.

50 Years Ago - Dec. 14, 1951

OPEN INSURANCE OFFICE IN DALLAS

Arthur and Ernest Gay will open their new Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance office in the Garinger Building on Lake Street. Mr. Gay and his son have been associated with the Farm Bureau companies for the past several years and had recently maintained their office in Luzerne.

At Flannigan Furniture in Dallas, some of the items you could purchase were: U.S. Koylin foam mattress, \$89.50; bed springs, \$69.50; Koylon pillow, \$9.95; white-porcelain top-bread drawer, \$34.95; knee hole desk, mahogany, \$49.95.

On display at the Back Mountain Library, under glass, are a collection of out-dated Christmas post cards. Miss Miriam Lathrop, Librarian, says that the most popular card with children is one from 1908, which shows a picture of Santa Claus and his pack in the driver's seat of an automobile.

40 Years Ago - Dec. 14, 1961

BESECKER BUYS BUSINESS PROPERTIES ON MAIN ST.

James Besecker, Dallas realtor has purchased two vacant business properties Viola Morrett, Kunkle, located on Main Street, Dallas. The properties include the former Jewelry Store Building and the building formerly owned by Hislop's Market.

Rev. William McClelland, pastor of Prince of Peace Episcopal Church for the past nine years, has presented his resignation to the Vestry in order to accept a call to St. David's Parish in suburban Atlanta, Georgia.

Dallas Senior High basketball squad brought its exhibition record to 2 wins against 1 loss by downing West Pittston at home with a score of 65057. Coach Clint Brobst used his starting five all the way for the second straight game.

30 Years Ago - Dec. 16, 1971

DALLAS BOROUGH GETS NEW DODGE POLICE CAR

A 1972 police cruiser was delivered to Dallas Borough Police Department. James Richardson, representing L.L. Richardson, Dallas Dodge automobile dealer, officially presented the cruiser's keys to police committee Chairman William Berti and borough Mayor Stephen Hartman in ceremonies at the municipal building.

Many months of practice and competition in county and district shows paid off for a number of county 4-H members when they won awards at the State 4-H Horse and Pony Show in Harrisburg. They are: Lynn Lewis, Shavertown and Jerry McDonald, Wyoming.

The annual Christmas Madrigal dinner hailed the holiday season on the College Misericordia campus. Merrick Hall was transformed into an old English Great Hall of the 16th century. Shields and devices, garlands of fresh greenery, red tapers and brightly beaded Christmas trees captured the attention of the 225 guests which attended.

20 Years Ago - Dec. 9, 1981

ST. FRANCIS CABRINI CHURCH BREAKS GROUND

Ground was broken for an addition to St. Frances X. Cabrini R.C. Church in Carverton. Taking part in the ceremony were members of the parish, together with Jason Prokopchak and Chris Lusheski, altar boys; Mrs. Mary Mikolaichik, Rev. Father Hugh McGroarty, pastor and members of the church.

The State Emergency Management Agency has approved a \$13,500 loan to aid Kingston Township Ambulance Association, according to Senator Frank J. O'Connell, R-20 and Representative Frank Coslett, R-120. The loan will be used to aid volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance squads who wish to upgrade their equipment.

The Boy Scouts of America recently bestowed the Silver Beaver Award (Scouting Highest Local Adult Award) upon Robert Schooley, Dallas. Mr. Schooley, an Eagle Scout, has contributed to the Scouting program for over twenty years.

Memorial books added

The Back Mountain Memorial Library announces the addition of new memorial books.

In memory of Ruth Foley, "Uncommon Clay" by Margaret Maron, presented by Audrey Ide.

In memory of Ruth Foley, "Death on the Downs" by Simon Brett, presented by Alpha Rho Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma.

In memory of Ruth Foley, "Fleeced" by Carol Higgins Clark, presented by Elin M. Northrup.

In memory of Ruth Foley, "Flowers A to Z" by Cecelia Hefernan, presented by Mrs. Carolyn Foran, Mrs. Bradford Kinney & Mrs. John Turner.

In memory of Ruth Foley, "The Best-Loved Poems of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis" selected & introduced by Caroline Kennedy, presented by Betsy, Ed, Ned & Scott Stankus.

In memory of Ruth Foley, "My Favorite Things" by Wendy Beckett, presented by Arno and Donna Miller.

In memory of Ruth L. Foley, "The Art and Craft of Pounding Flowers" by Laura C. Martin, presented by Betty Emery.

In memory of Ruth L. Foley, "Suspicion of Vengeance" by Barbara Parker, presented by Jack & Mary Williams.

In memory of Anne Yonkiody, "Cooking the Italian Way" by Alphonse Bisignano, presented by Harry and Debbie Cooper.

In memory of Aine McDowell Goeringer, "Cooking the French Way" by Lynn Marie Waldee, presented by Eileen McDowell.

In memory of Joseph E. Fay, "Shades of Blue" by Martin W. Bowman, presented by Carol Crawford.

In memory of Irene Mappes, "Complete Novels" by Carson McCullers, presented by Pat, Joe and Michelle Zikor.

In memory of Sylvia Solinsky, "No Greater Love" by Mother Teresa, presented by Cathy Moss.

In memory of Mimi and Elmer Phillips, "This Cold Heaven: seven seasons in Greenland" by Gretel Ehrlich, presented by Joe Welgos.

In memory of Elwood Sheldon, "Fundamental Tennis" by Marc Miller, presented by Michael E. Daly.

In memory of Ruth Foley, "Fix-it and Forget-it Cookbook: by Dawn J. Ranck, presented by Herb and Charlotte Levy.

In memory of Hilda Frey, "Changing Stages" by Richard Eyre and Nicholas Wright, presented by Mary Ann and Don Hopkins.

HONOR BOOKS
 In honor of Judy Roeder, "Marsupial Sue" by John Lithgow, presented by Lacey Cooper.

In honor of Judy Roeder, "A Penguin Pup for Pinkerton" by Steven Kellogg, presented by Lacey Cooper.

In honor of the 45th Anniversary of Tobl and Howard Grossman, "Philadelphia and its Countryside" by Ruth Hoover Seitz, presented by Dreher, Davis and Niskey Families.

Holiday deadlines

Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the deadline for all contributed news items, photos and classified and display advertising for the December 27 and January 3 issues of The Dallas Post will be 5 p.m. the Friday prior to the publication date.

Delivery of subscriber and newsstand copies will not be changed.

Winter parking rules for Kingston Twp.

Kingston Twp. Police reminds residents that the Township Winter Parking Ordinance is effective Nov. 1, and runs through March 31, 2002. Under this ordinance residents are prohibited from parking vehicles on township streets between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. daily. Vehicles are not permitted to be parked on township streets during snow storms or for eight hours after the end of a storm. Residents with questions about the ordinance may contact Police Chief James Balavage at 696-1175.