

HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH

No ordinance banning drilling in this borough

By MATT HUGHES
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Ordinance backers touted the ordinance as offering more protection for the borough than its zoning ordinance can provide.

The borough will not adopt an ordinance banning natural gas drilling.

After a 1-hour special hearing Tuesday evening, council voted 6-0 against an ordinance that would have made it a crime to extract natural gas within the borough or to withdraw water from sources within the borough for use in gas drilling.

The ordinance, drafted by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund of Chambersburg, was first introduced to council by borough resident Michele Boice in November of last year, with the fund first notifying the borough it could draft an anti-drilling ordinance in August.

Boice and other proponents claimed popular support for the ordinance. Prior to the special meeting, Boice submitted more than 500 notarized signatures to council that she said represented the majority of borough residents who voted in the last election.

Boice said the ordinance was

necessary to protect the borough's air and water from the environmental hazards associated with natural gas drilling because state lawmakers haven't adequately protected them.

Councilwoman Diane Dwyer, who motioned to vote on the ordinance and twice motioned to hold Tuesday's hearing, prefaced her vote against the ordinance by stating, "I have to reply to a more defined position on regulating the gas drilling," that the ordinance could open the borough to a lawsuit, and that "I do not believe we should act this quickly."

Referring to provisions of the ordinance that would nullify portions of the state Oil & Gas Law, Councilman Richard Williams III also said he "(does)

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Groups perform routines through the night to keep participants awake at a Mini THON to benefit childhood cancer held at Dallas High School.

Students dance to aid sick kids

By SARAH HITE
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"Personally, when you meet a family, you look at it differently and realize how childhood cancer affects others."

About 300 Dallas High School students danced, played and stayed up all night to raise money for children with cancer and their families at the fifth annual Mini THON on March 4.

Six juniors organized the yearly event as part of their completion projects. All of the funds generated were donated to the Penn State Hershey Four Diamonds Fund, a benefit that aims to support children with cancer and their families offset the costs of treatment not covered by insurance.

Students arrived at the gym at 7 p.m., doors were locked at 11 p.m. and attendees were challenged to stay awake until the doors re-opened at 7 a.m. There was a \$20 admission fee, and students who pre-paid were able to buy T-shirts color coordinated by grade level. Proceeds from the T-shirts were also donated to the Four Diamonds Fund.

The night kicked off with a four-hour black light dance and continued with games like badminton and basketball. An instructor from Shapes Total Fitness in Dallas led the hundreds of students in a Zumba class.

Last year the event raised more than \$13,000 for the Four Diamonds Fund, and advisors said

the past four years totaled more than \$65,000 for the charity.

Sara Flaherty, 17, of Dallas, enjoyed attending the event so much the past two years, she wanted to be a part of it when it came time to decide on a completion project.

"It's just such a great cause," she said.

In addition to the Mini THON, the group organized a spaghetti dinner and a flag football game to raise money for the fund.

"The amount of hours we put into this is unthinkable," said Flaherty.

The girls attended the THON event at Penn State University and a conference in Hershey for high schools looking to host their own Mini THONs. THON, or the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, is an annual event held at Penn State University where students dance for an entire weekend to raise money for the Four Diamond Fund.

The organizers of the local

Sara Flaherty
Mini THON organizer



Matt Alles, of Dallas, was the DJ on call at a Dallas High School Mini THON.



A Mini THON at Dallas High School raised money for children with cancer.

FOR MORE INFO ...

For more information about Penn State University's annual THON event, visit www.THON.org.

event - Flaherty, Sabrina Zurek, Amelia Pietraccini, Elaina Tomasselli, Thea Treslar and Kassondra Michno - invited a family that has benefited from the Four Diamonds Fund. Linda Deckman, of Mountain Top, spoke to students

about her 7-year-old son Caleb, who has been cancer-free for three years.

"Personally, when you meet a family, you look at it differently and realize how childhood cancer affects others," said Flaherty.

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Ordinance may be coming to this town

By SARAH HITE
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UP NEXT

The next meeting of the Dallas Township Board of Supervisors will be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 5 in the municipal building.

A natural gas industry ordinance might be in the books for Dallas Township in the coming months, Solicitor Thomas Brennan stated at a meeting Tuesday night.

Brennan announced the information after resident and Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition member Norm Tomchak read a letter on behalf of fellow resident Jeffrey Dickson Sr.

Dickson wrote a letter to the supervisors, urging for the creation and passage of a natural gas industry ordinance to protect the safety of citizens and the environment. He acknowledged that it would take some time to create an effective ordinance, and also asked supervisors to place a moratorium on the natural gas drilling industry until further research on its effects can be done.

Brennan told the audience

the township does have modern zoning, subdivision and land development ordinances currently in place that can address such issues, and he hopes to obtain and present a model ordinance to the supervisors by the April 5 meeting. He said the ordinance in question is one that has been studied, reviewed and recommended by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

Resident Liz Martin questioned the ordinance reviewed by PSATS, stating major sponsors of the organization's annual conference are natural gas and energy companies such as Chesapeake Energy, Range Resources

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HARPIN' ON THINGS

We can learn a thing or two by watching what goes on around us

Changing things around a little, the 'Atta Boy of the Week' goes to all those in attendance at the Elk Lake Mat Men Wrestling



HEFFERNAN

Tournament at Elk Lake Middle School March 12. A lot of local parents and wrestlers got to experience and be a part of something that doesn't happen too often. They all need to be patted on the back.

A few columns ago, I ranted about the horrible singing of the National Anthem at the Super Bowl and how embarrassing it

was. Well, at this tournament, a young lady was standing on the wrestling mat in front of the wrestlers with the packed bleachers behind her looking up at the flag on the wall when she started to sing.

She made it to "...the twilight's last gleaming" and stopped. In the seconds of silence that followed, you could see her head drop as she lowered the microphone. Barely audible at first came voices from the far end of the gymnasium, "Whose broad stripes and bright stars..." picking up where she had faltered.

The volume continued to rise as the singing swept from one end of the gym to the other until everyone was involved.

Bolstered by the support of the crowd, the young lady recovered her composure and was able to

belt out the last two lines, her voice coming on strong over the loudspeakers. She received a rousing round of applause while the wrestlers received a lesson in how people can immediately bond to help others.

And there is no better example being played out in the world today than that by the people in Japan following the total devastation of many areas from the earthquake and following tsunami.

To start, we all need to say a prayer for the thousands who lost their lives and to their families. Today's technology has brought us almost instantaneous coverage of the calamity. I will never forget seeing footage of a wall of water rushing through the streets with people running and cars racing in the other direction.

Here in the Wyoming Valley we have firsthand knowledge about the damage water can inflict on an area after living through and overcoming Agnes in '72. The damage here was not on the scale of that in Japan in terms of reducing entire towns to heaps of debris, yet we did suffer serious effects from the water. Families were displaced, businesses were closed and months of cleanup and revitalization stretched into years.

And what do I remember most about the flood? I remember how people came together to help each other in the "Valley with a Heart" which is exactly what we are seeing in Japan. It's a shame that it has taken a calamity in one nation to bring the countries of the world together, yet that's what we're seeing.

Let's hope that, as the situation in Japan stabilizes and wounds start to heal, leaders and people of these countries realize we are all here on this earth only once and our differences must be overcome so we can all enjoy that time.

Something that I have not forgotten but not thought about in many years was a class I took during my years at Wyoming Seminary. It was on Japanese and Chinese History taught by Mr. Washburn who had done extensive traveling to those countries and was attempting to impart some of that knowledge and experience to us in the classroom. I remember him explaining the different customs and family values of those foreign countries and now I understand a little more about them. Americans should

take a hard look at where our values and morals are going.

Have you seen any news footage of looting or stealing, of demonstrations or complaints about where the government was, of pushing and shoving trying to get food and water like we have seen in this country following floods or hurricanes?

Here in America, The Land of the Free, (people that is) need an attitude adjustment and there is no better example than the current situation in Japan to use as an example.

Harp Heffernan was the associate publisher, outdoor editor and chief photographer of the Sunday Independent, a newspaper that was in his family for 87 years in Wilkes-Barre. You can e-mail him at news@mydallaspost.com.