

The DALLAS POST

50¢

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Boil advisory affects businesses, too

By SARAH HITE
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A water main break on Carverton Road left about 300 Pennsylvania-American Water Co. customers with a water boil advisory on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The company issued the advisory even after the leak in the 8-inch water main was fixed on Tuesday. Residents affected were advised to boil water for at least a minute until further notice.

The boil advisory affected not only residents, but businesses as well, including Sheetz located on

Memorial Highway. Rows of empty coffee pots and signs covering the convenience mart's Made To Order touch screens greeted customers Tuesday and Wednesday, as the boil advisory left the store unable to make food and coffee drinks for its customers.

Susan Turcmanovich of Pennsylvania-American Water Co. said there are so many factors that can contribute to a water main break, such as the outdoor temperature and the material surrounding it, that it's difficult to pinpoint the exact reason for a leak.

She also said the company provided a water tanker at the Trucksville Volunteer Fire Co. for residents, and advised residents to either boil water or use bottled water.

Turcmanovich said the advisory lasts until the water company conducts two days of water tests with positive results. As of Thursday morning, the company had performed one test with a positive result.

The service loss affected about 300 customers on the following streets: Main Road, Carverton Road, Holly Street, Cliffside Avenue, Staub Road, Elm Terrace,

Post Road, Maple Street, Shady Lane, Grove Street, Harris Hill Road, Lewis Avenue, Robbins Road, Hellers Grove, Lehigh Street, Orchard Street, Rice Street, Doran Drive, Keller Lane, Lohman Street, Center Street, South Memorial Highway, Church Road, Knob Hill, Mathers Drive, Hillside Road, Layout Street, Summit Street, Goeringer Avenue and Youngblood Avenue.

Also, Wood Street, Cedar Avenue, Beech Street, Hillcrest Avenue, Franklin Street, Chestnut Street, Elinore Street, Christine Avenue, Main Street and Birch Grove.



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

These rows of empty coffee pots at the Sheetz station on Memorial Highway Wednesday night are just one example of how the boil water advisory has negatively impacted businesses.

Calling out for all 'Hometown Heroes'

By SARAH HITE
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Don Berlew never served in the U.S. military, but he's working on a project with the Dallas Lions to honor Back Mountain residents who did.

The Dallas resident got the idea for the "Hometown Heroes" project during work-related daily travels. The project is one that has already been in place in areas such as Towanda, Williamsport and Harrisburg.

"Hometown Heroes" will feature banners with the faces of the men and women who serve or have served in the U.S. military along telephone poles in Dallas Borough. The banners will feature soldiers' photos, names, dates of service and the sponsors who paid for the tribute. The goal is to have the banners displayed on Memorial Day through Veterans Day annually.

"It's a tribute to those who served in the past or present," said Berlew, 60. "It's a pretty impressive way to honor those who served."

Berlew said this is a different kind of service project for the Dallas Lions, but it's still community-oriented.

"Our mission is serving the

MORE INFO ...

For more info about the Dallas Lions' "Hometown Heroes" project, write to The Dallas Lions, P.O. Box 54, Dallas, PA 18612.

community," he said. "This is a salute to our neighbors and friends."

Sponsorships will cost \$200, and individual residents or businesses may contribute. Berlew said there is no budget for this project, and about \$180 of the sponsorship cost goes directly toward paying for the banners and fixtures.

The remainder of the money will be donated to the 1st Lieutenant Michael J. Cleary Memorial Fund, which honors the Dallas native who died in an ambush attack in Iraq in December 2005. The fund helps soldiers and their families upon their return from deployment.

"This is not a fundraiser for the Lions," said Berlew. "The Cleary Fund really helps people in need."

Berlew also said anyone who wishes to donate can do so, even if it's not for a full sponsorship. Once the project gets underway, the cost for those wish-

See HEROES, Page 9



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

South Paws Therapy Dogs, from left, Opus, Scruffy, Colleen and Kozmo pose for a photo at The Meadows Nursing Center in Dallas.

These dogs will make anyone smile

By SARAH HITE
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Scruffy greets residents and visitors as they enter The Meadows Nursing Home in Dallas with a friendly expression on his face, relishing in the attention he receives while lounging lazily near a couch.

Colleen and Opus are always excited to see new people, and it shows. They tend to eagerly reach out to strangers and are always happily obliged.

And Kozmo is cool, calm and collected as she strides gallantly towards the elevator, her statuesque figure attracting much attention from onlookers in the lobby.

These volunteers put in many hours at nursing homes in the area, accruing lots of mileage on their paws but offering solace with well-behaved demeanors and lots of soft, comforting fur.

The four dogs are from South Paws Therapy Dogs, a band of eager-to-please pups and their "escorts" from the Back Mountain and Wilkes-Barre areas.

The group formed just four months ago after owners Diana Ide, of Harveys Lake, and Carle Welter, of Loyalville, decided to branch out from Welcome Waggers, a therapy dog group based in the Scranton area.

"We're still affiliated with them, but now we're on the south

side," said Ide, coordinator of South Paws.

About 30 dog owners are part of the group, but there are maybe twice as many dogs. Ide said she's the only one in the group who owns just one animal - Kozmo, a 6-year-old Great Dane.

Welter owns three - 6-year-old Colleen, a Labrador-Golden Retriever mix; 7-year-old Opus, a purebred black Labrador; and 15-year-old Scruffy, a terrier-Golden Retriever mix.

The two dog owners and long-time friends have been involved with Therapy Dogs International for about five years, but one more willingly than the other.

"It's her fault (I'm involved)," said Ide, pointing at Welter.

Years ago, Welter asked Ide to accompany her to the therapy dog test for Opus, and, being a good friend, Ide didn't want Welter to go on her own.

On test day, Kozmo was the only one certified out of 30 participating dogs.

"I did a happy dance," laughed Ide.

She didn't realize how much her actions would affect the competition.

"When she did that, it was impossible for the other dogs to behave," Welter joked.

Opus did eventually get his certification, but that was after a year of training for another intended purpose. Opus, who be-

MORE INFO ...

For more information about South Paws Therapy Dogs, contact Diana Ide at 639-1987.

longed to Welter's daughter Blair, was part of a senior project about raising Seeing Eye dogs.

He wasn't accepted into a program "for whatever reason," said Welter, and she took him for his therapy certification to put all of his hard work to good use.

The therapy dog certification requires dogs to be well-socialized and follow basic commands. Dogs must be able to tolerate other animals, other dogs and strangers, including senior citizens and children.

As for the therapy certification test, a series of commands and instructions are placed upon dogs and owners. An example would be the three-minute separation, where Ide said owners must leave the room for three minutes and the dogs are required to remain quiet and calm until the owner returns.

Welter feels there's more pressure on owners than the animals and said owners may be nervous and too self-conscious of their actions, while a dog "is happy to do it."

"I let (Opus) not pass," she said of the first therapy certification test.

The dogs don't need to be re-tested after they receive certifica-

tion, and dogs that don't pass the test are able to try again at any time.

"It just can't be on the same day," said Welter.

The only time pooches are re-evaluated is when an incident involving aggression or other questionable behavior is reported to Therapy Dogs International.

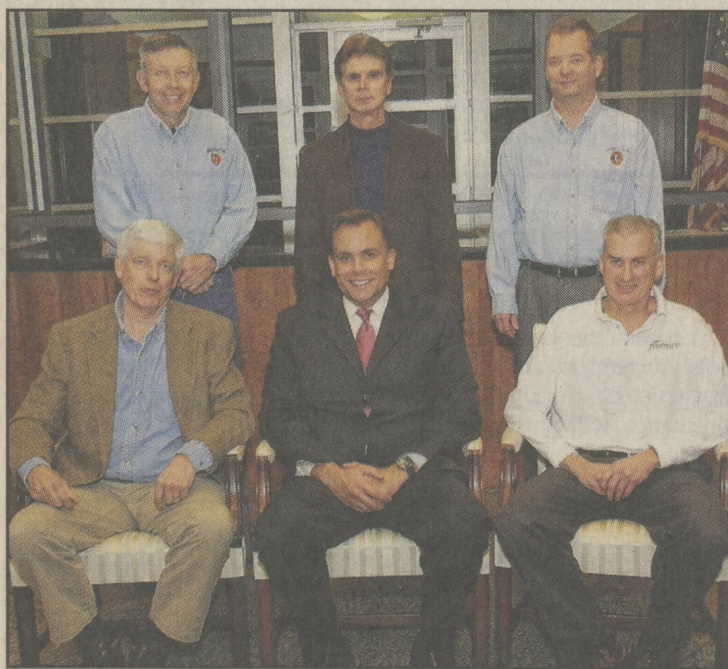
Welter and her husband Milton, both retired, are working on their sixth Seeing Eye dog trainee at home and have been prepping pooches for service ever since their daughter's senior project.

"We've met people who have received guide dogs," said Welter. "It gives them more of a sense of independence. Someone told me they can go to the barbershop now without needing someone to come with them."

The therapy dog training has benefits for everyone involved, from the nursing home residents to the dogs themselves.

Welter has seen Opus' effect on residents firsthand, and says the dogs know more about their jobs than the owners can teach them.

See DOGS, Page 9



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Members of the Dallas Lions Club involved in a Hometown Heroes project are, from left, seated, Don Berlew, project chairman; Sean McGrath, club president; Wayne Devine. Standing, Joseph Czarnecki, Joe Dwinchick and Robert Shaffer.



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