



A newsletter dedicated to Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention www.abpa-sa.org
January Vol. 24 Issue 1

'Evil Genius' Hides Use of Contaminated Well For Over 20 Years

A U.S. District judge sentenced two officials to two years of probation for funneling tainted water into the drinking supply of an Illinois town.

"Evidence at a trial this summer showed that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency determined in 1986 that the well was contaminated" but the officials "helped hide the continued use of the well," according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

The well water in Crestwood, IL contained vinyl chloride, which can cause cancer, the *Sun-Times* said. The cover-up dragged on from 1986 to 2007. When the Illinois EPA checked the levels in October 2007, it found "5.4 ppb of vinyl chloride and 1.61 ppb of cis-1,2-DCE," according to agency [documents](#) on the scandal.

The officials who were sentenced included "Theresa Neubauer, 55 — a former Crestwood Police Chief, who also ran the water department for years — and water operator Frank Scaccia, 61," the report said.

The prosecution pushed for harsher penalties, but the judge saw them as simply carrying out the orders of a higher-up, who she termed an "evil genius." The higher-up was former Crestwood Mayor Chester Stranczek.

The paper reported that Stranczek, who moved to Florida, "only escaped prosecution because of his failing mental health, which prevents him from ever standing trial."

The two officials who were charged expressed remorse and said they kept silent out of fear. "Both Neubauer and Scaccia, who has late stage renal failure, made emotional apologies Thursday, saying they and their own families also drank the tainted water and that they'd gone along with the scam because Stranczek would have fired them if they'd blown the whistle," the report said.

Under the scheme, Crestwood kept two sets of documents, [according to the Chicago Tribune](#): "One set, for internal use only, outlined how much water was pumped monthly from the tainted well directly into the village's drinking water system. The other set, sent to state and federal regulators, claimed the well never was used."

The scandal could have grave effects on public health.

"Pending lawsuits, one that includes Krause as a plaintiff, blame the well water for a variety of illnesses. A 2010 health department report did find cancer rates were higher than average in Crestwood but didn't make a definite link to the tainted water," the Associated Press [reported](#).

By [Sara Jerome](#) with [Water Online](#)

“The Solution to Cross Connection Control is NOT dilution”

January Meeting Details

Meetings of the San Antonio Chapter ABPA are usually held the second Thursday of every month except December. Dinner and refreshments are served at 6:00 p.m. sharp with the meeting starting at 6:30. The next meeting is:

Date: Thursday, January 8, 2014

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: 6425 Evers Rd.
Leon Valley Conference Center

Program: WWIP – Backflow enclosures and Febco backflow preventers

Meal: WWIP

**No alcoholic beverages
allowed by
TCEQ**

Next Meeting: February 13, 2014

Big Thanks to

Michael Salinas with Park USA for his support of ABPA-SA by providing our November meal and for providing the training session on methods and solutions for the water and backflow industries.

Park USA also provided two \$50 gift cards for the raffle drawing.

Director's Meeting January Agenda

- 5:00 p.m. General discussion and quorum confirmation
- 5:15 p.m. Call Meeting to order.
- 5:16 p.m. Secretary's Report. Read and approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 5:20 p.m. Treasurer's Report. Discussion and approval of the treasurer's report.
- 5:25 p.m. Supply Officer's Report
- 5:30 p.m. Vice President's, Directors, and any other reports for the good of the chapter. Comments, new business, any discussion.
- 5:40 p.m. Training Report. Training & Meal Sponsors
- 5:45 p.m. Webmaster Report
- 5:50 p.m. President's Report. New & old business
- 6:00 p.m. Meal is served.
- 6:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting
 1. Gauges to be tested. Bill Hamrick-Carl Michaud
 2. Irrigator's Report. Ron Renouf
 3. Anything from the Directors Meeting. Jeff Hoffman
 4. Election of Officers & Directors
 5. City, regional and national reports. Bruce Rathburn and any City personnel present
 6. First time attendees or visitors (get w/Troy for membership)
 7. Supply Officer Report. Troy Baird
 8. Raffle prize announcement.
 9. Training program for the evening.

Ongoing Goals of ABPA-SA Chapter

1. Educational Outreach with public by presenting at PHCC meetings, engineering firms, schools, and neighborhood associations. Continuing goal.
2. Greater use of TCEQ website. Tracking of CEUs, Services available. Personal education.
3. Increase member awareness of importance of chapter meetings. Increase attendance and public awareness.
4. Increase website resource information. More detailed links to more information like TCEQ, COSA, and any place that would be helpful to our members

Annual November Raffle – “And the winners are...”

- Custom fire grill pit - Jim Hohlt – he can now light up the landing strip instead of using the lighting. However, he might land in someone’s backyard with a fire grill.
- 30 quart fryer – Frank Snyder – Frank always talks about being in hot water with SAWS. Now he can also be in hot oil.
- Adjustable backflow cage - \$500 warranty – donated by Backflow Armor - Ron Kyle – Will fit dog sizes from 5 to 40 pounds.
- Bumper tote – donated by Jim Hohlt - Steve Walker – Donated by Jim Hohlt when he found out he couldn’t strap it to his airplane. Now Steve has an exciting way to carry his kids.
- Non adjustable economy backflow cage – donated by Backflow Armor — David Smith - Nice way to keep cats from roaming the neighborhood. When you own a cat, everyone owns a cat.
- Hand truck with #600 capacity – Dan Fernandez – Great for hauling the #168 beer kegs into the kitchen.
- Fishing rod #1 - Dudley Hudson – We look forward to seeing him on our spring fishing trip. May it bring him more luck than Jeff Meeks.
- Fishing rod #2 – Frank Snyder - Will be interesting how he going to use this to lower a turkey into his fat fryer.
- Foot locker – Dudley Hudson - This can be for everyone to see the fish that go away. Nothing is better than a liar with evidence.
- Angle grinder – donated and won by Jeff Meeks – What’s the angle on this – donated and won by Jeff Meeks who runs the raffle?
- \$50 Bass Pro gift card – Kevin Casto - Can be used at to buy fish at their fish counter which is cheaper than buying boat. My favorite place to fish is Lake HEB.
- \$50 Bass Pro gift card – Anthony Romero – Is Anthony pro enough to shop there?
- White ice chest – no name on ticket - Frank Decock – I don’t know why they can’t make them in black to hide the dirt and dents and to trip over them at night.
- Red Head Tote bag– Manuel Vegas – Not exactly a Gucci style.
- Smith-Wesson knife – Troy Baird – I’d hold out for their 38 magnum.
- \$50 Academy gift card — Jeff Hoffman – Wonder if the Scarecrow got his brain at Academy.
- Water proof bag – Art Trejo – Why water proof? Is one of his friends going to kick it in the lake?
- Fishing tackle box - Sidney Steubing - Never could figure out why it’s called “tackle” when it’s more like snagging.
- Canopy Chair – Dan Fernandez - Dan’s wife will love sitting here while he’s going through his Honey Do list.
- Lantern – Dudley Hudson – Part of his Halloween costume that will include his hoodie with a cap and reaping cykle .
- Binoculars – Jim Hohdt – find a landing spot – will need this to ensure that landing strip fire pit is his.
- Filet knife – Franco – Does this really go with his leather jacket and large ride?
- Bucket sitting - Ed Fernandez – Great for beer while waiting in long lines. Then can be used for something else without leaving the line.
- Pliers – Steve Sedrick – Another misnomer. They don’t ply. “Don’t Crush that Dwarf. Hand Me the Pliers.” Remember who did that album?
- \$25 Lowes gift card - Jim Hohdt – He’ll need more than that to fix up his plan after landing in someone’s backyard.
- Tape measure – Ron Kyle – Never need to measure tape – just pull off the roll and apply.
- Pliers and flashlight combo pack — Fred Baird - With the Rhino gloves, he can now grill in the dark.
- Shirt – Jeff Meeks - blue shirt – just like the one he always wears.
- French fry cutter – Steve Walker - Steve can now get a job where he can say, “Want fries with that?”
- Bag camouflage – Gene Hinojosa - Never saw this raffle item.
- Shooters bag - Ed Hernandez – Please check what’s inside before shooting.

Wrist Rocket Sling Shot – Steve Walker – Every kid’s dream and every mother’s nightmare.

25’ tape measure - Jeff Hoffman – Not good for tape rolls over 25 feet.

Rhino gloves – Fred Baird – I thought they were an endangered species.

Gerber knife set – Frank Decock – Really should give this back to the Gerber Baby.

12 golf balls – Jeff Hoffman - There is justice – he doesn’t golf.

Screw driver set and tape - Gene Hinojosa -

Backflow armor T-shirts – medium. Ya, right size for this backflow crowd.

ABPA caps for the raffle losers. Look around the group and find someone who couldn’t use a cap because his head is larger than Jay Leno’s.

MINUTES
SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER-ABPA
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Thursday, October 10, 2013

The San Antonio Chapter-ABPA General Membership meeting started at 6:35 p.m., for the regular monthly meeting at the City of Leon Valley Conference Center.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS - PRESENT	EXECUTIVE OFFICERS - ABSENT
Jeff Hoffman – President	
Matt Wilgen -Vice President	
Troy Baird – Treasurer	
Greg Shean – Secretary	
Dan Fernandez – Past President	
OFFICERS SPECIAL TO THE CHAPTER - PRESENT	OFFICERS SPECIAL TO THE CHAPTER - ABSENT
Carl Michaud - Special Officer to Gauge Testing and Certification	
Bill Hamrick – Gauge Testing & Certification	
Jeff Meeks & Hector Flores-Sgt. At Arms	Manny Hernandez – Public Relations/ Speakers/ Program Topics
Matthew Wilgen – Webmaster	
Troy Baird - Supply Officer	

DIRECTORS AT LARGE - PRESENT	DIRECTORS AT LARGE - ABSENT
Fred Baird	David Trousdale
Carl Michaud	Robert Stricker
Frank Snyder	Brad Harrell
James Hohlt	
Ron Renouf	
Johnnie Ivy	
James Franco	
	GUEST PRESENT: Michael Salinas Park-USA, Houston, TX

Agenda Item #1. Secretary's Report. The October General Meeting minutes were posted in the November newsletter. Carl made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded and passed. INFO.

Agenda Item #2. Chapter Elections: The elected officers are the same as last year. The President also thanked the directors for their support. He asked the general membership to come to the director's meeting if they have an interest as we are always looking for directors. INFO.

Agenda Item #3. Supply Officer Report: Troy has about 1- shirts left over. INFO.

Agenda Item #4. Training Report: Michael Salinas, Park-USA, Houston, TX, will present the training. INFO.

Agenda Item #5. Meal Sponsor. Park-USA sponsored the meeting's meal of turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy, bread, and a choice of chocolate cake or pecan pie. INFO.

Agenda Item #6. Raffle Sponsor: Park-USA provided two \$50 gift cards for the annual raffle. INFO. John Abraham, Backflow Armor, the May meeting sponsor, promised that he would provide an expandable cage for the November raffle. Jeff said that Backflow Armor has donated two cages – an expandable and one economy non-expandable. INFO.

Agenda Item #7. Irrigator Report: Ron said that the SA Irrigation Association (SAIA) elected their officers who serve one year terms. There were no changes. Ron talked about automated input of data in T&Ms that came up at the SAIA meeting. Company owners might request that their testers give their passwords to their supervisors as a condition of employment. Ron and Bruce started a discussion on the capability of false filling T&M records. Supervisors will have capability to audit employee's backflow inputs. The tester will be notified if there are problems. The T&M is like a health and safety report and false filing can be considered a felony. It is best to call for Code Enforcement if you see a backflow being installed without a permit. INFO.

Agenda Item #8. SAWS Report: Frank reported than an irrigator connected 6 zones to a recycle source with no backflow. The meter was removed. INFO. Bruce attended the Irrigation Association meeting in Austin. Rainwater harvesting was the main subject. There are challenges. He asked everyone to notify SAWS if they see one being constructed. Rain harvesting is the same as a reservoir. Progress is being made on electronic T&Ms. SAWS is still working on getting a web solution for submitting T&Ms. Web solution will require that everything has to be entered correctly. The exception is that there is a new serial number or backflow. CSIs will also be done electronically. SAWS must go paperless due to cost of paper handling and storage. Bruce recognized Hector Flores for his retirement after 26 years with SAWS. INFO.

Agenda Item #9. Fishing Trip. Fred will determine a date and it will not be postponed. It will probably be in early spring. OPEN.

Agenda Item #10. Mobile Model Irrigation System: Jeff is still open for ideas. He is also looking for mobile model backflow training. Bruce said that it could be emulated on a table top and also viewed on a screen/monitor in 3D. No inputs from the floor. OPEN.

Agenda Item #11. ABPA Public Awareness. Jeff said that the recent home and garden show was a missed opportunity and that the chapter must get involved with them. Jeff summarized items from an ABPA National survey which would get us involved. We have the standard ABPA awareness items but need something of our own. It's all about education. He said he has some ideas and will brief the chapter later. OPEN.

Agenda Item #12. Attendance Drawing: Five members, exclusive of officers and directors, had perfect attendance by attending all 11 monthly meeting. Harvey Roeder won \$200. The names of those who missed only one meeting, were added to those who did not win for perfect attendance. Gene Hinojosa won \$100. INFO.

Agenda Item #13. Sponsor Training: Michael Salinas brought up his Power Point presentation. First was an explanation of the advantages of an off-site backflow vault construction. It simplifies onsite installation with a turnkey operation, meets all safety requirements, and ensures easier testing and maintenance. He showed the incredible number of applications for waste water interceptors that protects the public sewer systems. Water conservation is necessary but it decreases sewer water flow which increases the probability of sewer stoppages. This is a major SAWS concern. Flooding always makes the news. Michael reviewed how this can be controlled with infrastructure upgrades, pump stations, and storm water flow monitoring. Rain water harvesting also falls into this category. He echoed Bruce's remarks on the subject by including, tanks, filters, pumps & controls, and design assistance. It's more than just putting barrel under s down spout. Michael gave an expanded view of these subject areas.

It was moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded and pass. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm for the annual raffle.



Greg Shean
Secretary
ABPA San Antonio Chapter

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2013 - 2014

- 1) President –Jeff Hoffman
- 2) Vice President – Matthew Wilgen
- 3) Immediate Past President – Daniel Fernandez
- 4) Treasurer – Troy Baird
- 5) Secretary – Greg Shean

Special Officers to the Association

- 6) SGT-AT-ARMS – Hector Flores and Jeff Meeks
- 7) Supply Officer – Troy Baird
- 8) Gauge Testing and Certification – Bill Hamrick,
Special Officer to Gauge Testing and Certification: Carl Michaud.
- 9) Public Relations/ Speakers/ Program Topics – Manny Hernandez
- 10) Webmaster – Matthew Wilgen
- 11) Policies and Procedures – Frank Snyder

Directors at Large

Two-year term

- 1) Fred Baird
- 2) Brad Harrell
- 3) James Franco
- 4) Robert Stricker
- 5) Johnnie Ivy, Jr.

One year term remaining

- 6) Frank Snyder
- 7) Jim Hohlt
- 8) Ron Renouf
- 9) David Trousdale

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Rainwater for reuse as drinking water - McMaster University, Engineering Technology Building

Objective: Treating rainwater for reuse as drinking water

When McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario built their new Engineering Technology Building, they used the latest state-of-the-art technology not only to achieve LEED Gold certification, but also to create a living laboratory to train students on the building systems of the future. One of the components is a rainwater harvesting system that collects, filters and disinfects rainwater for non-potable and potable use in the building.

Challenge

As the first of its kind in Canada this project presented considerable challenges to the team designing the system. Without a precedent from similar projects, the team had to do their homework to source the right products for the system to achieve the desired outcomes.

The top two priorities were economic sustainability and the creation of valuable learning opportunities for engineering students. That meant keeping operating costs to a minimum while utilizing leading-edge technology to prepare students for today's ever-evolving world of water treatment.

Another challenge was the lack of a consistent building and plumbing code for gray water in Canada. Ensuring system compliance can be challenging for projects, and often depends on the specifying engineer's recommendation. In Ontario, Canada there has been some relaxation in the building and plumbing codes to allow for rainwater harvesting.

System Design

The rainwater is collected on two roofs with white reflective membranes and directed to two 11,000 gallon cisterns. After the rainwater is passed through sand, carbon and micro filters, this non-potable or gray water is used for toilets and urinals. The potable water is produced after it passes through a UV Pure Technologies' Hallett UV disinfection system. This potable water is then directed through the building for use in fountains and the on-site coffee shop. All of the systems have redundancy built in, and could accommodate up to 50 GPM.

Innovative/unique features

The capacity to treat rainwater to potable standards is a first for any Canadian institution. The system was designed with multiple redundancies built in, with two of everything and parallel back ups running.

As a research facility, continuous web-enabled remote and onsite monitoring tracks performance and finds trends for analysis and optimization. If one element needs to be isolated for a student demonstration, the whole system doesn't need to shut down.

Results

The performance of the site has been excellent. "There has not been a bad sample out of the system since it was turned on over two years ago," said Paul Vizsy, first class stationary engineer and owner of PWBS (pwbs.ca) who implemented the system installation and is the site's operator and water treatment specialist. One element the site operator particularly appreciates is the lack of maintenance and associated costs required for the UV Pure system, significantly less than conventional UV products.

"UV Pure's Halletts have exceeded all of our objectives for potable water purification, for its excellent quality, appropriate pricing and the beauty of such limited maintenance." said Tony Cupido, P. Eng., former. Assistant Vice President Facility Services (and current PhD student with interest in green buildings and rainwater harvesting).

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- Must be a company or organization
- Assign only one person as the member of ABPA
- A Sustaining Member must submit a letter that designates their Voting Representative.

To join the American Backflow Prevention Association, simply fill out the membership application form and mail it with your check to the address listed below, or if paying by credit card you may fax the completed form to 979.846.7607. Local chapters have additional fees. Below is a listing of chapters by region. To find out if there is a local chapter in your area, please review the chapter information on our website at abpa.org or call the National Office at 979.846.7606. **Membership in the Association constitutes paying National dues.**

Name: _____ Title/Position: _____

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Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Work phone :(_____) _____ Fax :(_____) _____

E-mail address: _____

Local Chapter (if joining a local chapter): San Antonio ABPA-SA Local Dues: \$20.00

Total Amount Paid: \$80.00 (remit US \$ drawn on a US bank, payable to the ABPA)

If paying by credit card include the following and fax to 979.846.7607 or Email to Membership@abpa.org

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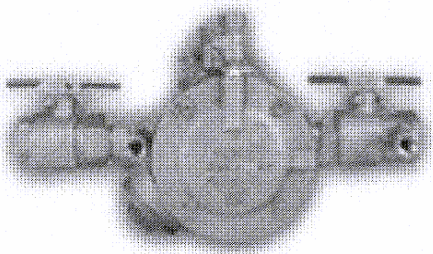
LOCAL CHAPTER DUES LISTED BY REGION:

REGION 1		REGION 5		REGION 9 (USD)	
New England	\$12.00	Colorado	\$15.00	Ontario	\$50.00
Rhode Island	18.00	Southeastern Colorado	15.00	REGION 10	
REGION 2		Utah	12.00	Wisconsin	\$10.00
Virginia	\$25.00	REGION 6		REGION 11	
REGION 3		Arizona	\$20.00	Indiana	\$ 5.00
Carolinas	\$10.00	Central Coast	10.00	Indiana BPA	25.00
Florida Suncoast	12.00	Central Valley California	10.00	Michigan	40.00
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Arkansas	\$10.00	REGION 7		Central Missouri	\$20.00
Central Texas	20.00	Big Sky	\$10.00	Eastern Nebraska	10.00
Corpus Christi	23.00	Idaho	10.00	Heart of America	12.00
Lower Rio Grande Valley	25.00	Oregon	20.00	Panhandle	5.00
North Texas	23.00	SRC4	20.00	Western Nebraska	8.00
San Antonio	20.00	REGION 8 (USD)			
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