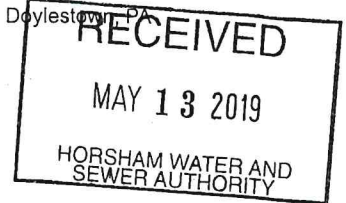


The Intelligencer



Opinion

LTE: Will PFAS get a Croydon Woods-style cleanup?

Posted May 12, 2019 at 5:13 AM

There seems to have been a lapse of editorial oversight for the Tuesday, May 7 edition with a front-page news story with the headline, "Croydon Woods makes comeback." Turned out to be a mashup of reporting and personal opinion. That is, a piece about the successful cleanup, of what the headline rightly termed a "pollution disaster" became a platform for writer JD Mullane's fringe views about environmental issues.

Intertwined with factual reporting about Croydon Woods is the author's view that this success — which took only 35 years and untold amounts of taxpayer money — is somehow evidence that concerns about environmental degradation come from the untrustworthy imaginations of "enviros" — an epithet from right-wing talk radio?

In the case of Croydon Woods, in addition to the unknown cost of this success, we'll never know what damage to the overall environment and human health occurred before 1984 or during the years of cleanup.

That same May 7 front page was topped by another in The Intelligencer's long and excellent series of articles about PFAS contamination. No one even knows the scope of the problem, locally or nationally, let alone any solution other than band-aid fixes like filtration or water importation.

In 35 years, will there be a story about how it's been cleaned up? As for those and their loved ones exposed to the chemicals and affected by cancer and other diseases, are they going to in Mullane's words, "move on to greener, greenie pastures," because "They always do." No, sometimes they don't. And sometimes they just die.

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