FATHER'S DAY
DEPLOYED DAD

Army Capt. Jonathan Johnson is celebrating his first Father's Day in Iraq, sharing the love of Fox, Heather, and infant daughters Rachel, via the Internet. Read their truly heart-warming story and see photos of a dozen other dads in the area.
A3

NATION & WORLD

Tony takes a break

As if he hadn’t done enough to infuriate Gulf Coast residents, BP CEO Tony Hayward is off to see his 52-foot yacht “Bibi” complete in a glitzy race off the coast of England.
B3

COOL STORY

Cool story for a hot day

History columnist Charyl Hofmeister takes us back to an unusually scorching time in Scorton — the summer of 1827, when the city not only opened three new Olympic-style swimming pools, but three of the world’s best swimmers dedicated themselves to the sport.

PEOPLE

A century of service

Meet Doo-Doo Moose, right, and Helen Kilcullen, who have given a combined 200 years of volunteer service to Mercy Hospital in addition to their busy careers outside the facility.
A3

LIFESTYLES

Natural, versatile cork

Designers are finding beautiful new uses for cork in furniture, tiles and home accessories. Eco-friendly and home accessories. Eco-friendly.
G1

BUSINESS WEEKLY

Tweeting an old beer

Among the users the Yangtze family has been hearing from is Lord Chesterton Ale. The Pottsville brewer is reviving inter-

IN COUPONS INSIDE!

TROUBLED PROMISE

Investigation:
little oversight, looming problems

BY LAURA LEHNER

As the nation remains riveted by the deadly explosion and ongoing environmental catastrophe at the BP facility in the Gulf of Mexico, the need for oversight, public information and disaster response plans to protect the Earth’s fuel resources has come into sharp focus.

The Times-Tribune, including a review of thousands of Protection documents made available through a Right-to-Know request and interviews with regulators, citizens and scientists, shows the limits of the current regulatory framework to protect the nation.

In Pennsylvania, the troubled promise is the Marcellus Shale, a natural gas-rich geological formation below three-fifths of the state that holds enough recoverable gas to supply all of America’s gas needs for another decade.

A six-month investigation by The Times-Tribune, including a review of thousands of pages of Department of Environmental Protection documents made available through a Right-to-Know request and interviews with regulators, citizens and scientists, shows the limits of the current regulatory framework to protect the nation.

One natural gas well has been drilled into the Marcellus Shale in Lackawanna County, according to deeds recorded with the county.

The total land leased — about 38,000 acres — amounts to an area roughly twice the size.

Today's weather forecast:
Partly cloudy high 82 low 60.

Above: a natural gas drilling rig operates in Dimock Twp., Susquehanna County.
A group of us met recently with the president of the Marcellus Shale Coalition, a business trade organization that filed bankruptcy on Monday. He said he understood the concerns, but he also said that the industry has changed over the past 15 years. The companies are now more transparent, he said, and they are more focused on community engagement.

I believe him. After all, it is a high-value market — like all natural gas. There is a lot of money at stake here.

But what is the industry doing to ensure that its operations are safe and environmentally friendly? The industry says it is making progress, but I am not convinced.

I think it is safe to say that the industry has not adequately addressed the concerns of the community or the environment. It is high time for the industry to step up and be responsible for its operations.

I understand that the industry is facing significant financial challenges. But I also believe that the industry has a lot to lose if it continues to ignore the concerns of the community and the environment.

We need to work together to find solutions that are good for all parties involved. The industry needs to be more accountable and transparent in its operations. The community needs to be better informed about the risks and benefits of natural gas development. We need to find a way to balance the needs of the industry with the needs of the community.

I believe that this is possible. But it will require a concerted effort by all parties involved. We need to be more open and transparent in our discussions. We need to be more willing to listen to each other.

I am optimistic that we can find a way to make natural gas development work for everyone. It is a complex issue, but I believe that we can find a way to make it work.

I look forward to working with you all to find a solution to this important issue.
Many scientists will tell you there is no way to predict industrial impact.