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EDITORIALS

Businessman gives the 'green' light to saving some energy

To a lot of people, global warming is either an alarming wakeup call or just a theory in some scientist's head.

The issue remains a debate. But what Stephen Field discovered is not theory, hypotheticals or a notion of some scientist. It is reality.

Field is the president of Synergy Hospitality headquartered in Wayne.

Synergy Hospitality develops and operates hotels, including the Holiday Inn Express-Exton in West Whiteland; Homewood Suites Valley Forge in Lower Providence; Holiday Inn City Line in Philadelphia; and the new Staybridge Suites-Brinton Lake in Concord.

Recently, the executive decided to figure out the effect his hotels were having on the environment. Field calculated the carbon footprint of his hotels starting with the Holiday Inn Express and what he found was alarming.

At www.nativeenergy.com, Native Energy estimated the Exton location emitted 663 tons of carbon dioxide per year - roughly the amount 110 cars would produce annually.

Armed with that information, Field set about to "go green" by neutralizing the hotels' carbon footprint.

In addition to switching the hotels' standard light bulbs to more energy-efficient lighting, switching to recycled paper and other recycled products, Field purchased carbon dioxide offsets, or credits, from Native Energy equal to the amount of emissions his Holiday Inn Express was responsible for each year.

The hotel became the first hotel in the Philadelphia area to offset its carbon emissions with 100 percent wind-based, renewable energy, he said.

"It is relatively inexpensive, about \$6,500 a year to buy the credits. It's about 7 to 8 percent of the total utility bill," said Field, who compares buying carbon credits to his wife buying a hybrid car. "It cost a little bit more but it gives you a good feeling."

Carbon dioxide offsetting is an alternative for people and businesses who want to reduce their emissions but find it too expensive or difficult to do so. The renewable energy projects funded by the purchase of these offsets displace electricity from fossil fuels and reduce other greenhouse gas emissions.

The specific wind projects that the Holiday Inn Express-Exton is funding through Native Energy include the Owl Feather War Bonnet Wind Farm and Alaska Native Village Wind.

Field's current "green" project is Staybridge Suites-Brinton Lake in Concord, which is being built with an energy management system designed to save 10 to 20 percent power usage for the hotel.

Before applying his environmental-friendly policies at work, Field had been doing the same thing at home. He uses compact fluorescent lights at home and buys a portion of his residential electricity from wind-powered sources.

He realized his environmental push at home was nothing compared to the carbon footprint his hotels were responsible for, which is why he was motivated to do the same with his work.

"I decided to put my money where my mouth is," Field said.

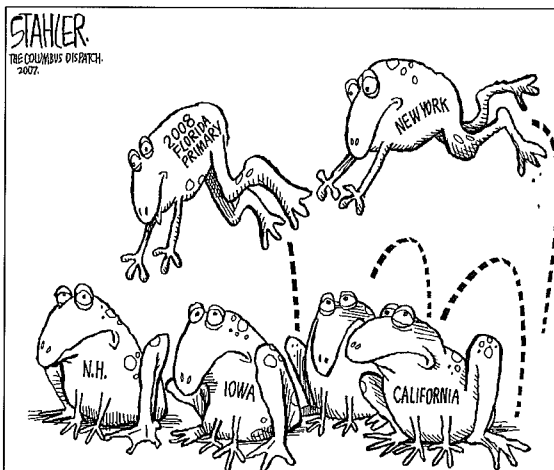
We should all follow Field's lead. It's easy to talk about the environment and global warming as we leave lights on and the dishwasher running at home and climb into giant SUVs to make 15 separate shopping trips.

If we all did what Stephen Field is doing, wouldn't the Earth be a better place?

INSPIRATION

"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath."

- EPHESIANS 4:26



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chief a realist about drug problem

I am not a resident of Coatesville nor have I ever met Police Chief William Matthews, but I do know his comments that appeared in Tuesday's (May 22) paper provide the framework for a realistic approach to solving any community's drug problem. Conversely, the opinions expressed in the Daily Local News editorial of the same day were unfair. To categorize Mr. Williams' judgment as "bizarre at best," if based only on his letter to the editor, was irresponsible.

As the former president and CEO of White Deer Run Treatment Centers, an organization that provided substance abuse and addictions treatment to more than 8,500 patients each year, and a board member of the Drug and Alcohol Service Providers of Pennsylvania for many years, I experienced firsthand the issues discussed by Mr. Matthews and the DLN editorial.

While I agree with your paper's editorial, and Mr. Matthews, that law enforcement plays a vital role in working to rid our communities of illegal drugs, law enforcement can never singlehandedly eliminate the problem. Mr. Matthews is absolutely correct. Every arrested drug dealer will be replaced almost as soon as the arrest is made. In my experiences working with public officials across the commonwealth, I saw it happen time and time again. There is simply too much demand for illegal drugs and too much money to be made by criminals. This idea goes straight to the reason America will never win the poorly named "War on Drugs." This "war" can only be won by reducing the demand.

Law enforcement, border security and even military action in foreign countries will never make a significant reduction in illegal drug

use without a coordinated effort of treatment, education and prevention programs. Most of America, including a vast majority of our elected officials, has no idea of the extent of the problem. Depending on which study you cite, addiction and substance abuse directly affects anywhere from 6 percent to 12 percent of Americans. It is a huge problem that costs this country, not only thousands of lives each year, but hundreds of billions of dollars in direct costs and lost productivity.

Addiction is a medical condition which is just as treatable as diabetes or heart disease. Treatment for addictions and substance abuse saves upward of \$10 in health care, law enforcement, and social services costs for every dollar invested to treat an addict. When short-sighted politicians begin to adequately fund treatment programs, community education efforts, and prevention services to the point where a significant reduction in demand is realized, then, and only then, will the valiant efforts of law enforcement make a long-term difference.

I applaud Mr. Matthews' realistic approach. He knows, unlike the editors of the DLN, that it will take a concerted effort from the citizens of Coatesville to make a difference in the city's drug problem. The DLN was wrong in stating "Plain and simple, it's the job of the police." Unless the citizens of Coatesville (or any other community), their public officials, community organizations, and drug treatment programs become actively involved in working with law enforcement, there will never be a real change in the city's drug problem.

STEVE WICKE
Milvren

Police need our help in drug war

"Together we can change things" - William H. Matthews, Coatesville Chief of Police (DLN, May 22). With reference to the above letter: I have been a firm supporter of the DLN for many years in bringing into perspective the antics of our elected officials, and I value the support that they have given me with my own battles with the local Valley Township and some of their actions, along with the arrest, but unfortunately true coverage given on the behavior of their counterparts in the Coatesville City Council.

The appointment of Chief Matthews was, and still is under a cloud, due to the nature of his selection. We have come to accept (until his recent election) the antics of some City Council members and their cronies such as our rather dubious city manager and his secretive dealings over the period of his appointment, including the chief's appointment.

However, I must in this instance disagree with your editorial on the chief's letter. The chief's statement that "The sad truth is that, though continuing drug investigations and arrests are necessary, they will not make a real difference on the streets" is absolutely true - unless we all take on board his view that the problem is one in which we are all involved

and that a share of that responsibility is ours. But where I took offense was given by such people as the City Council leader, Ms. Ray who pleaded for leniency for a friend's self-confessed drug dealing, to the point that Ms. Ray would have us believe that the person concerned should have received a citizen's award for good behavior and that the police action was the one that needed to be questioned, almost making drug-dealing an acceptable occupation. With this attitude and example set by the leader of council, how can we expect to clean up this city?

The only way we will beat this problem is to recognize that it's not just the police who should shoulder the responsibility, but all of us. When we see drug activity, don't close your eyes to it - report it. We don't pay our police officers enough to put their lives on the line every day. Be thankful for the fact that they are prepared to do so and help them in this task. It's this town's children who are being killed - either by drugs or bullets. We must all help the police in this battle if we are to win back our streets.

DAVID WINCH
Valley

Customer service is lacking these days

What happened to the phrase, "Can I help you?" or "What can I do for you?"

When you need to call a company: water, electric, cable, phone, etc., the first thing you have to do is go through the company directory for 10 or 15 minutes, just to talk to a person, and then they ask you for your name, your account number, Social Security number, phone number, blood type and then they put you on hold.

The first question is "How do you want to pay your bill," even if you don't owe anything. In the next 30 to 40 minutes, you try to ex-

plain your problem, but it just seems to be about paying your bill. Even after you've explained your problem, before you hang up, they remind you of when your next payment is due. There's no "thank you" or "have a nice day."

It used to be when you called a company, a person would give their name and then ask, "How may I help you?" Whatever happened to service?

W.C. JONES JR.
Coatesville

Immigration compromise lacks vision

WASHINGTON - Compromise is incessantly praised, and has produced the proposed immigration legislation. But compromise is the mother of complexity, which, regarding immigration, virtually guarantees - as the public understands - weak enforcement and noncompliance.

Although the compromise was announced the day the Census Bureau reported that there now are 100 million nonwhites in America, Americans are skeptical about the legislation, but not because they have suddenly succumbed to nativism. Rather, the public has slowly come to the conclusion that the government cannot be trusted to mean what it says about immigration.

In 1986, when there probably were 3 million to 5 million illegal immigrants, Americans accepted an amnesty because they were promised that border control would promptly follow. Today the 12 million illegal immigrants, 60 percent of whom have been here five or more years, are as numerous as Pennsylvanians; 44 states have populations smaller than 12 million. Departing the 12 million would require police resources and methods that the nation would rightly flinch. So, why not leave bad enough alone?

Concentrate on border control, and workplace enforcement, facilitated by a biometric identification card issued to immigrants who are or will arrive here legally. Treat the problem of the 12 million with benign neglect. Their children born here are American citizens; the parents of these children will pass away.

Under current immigration policies, America is importing another underclass, one "with the potential to expand indefinitely," according to Heather Mac Donald of the Manhattan Institute. To sentimentalists who cling to "the myth of the redeeming power of Hispanic family values, the Hispanic work ethic, and Hispanic virtue," she says:

From 1990 to 2004, Hispanics accounted for 92 percent of the increase in poor people. Only 53 percent of Hispanics earn high school diplomas, the lowest among American ethnic groups. Half of all children born to Hispanic-Americans in 2005 are out of wedlock - a reliable predictor of social pathologies. The legislation supposedly would shift policy from emphasizing family unification to emphasizing economic criteria (skills) when setting eligibility for immigrants. Critics say this will sunder families. But the sundering has happened; it was done by illegal immigrants who left family members behind and are free to reunite with their families where they left them.

It is highly suspicious that there was a rush - fortunately stymied - to pass this legislation through both houses and get it to conference, where the majority of participants will be Democrats eager to court Hispanic votes.

Some Democrats argue that liberalism's teetering achievement, the welfare state, requires liberal immigration policies. The argument is: Today there are only 3.3 workers for every retiree. In January, the first of 77 million baby boomers begin to retire. By the time they have retired, there will be 2.2 workers for every retiree - but only if the work force is replenished by 500,000 immigrants a year.

On Monday, however, Robert Reector of The Heritage Foundation stunned some senators who heard his argument that continuing under family-based immigration, to import a low-skilled population will cost the welfare state far more than the immigrants' contributions to the economy and government. He argued that low-skilled immigrants are costly to the welfare state at every point in their life cycle, and are very costly when elderly. Just the 9 million to 10 million illegal adults already here will, if given amnesty, cost an average of \$300,000 - cumulatively, more than \$2.6 trillion - in various entitlements (Social Security, food stamps, Medicaid, housing, etc.) over 30 years.

To those who say border control is impossible - often these are the same people who said better policing could not substantially reduce crime, until it did - one answer is: It took just 34 months for the Manhattan Project to progress from the creation of the town of Oak Ridge in the Tennessee wilderness to the atomic explosion at Alamogordo, N.M. That is what America accomplishes when serious.

(George Will writes for the Washington Post Writers Group.)