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OPINION

The Sheboygan Press

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OUR VIEW PRESS EDITORIALS

Airport landfill suitable for river sediment

Neighbors of the Sheboygan County Memorial Airport are raising legitimate concerns over the planned use of airport lands to dispose of non-hazardous sediment from the Sheboygan River.

The sediment, which contains polychlorinated biphenyls in a very low concentration, will be removed from the river east of the Eighth Street Bridge to the Sheboygan Harbor. It is the final step in a more than 20-year Environmental Protection Agency

Superfund project to rid the river and harbor of PCB-laden sediment. PCBs, a chemical used in the manufacture of various products, have been linked to cancer in lab animals. It is also part of an effort to deepen the river channel for larger boats, something that hasn't been done for years.

About 170,000 cubic yards of sediment will be trucked to the airport and buried in three 8- to 10-foot deep cells on undevelopable land.

Airport neighbors are worried about potential groundwater pollution that would affect their wells and also the effect on farms in the area.

At a recent meeting of the Sheboygan Falls Town Board, which must issue a conditional-use permit to allow the landfill, county officials addressed the airport neighbors' concerns.

According to an environmental assessment, the sediment from the river east of the Eighth Street Bridge contains 1 part per million of PCBs and qualifies as a nonhazardous material. Although nonhazardous, the sediment will be buried in 49 feet of nearly impervious clay and will be capped by both clay and topsoil.

The land will also be left undisturbed in the future and because it will continue to be owned by the county it

won't be forgotten or ignored.

We agree with Sheboygan County Planning Director Aaron Brault's observation that PCBs now in Sheboygan River sediment are more likely to come in contact with the general public than sediment buried in a clay-lined landfill.

That's why advisories against eating only minimal amounts of fish taken from

the river have been around for years. Eventually, the cleanup of the river between She-

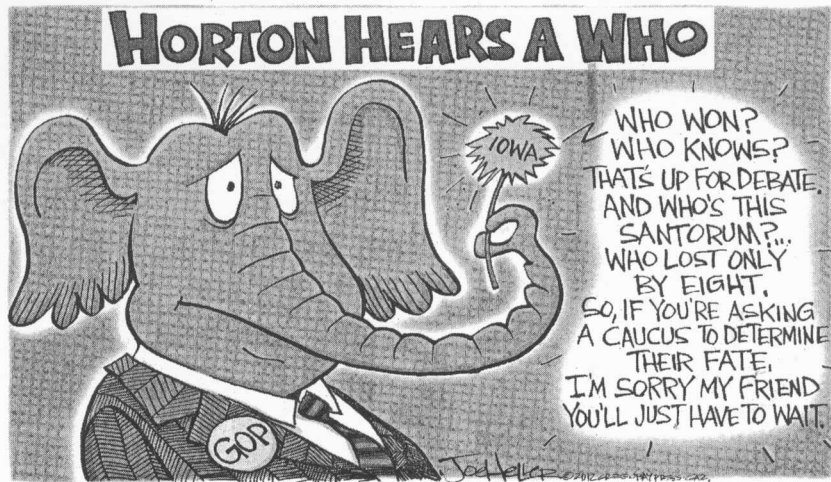
boygan Falls and the harbor, will allow these advisories to be lifted.

We are happy that County Administrator Adam Payne has indicated the county is willing to work with airport neighbors on a well monitoring program to ensure that their drinking water remains safe and any problems are corrected quickly. Remember, too, that the county has a substantial interest in maintaining a safe airport site for long-term use and is using the best science available on safe disposal of river sediment that contains PCBs and other pollutants.

It is imperative that the county continues to exchange all available information with airport neighbors and continues to answer questions.

Both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources support the site. An environmental assessment will soon be available for public review, but there is nothing in the preliminary drafts to indicate long-term problems.

If everything passes muster in the final assessment, nothing should prevent the Sheboygan Falls Town Board from approving the conditional-use permit sought by Sheboygan County.



YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Several reasons to recall Gov. Walker

There have been many who ask why recall Gov. Walker? Why indeed?

According to a report recently released by the Institute for Wisconsin's Future, the average state worker is taking home roughly \$3,600 less per year thanks to Act 10. That is about \$70 less per week spent in local stores and on services.

If you add up all the state and local employees, the amount of money lost to local economies is more than \$700 million.

Another reason to recall Gov.

Walker: the Institute for Wisconsin's Future report also states that Wisconsin has lost 27,600 jobs since June. This is higher than any other state in the nation.

The governor's agenda is harming Wisconsin.

The most important reason for recall, however, is the way Gov. Walker has divided the people of this state. A leader is someone who brings people together. He or she encourages collaboration and compromise from both sides when working toward a goal.

Gov. Walker has divided when he should be uniting.

Had he been willing to listen to other options, we all could have tackled the state's challenges together. The governor was elected to serve the Wisconsin people. Many already have decided that having the governor continue to serve is not in the best interest of Wisconsin.

Please join us and sign the petition to recall Gov. Walker.

Jessica Stoller
Sheboygan

Filicky-Peneski best choice in mayoral recall

The mayoral recall election is only a couple of weeks away and the citizens of Sheboygan have a big decision to make. There has been enough disruption by, and total disgust with Sheboygan's mayor to vote in new leadership for the next 15 months.

We are supporting Roberta Filicky-Peneski for that change in leadership, and we urge all vot-

ers to do the same. Having known Roberta for over 40 years, both professionally and personally, we find her to have integrity, honesty, dignity, and leadership qualities — all necessary attributes to lead Sheboygan in these difficult times.

We cannot wait another 15 months for the regular mayoral election to make a change. Now

is the time to make that decision. Roberta will change this embarrassing situation because she will immediately step in and restore stability and dignity to the office of mayor.

Please join us in voting for Roberta Filicky-Peneski.

Dick & Donna Suscha
Sheboygan

We need a president who will listen, not dictate

This letter is in regard to the interview of President Obama on 60 minutes on Dec. 11.

If you didn't see it, you should be aware of how socialistic this president is. He is quoted as saying, "The contrast in visions between where I want to take the country and what ... where they say they I want to take the coun-

try is going to be stark."

Do you really think that we need an "I, and me, person" as president of the United States of America?

Obama has shown his "I, and me," side before also by pushing the Congress and the Senate to adopt "his" health-care reform before they even had time to ad-

equately study it in its entirety.

Today, most states are trying to opt out of this nightmare of Obamacare.

We need a "we, and us," president. Someone who is willing to listen, not dictate.

Randall Bonde
Newton

OTHER VIEWS NATIONAL ISSUES

Information is there — just read it

A friend of mine hands me what looks like a business card. It says, "Don't Die Stupid." As America begins another round of voting to select the next president, or retain the current one, what we need is a stupid test. Flunk it and you shouldn't vote.

Evidence of the dumbing-down of America is everywhere. Some of it is chronicled in a new book, "Blue Collar Intellectuals: When the En-

Cal
Thomas



Columnist

Speaking in insider jargon and writing unread books, intellectuals have locked themselves away in a ghetto of their own creation."

That has left the nonintellectual class to fend for itself. One library in Portland, Me., rather than leading, is being led by the unformed teenage mind. "Video gaming is just a new form of literacy," says the "teen librarian." If so, what's the new form of illiteracy, ignorance about how to use a joystick?

Flynn quotes from Steven Johnson's book, "Everything Bad is Good for You: How Today's Popular Culture is Actually Making Us Smarter." Sure, and sugar makes us slimmer. Johnson says, "Real-

the school spent \$500,000 on an Orwellian 'learning center' complete with three giant flat-screen televisions and a cappuccino machine. School officials guessed that only a few dozen books had been checked out in any one time."

The solution? Get rid of the books. Don't get kids interested in books when they'd rather play "World of Warcraft," or if younger, watch cartoons, which can't be that different from "The Canterbury Tales," right?

Our intellectual depth increasingly resembles floor wax; shiny on top, but lacking depth. A muscle atrophies if it is not used. Similarly, a mind becomes lazy if it is