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Nov. 9

Local

EPA is more toxic than radon gas

Health quiz time: What invisible, odorless, tasteless toxin seeps into homes, schools and other buildings?

Is it A) radon gas or B) the malignant influence of the Environmental Protection Agency? The answer is — B.

This month, detection devices will be placed in school buildings in several Utah schools districts, among them Provo and Alpine districts. The devices will remain in place for one year in order to measure radon concentrations. The survey will cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000, which will be paid through a grant from the E.P.A.

Radon gas is produced by decaying uranium in rocks and soil. It is described as a cancer risk, especially for young children. According to John Hultquist of the state Bureau of Radiation Control, homes built after the 1970s tend to exceed E.P.A. standards for radon. This is because newer homes are designed to be more energy-efficient. Those who took the "Energy Crisis" seriously in the 1970s now find themselves poorly equipped to deal with the current mini-crisis involving radon.

The E.P.A. estimates that radon exposure leads to 20,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S. every year. However, William Nazaroff of the University of California estimates that less than three percent of total cancer risks resulting from radon exposure occur among those who don't smoke. Nazaroff — a highly respected authority on radon risk — believes that the E.P.A.'s campaign to reduce radon risk will cost \$1 trillion; a two percent reduction in smoking would have a greater positive impact than the E.P.A.'s projected crusade.

Buttressing Nazaroff's conclusions is a recent report produced by a National Cancer Institute team led by Dr. John Boice. The report, which was published in June, outlines the findings of a study of Chinese women who were exposed to more than double the average level of residential radon in the U.S. — four times the E.P.A. "Danger Level." Boice's team reports: "No association between radon and lung cancer was observed regardless of cigarette-smoking status." Nor could the NCI team find a firmer correlation between radon and cancer in the data collected



Will Grigg

from the U.S.

Warren Brookes of the Detroit News, who exhumed these data, observed: "Radon is at least two hundred times more dangerous than the next most serious environmental hazard the E.P.A. regulates. If radon is not a danger, nothing else regulated by the E.P.A. is either." The radon campaign is not merely another example of the E.P.A. creating work for itself; it is a product of an agency jealously protecting its raison d'etre.

What are some of the other chimeras that torment the E.P.A.? Pesticides: last February the F.D.A.'s chief toxicologist declared, "I don't honestly believe anyone has ever died of exposure to pesticide residues on food." Yet the E.P.A. is requiring the systematic elimination of pesticides at an economic cost of \$20 billion.

Another quixotic E.P.A. crusade: asbestos removal. Twelve years ago the E.P.A. screamed that asbestos was killing 60,000 Americans a year. By last year, reliable scientific review had reduced the estimate to fewer than five deaths a year; however, this information came while the E.P.A. was engaged in a comprehensive program of asbestos removal that cost \$50-20 billion. By the time a realistic estimate of the threat was available, a great deal of money had already been spent.

There is a nimbleness in the E.P.A.'s ineptitude: it artfully dodges responsibility for its debacles, somehow retaining its credibility. The agency emits a shrill coloratura of alarm — a siren song for professional hypochondriacs.

Those who are involved in the radon monitoring project here in Utah are motivated by a pristine desire to protect children; however, the E.P.A. is using such people as a "human shield" to protect the agency from those who have a nasty habit of judging the agency by its record rather than its professed intentions.

Moroni receives grant for sewer feasibility study

By IDA O. DONALDSON
Herald Correspondent
MORONI — Moroni received an \$18,900 grant recently from the permanent community impact

generating its own power for the system and not needing power from Utah Power & Light. This would be a cost-saving measure for the city, according to Crosland.

Utah has some 'woy

Trade representative says the local

By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN
Herald Staff Writer

Utah has "world class technology" which can be marketed in Europe for a price.

So said J. Carl Walker, Utah's new European trade representative, during a tour of Utah County and visit with local businessmen Thursday.

Walker has been hired by the State of Utah Division of Economic Development to maintain a trade office in Brussels, Belgium.

Walker, who was born in Europe and lived there for 35 years, is fluent in a number of languages. He said he is interested in helping Utah companies market their products in Europe, in participating in "catalog" trade shows in different countries, in helping businessmen

with licensing problems, and promoting joint ventures.

"I am not interested in helping Utah businesses invest in European countries," he said. "My primary goal is to help build Utah businesses."

Richard Bradford, director of Utah Valley Economic Development Association, pointed out that 40 percent of the new jobs in Utah are being created because of exports, and because the dollar is weak on the European market.

Walker agreed that the impetus is the exchange rate, but said we must have products in this state that can be marketed when the exchange rate moves in the opposite direction.

He anticipates participating in

Sewer connection fee

By ANNLEIGH McMANIS
Herald Correspondent

HIGHLAND — The sewer connection fee for residents of the Special Improvement District in Highland were recently assessed by the Highland City Council to be \$2,350.

Residents have been given the option to pay the fee in full or over a period of 10 years. The established connection fee will be charged to any resident in the future who desires to hook onto the sewer.

The city also discussed the idea of setting a citywide sewer connection policy. In the past the policy for connection to the sewer has been inconsistent and mostly voluntary.

One point of view discussed considered the possibility of a mandatory sewer connection fee for all residents who have sewer access.

The council was very divided on the issue.

"I like it if a street wants sewer and two thirds of the homes are for a sewer line I'm not against requiring everyone on the street to connect," said Councilman Kent Day.

Ken Monson felt the purpose of having people pay a mandatory connection fee is to have more money for maintenance on existing sewer lines.

"No council has ever taken view to accrue money from connection costs to pay for repair cost existing sewer lines," said Haws, city operations manager.

Building bought to house service departments

By LAUREL BRADY
Herald Correspondent

MAPLETON — Mapleton has purchased a building to house the police, fire and ambulance departments.

The building was formerly "Steve's Country Store" and was obtained for about \$100,000.

City treasurer David Allen explained funding for the purchase was available without necessitating any change to the city's current budget or a bond issue.

The current city building has already been expanded several times, and there has been concern about its ability to withstand an earthquake or other disaster. The new building has been thoroughly inspected, and found to need only minor remodeling to conform to safety codes.

The city council had earlier approved another expansion to the present building, but put those plans on hold just before construction began to complete acquisition of

Stuccoing

By JULIAN MERCER
Herald Correspondent

LEHI — Bids for stuccoing the exterior walls and repairing the roof on the historic Lehi Memorial Building will be opened at the city offices today.

City officials are hoping the \$50,000 dollars allocated earlier this fall by the city council will be sufficient for the needed work. The local chapter of the American Legion that has charge of the building is also planning additional work on a volunteer basis, according to director Carl Harris.

Mayor Guy Cash said with donated labor the initial \$50,000 amount should increase to around \$75,000. Many of the needed repairs

