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Impasse exists

Restroom facility may not be built

By JOHN F. KILDUFF
Staff Writer

If the current "Maintenance Agreement" impasse between Harveys Lake Borough and Pennsylvania Fish Commission (PFC) officials remains unsettled, the proposed \$23,000 restroom facility with running water may never be built at the Harveys Lake Public Boat Launch, The Dallas Post learned Friday.

Harveys Lake Municipal Authority (HLMA) Chairman, George Maurer, said Friday that they HLMA never agreed to maintain the proposed restroom facility, which would service up to six patrons with hot and cold running water.

Maurer said over a year ago the HLMA agreed to pay for the sewage hook-up for the restroom at not cost to the PFC.

The PFC, according to Maurer, would not be charged for the sewer usage and would return maintain the restroom as part of their responsibility.

Maurer said Harveys Lake Borough agreed to "check up" on the restroom, but not to conduct routine maintenance. The PFC contends Harveys Lake Borough officials agreed to maintain the proposed restroom and recently (July 31, 1985) sent a maintenance contract agreement to Maurer for his approval and signature.

The PFC contract sent to Maurer required the HLMA to assume complete maintenance and responsibility for the restroom over a 25-year period. Maurer said the HLMA will not accept such a long-term maintenance agreement.

"There is just no way we would sign a maintenance agreement like the one they sent us," said Maurer. "We just cannot accept it as it stands. Our solicitor (Thomas O'Connor) said we would be opening a 'can of worms' if we accepted it."

Maurer continued by saying, "It is not that we do not need the restroom, we do. But the PFC said

they would put it (restroom) in and we (HLMA) said we would watch the restroom. We never said we would maintain it completely."

The PFC has continued to maintain that until a maintenance agreement is reached, they will not begin constructing the restroom.

Phil Anderson, assistant to John Hoffman who is Chief of the PFC Real Estate Division in Harrisburg, said Friday, "If they (Harveys Lake officials) are willing to negotiate an agreement then that is something we would welcome. But it is entirely up to them," said Anderson.

Anderson said they (PFC) have not received a response to their July 31, 1985 contract request. Said Anderson, "Without some kind of response, we can do very little."

Last week Harveys Lake councilman Ray Jones said he would not approve of borough tax dollars being spent on the maintenance of the proposed restroom. Jones said the PFC should maintain the restroom because they (PFC) collect large sums of money from citation, fishing licenses and boater registrations.

Harveys Lake Borough receives no money from the PFC citations, fishing licenses or boater registrations.

When asked if the PFC would consider giving Harveys Lake officials a percentage of the above mentioned monies, Anderson said, "Mr. Hoffman is the person you will have to talk to about that issue."

Councilman Jones said last week he anticipates an approximate \$6,000 to \$7,000 annual outlay for the maintenance of the restroom.

Jones said, "He cannot speak for the other councilmen" but hinted that most of the councilmen were against Harveys Lake solely paying for the maintenance of the restroom.

HLMA Chairman Maurer said all five of the Municipal Authority members are totally against the current PFC maintenance agreement stance.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Trick or treat!

Six-month-old Michelle Pribula sure is a treat as she poses here for a Dallas Post photographer. Michelle, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pribula of RD 1 Dallas, was dressed in her Halloween costume for the Dallas Kiwanis Halloween Parade last Sunday. For her costume (and her pretty face), Michelle was awarded with four place in the prettiest category.

Lake officer back on job

Harveys Lake Police Chief Lionel Bulford and part-time patrolman Christopher Keats said Monday the decision not to give borough councilman William Gallagher a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) test after being stopped for suspicion of drunk driving on October 17 was made at the discretion of the officer and not from any outside pressures.

"The decision for something like that (an officer giving a motorist a BAC test) is totally at the discretion of the officer," said Police Chief Bulford. "He (Keats) apparently felt he was doing the right thing in not giving him (Gallagher) the test. That is all there is to it," Bulford said.

Last week, reports alluded to the possibility of Harveys Lake Mayor Frank Picchi putting pressure on Keats not to administer the BAC test to Gallagher after Gallagher had called Picchi on the telephone and asked him to come to the Harveys Lake municipal building following his arrest.

Patrolman Keats was holding Gallagher at the municipal building for suspicion of driving while intoxicated.

"There really is no longer a problem," said Keats on Monday. "I am not the only officer who ever 'gave someone a ride home' in a situation like this," said Keats.

When asked if it was his regular procedure not to test all suspected drunk drivers with the BAC test, Keats said, "It depends. There are a lot of things and situations you must take into account. No situation is ever the same. The decision is up to the discretion of the officer."

Councilman Gallagher was unavailable for comment on Tuesday.

Patrolman Keats, 22, of East End Boulevard, Wilkes-Barre has been a part-time patrolman with Harveys Lake Borough for two months.

Luzerne County District Attorney Robert Gillespie said last week that Mayor Picchi was not guilty of any obstruction of justice involving the case due to insufficient evidence.

Chief Bulford said Keats is scheduled for work during the month of November despite rumors that Keats was fired after the incident.

— JOHN F. KILDUFF

'It's all a bad rumor'

SCID will not house AIDS victims now

By JOHN F. KILDUFF
Staff Writer

Officials of the State Correctional Institute at Dallas (SCID) and members of the three-year-old SCID Citizen's Committee gathered at the prison Friday to discuss current security construction projects and also to serve notice that no plans exist to house AIDS inmates at the correctional facility.

"I discuss this issue (AIDS) primarily as a courtesy," said SCID superintendent Joseph M. Ryan. "There are no current plans within the prison system to house AIDS inmates at Dallas."

Ryan continued by saying, "This whole thing has been blown out of proportion. And with all due respect for the media today, I must say they (newspapers and TV) have helped cause a situation of fear and hysteria."

Ryan told the SCID Citizen's Committee that SCID currently is housing in isolation two inmates diagnosed as having Aids Related Complex (ARC).

SCID also has in isolation a third inmate who recently tested positive on the AIDS H.T.L.V.3 Screening Test.

The third inmate, said Ryan, has not been diagnosed as having either AIDS or ARC. A fourth inmate is currently being examined after showing "signs" of an ARC patient,

Ryan said.

The Pennsylvania Correctional system, which currently houses over 14,000 inmates in 10 prisons, has only confirmed two prisoners as having AIDS.

When asked by SCID Citizen's Committee Chairperson Pat Rusloski if SCID ever was considered as an AIDS housing facility Ryan said, "It has all been a bad rumor. There are no definite plans about making this prison a central location for the AIDS inmates."

The SCID Citizen's Committee has been firmly against any plans of housing AIDS inmates at Dallas and they told Ryan on Friday if such plans did exist the location should be in one of the three new State Correctional Institutes currently being built in Pennsylvania.

SCID Press Relations Officer Tom Figgick then cautioned the Committee members to realize that the other nine State Correctional Institutes would undoubtedly have their own "Anti-AIDS" Citizen's Committees.

"You have got to realize that those other institutions probably will not want something like this in their areas either," said Figgick.

In addition to the AIDS topic, the meeting also reported that the three permanent sites for a "high-tech" escape siren system have been secured.

(See SCID, page 4)



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Scout pinned

David Mathers is presented with the highest award in Scouting as his mother, Betty Mathers, pins his Eagle badge on him. David is a member of Boy Scout Troop 155 of Trucksville.

Mathers is Eagle Scout

David Mathers of Trucksville was presented with the Eagle Scout Award, the highest award in Scouting, during Eagle ceremonies held Sunday evening at the Trucksville United Methodist Church Educational Building.

David joined Cub Pack 155 of Trucksville in September 1975, earning the Bobcat, Wolf and Bear badges. As a Webelos he earned the Webelos Badge and the Arrow of Light.

In 1978, David advanced into Boy Scouts. As a Scout, he earned 27 merit badges and 10 skill awards. He served as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Chaplain, Senior Patrol Leader, a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and, at present, is Assistant Scoutmaster.

He is an active member of Acahela Lodge 223, Order of the Arrow. He was chairman of the Order of

the Arrow Dance Team.

David has earned the Valley Forge Hiking Trail Award, the Gettysburg Hiking Trail Award and the Fifty Mile Hiking Award.

For his Eagle Project, David collected food, paper products and cash for the Salvation Army, a project he completed in the fall of 1983.

David is a member of the Trucksville United Methodist Church where he was active in the church school and the youth group of the church. He is also a member of the Harveys Lake Rod and Gun Club and enjoys hunting and fishing.

David graduated from Dallas High School in June. He is currently employed by Wickes Lumber Co. and plans to attend Luzerne County Community College in January.

He is the son of David W. and Betty J. Mathers of Trucksville.

Williams is write-in

Former Lake-Lehman School Board President Ken Williams told The Dallas Post Monday he will run for a seat on the school board as a write-in candidate in the November general election in order to stave off the possible victories of candidates he termed as "not the best" for the Lake-Lehman School District.

"I was not going to run for school board originally," said the 46-year-old former school director who served from 1971 to 1983.

"But after the primary election, I began to think if the wrong people get elected they could change the entire structure of the school board. And it would not be for the best," Williams said.

Williams, of RD 1 Shickshinny near Sweet Valley, will be running for one of two available 4-year seats in the district's Region 2 which comprises the middle and southwest district of Lehman and Ross Townships.

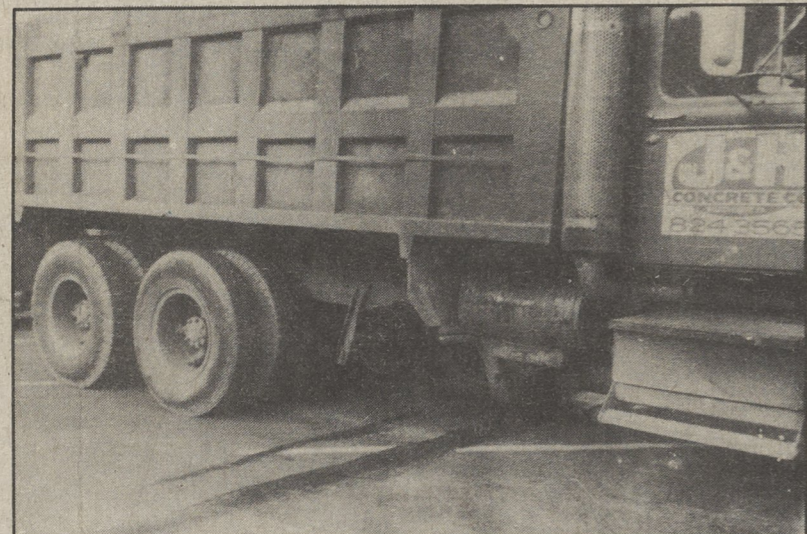
Williams will be running against GOP candidate Robert Emery and Democrat William "Bill" George.

Williams resigned as President of the Lake-Lehman School Board in May of 1983 after an internal flap over the resignation of then wrestling coach "Shorty Hitchcock," who reportedly was at odds with then Lake-Lehman High School principal Jim Nicholas.

Nicholas died at age 48, while in his office in 1983. At the exact time Nicholas died, the Lake-Lehman School Board was meeting and was wrestling, so to speak, with the controversial Hitchcock resignation, which the board accepted.

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Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Tire pops off

This J&H Concrete dump truck lost a tire last Wednesday afternoon during a turn onto Route 309. The tire slammed into a parked van owned by Rent-Rite in the 309/415 Plaza.

Loose tire hits van

An estimated \$800 worth of damage was caused to a Rent-Rite van parked in the 309/415 Plaza last Wednesday afternoon when a 300-pound tire assembly popped off a dump truck traveling south along route 309 and crashed into the parked vehicle.

At approximately 2:30 Wednesday afternoon, Robert Litzenger, who was operating a J&H Concrete Company dump truck, was negotiating a left hand turn onto the southbound lane of Route 309 when a right side tire assembly came loose from the truck and slammed into the Dodge Aries van parked in the plaza.

Litzenger said he believes the tire assembly popped off due to truck's "dummy axle" being in the down position when he was turning onto Route 309.

"The usual procedure when

making turns is to lift up the center 'dummy axle,'" said Litzenger. "I know I raised the axle, but it could have malfunctioned and caught the pavement as I turned onto 309."

Litzenger said he never noticed that the tire assembly popped off until an unknown motorist pulled up along side him and indicated that "something was wrong."

"I did not even notice the tire fall off," said Litzenger. "This is a heavy truck and if that car (unknown motorist) had not told me I would never have stopped."

Dallas Borough Police Chief Ed Lyons investigated and said Monday the damaged van is registered to the Rent-Rite Company of Bloomsburg. Rent-Rite is also located in one of the shops in the 309-415 Plaza.