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Prison siren on hold again

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

Members of the Jackson Township Advisory Committee, disgusted over on-going snags concerning the installation of warning sirens at various sites throughout the township, will meet with state and prison officials next month at the State Correctional Institute at Dallas in an effort to finally clear up the matter.

Since 1982, the committee, headed by Pat Rusiloski, has been pressing for the installation of three sirens, at various sites, along with the construction of towers, lights and fencing projects, but for one reason or another problems have developed, causing one delay after another.

Last January, the group finally seemed to be on the verge of having its plight answered when officials connected with the plan said bids should be received by early March, with the project scheduled for completion by around September.

But, once again, more snags have developed. Now, no one is sure just what will happen.

"I'm just so disgusted that I don't

know where to turn already," Rusiloski said. "I have a letter here from GSA (General Services Agency) saying that the sirens would be completed by August 31, 1985. Now look where we are. At least if they constructed one siren to warn the people in case something happened."

"But I'll tell you, this makes me persistent. If nothing is done here, then maybe I'll call a public meeting."

Originally, the group put together a package deal that not only included the siren project, but others, too, consisting of towers, lights and fences to be constructed at selected locations. Since the siren was the committee's main concern, however, it was pulled from that original package and given first priority.

But since that January meeting, although bids were put out twice for the siren deal, none were received. It was then put back in with the original package but only one bid was received. The contractor, however, later retracted the bid.

"We did receive one bid on April 30, but it came in over the allocation," said John Raber, a spokes-

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No charges filed in child abuse case

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

Luzerne County District Attorney Bernard A. Podcasy announced last week that no charges would be filed against any individuals concerning allegations of child sexual abuse at the Kiddie City Child Care Center located on the campus of College Misericordia in Dallas.

Reading from a prepared statement at a press conference last Wednesday at the Luzerne County Courthouse, Podcasy said that not enough evidence had been gathered to press charges and that investigations have come to a close. He refused to elaborate on the details of the case, saying that statements might imply that someone had done something wrong.

"A review of the entire report leads this office (the district attorney's office) to conclude that there is an absence of legally sufficient evidence to support the allegations

raised in this matter," Podcasy read, "and therefore there does not exist a legally supportable basis on which to pursue criminal charges."

Although Podcasy did say that investigations have ceased, he noted the matter would be re-opened if future evidence comes to light.

Podcasy also emphasized that the probe, which had been conducted by Trooper Stanley Jezewski and

Trooper Paul Andrejko, Troop P, Pennsylvania State Police, Wyoming Barracks, Luzerne County Detectives, the Dallas Township Police, and by Children and Youth Services, was undertaken to investigate original allegations of abuse in November of 1985 as well as those made in January of 1986.

The report indicated that 102 individuals were interviewed, re-interviewed or were attempted to be interviewed, including all 14 volunteer staff members who were work-study students at the college.

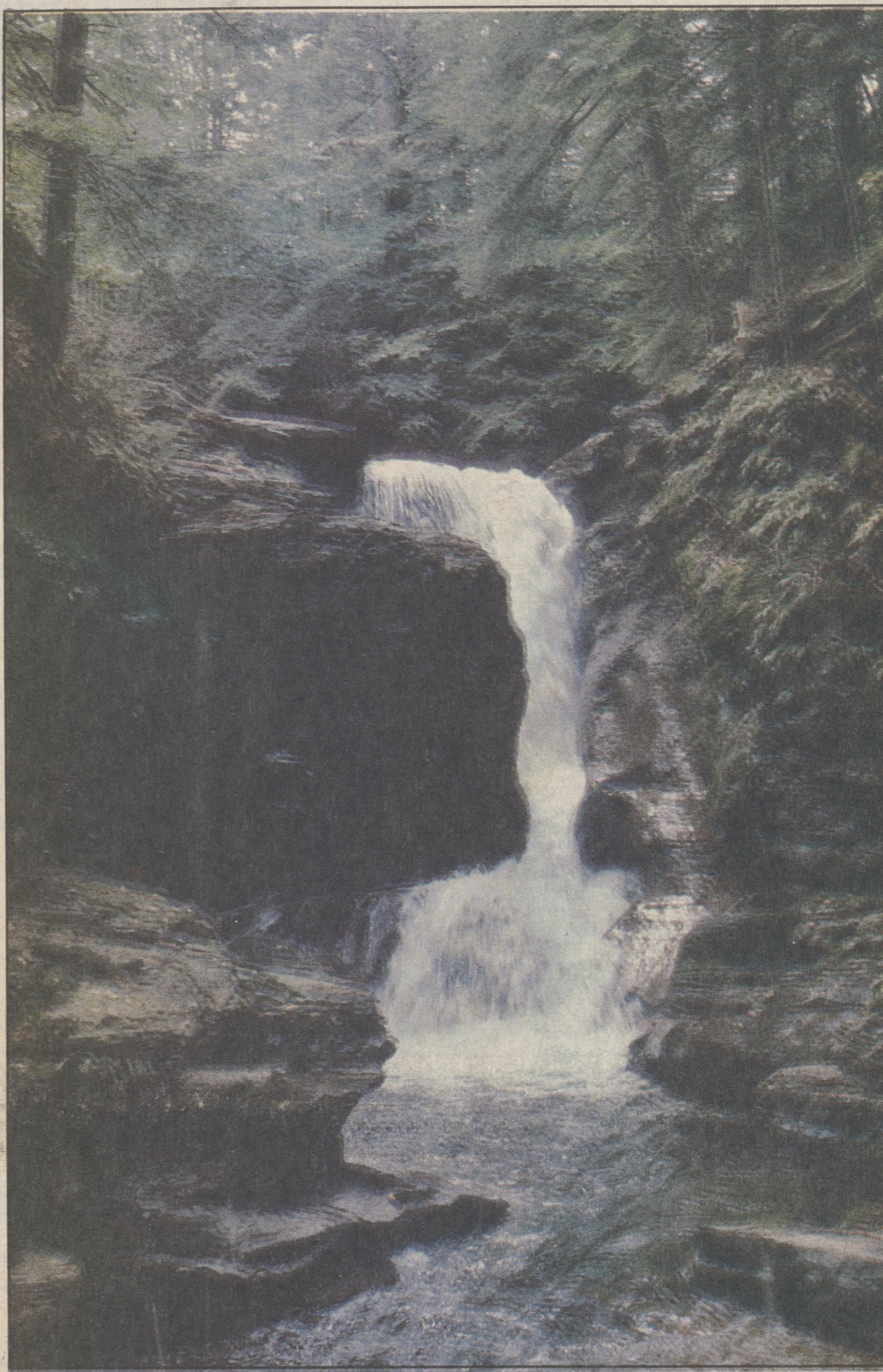
Grounds near completion

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

Preparation for the annual Luzerne County Fair has become so extensive over the years that it has practically become a year-round

project. This week, workers should be nearing completion of yet another phase that will give the grounds a noticeably different physical make-up.

For the past two months, laborers have been busy excavating the grounds and installing water and



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Is Spring here?

This photograph, captured by Dallas Post photographer Ed Campbell at Rickett's Glen State Park, proves that Spring just may be here - FINALLY!

Ground broken for new area church

By JEAN HILLARD
Staff Correspondent

The Fellowship Evangelical Free Church of the Back Mountain broke ground for their new building on Sunday afternoon at property located on Hildebrand Road, Dallas Township.

The groundbreaking took place just five years to the month after the first service of this group was held at Camp Orchard Hill in 1981.

Three couples, the Ken Millers, Scott Dieffenbachers and Evan Thomases, met together for a couple months of praying about the need for a certain kind of church in the Back Mountain Area. They felt a need for a reach out of love toward people, kindness toward one another and a real expression of love, God's Love, among men. After a few months, they approached Pastor Dwight and Holly Hodne and asked if they would help them get something like this started.

In May of 1981, the first service was held in the Lodge of Camp Orchard Hill, Dallas, where Pastor Hodne served as camp director. A very informal type service with Pastor Hodne on the guitar and coffee and donuts served each Sunday getting the friendly, welcome feeling type of atmosphere in the air before each service was soon to win the hearts of many. A fellow-

ship was indeed happening and it was catching on fast. Soon the number of people attending each Sunday grew to such a number that the Lodge couldn't accommodate them. No pastor, no church building, and no money. Where did such a congregation turn?

It was at this point of time the need for a full time pastor was evident. Pastor Hodne was approached, and accepted the call as pastor, resigning as camp director. Now, a place to meet was needed. The Trucksville Free Methodist Church rented their building to this congregation and services were held there until once again the number of people outgrew the size of the building.

A search began a second time for a place to meet. College Misericordia agreed to meet the needs on a temporary basis and Merrick Hall turned into a place of worship each Sunday. The three couples have grown to 180-200 people attending weekly.

Ground was purchased, an architect hired, and a building will soon be constructed. No money has been borrowed and, to date, the needs have been met. The land is paid for, the architect has been hired and machines are moving in, preparing to build a house for the congregation of the Fellowship Evangelical Free Church.

power lines, which will be located undergrounds so the fields could eventually be used for baseball and soccer, and will soon begin work on three separate structures, including two buildings for arts and crafts and one for a horsebarn.

In addition, a service road, which will circle the fair grounds, will be put in for emergency and fair vehicles.

"Right now, the big thing is to level the grounds," said Bob Cartier, president of the Fall Fair Association. "Then we can seed it and get the bumps and stones out of the way so we can use it for recreational purposes."

Also, the Association plans to erect a two-story structure in the near future for administrative and community use.

"It will be used to house the offices for the Fair administration, but we want to add a community room, too, so that maybe different clubs, for example, could hold their meetings," said Dana Campbell, chairman for Planning and Development.

Last week, workers, the majority of which have been volunteers, were busy installing sewer lines to take away water runoff from the surrounding hills while also hauling dirt back to the 4-H arena area that will provide parking for various trailers in the Fair. That means considerable parking space will open up for patrons who will now be isolated from the trailers.

In addition to the present fair grounds, the Association has another 13 acres that will eventually be developed.

"This work isn't something that we decided to do overnight," Cartier said. "There are constant ideas coming in so it's something we're always involved with."

"Now we're working more for the recreation part than on development. We plan on using these two fields for baseball, softball and for soccer, and we put the power cables

(See GROUNDS, page 2)

Seniors won't be kicked out

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

"There will be a Back Mountain Senior Citizens Center in this area," Charles Adams, executive director of the Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Bureau of the Aging told The Dallas Post this week.

Adams said he wanted to dispel the concerns of the Back Mountain residents, who had heard the rumors that after the Senior Citizens Center on the College Misericordia campus closed July 1, local seniors would have to attend the Kingston Center.

Adams said the Bureau does not plan to have the Back Mountain seniors attend any other Center. Since Mercy Center officials notified the Bureau of the Aging that they could not renew their agreement when it ran out July 1, Adams has been looking for another location in the Back Mountain for the past two months.

Presently, he has not found a site that will meet the regulations required by the state and federal governments. There are some places where the owners have indicated they would spend thousands of dollars to renovate in order to meet requirements but this would be done only at exorbitant rental fees.

Despite the difficulty in finding a place, Adams explained he and his staff will continue looking for a place. Sen. Charles Lemmond is also assisting in finding a location for the Center.

Adams said the Bureau, after a nine-month study, discovered that, on the average, 31 persons attend the Senior Citizens Center between the hours of 10:30 to 1:30 p.m. For this reason, the Bureau has discussed opening for four hours daily, running the same programs including the lunch hour during that period. He said there is no plan to phase out the Back Mountain Senior Citizen Center, but it will be operated as a Neighborhood Planning Center similar to the one in Edwardsville.

In Luzerne County, approximately 24 percent of the population are senior citizens. In Wilkes-Barre, 27 percent of the population are senior citizens as compared to only 16 percent of the population senior citizens in the Back Mountain Area.

The Back Mountain Senior Citizens group has called a meeting for 2 p.m. tomorrow at the Dallas American Legion for the purpose of discussing an appropriate meeting place and to request that the Center

(See SENIORS, page 2)



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Ground broken

A ground-breaking ceremony was conducted Monday morning for the Country Club Shopping Center, located on Route 309, Dallas, adjacent to Northeastern Bank. Shown here are those officials who participated in the festivities. From left, Daniel Meeker, Dallas Township Planning Commission; Alfred Ackerson, Luzerne County Industrial Development Authority; Alan Finlay, George Nicholson, Humford Equity; John Lukasavage, J.L. Associates; Leonard Insalaco, Insalaco's Supermarkets; Vince Insalaco, Insalaco's Supermarkets; Attorney Murray Uberg, Rosenn, Jenkins and Greenwald; Barry Boyer, Merchants Bank North; George Ellis, Luzerne County Industrial Development Authority.

Shopping center is on its way

Although excavation has been going on for the past several weeks, ground-breaking ceremonies for the Country Club Shopping Center were officially held last Monday in Dallas Township.

The center, which will be constructed on a seven acre site adjacent to the Dallas Township Municipal building near the Northeastern Bank along Route 309, will house eight stores in addition to Insalaco's Supermarket, which will be the main tenant. The opening is set for the Fall of 1986.

George Nicholson, vice-president of Humford Equities, developers of the \$3 million project, said Insalaco's will occupy 31,000 feet of the 52,000 sq. ft. site with eight smaller stores, one of which will probably be a drug store, occupying 1,500 square feet each. He did not indicate which other stores would occupy the vacant lots.

"We will be releasing names as leases are settled," Nicholson said. "I can't say who we are negotiating with, but I can say that the response has been tremendous, and that has been without advertising."

Insalaco's, which operates eight other stores located throughout the area, will be the big draw for Back Mountain residents, and market officials are excited over the possibilities.

"We decided to build back here because of the growth and potential that does exist," said Vince Insalaco, vice-president of the organization. "We feel the people back here are in need of this type of store. They really don't have anyplace close where they can go."

Insalaco said the company decided to expand to the Dallas area after careful consideration and studies had been performed.

"We are always looking to expand

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