



Fire department receives grant

The Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Department received a \$5,000 grant through the Community Grants Program of the Land O' Lakes Foundation.

The Land O' Lakes Foundation supports communities where Land O' Lakes, Inc. has plants, facilities, members and employees. The grant for the Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Department was made possible because of a business relationship between Land O' Lakes, Inc. and Forest Heights Farm (Manzoni Family Farm).

The \$5,000 will be added to the Fire Department's tanker truck fund. The Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Department is raising money to replace their 1974 4,000 gallon water tanker.

From left: Mike Attanasio, Grant Committee; Mark Manzoni, Engineer; Butch Manzoni, President; Dan Manzoni, Chief; Dave Bradbury, Engineer; Dennis Lee, Firefighter; Ronald Davis, Area Procurement Supervisor; Land O' Lakes Dairy Foods; Ray Bernick, Treasurer; Carl Moyer, Secretary.

Jury selection underway in Zalenski murder case

By DAVID WEISS
For The Dallas Post

WILKES-BARRE — Eight jurors had been selected Wednesday afternoon to serve in Larry Tooley's murder trial. Interviews with potential jurors continued later in the week, with a total of 16 jurors needed, 12 regular and four alternates.

Tooley's attorneys and prosecutors agreed on three women and two men Tuesday. Three additional jurors, two men and a woman, were selected to the panel Wednesday, bringing the total to eight. Testimony will begin when the jury is complete.

On Wednesday Tooley, 46, who was unshackled, sat attentive in his chair, but rarely conferred with his three attorneys as they questioned jurors who might decide if he should die.

Tooley is charged with first- and second-degree murder, burglary, theft, robbery and criminal conspiracy in the Nov. 8 shooting death of 16-year-old Casey Zalenski. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Police say Tooley and Tina Young, who had previously lived nearby and knew the family, went to Zalenski's Demunds Road home in Franklin Township to steal money for heroin. Inside, Tooley shot and killed Zalenski, police said.

Young has pleaded guilty to third-degree murder and is expected to testify against Tooley.

On Tuesday, Tooley's defense

attorneys — Jonathan Blum, Mark Bufalino and William Ruzzo — asked a judge to keep prosecutors from using a pair of Young's pants as evidence in the case.

Court papers say police tested a pair of her pants recovered a day after the shooting and found there was no sign of gunpowder on the pants, minimizing the chance of her shooting a gun.

After a brief hearing Tuesday, Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas Judge Peter Paul Olaszewski Jr. said Assistant District Attorneys William Finnegan and Paul Galante will be allowed to use the test results.

The judge also denied defense team requests to stop prosecutors from using evidence gathered from a Tooley boot and making reference to Tooley's drug use and dealing.

Finnegan and Galante will begin prosecuting the case after the jury is selected.

A few members of the jury pool shook their heads and made facial expressions when they were informed it was Tooley's case and told the case could last two weeks after the jury is picked.

The potential jurors were later called individually to be asked more specific questions about race and the death penalty. Tooley is black. Zalenski was white.

This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.

More monitoring wells needed at gas leak site

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

JACKSON TWP. — At least 600 gallons of gasoline have been extracted from groundwater below the American Asphalt plant in Jackson Township, said a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) spokesperson this week.

And with the cleanup far from over, six to eight more monitoring wells will be drilled and another, faster technique has been suggested by the consulting firm responsible for the cleanup.

Mark Carmon, spokesperson for DEP, said as of late August, 600 gallons had been extracted, but so far no private wells have been affected in the area.

He said the amount is considered sizeable. "There's the famous old analogy — one gallon of gasoline will pollute a million gallons of water."

Since the discovery of the

"These kind of cleanups evolve. In some cases it's trial and error."

Mark Carmon
DEP spokesperson

leak July 15, eight monitoring wells have been drilled to aid the gasoline recovery effort. Other wells were already in existence due to a solvent spill several years ago at the site. Carmon said six to eight more will most likely be added.

In addition, the consulting firm conducting the cleanup suggested to DEP last month that the firm start utilizing a faster, more efficient technique to extract the gasoline. DEP is in the process of evaluating whether or not to go ahead with the suggestion.

If applied, the technique would be the third approach to be used since the leak was detected, something Carmon

said is not uncommon. "There's no cookie cutter approach you can take," he said. "These kind of cleanups evolve. In some cases it's trial and error."

That's in large part due to the fact that the cleanup is dependent on the geology of the area and geology differs from place to place. As a result, no one method can be utilized for every gas leak, he said.

"(Sometimes) it's constant changes based on monitoring, pumping and sampling," Carmon said.

According to Carmon, the new technique is often utilized when gas has gone into a "dissolved phase. Pumping (the

technique in use now) is only so effective," he said.

The new "air sparging" technique works by forcing air into the water which causes the dangerous aspects of the gas to separate and turn into vapor that can then be extracted.

Carmon said DEP is leaning towards approving the new technique, but for now, the consulting firm will continue to extract the gas through pumping.

When all is said and done, the volume leaked will probably be above the initial estimate of 2,000 gallons. DEP said the geology of the area indicates the groundwater is flowing in the direction of residents affected by a solvent spill first detected three years ago.

According to Carmon, the consulting firm is sampling the water of the nearby home owners regularly.

DEP offers little help on blasting complaints

By TARA BENNINGER
Post Correspondent

JACKSON TWP. — State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) representative Rich Parsons explained the blasting process and answered residents questions concerning American Asphalt after the September 2 supervisors meeting. Parsons is one of three blasting experts employed by the DEP in a 32-county area, which includes Jackson Township.

Parsons explained American Asphalt is regulated by Module 13, which outlines the number of holes American Asphalt is permitted to blast, and the amount of explosives they can use at one time. Module 13 was written by American Asphalt and approved by the DEP when American Asphalt received its permit.

Parsons explained that he is aware that "some complaints are outstanding," however each complaint requires a multiple-step process, which includes an investigation, during which a blasting expert examines records.

Fred Murray raised concerns, saying that he thought this problem was taken care of during the last court case, which "drug out for 25 years."

Township Solicitor Jeffrey Malak reminded citizens that, "The township has never had power over blasting. What was settled, was where mining can

occur; it was a zoning matter."

Other neighbors of the quarry wanted to know what they could do about their problems. "Every time they (American Asphalt) blast it's like an Earthquake," said Benjamin Barsh. Ed Chesnovitch said his home has suffered damage, such as cracked walls. He wanted to know what he could do next.

Parsons could only recommend that citizens file complaints, which he would look in to. If they are not satisfied with his finding, they can hire a structural engineer. However, Parsons warned that an engineer would use the same tools he does.

Parsons encouraged citizens to continue to file complaints. Any citizen wanting to learn more about the DEP and its records on American Asphalt can visit www.dep.state.pa.us, permit number 5376SM16.

According to Parsons:

- DEP cannot regulate structural response to blasting, each structure reacts differently to blasting. DEP does regulate ground vibration

- Ground vibrations travel in the top two feet of soil, however vibrations can "accelerate three to four times" when they reach a house.

- Homes on fill shake more than homes on solid rock. This is opposite from most people's belief that a on solid rock it shakes more.

Jackson

(continued from page 1)

In other business:

- Zoning Officer Andrew Sholtis reported that the Township collected \$4,548 in revenue from 10 issued permits and miscellaneous items.

- Police Chief Jerry Leedock, reported among other things, one burglary, two child abuse cases, two narcotic complaints, and three criminal warrants. Leedock also reported 99

traffic complaints, which are down from last month.

- The Supervisors voted to pass the Excessive Noise Ordinance, which defines excessive noise as horns, radios/TVs, loud speakers and amplifiers, yelling and shouting, and certain exhaust systems. According to Malak, the ordinance pertains to "reasonable hours established by the state."

Fall gardening workshop

Penn State Cooperative Extension Luzerne County is holding a Fall Gardening Workshop Saturday, October 4 at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus Science Building, Lehman. Workshops will be presented on: Flower Drying and Arranging; Bulbs in the Flower Garden; Companion Planting and Insect Repellent Plants; Pruning Woody Plants; and Backyard Composting. Workshops begin at 10 a.m. and continue through 4 p.m. Join us for part of the day, or

make it a full day of learning.

A bulb sale will also be held throughout the day benefiting the Luzerne County Master Gardener program. Add some color to your landscape by thinking of spring now.

Registration is \$5 and free compost bins will be available, one per family. For more information and/or a registration form, call Penn State Cooperative Extension Luzerne County at 825-1701, 602-0600, or toll free at 888-825-1701. Registration is due by September 24.

CROP Hunger Walk Kick-Off Rally

People interested in attending this year's Crop Hunger Walk are invited to attend a special "Soup and Bread" meal and Recruiters Rally Kick-Off on Sunday, September 14 from 3 to 5 p.m. The event will be at the Church of Christ Uniting Hall in Kingston. The Walk-A-Thon will take place Sunday October 12 at Kirby Park.

For more information about the Recruiters Kick-Off Rally and "Soup and Bread" meal, contact Carol Carroll at 675-1394 or email her at ostroski@juno.com. You can also visit our website at www.cropwalk.org

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NEWS

Coverage Area: The Dallas Post covers the "Back Mountain" area of Luzerne County, including Dallas, Kingston, Lehman and Jackson townships, Dallas Borough, Harveys Lake and the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts. We try to get to as many events as possible, but staff and space limitations make it impossible to cover everything. If you have news about your family, town or organization, please send it to us and we'll try to get it in. Photographs are welcome.

Corrections, clarifications: The Dallas Post will correct errors of fact or clarify any misunderstandings created by a story. Call 675-5211.

Have a story idea? Please call, we'd like to hear about it.

Letters: The Dallas Post prints letters of local interest. Send letters to: Editor, The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. All letters must be signed and include a phone number at which we can reach the author. Deadline is Noon, Monday prior to publication.

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