

Special tribute to the Class of '86 inside

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Water tank vandalized

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

Damage to a backup water storage tank caused by vandals last week in Dallas Township, will once again result in the disruption of service for area residents, especially those living in New Goss Manor.

For the past three weeks, consumers had been experiencing low water pressure because of work being done on the 250,000 gallon tank located in a field near the Dallas Area High School. Workers from the Regis Charlton firm out of Pittsburgh emptied the 95-foot high tank and sandblasted the outside while coating both the inside and outside to prevent it from rusting. The cost was \$25,000.

Earlier last week, vandals tore the entrance gate off the seven foot high fence, reinforced with three feet of barbed wire, surrounding the tank and caused damage estimated between \$6,000 and \$7,000. Now the structure will have to be emptied again.

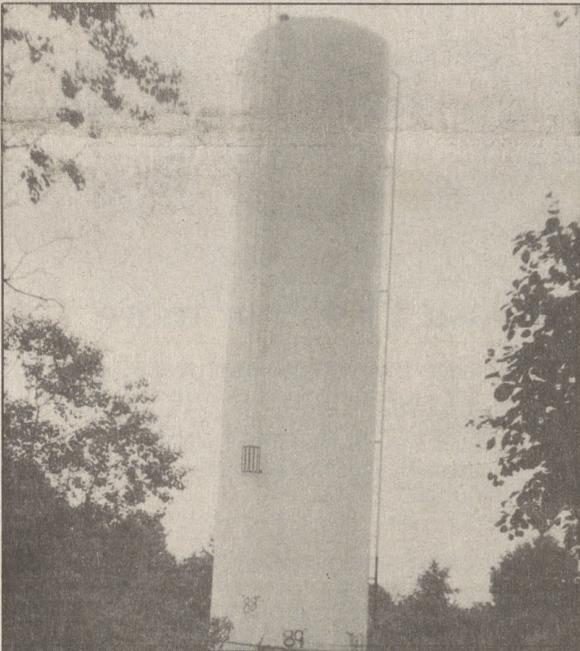
"I can't say when the repairs will take place but they should last

about a week," said Joe Salla, General manager for the Dallas Water Company. "But it's a shame that something like this has to happen. And the saddest part is that we have to pass on the cost of repairs onto the people."

The tank had the numbers "88" and "89" painted in red on it and marked in grease in several areas. The paint was mixed with some type of chemical that caused the outside of the tank to blister. Salla said the vandals, apparently Dallas High School students, also ripped off a heavy steel bar and slammed the tower several times with it.

In addition, they entered the tank through a hatch and sprayed paint on the wall inside. Officials did recover 1½ tons of sand that was stolen from the facility in a nearby field. The sand was contained in 70 pound bags.

It wasn't the first time the Water Company experienced vandalism at the site and measures may soon be taken to prevent any further incidents. Salla said anyone caught tampering with utility property is subject to a \$50,000 fine and/or five years in jail.



Dallas Post/John Hoinski

Tank vandalized

Shown here is the vandalism that has been done to a water tower owned by the Dallas Water Co. As can be seen in the photo, the tower has been spray painted with the numbers "88" and "89." In addition to the painting, a gate at the tower has also been broken.



Dallas Post/Donna Sulliff

Balloons released

Shown here is a balloon release held this past weekend in conjunction with the Harveys Lake Homecoming Festival. As can be seen in the photo, each balloon has a card attached to it, letting the finder know from where the balloon originated.

Woman pleads guilty in father's stabbing death

A 49-year-old Forty Fort woman pleaded guilty Monday to third-degree murder in the New Years Day stabbing of her 67-year-old father, Robert A. Shipkowski, at the Hillside Personal Care Home in Dallas township.

Caroline Ross Rittinger, 37 Walnut St., made her plea before Luzerne County Judge Robert J. Hourigan, saying she was "very confused and I'm very sorry."

Maximum penalty for the offense is 10 to 20 years in jail and a fine of \$25,000. But because the woman has no prior record, on that basis, and given the gravity of the offense, the sentence, with aggravating circumstances, could be four to ten years. With mitigating circumstances the range could be three to four years.

Rittinger will be sentenced at 2 p.m. on Aug. 5. Assistant District Attorney Charles Coslett said he was prepared to call several witnesses to the stand,

including employees of the nursing home. He also said he could offer testimony to verify that the blood on Mrs. Rittinger's purse and jacket matched the blood on the knife and that of Shipkowski's.

Defense attorneys Joseph Sklarosky and Basil G. Russin said Mrs. Rittinger had been examined by psychiatrists Robert Sadof and Gerald Cook and was found competent to stand trial.

On the day of the incident, Rittinger took a cab to the Personal Care Home in Dallas Township to visit her father who was a boarder there. She entered his room and stabbed him with a knife and then went to the dining room area to tell staff members what she had done.

After Monday's hearing, Mrs. Rittinger was returned to the Luzerne County Women's Detention Center where she has been held since her arrest in default of \$50,000 bail.

Hearing on shooting postponed

The preliminary hearing scheduled last Monday for Donald Kelly, the man accused of shooting two Dallas police officers, has been postponed to a later undetermined date.

Luzerne County Assistant District Attorney Charles Coslett said he could not attend Monday's session because of prior court commitments. Atty. Charles Gelso will represent the defendant.

On June 7, Kelly, of Noxen, allegedly entered the Dallas Township Municipal building at 3:50 a.m. and shot officers James Tupper and Wayman Miers in

their legs before they were able to subdue him. Both officers, who were patients at the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, were released last Thursday.

Kelly remains in Luzerne County Prison in lieu of \$200,000 bail. He is charged with criminal attempt to commit murder, four counts of aggravated assault, two counts of terroristic threats and once count of reckless endangering another person.

The preliminary hearing is scheduled to be heard before District Justice Earl Gregory in Shavertown.

— JOHN HOINSKI

Energy facility studied

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

Governing bodies of the Back Mountain area are considering the construction of a Waste Energy Facility that would simultaneously burn garbage and produce energy. The proposal was discussed last week at the Kingston Township board of supervisors meeting.

The plant, which could be located at the Dallas Area Treatment Plant, may help solve the growing problem of the high cost of garbage disposal for residents in Kingston Township, Dallas Boro and Dallas Township.

The incinerator would not only burn household garbage but would produce heat to dry sludge as well, which in turn would also be burned. But right now officials say they are still in the early phases of studying the idea.

"We are now in the stage of finding out what funds are available for a feasibility study," Kingston Township manager Fred Potzer said. "Weston engineers (engineers for the Dallas Area Municipal Authority, DAMA,) said they would definitely be interested in performing a study, but first we have to wait for information from the Department of Community Affairs DCA.

"The technology in Solid Waste is growing every day, so we want to see what the latest data is before we begin. We might even find out the plant would be more expensive to operate than the present system."

Currently, residents must pay a private contractor to haul garbage away. But because of the spiraling costs that are passed down from landfill owners to private haulers to customers, officials are looking at cheaper more efficient methods.

Potzer says the DCA could pay as much as 50 per cent of the costs for the study and that the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) could also pay a part of the amount. But, he said, it is more likely that Kingston Township, Dallas Boro and Dallas Township would have to pay a proportionate amount of the cost.

In other business, the township supervisors:

— Awarded a bid of \$40,644.95 to Wyoming Sand and Stone for the paving of Mt. Airy, Spring St., Brook St., Ferguson Ave., and North Franklin St.

— Awarded a bid of \$40,003.95 to Hadsall Excavating and Utility Contractors for drainage improvements for portions of Terrace Ave., Sickler Hill Rd., Timothy Ave, Harris Hill Rd., W. Center St. and Clover Lane.

Rape reported in Shavertown

Kingston Township police say they are searching for two white males in their late 20s or early 30s in connection with the reported rape of a 31-year-old Shavertown woman last Friday along S. Memorial Highway in Shavertown.

Police say the one suspect is believed to be five feet three inches tall, weighing 165 pounds with dark brown eyes, dark complexion and dark hair. When last seen he was wearing blue jeans, a maroon short-sleeved pull over shirt and a gold necklace.

The second individual is reported to be five feet seven inches tall, weighing 185 pounds, with light curly hair and blue eyes. He was last seen wearing blue jeans and a dark blue T-shirt.

The rape reportedly took place at 5:15 a.m. on S. Memorial Highway in Shavertown.

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Lehman board reduces tentative tax millage

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Lake-Lehman School Board Chairman Allen Keiper told taxpayers at the June 10 meeting that the directors had managed to reduce the tentative millage for the 1986-87 school year from the proposed 15 mills increase to 11.1.

Despite cutting many programs to the minimum, Keiper stated that the directors were successful in retaining the junior high extra-curricular programs, continuing the summer programs scheduled in the district and hiring sufficient coaches. He pointed out, however, that some cutback in assistants was necessary as well as a reduction in summer program hours. Although a minority of the directors opposed the cutback in summer program hours, the summer program was approved by a 5-4 vote.

Programs approved for the summer were basketball, 40 hours, directed by Roger Bearde; weightlifting and conditioning, 40 hours, Rich Gorgone; conditioning and recreation sports, 40 hours, Sally Galka; marching band, 40 hours, John Miliauskas; and elementary music, 20 hours, Jonathan Pineno.

William Samuels, taxpayer, asked the board if the motion to appoint

junior high coaches and assistants at the June meeting would "lock in" the district to maintaining these programs if an insufficient number of students showed interest.

Director Bing Wolfe told Samuels that he had expressed the same concern during a work session but he was out-voted. Director Don Jones explained that the board members had progressed to the point where the coaches were appointed prior to the beginning of the season. "If we don't appoint the coaches now, the season will be opening and we won't have the coaches for the various programs," explained Jones.

Director Ed Marks made a motion to table the appointment of all extra-curricular coaches and advisors but his motion failed by a 5-4 vote with Robert Emory, Charles Nafus, Bing Wolfe and Mark voting to table. A subsequent motion to appoint the following persons passed by a 5-4 vote with Mark, Wolfe, Emory and Nafus voting no.

Persons appointed were Rosemary Zbiek, yearbook advisor; Jeanne Purcell, elementary spring musical advisor; Jean Lipski, class night, junior-senior play, assistant cheerleader advisor; Susie Snyder, head cheerleader advisor.



Wheelchairs donated

The Dallas Women of Rotary started a community wheelchair project 17 years ago. They purchased for loan, wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, and various other items for long and short term use. During the 1984-85 term as president of the Women of Rotary, Joan Martin proposed the project be relocated, from the home of Howard and Mary Ann Strom of Dallas, to the Back Mountain Library. Mrs. Martin approached the library with this proposal, and the library board of directors and Mr. William Fredericks made available a room in the basement of the library for this project's headquarters. Under the current presidency of Pat Baird, some of the club members helped to clean and move the stock of the equipment to the library. Joanne Hall, Mary Ann Spuriin, Sally Lehman, Pat Baird and Veronica Farinola formed this committee. Once the equipment was at the library, Michael Farinola and Jeff Townsend donated their time and energy to hang peg board throughout the loan room. All of the items for loan were sent out for inspection and professional cleaning. Anyone choosing to donate new or used equipment to the loan closet, is welcomed to contact the library. For more information please call the Back Mountain Library 675-1182. Shown here is William Frederick, center, librarian at the Back Mountain Memorial Library, accepting a donation from members of the Women of Rotary.