

TIDE HUGE DEAL FOR PENN STATE

Last year's spanking still stings | Sports, C1

NARROW FABRIC TO CLOSE Money, A8

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Sewer line leaks again; river, muck delay repair

By Jason A. Kahl
Reading Eagle

In the wake of the recent torrential rains, Reading officials said Friday that the 42-inch sewer pipe that broke two weeks ago — forcing the city to dump millions of gallons of sewage into the Schuylkill River — has sprung another leak.

And the saturated ground and flooded river have complicated plans to fix the problem, city Public Works Director Charles M. Jones said.

“We’ve geared up and have all of the equipment and parts ready to go,” Jones said. “But we have to wait for now. As soon as the river drops, we’ll go in and make the repairs.”

Jones said the break discovered Friday was in a section of the 42-inch force main in the area where the first break occurred about two weeks ago. That break occurred on the west side of the river under a bridge on the West Shore Bypass.

The city diverted raw sewage into the river from the Sixth and Canal streets pumping station to reduce pressure in the main so it could be fixed.

Workers then set up a pipe system to pump the sewage from the break to the treatment plant about a mile downstream.

Friday night Jones said the river was too high and the ground too saturated for workers to go in and dig up the pipe.

The city again will dump sewage into the river from the Sixth and Canal station, but those pipes were underwater Friday, Jones said. If workers tried to discharge sewage into the river, it likely would back up into buildings, he said.

“We have to wait and see,” Jones said about the timeline for the repair. “We hope it’s tomorrow (today). We can’t do it when the ground is too soft.”

The 42-inch main typically handles about 15 million gallons of sewage a day, but the flow could be much higher with the runoff from the recent storms, he said.

City Managing Director Carl E. Geffken said the break likely was caused by the greater volume of water in the pipe from the heavy runoff.

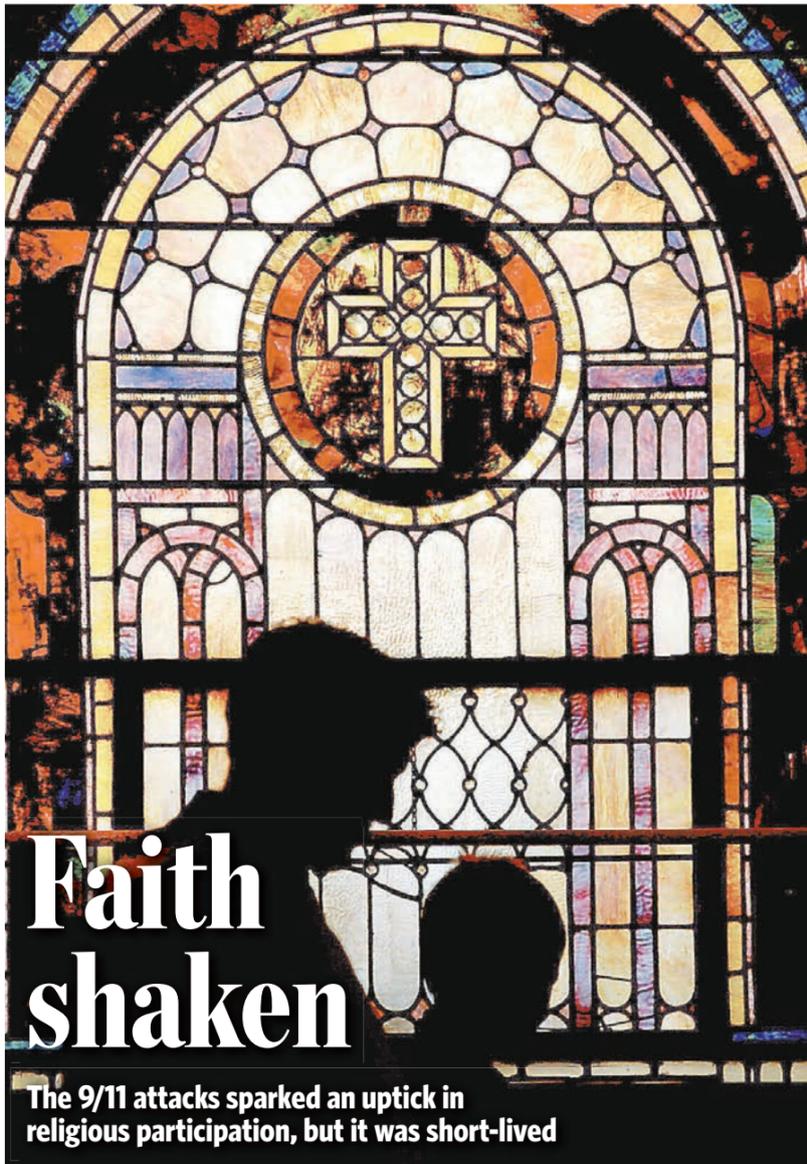
He said the city is working on plans to install a new pipe to create some redundancy in the system but construction is not expected to begin until February.

“It’s unfortunate that these breaks are happening now when we have plans to address this, but you can’t control Mother Nature,” he said.

City officials notified state and federal authorities and officials in Pottstown and Philadelphia, who draw their water from the river.

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9 11 years after
WE REMEMBER



Faith shaken

The 9/11 attacks sparked an uptick in religious participation, but it was short-lived

By Bruce R. Posten
Reading Eagle

IN THE aftermath of 9/11, people flocked to houses of worship in record numbers to seek strength, wisdom, reassurance, guidance and a greater sense of community.

But, 10 years later, many Berks County religious leaders believe that the Sept. 11 tragedy didn’t lead to a sustained commitment toward deeper faith.

They also don’t necessarily think it led to an all-encompassing embrace of daily tolerance, sometimes termed as “understanding” or “acceptance” of others’ beliefs.

“I suspect the sustained response of many Americans was more of a patriotic response than a religious one,” said the Rev. Jeff Raffauf, pastor at West Lawn United Methodist Church.

“Church attendance rose for a time,” he said. “Public prayers may have come back into vogue for a short while. But these signs of public faith have, in many ways, subsided.”

Raffauf said the evening of 9/11 his church was full when it held an impromptu service, as many local churches did. [See For many >>> A3]

Parishoners at Trinity Luthern Church, 6th and Washington streets, on Sept. 16, 2001.

About the series

Sunday: Emotions still raw for visitors to changing ground zero site.
Monday: Artists interpret Sept. 11 in exhibits at local galleries.
Tuesday: A horrific day spurs people to action.
Wednesday: How the R-Phillies won a championship without playing.
Thursday: Exeter Township sharing its 9/11 artifacts for anniversary.
Today: Questions about faith and tolerance linger across America.
Sunday: Reaction to 9/11 and how we are preparing for the anniversary.
Monday: Full coverage of events commemorating the anniversary.

ONLINE EXTRAS

Religious leaders decry hostility to Islam in the wake of 9/11
Faith amid explosions: Profile of an Amity Township survivor of the World Trade Center.



Today

6 a.m. 64°	Noon 77°	6 p.m. 79°



BERKS & BEYOND >>

FLOODWATERS RECEDE BUT PROBLEMS REMAIN

Pennsylvania is officially a disaster area and local officials are busy checking roads, bridges and other infrastructure for damage. **B1**

JELLY TO CRY FOR

Teary eyes and runny noses are the uniform of the weekend at the annual Chile Pepper Food Festival in Bowers. **B1**

NATION >>

HEIGHTENED ALERT

Talk of a new terror threat brings increased security in New York and Washington but occasions little alarm. **A6**

SPORTS >>

R-PHILS ROAR BACK

Reading pounds the New Hampshire Fisher Cats to knot their best-of-five Eastern Division playoffs at one game each. **C1**

LIFE >>

CHURCH ROLLS UP ITS SLEEVES

Hopewell Christian Fellowship runs the Crossroads Career Network to help the unemployed and underemployed. **D1**

Coming Sunday

TEEN ANXIETY

A local therapist reports an increase in high school and college students struggling with the need to excel.



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