

Opinion

Green Bay Press-Gazette
Comments and suggestions? Call Opinion Page Editor Mike Blacha, (414) 431-6248
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Cleanup details should be open

An announcement that voluntary cleanup of chemical contamination in the Fox River may begin this year is encouraging.

But pressure must be kept on the seven paper mills and two state agencies involved to make sure the \$10 million effort is, as the participants say, only a small "down payment" on a larger effort.

The goal is cleanup of an estimated 90,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) discharged years ago in papermaking.

Since PCBs are linked to cancer and levels in the river and Green Bay are high, eating fish and game regularly from the waters is risky. Sediments, such as dredging spoils, are toxic enough to require containment in approved landfills.

An extensive cleanup will require years and could cost more than \$100 million. While a voluntary agreement in the works since 1992, is better than adversarial court proceedings, the small beginning and laudably paced cleanup is disappointing.

About \$7 million will pay to restore sediments in a demonstration project north of the De Pave dam. That should produce information for use on 18 miles of the Fox River from Lake Winnebago to the bay.

The rest of the \$10 million will go to cleanup near Kimberly, westside restoration of Point Au Sauble and work at 2000 Islands in Kakawaka.

Unfortunately, only one project is expected to be under way this year.

We hope that is not a sign mills and agencies give cleanup a low priority. If so, participants must remember that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a heavy hammer: A Natural Resource Damage Assessment claim that could force mills to restore the river to its original condition, possibly at a much higher cost than anything now being discussed.

In addition, both the Oneida and Menominee Indian tribes want to be part of the discussions. Given the number of parties at the table and the scientific nature of data involved, the cleanup is highly complex. All of us can fol-

There's more to Green Bay than paper and cheese

As where Green Bay works and most people likely will live, paper and food processing plants.

But expansion planned for St. Vincent Hospital and the Green Bay Packer Hall of Fame show there is much more to the community's diversified economy.

In fact, a long-range \$60-million hospital expansion and a \$1.2 million renovation planned this year at the Hall of Fame only reinforce the fact that health care and tourism/hospitality are the community's largest employment sectors.

That is important, both for the thousands of people in Green Bay. The Hall of Fame, for example, attracted more than 155,000 visitors in 1996, its busiest year. That's \$200 million more than 1993, the previous record year. Given Packers prospects, the hall likely will be a busy place for years to come.

At St. Vincent, much of the construction and remodeling to begin in 1997 and continue for three years will enhance the Regional Cancer Center and the Regional Emergency Department. As the names indicate, Green Bay is a regional medical center for the 800,000 people who live in 14 Wisconsin and Upper Michigan counties.

Papermaking and food processing will continue to be major factors in the economy. But more and more, Green Bay's prosperity will be tied to the number of people drawn here for medical care, shopping, entertainment and conventions.

The people who operate St. Vincent Hospital and the Hall of Fame understand that. They are planning expansions to handle a growing number of visitors. Now that entire community must realize that giving non-residents a good reason to come here is increasingly important.



Listen for silent screams for help

In the early 1980s, for about four to five weeks each year, many Hispanic families in Brown County in northeast Wisconsin to pick up their children from a family who faithfully made the journey to Oconto. The entire destination for many of us was the Best Public Co. plant on the north side of the town.

My memories of doing migrant work in Oconto are both good and bad. One of the good memories is Father Philip Heenan. Today he works for the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay.

Father Heenan would come to the migrant camps to speak to the group and occasionally to move with the camp.

An incident of 1989 happened when we were in Brown County. In many ways, it is one of the saddest days in Oconto. Some are talking residents of Brown County and others have arrived as legal or illegal immigrants.

Some have come to be recruited with families to work employment and to escape political and religious persecution. The religious community in Brown County has an opportunity to share the gospel with this sector of society.

We need money and missionaries to Spanish-speaking countries to convert them to the word of God. And yet, in a

People's Forum

Love has healing value

MAINEITE - Why shouldn't two people of the same sex who have a love for one another have the freedom to express it?

Different cultures have different values. In some cultures, a woman being with the wife of her husband is not only allowed, but is considered a virtue.

Love, like freedom, is a many splendored thing. Children and adults can have affection for one another, but it's not a family trait. We don't see one another as love relationships with one another.

Love is a beautiful thing. When utilized and nurtured, the nature of America's law on the ground and the ability to find ways. When they become civilized, they lose that ability.

Love has a healing value. My older sister was dying of cancer in Florida and she thought she had no more time to live. The doctor said an improvement in her condition would be an improvement in her condition.

A person who has just the ability of loving has difficulty in accepting the benefits of a loving person.

Love is a beautiful thing. When utilized and nurtured, the nature of America's law on the ground and the ability to find ways. When they become civilized, they lose that ability.

Donics is a hoax

DE PERE - The Catholic School Board has made its decision to recognize abortion as an official language. They claim to have used and entered into a contract and follow strict governmental guidelines. There are several words used in the inner city that are not used elsewhere.

In the reality of separate language from English or a regional accent.

Are there other forms of English that should be recognized?

Let athletes speak of faith

GREEN BAY - Open. Your lines is showing. The Jan. 29 Press-Gazette contained quotes from the Packers players who participated in the prayerful line at Lambeau Field last night.

When I watched these great players on television during night, some of the fine lines they spoke of faith in the Packers, Catholics and football games.

By supporting abortion, the Catholic School Board is supporting the premise that athletes are inferior to other races because they can't learn English. This is wrong.

Eric Winberg, De Pere

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- **Lighthouse Hot Lines** (800) 365-9472
- **Wisconsin Consumer Protection Hot Lines** (800) 427-7129
- **Food conditions:** (800) 785-3847
- **Division of Tourism:** (800) 375-9775
- **Wisconsin problems:** (800) 937-8951
- **Crime Victim compensation:** (800) 448-5564
- **Outbackman for the agies:** (800) 242-1080

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(414) 431-6248 (414) 431-6379