

Times Capsules

Man killed

A 30-year-old Bucks County man died last Friday following a collision at Route 73 and New Hanover Square Road in New Hanover Township.

Michael Deininger of Quakertown, died shortly after midnight, early Friday morning, when his pickup apparently failed to stop and collided with a small car. His truck flipped over and landed on top of the car.

The driver of the Dodge Neon, Roberto Pagan, 38, of Telford was eastbound on Rt. 73. He was flown to Lehigh Valley Hospital Center and treated.

Conserve

Berks County residents have been asked to conserve water following the extension of the state's drought watch into the county.

Despite all of the recent rain lately, the experts say little of it has done any real good. Most of the water ran off and did not soak into the ground.

Those same experts say Berks has a monthly rainfall of about 3.84 inches in August, but we received only 1.11 inches this year.

The normal precipitation for the year, to date, is supposed to be 31.27 inches, but the county has gotten only 27.93.

Sports

Even the weather was against the Bears football in the season opener. The opener, which turned into a two-day affair, will go down as the day(s) everyone would like to forget.

Read the whole story on Page 11.

Suit filed

Two farmers from Schwenksville and Bechtelsville have filed suit against Cabot Corporation and Cabot Performance Materials, Boyertown and they want \$300,000.

Merrill and Betty Mest of Kyser Road, Schwenksville and Wayne and Suzanne Hallowell of Washington Road, Bechtelsville have filed a civil suit in Montgomery County charging they have been plagued by contamination and animal deaths because of Cabot.

The farmers are seeking costs and attorney fees plus \$50,000 each for the charges of nuisance, trespass, negligence, negligence per se, negligent interference with business and outrageous conduct.

Cabot has 20 days to respond to the action.

Loans available

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has announced that applications are available for the Agriculture Education Loan Forgiveness Program.

The deadline for filing the application is Nov. 16, 2001.

The program repays a maximum \$2,000 annually to borrowers of PHEAA-guaranteed student loans for each year the borrower is employed full-time in an agriculture-related field. The program excludes personal and commercial loans. The borrower is also allowed a maximum of \$10,000 in forgiveness payments.

Call 717-720-2800 or stop by a state representative's office for additional details.

Over the Hill Gang does it all, so get out of their way

By Fred G. Phillips
Times Editor

Don't ever tell anyone on The Over the Hill Gang that it might be time to slow down and take it easy.

Even though their ages run between 55 for the "kids" and 80, for those just getting started, they really are a gang.

There's about 30 of them and when they decide something has to get done, get out of their way!

The Over the Hill Gang, all men because most women won't admit to be over the hill (they said), are the "old guys" who get



it done at Joanna Furnace near Morgantow this weekend.

They are the ones who get the facility ready for the Hay Creek Fall Festival and any number of other gatherings at the old furnace site.

They fix, build, repair, cut, dig, plan and whatever muscle or

brains are needed.

But to understand the Gang, you have to know history, said member George Loughery.

He said it all started back in 1976 when the Geigertown area wanted to do something for the Bicentennial. They were thinking a parade, old time stuff, that kind of thing.

The Hay Creek Valley Historical Society was formed and they started putting shows on at the fire company. The problem was the shows grew and grew.

"By 1981 Bethlehem Steel and the Society were talking about

See **HAY CREEK**, page 6.



Berks-Mont Photo by Harold Hoch

Duryea Days bring people from all over to look at and talk about their favorite subjects -- cars. Here the 1910 REO of Dave Leon of Clifton Heights (right) talks with Wilmer Moyer of Dublin during the Boyertown annual event held last Saturday.

Crossing guards are back

By Diane Van Dyke
Berks-Mont Writer

As the new school year begins, crossing guards will continue to watch school buses and students crossing Boyertown's busy streets.

Boyertown elementary principal resigns post

Just as the students are returning to, or starting, Boyertown Elementary School, the principal is thinking about her last few days.

Sept. 21 will be the last day for Principal Ann E. Helion. She announced she has taken on a new job in the West Chester School District.

Helion recently gave her letter of resignation to the Boyertown Area School District. Helion lives in West Chester.

Helion took over as the Boyertown Elementary School principal in 1998 after then principal Frederick Brown left for another job.

The district has already formed a screening committee to search for her replacement, interview candidates and select the top candidate.

The search committee includes board members, administrators, a principal, teachers and two parents.

The Boyertown Area School Board of Directors recently approved the hiring of two part-time crossing guards, Calvin Cross and Hiram Springer, and two substitutes, Donald Bausher and Richard Holzer.

Previously the Borough of Boyertown hired and trained the crossing guards while sharing 50 percent of the cost with the school district.

In a letter dated March 26, however, Borough Manager Patricia Spaide informed the school district that the borough would not be providing crossing guards for bus traffic as of the 2001-2002 school year.

However, the borough will continue to provide a crossing guard for students crossing the streets at East Philadelphia Avenue and Madison Street in the mornings and afternoons, as it has done in the past.

Colebrookdale Township shares the cost of a crossing guard with the school district. The guard

Hearing delayed for man in tractor-trailer chase

The preliminary hearing scheduled for the man who led police on a chase while he drove a tractor-trailer through area neighborhoods, was postponed.

James Detwiler, 48, was scheduled for a hearing last week on a number of charges stemming from his tractor-trailer and police chase July 11, in Douglass (Mont.) Township.

Detwiler, now in the Montgomery County Correctional Facility,

is at the intersection of Madison and Second Streets at the Boyertown Elementary School and Boyertown Area Junior High West in the mornings and afternoons.

The newly hired part-time crossing guards will serve four locations, according to Business Manager Warren W. Moser.

As buses move from Junior High West to Boyertown Area Senior High School, the guards will be at the intersections of E. Philadelphia Avenue and Madison Street and Fourth and Madison Street directing traffic.

See **GUARDS**, page 7.

Quarry numbers still in contention

By Diane Van Dyke
Berks-Mont Writer

The New Hanover Township zoning hearing board members were faced with a sea of red opposition at the hearing on August 31, for the proposed Gibraltar Rock, Inc. quarry.

Over half of the 200 people at the hearing, including members of the Citizens Organization to Ban the Quarry and others, wore red as a silent way to protest the proposed quarry, concrete and asphalt facilities.

Gibraltar owners, brothers John and Laurence Silvi, II, are seeking a special exception to operate a quarry in the light and



Berks-Mont Photos by Tom Kelly IV

Firemen from Gilbertsville, New Berlinville, Boyertown and others were called to an abandoned farmhouse behind Hollenbach Home Center Monday night. While the fire is still being investigated, firemen found beer cans, beer in a cooler and a makeshift camp fire. Above, firemen knock a hole in the roof while others, below, spray the remains of the fire.



State says more signs, not less speed is needed

By Diane Van Dyke
Berks-Mont Writer

It needs more signs, not reduced speed, says PennDOT after examining a section of Route 663 in New Hanover Township.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation recently determined that Route 663 between Klemman Road and the New Hanover/Lower Pottsgrove Township Line does not need a reduced speed limit.

The current speed limit for that section of Route 663 is 45 mph. In January of this year the New Hanover Township Board of Supervisors requested PennDOT to perform a speed limit study due to safety concerns of several residents.

According to a letter from PennDOT District Traffic Engineer Louis R. Blemonte, the

engineering and traffic study included radar speed surveys and reviews of the corner sight distances and accident records for five years.

While the study did not meet PennDOT's requirements to reduce the speed limit, traffic officials noted that there were some missing or deficient traffic signs.

"The most dangerous spot is clearly the intersection of Buchert Road," said PennDOT Traffic Control Specialist Donald Centofante. "There is limited sight distance because of the hill on Charlotte Street (Route 663)."

Centofante said that PennDOT plans to install warning signs on Buchert Road of the approaching intersection as well as "stop ahead" signage. Signs depicting the upcoming intersection will

See **SIGNS**, page 7.

heavy industrial areas of a 163-acre property located along Route 73 between Route 663 and Church Road.

The sixth hearing session started with the cross-examination of John Silvi and the information he provided to the traffic engineer David Horner, Horner & Canter Associates, Warrington.

Horner had previously testified that the quarry would generate 180 truck trips per day, which would have no impact on the traffic conditions of Route 73 and the two closest intersections of Route 663 and Church Road.

He further testified that even doubling or tripling the amount

of trucks per day would not have any impact.

Paul Logan, counsel for residents Joan and Michael Minckler, questioned Silvi on his background and expertise in the asphalt business to project the volume of trucks needed for such an operation.

Silvi admitted that although he has been involved in the concrete business since childhood, he had no experience with asphalt and hard rock quarries.

"I have an employee with 30 years of experience in the asphalt business," said Silvi, naming Richard Parton, Director of

See **QUARRY**, page 6.