

What's Inside
Toscos companies spent at least \$368,825 lobbying state legislators in 1996. On 5/2

Local/State

SECTION B

Green Bay Press-Gazette
Comments? Call the Metro Desk, (414) 431-8346

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

AROUND THE BAY

News today from:

Green Bay
Bellevue
Kewaunee County
Brown County

Hobart may pipe water by July

Well water unsafe for many

By Karl Van Boast
Press-Gazette

What's next
A public hearing on the need for water supply facilities will be held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Hobart Civic Center, 2001 S. Pine Street Road. The state Public Service Commission, which must give its permission for the project, will participate by phone.

Hobart residents whose wells contain arsenic and too much iron may get back to normal living this summer. Pipes, which would bring water purchased from neighboring towns, are expected to be installed by July.

Residents dealing with the discolored water have purchased water filters and dialysis to cope. Scott Nelson's tap water isn't clear, but some of his neighbors have water "the color of a Schaefer beer." That's install water pipes and operate as a public water utility.

A public hearing on the request will be held Thursday, Feb. 13. Hobart is optimistic. The Public Service Commission has met with residents and agreed to issue a decision.

When Nelson bought his house in Pioneer Drive four years ago, he had a high iron content. After extensive testing, he learned that it also contained arsenic.

The arsenic occurs naturally in the area. Nelson said he bought a water filter, but that doesn't take the arsenic out. "We don't use it for drinking," he said.

To alleviate the well problem, Hobart's Statutory District 2, which includes the affected area, last year applied for permission from the state Public Service Commission to install water pipes and operate as a public water utility.



BROWN COUNTY

Dells may get new mental ex

A prosecutor and defense lawyer have agreed to a plea bargain in the case of a man accused of murdering a woman in the Dells area.

Della Dells has been ruled competent in that County despite the fact that she is in the hospital.

But this morning, his lawyer, David Christian, said Brown County Judge J.D. McKay has been named as Dells' competency and has had difficulty communicating with him.

McKay ruled that the psychologist can decide to try follow-up examination he feels is necessary for Della, who is charged in Brown County with second-degree reckless homicide and being a habitual offender.

A status conference on those charges will be Monday, Feb. 10.

KEWAUNEE COUNTY

Plea scheduled in Cadigan case

A woman accused of murdering and robbing two elderly women in Kaukauna five years ago will plead guilty to second-degree homicide.

She is charged with second-degree homicide and being a habitual offender.

BELLEVUE

Three sought in cab robbery

Bellevue County investigators are seeking three men who allegedly robbed a cab driver in a local parking lot.

The three men, who are about 30 years old, have a car dispatched to Deltona Park, near Eaton Road (County 43) and Milwaukee Road.

When the cab arrived, the three men exited and threatened the driver with a hunting knife, police said.

The driver gave the men a wallet containing about \$200 in cash, and the three men fled.

GREEN BAY

1 charged in fight outside tavern

An out-of-state Green Bay man has been charged with second-degree reckless endangering safety for a fight outside a bar.

Reginald Burton, 25, 710 Hobart St., had a preliminary hearing scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Burton caused a man twice in the back during a fight outside a downtown Green Bay bar in a criminal complaint.

HOWARD

Village to hire off-duty cops

The village of Howard will employ off-duty police officers to help out when and where they are needed.

The officers will work part-time under the supervision of Brown County Sheriff's Department officers in the village.

Howard contracts with Brown County for police protection. The village received a federal grant to pay the officers.

More Around the Bay/B-3

Around the Bay is a daily column focusing on news in communities throughout Northwestern Wisconsin. If you have news for the column, call Karl Van Boast, 431-4342, 431-4343, 431-4344, 431-4345, 431-4346, 431-4347, 431-4348, 431-4349, 431-4350 or Terry Anderson, 431-4351.

Shoveling on down



On top of the season: Ordner Bourgeois shovels snow from the roof of the Junction Grocery at the intersection of Wisconsin 32 and 64 in Armstrong on Monday. If you must go onto a roof to shovel for ice, a long-handled snow rake also can be used to clear snow from a roof, allowing the user to remain on the ground.

Goofs in child support bills crop up in state

'Bad data' fed into new billing system

Workers who handle child support payments in Northwestern Wisconsin say their problems are exacerbated by those reported in Milwaukee County.

In Milwaukee County, some parents have been told that their child support order is not valid, even though the order is correct.

That's outrageous, he said. "They're billing innocent people."

Workers in Brown, Kewaunee and Door counties report getting questions about billing statements.

Brown County officials have gotten a lot of calls about the billing statements, many of them questions about the format and billing amounts included, Nyred said.

In most of the cases where parents are told to be billed, the bills are correct, but the parents are told to be billed in the wrong amount.

State will step up gypsy moth battle

Spraying plans include Shawano Co.

Wisconsin intends to spray about 60,000 acres in 13 counties, including Shawano County, this spring to kill gypsy moth caterpillars.

The population has shifted considerably from last year. Lovett said, "We found higher populations in the southeast part of the state and a little farther west in the state than years past."

By Tuesday, Wednesday in Alcona, the state will discuss the \$300,000 program in a dozen public meetings that continue through Thursday, Feb. 27.

The next installation in Shawano County will be among the areas sprayed, Lovett said.

Spraying the gypsy moth larvae with the bacterial insecticide, which is not good news, he said.

From that standpoint, we are not achieving what we thought we were going to achieve two years ago, he said.

The next installation in Shawano County will be among the areas sprayed, Lovett said.

Such an attack is not planned until at least 1998, he said.

Federal, tribal officials want say in Fox cleanup

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

Outside and Milwaukee tribal and federal officials are disputing how being left out of a cleanup agreement between Wisconsin and Iowa.

The agreement, announced last week by the federal government and others, is for Northwestern Wisconsin's two major Indian reservations.

In the wake of the agreement, the Fish and Wildlife Service said it would be included in the continuing cleanup discussions between the state and the paper mill.

The Fish and Wildlife Service on Friday mailed a 60-day notice of the agreement to the paper mill.

Please see F-2

Reaction on plan from environmental groups

That's outrageous. They're billing innocent people. Christopher Wether, Milwaukee County.

We have support automatically withheld from their paychecks, he said.

Kewaunee County workers have gotten calls from people who were billed when their accounts were closed, child support coordinator Bruce Wiest said.

We're a smaller county where we can do that. Wiest said.

Our workload isn't as high as Milwaukee's, obviously, said Jim Jacobson, deputy child support clerk in Door County Court.

In Milwaukee County, other reports indicated people who do child support orders getting statements with errors of \$2,000 and more in 1996.

At the opposite extreme, a couple of parents received a sample statement showing they owed \$7 cents, said Gary Harauk, Milwaukee County clerk of circuit court.

In most of the cases where parents are told to be billed, the bills are correct, but the parents are told to be billed in the wrong amount.

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Two say they won Powerball jackpot

WISCONSIN RAPIDS (AP) — A man and woman contacted the store where a winning \$20.8 million Powerball jackpot ticket was sold about claiming that prize but they did not immediately submit it for verification, officials said.

Tom Washack, manager at the Sentry Foods store, said Monday the man and woman came forward Sunday after the drawing ceremony night. But he said the couple asked that no information about them be immediately released, and the store was honoring that request.

Scott Meiske, communications director of the Wisconsin Lottery, said Monday that winners have 180 days to cash the ticket before it expires.

"It's very overwhelming for people," he said of those who have won large amounts. "They're not the first and foremost in their minds."

The Powerball winner waited two months before coming forward, Meiske said, but another couple held a television press conference the morning after winning before they even verified the numbers with lottery officials.

The regular numbers drawn Saturday night were 3, 16, 26, 30, 40 and the Powerball itself was 8.

"It's kind of exciting," he said. "It's good to see people who have won large amounts. I think it's going to start paying them now."

Meanwhile, Powerball's top prize is to return to \$5 million for Wednesday's drawing.

FOX From B-1

out at least \$100 million.

The river is contaminated with about 80,000 pounds of potentially toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other pollutants, including copper pipes, the thermal contaminants and the waste stream, and ultimately the river through river jetties.

Today, the Fox River is said to have the highest concentration of PCBs of anywhere in the Great Lakes region, prompting health advisories for fish and waterfowl taken from its waters.

John Christian, assistant regional director of the Fish & Wildlife Service Region 3 office in Fort Snelling, Minn., said federal and tribal representatives had to meet this week to review last week's agreement.

At first blush, the cleanup agreement doesn't appear to go far enough. Federal officials say another concern is a much larger project: a \$100-million cleanup of the river as opposed to further cleanup.

Since 1992, the DNR has worked with the tribe to reach an agreement to remove the contamination. Reversing the process was more than a decade ago, the Fish & Wildlife Service in 1981 launched a federal Resource Damage Assessment project to clean up the river.

Today, the DNR has worked with the tribe to reach an agreement to remove the contamination. Reversing the process was more than a decade ago, the Fish & Wildlife Service in 1981 launched a federal Resource Damage Assessment project to clean up the river.

The federal and state agencies are confidential to negotiations in preparation for litigation, Johnson said. This instance doesn't fall squarely within the exception because the DNR has not filed a claim and is working to avoid litigation.

In any case, the intent of the law is to favor openness, he said.

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Bears fan pays off his Super Bowl bet



Doing the wave: Carl Wendorf waves at cars passing by his Evanston home. Wendorf, an avid Chicago Bears fan, was paying off a bet he made last October. The wager: If the Packers made it to and win the Super Bowl, he had to wear Packers clothing and sit in the front yard for four hours.

meets — together with the two tribes — are considered trustees of the water in the NEPA process, which each bring a suit to force the cleanup should proceed.

But the state says its authority over the waterway supervises and enforces the federal government's and the state does not require the authority in the matter.

Johnson said the state's failure to accept a tribal role in cooperation with a recent federal decision granting the DNR authority to set water quality standards for waters passing through the reservation.

"We want to see what effect the release of these PCBs has had on tribal resources," he said. "The customary uses of the resource might have been affected."

Johnson said this instance doesn't fall squarely within the exception because the DNR has not filed a claim and is working to avoid litigation.

In any case, the intent of the law is to favor openness, he said.

AGREEMENT PUTS PREMIUM ON PRIVACY

Documents and information related to the negotiations shall not be released or disseminated to any one except the attorneys, consultants and administrative personnel involved ... and principals and their spouses and indentured.

"It's sort of shady to me," said Frank Ashbaugh, a Madison lawyer who consults for Wisconsin's Environmental Dioxide, a Madison-based advocacy group, and specializes in open records law.

"How can we judge whether the DNR is doing a good job on behalf of the public if we don't know how they're doing it?" he said.

"It's reasonable for the DNR to make public the claims it has against the companies."

Although the state's open meetings and open records laws grant confidentiality to negotiations in preparation for litigation, Johnson said. This instance doesn't fall squarely within the exception because the DNR has not filed a claim and is working to avoid litigation.

In any case, the intent of the law is to favor openness, he said.

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Tobacco lobbying expected to increase

MADISON (AP) — Tobacco companies spent at least \$300 million lobbying state legislators in 1996 and are expected to devote even more time and money to it this year when a cigarette tax increase is at stake.

Philip Morris Inc. spent \$200 million and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. spent \$100 million lobbying legislators last year, mostly on smoking-related issues, according to company reports filed with the state Ethics Board and reviewed by The Associated Press.

"I think our lobbying was worthwhile. I think we've won our point of view on an inter-agency level," said R.J. Reynolds regional director in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The reports don't specify the amount of time and money devoted to a particular issue.

In addition to lobbying, Philip Morris donated \$100 to Gov. Tommy Thompson's campaign through its political action committee last year, according to company reports filed with the state Election Board.

The PAC donated \$500 of that on Jan. 21, four days before Thompson gave Attorney General James Doyle permission to sue tobacco companies to recover millions of dollars in health care costs.

1996 lobbying expenditures

Associated Press
New tobacco companies lobbied in Wisconsin last year:
• Philip Morris Inc.: \$200 million
• R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.: \$100 million

R.J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO.
• Money: \$78,527
• Time: 252.2 hours
Source: Report on the state election process filed

smoking-related illnesses.

The lawsuit is held in Thompson and Doyle argue over whether Doyle made the private attorney he says to file the case.

Thompson Chief of Staff John Matthews said a Philip Morris attorney "contacted our office to ask whether Wisconsin was going to join the lawsuit," and provided oral legal advice with information about the lawsuit.

That is what the political press says, Matthews said.

Matthews said the company declined to say whether the company has lobbied on the lawsuit or intends to R.J. Reynolds' Marshall said his company has not lobbied on the lawsuit.

Chief among the tobacco industry's opponents in Wisconsin in 1996 was a bill that would have set maximum limits on cigarette taxes that the state is to keep tobacco production from increasing.

The proposal never got a vote because of the lobbying pressure put on lawmakers by pro-tobacco cigarette and food, Andy Ribick, D-Baltimore.

So-called pro-emption laws, which bar commitments from enactment tobacco industries opposed, are part of the tobacco industry's national agenda, said Cassandra Welch, a spokeswoman for the American Lung Association in Washington, D.C.

"They kind of block bills that the health community has introduced, water it down and put in pre-emption," Welch said. "And we've had to pull our ear and we can't support this law that has pre-emption in it."

Legislators expect additional tax smoking legislation to surface this year. It is to make a proposal to raise the 4-cent-per-pack cigarette tax to as much as \$1 per pack, which would give Wisconsin the nation's highest cigarette tax. Washington state's \$2.5-cent-a-pack rate is the next highest.

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