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The Thielensian

Explosion at Lord Corp. in Saegertown

By: Kaden Drew

Feb. 12, 2025: Explosion at Parker Lord Corp. injured six firefighters and seven Lord Corp. personnel.

On Sunday, Feb 9th, around 10:30 AM, Saegertown firefighters were alerted to a fire at Parker Lord Corp. by an automatic alarm. While responding to this fire, an explosion went off in the facility, causing more damage and injuries to six firefighters and seven employees of Lord Corp.

"It's really lucky that there weren't any fatalities on this because of the extent of the explosion," said Chuck Lawrence, Saegertown Borough Emergency Management. Firefighters were called back to the location on February 18th to put out a roof that was smoldering. All operations at the plant are suspended until further notice.



Explosion at Saegertown.

The cause of the original fire that triggered the automated 911 call and the explosion that followed is unknown at this time. One of the six firefighters was admitted to UPMC Hamot and underwent surgery but was expected to be released on the following Monday. The others who were injured were also taken to various hospitals, but none were in critical condition.

The Parker Lord Corporation creates adhesives at their plant in Saegertown, including acrylic, urethane, and epoxy. The specific location in Saegertown is one of many locations that Lord owns.

The Saegertown location was acquired in 2019 and has continued manufacturing adhesives. In 2023, the building had an addition built that totaled about 80 million dollars. This addition added 75,000 square feet onto the existing 250,000 square feet of the property.

Capybaras Castrated! Rodents Given Contraceptives to Cull Population

By: Colin Schroyer

Feb. 20, 2025: Due to the recent surge in the capybara population in Nordelta, Argentina, the local government has approved a wildlife control plan that will see the sterilization and use of contraceptives for the population.

The capybaras, locally called carpinchos, have grown in population exponentially within Nordelta, leading to a variety of concerns that have prompted the employment of a wildlife control plan, though some oppose this plan. In the past three years alone, the population has reportedly tripled, reaching a total…

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Capybaras Castrated! Rodents Given Contraceptives to Cull Population



Image Credit: Clément Bardot

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...estimate of around one thousand capybaras in the city.

The plan would see 250 capybaras receive a contraceptive from a highly trained veterinarian team and monitored by biologists from the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (Conicet). Even as the supervising organization, Conicet has taken preliminary steps to cull the capybara population with its own solution: vasectomies to the five dominant male capybaras.

María José Corriale, a Conicet researcher specializing in habitat and wildlife, has spoken to El Pais regarding her involvement in the project and the project itself. "This is a more observational study," she said, "We proposed it two years ago, but it has only been approved now."

Many push back against these plans. The predominant group speaking out against it is Carpinchos Nordelta – Somos Su Voz (Nordelta Capybaras – We Are Your Voice), claiming that the decision was made without considering or consulting with the residents of Nordelta. The group instead proposes a more environmentally minded approach, including creating designated wildlife areas and certain protected spaces for the capybaras. Other wildlife and environmental activists claim that nothing should be done, with laws instead needing to be put in place to protect the capybaras and prevent further urbanization of the animals' natural habitat.

Nordelta, a gated community about 19 miles north of Buenos Aires, is a luxury district built around two decades ago and currently boasts a population of around 45,000. However, prior to its human inhabitants, the area was home to a plethora of wildlife — namely the capybaras. For the capybaras, Nordelta is the ideal habitat; the gated community serves as a safe haven from natural predators and poachers, and the vegetarian species can graze on the approximately 500 hectares of natural space, which has resulted in vastly increased reproduction.

On their own, the capybaras pose no danger, even with their increased population. However, the animals are highly territorial, which has resulted in fights between each other or with local dogs. These fights can endanger pets and children and even result in traffic problems; a mothering female will become highly aggressive.

Capybaras are the largest rodents in the world, weighing up to 132 pounds (60 kilograms) and measuring about three feet long. These rodents live in colonies with one dominant male, several female partners, and their offspring. Each female can give birth twice a year with up to eight pups in a litter.

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Canada Wins NHL's Inaugural 'Four Nation Faceoff'

By: Jacob Walsh

Feb. 12-20, 2025: Team Canada beat Team USA in the championship game of the NHL's new international tournament dubbed the 'Four Nation Faceoff'

The Four Nation Faceoff was created to bring back best-on-best internationally hockey for NHL players. The last time NHL players competed in best-on-best internationally was in 2014. The tournament is styled to take place during the NHL's mid-season break when the All-Star Game usually is held. The Four Nations Faceoff is played with four nations (Canada, USA, Sweden, and Finland) in a round-robin format. Four games were held at the Belle Center in Montreal, and two in Boston at TD Garden. Then the tournament concludes with a championship game between the two teams with the most points. Points are awarded through a regulation win (3pts), overtime win (2pts), overtime loss (1pt), and no points for a regulation loss.

Game #1: The first game took place on Wednesday February 12th between Canada and Sweden. Canada came out victorious 4-3 in sudden death overtime on a Mitch Marner goal.

Game #2: Taking place on Thursday February 13th, Team USA flummoxed Finland in a 6-1 victory. Matt Boldy had the game winning goal for Team USA and four different Americans scored in the game.

Game #3: This game was played on the afternoon of Saturday February 15th between Finland and Sweden. This game would be another overtime thriller with Finland coming out with a 4-3 win. Mikael Granlund scored the overtime winner for the Fins.

Game #4: This was 'the game', this game was what the Four Nation Faceoff was all about…USA versus Canada.

The heated northern border rivals played for 3 points on the evening of Saturday February 15th. Team USA beat Canada 3-1 to punch their ticket to the tournament championship. Dylan Larkin scored the game winning goal for Team USA 33:33 minutes in. Due to the loss, Canada would need to secure a regulation win in their final game to clinch a championship berth.

Game #5: Moving from Montreal to Boston, Canada battled Finland with everything on the line on Monday February 17th. Canada would gain a decisive win over the Fins 5-3. Canada led 4-0 on what would be a Nathan MacKinnon game winning goal, but Finland clawed back to make the game 4-3. Then Captain Sidney Crosby scored...



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...on an empty net to seal the regulation victory and clinch a rematch with Team USA in the championship.

Game #6: The final round-robin game of the tournament was played on Monday February 17th between Team USA and Sweden. Sweden beat Team USA 2-1, with Jesper Bratt scoring the deciding goal for Sweden.

Game #7 (Four Nation Faceoff Championship): This game was the embodiment of international hockey, two rivals facing off in a rematch, winner take all…Canada and Team USA. The championship tilt took place in Boston at TD Garden on Thursday February 20th at 8 p.m. Canada opened up the scoring 4 minutes in on a Nathan MacKinnon goal. Brady Tkachuk would then tie it up for Team USA at 16:52. Team USA would then score again to take a 2-1 lead off a Jake Sanderson goal. Sam Benett would score the last regulation goal for Canada and tie the two rivals up at 2 goals each. The tie would hold, and the international hockey world was treated to a sudden death overtime battle between two of the biggest international rivals in the sport. Eight minutes and 18 seconds into overtime, Canada's superstar Connor McDavid was left open in the slot and laced the golden goal past Connor Hellebuyck to vanquish Team USA 3-2.

Canada's Connor McDavid was awarded the championship game MVP, while teammate Nathan MacKinnon was awarded MVP of the entire tournament. Team USA's Zach Werenski led the tournament in total points with six, Canada's Connor McDavid and Sidney Crosby were tied for second most with five. Canada's Nathan MacKinnon led the tournament in goals with four.

The NHL regular season then resumed on Saturday February 22nd. International best-on-best hockey including NHL players will resume next year when the 2026 Winter Olympics are held in Milan and Cortina Italy.

Interested in Writing for The Thielensian?

Reach out to Hannah Stoughton (HStou192@thiel.edu) and Colin Schroyer (CSchr014@thiel.edu), and CC Matthew Humphrey (MHumphrey@thiel.edu)