

Back Mountain News Briefs

Jackson Township approves budget-With millage remaining at 3.5, the same as it has been the last 15 years, Jackson Township has a \$261,123 spending plan for 1983. The municipal supervisors unanimously approved the budget at a meeting Monday, Dec. 27. Aside from the real estate levy, money to run the community comes from a \$5 per capita tax, \$10 occupational privilege tax and one-half of one percent earned income tax.

Major expenditures include \$38,000 for public safety; \$162,123 for maintenance and construction of roads; \$24,000 for miscellaneous fund items; \$23,000 for police department; \$2,000 for fire department and \$10,000 for building and rezoning.

Lake Township budget approved-Lake Township supervisors approved a 1983 budget of \$171,571, up from \$138,120, Monday Dec. 27. The tax rate remains at nine mills and additional revenues come from a \$5 per capita tax; one-half of one percent earned income tax and one-half of one percent real estate transfer tax.

Approximately \$20,000 from the general fund was budgeted for improvements to the township building, built in 1979 and presently used to house equipment.

Revenue-sharing funds of \$17,834 will be used for the police department, \$18,500; closing the township landfill, \$5,034; workmen's compensation, \$3500; copier, \$2500; insurance on trucks, \$1500 and replacement for the spreader truck, \$3000.

Lehman Township budget okayed-Real estate tax millage in Lehman Township will also remain unchanged again this year, according to the recently passed \$283,650 budget. The spending plan calls for a \$5 per capita tax, one-half of one percent wage tax, one-half of one percent transfer tax and a 10 percent amusement tax.

The 1983 budget includes a \$50,000 general fund carry over from 1982. Expenses include \$54,020 for police, \$43,480 for highways, \$10,800 for fire department, \$1800 for firemen's pension, \$9,200 for sewage and zoning and \$30,150 for insurances. It is estimated that the township will also end 1983 with a surplus.

Chase inmate captured within six hours of escape: William Delbuno, Philadelphia, was picked up by State Police at Apex Used Autos and Parks junkyard in West Naticoke on Thursday, Dec. 30 after his escape from the State Corrections Institute at Chase.

Delbuno, who is serving a two to five year sentence for burglary and criminal trespass was due to be paroled in July. He escaped from the prison warehouse which is located approximately 100 feet outside the fence surrounding the complex. He was considered a minimum security risk with privileges to work outside the prison gate. He was taken into custody without incident following his escape.

Ross Township okays budget: Ross Township supervisors adopted a \$215,313 spending plan which includes a \$70,000 surplus from 1982. The new budget is, however, \$21,752 higher than the previous plan. Expenditures include \$153,000 for road maintenance; \$21,810 for government expenses; and \$16,000 for police and fire.

Harveys Lake fire totals Payne home: A fire early Saturday, Jan. 1 destroyed the single story home of Thomas Payne, Pine Street, Harveys Lake. The blaze is believed to have started in the wood stove, although Harveys Lake Fire Chief Richard Williams, had not confirmed that fact by press time. Williams did note, however, there was nothing suspicious about the fire. Harveys Lake firemen had doused blazes in the residence on three separate occasions several years ago. But Williams said this latest one appears to have done the dwelling in. He estimated damage at between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Payne, who has been a subject of controversy among neighbors, who questioned his life style, was at home at the time of the blaze but escaped uninjured.

Offset chooses 'Employee of the year'

William George Whittle is Offset Paperback Manufacturing Company's "Employee of the Year." Whittle was notified of the honor at an employee gathering at the Dallas Township plant, Thursday, Dec. 30. The award came as a surprise to Whittle, who is the company's vice-president of engineering. He was chosen by Offset's officers and board of directors for his outstanding and innovative contributions to the company.

Thomas R. Marvel, president of Offset Paperback, said Whittle has designed and implemented several cost-saving features in the operation during 1982. He invented and helped design press rods for the plant's four presses, which resulted in a 20 percent increase in productivity. These were

installed in record time at a minimal cost to the company. Whittle also designed the equipment to make the modifications.

In yet another cost cutting and production increasing move, he invented packer boxes for the presses which Marvel said are better than anything on the market.

Whittle is one of Offset's oldest employees. He started with Valley Paperback in Phoenix, Arizona, in 1965 and came to Offset with his wife, Josephine, two sons and a daughter. Another son is in the United States Air Force.

The award came as a complete surprise to Whittle. "I received a lot of support from the people who work with me," he said. "I really want to thank them for that."

Whittle is the second Offset employee to be

honored by the company. His name will be added to a plaque which is displayed in the lobby of the plant.

Marvel also took the opportunity to announce that Offset signed a 10-year contract, Dec. 22, with Berkley Publishers. The contract is valued at over \$75 million over the next 10 years and will help to generate local jobs. As an addition to the business agreement, Berkley has signed a long-term lease with Offset for its facility in Dupont. Berkley will use the property as an enrichment center and the persons presently employed there will have the option to stay with Offset or join Berkley. Berkley Publishers also include Jove, Ace, Charter and Tempo Books. Playboy Books are being merged into the conglomerate.



William G. Whittle, vice president of engineering for Offset Paperback is congratulated on being named "Employee of the Year" by president Thomas R. Marvel and executive vice president, Ian Richardson.

While 1982 was a difficult year for Offset, Marvel said it weathered a very serious storm to the credit of its em-

ployees. With one of its largest customers declaring bankruptcy, Offset lost a substantial portion of a \$2 million

debt. Marvel is optimistic, however, that the new year and the contract with Berkley will see things begin to turn

Burglary — it ranks tops in common local crime

According to statistics compiled for inclusion in the State's yearly crime report, theft and burglary rank as number one and two most common crimes in local municipalities. Vandalism comes in third.

Considering the high incidence of theft and burglary, although local police report it is about the same this year as in the past, it occurred to one recent victim that perhaps the public should take the problem more seriously.

Merle Wagner, Jackson Township, was recently burglarized while away from her home for just a few hours. The burglars entered the home through a rear door, took what they wanted and left all the lights on in the house when they departed. The format is similar to that used in other area

burglaries: entering the home from the rear, going through the entire premise and leaving on the lights.

At first, Wagner was dismayed to see the report of the burglary on page one of the Dallas Post. It has been reported by Jackson Township police chief Don Jones. After giving it some thought, however, she decided it was better to publicize the crime than to keep it hidden. She changed her mind because she has been continually hearing of subsequent burglaries of a similar nature.

"I think people should be aware that it's going on," she said. "The police can only do so much by themselves. If people are aware that they might be victimized, they might be more careful."

Area crime fighters agree. Dallas Township

police chief, Carl Miers always makes a point of reporting thefts and burglaries to the press, with the same thought in mind. "I believe we have to let people know what's happening in the community, even if the news is not good. If people are alerted to a problem, they'll keep an eye out and can give us leads if they see something suspicious."

Miers has, in the past, tried to work with residents of the township on the idea of crime watch. The Operation ID program has also been tried but such programs are difficult to get going in rural areas and have never amounted to much.

"The idea is to get people involved. Times have changed and people tend to mind their own business instead of watching out for their neighbor," he said.

Kingston Township police chief Paul Sabol agrees and says rashes of burglaries tend to come in spurts. "The economy plays a part with unemployment a factor," he noted. "Burglaries also seem to increase around the holidays when people are out more."

Prime items for theft and burglary are guns, jewelry and small appliances. These items can be easily disposed of and are rarely identified by serial numbers.

Wagner wonders if recent burglaries are not the work of one particular gang. "It seems to have become more prevalent since about September.

Now you hear about another one every week. It could be that they watch the homes and look for a pattern. They know your habits. I can't believe how bold they have become about it.

"Maybe I'm just more aware of it because it happened to me. Still, I've heard of the same type of break-ins from Kunkle, all across the area, through Jackson Township, Lehman and Kingston Township."

Chief Miers suggests there are few preventative measures homeowners can take to protect themselves and their neighbors. Always make your home look occupied

by leaving a light on when you go out. If you are going away, let neighbors know and ask them to notify police if they see something suspicious. Keeping a log of serial numbers of items in your home will also help if it is burglarized and the goods recovered.

For the most part, awareness and common sense can be great deterrents to the criminal element.

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Deaths

Arthur Williams

Arthur Williams, 81, of 175 Shade Tree Road, Shavertown, died Monday, Dec. 27, in Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, following a prolonged illness.

Surviving are daughters, Eleanor J. Williams, with whom he resided, Mrs. Herbert (Ruth) Hoover, Millville, N.J.; one grandson; sister, Mrs. Jean Tibbetts, Oregon; several

nieces and nephews.

Funeral was Thursday from the Harold C. Snowdon Funeral Home, 420 Wyoming Ave., Kingston, with Rev. E. Lee Brehm officiating. Interment in Memorial Shrine Cemetery, Carverton.

Sarah Cook

Mrs. Sarah R. Cook, 90, of Shaver Avenue, Dallas, died Wednesday, Dec. 30

in Leader West Nursing Center, Kingston.

Surviving are a son, Leroy George Lasher, Levittown; two grandchildren; several step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Saturday from the Richard H. Disque Funeral Home, 672 Memorial Highway, Dallas with Rev. James A. Wert, pastor of Shavertown United Methodist.

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