

SERVING THE BACK MOUNTAIN



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Permits being withheld until roads ready in subdivision

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

Tamanini Industries has run into another roadblock in its attempt to complete Phase II of the Sunrise Estates development; Kingston Township has refused to issue building permits for the Phase II lots.

Kingston Township Manager Jeff Box said the permits were withheld because Tamanini failed to meet necessary road construction requirements.

A township ordinance requires that all roads at a construction site be permanently mud free and allow traffic to pass the roads safely.

"The ordinance exists because of many complaints in past years of mud and dust due to construction," Box explained. "The ordinance tries to make life bearable for residents."

Box said the refusal of the building permits is not intended to create undue hardship to future homeowners at the development, but the township's first obligation is to present homeowners.

"In the long run, I think Phase II of the development will be as nice as Phase I," Box said. "When the repairs on the roads are made, the permits can be issued."

Sunrise Estates has been under fire for several township violations in the past, and at one point the issue was taken to Luzerne County Court. Judge Patrick Toole ordered Tamanini to comply with township regulations.

According to Box, Tamanini has complied with regulations since the Township Supervisor's meeting last month, at which several violations were discussed. "The township has been at the site and witnessed that he is apparently complying," Box said. He added that Tamanini has not filed any appeals of the supervisors' decisions.

"Overall, our objective has been achieved," Box concluded. "That was to bring the operation in compliance with township ordinances."



GROTTO PIZZA RETURNING - Owner Joe Paglianite stands in front of the newly constructed section of Joe's Grotto restaurant at Harveys Lake. The popular hotspot should reopen soon. (Photo by Scott A. Davis)

Joe's Grotto almost ready to reopen

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

The sound of saws and hammers may soon be replaced by talking and laughter as Harveys Lake hotspot Joe's Grotto prepares to reopen.

The famous pizza place will open its doors again within the next couple of weeks, according to owner Joe Paglianite. Although the entire building will not be finished this year, Paglianite plans to open the patio and gazebo areas.

Perugino Construction has concentrated on finishing the

patio and gazebo so the restaurant could re-open more quickly. Only the metal frame of the main structure is standing at this time.

Paglianite said he expected the restaurant to be finished by Memorial Day, but the large amount of rain in May slowed construction. "We have had a lot of rain delays," Paglianite explained. "The rain has held up construction a lot."

Only about one third of the \$700,000 cost to rebuild the structure was covered by insurance.

The pizza bar and restaurant was destroyed by a huge fire on

September 7, 1988. Damage was estimated at \$500,000 dollars. Approximately 75 firefighters from throughout the Back Mountain fought the blaze.

Local residents and people around the state expressed shock and sadness when the building was destroyed. At the time of the fire, Back Mountain resident Murph Hislop said, "Joe's Grotto is a landmark of Harveys Lake. It was a drawing card that brought people out here because everyone knew where it was."

Paglianite wants everyone to know that he is "looking forward to serving the people again."

Service America to try again for Dallas cafeteria profit

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Service America food service will have a second chance to try to operate the Dallas School District cafeteria at a profit.

At a work session of the Dallas School Board Monday night, director James Richardson's motion to renew Service America's contract for the 1989-1990 school year was approved by a 9-0 vote.

Prior to his motion, Richardson stated that he, director Tom Landon and Superintendent Wycallis met with representatives of the food service and discussed some major and minor changes in next year's operation.

Among the changes were work at ways to increase the lunch count; to serve more Type A lunches, to increase the number of free and reduced lunches as well as some minor changes Richardson did not name.

Richardson said he had just received an unofficial cafeteria report for May which showed a profit. He did not give the amount of profit, but said the report would not be official until Charlotte Williams, business manager had a chance to evaluate the report to make certain nothing was omitted.

See CAFETERIA, pg 3

Residents contest plan to convert Harveys Lake bar

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

Harveys Lake residents are attacking a plan to remodel the former Lake's Edge bar into an apartment complex, but Councilman Richard Boice calls the criticism unfounded.

Samuel Guesto, 1685 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, is planning to convert the shut down bar into apartments. He also plans to build an identical complex in the bar's parking lot.

The residents are complaining to Harveys Lake Borough Council that the proposed structures will create several problems.

The residents have said they fear the new building will block their view of the lake. They also have complained that the apartment complex will lower the property value of their homes.

Councilman Boice said he supports the proposed conversion, and that he feels the complaints are unfounded.

"People complained about the bar for years. About drunks in the parking lot, noise, and so on," Boice said. "Now someone's coming in to put what I feel is a beautiful plan and the residents are upset about that."

Boice described the Lakes Edge bar as being "dilapidated" and said the new apartment complex would actually raise the value of surrounding homes.

"If you have a dilapidated structure and I have a \$50,000 home sitting next to it, and you turn that structure into a \$100,000 structure, is it going to lower my property value? No, it's going to raise it," Boice explained.

Boice called the residents' complaint of a blocked view of the lake a "cop out." "Who just sits and looks out their window?" asked Boice. He said residents of the lake usually go to diners or the waterfront to look at the lake.

Guesto has attended several zoning board meetings asking for permission to build the apartment complex. Residents have hired an attorney to represent them.

Boice said he believes Guesto never had to go to the council. According to him, if Guesto met with residents and explained his plans, they may see the benefits of the project.

"A guy from Wilkes-Barre walks in and tries to do what he wants is going to get opposition. He should ask residents for suggestions and try and find a compromise," Boice said.

Boice said Guesto should concentrate on the reconstruction of the bar. "When the residents see it, maybe they will like it and o.k. the second structure."

Repeated attempts to reach Guesto for comment were unsuccessful. Boice said the situation will be discussed at the next zoning meeting, June 27.

Harris Hill bridge to be under repair two weeks

Harris Hill Road residents will have to take a different route home for a few weeks, as the bridge connecting the road to Route 309 is repaired.

The bridge was closed to traffic last week so repairs could be made. Kingston Township Manager Jeff Box explained, "Over the past year,

we have monitored the deterioration of the pavement and the wall on the northern side of the bridge."

The pavement and wall have been torn out and are presently being replaced.

The bridge is expected to be closed for approximately two more weeks.

Ross Elementary parents say school is inadequate

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

A group of Ross Township parents who attended the Lake-Lehman School Board's town meeting last Wednesday told the directors the Ross Elementary building is inadequate for the students when compared to the facilities at Lehman-Jackson and Lake-Noxen schools.

The special meeting was called to discuss the school facilities study prepared by Smith, Miller and Associates of Kingston, an architectural firm. The recommendations prepared from input from teachers and administrators from each school for renovations and additions to the district's buildings total approximately \$5 million.

The Ross School parents primary request was that the board consider bringing Ross facilities up to a par with the other elementary buildings. Some of the Ross Township parents also said they wanted the board to approve bringing the Ross Township fifth and sixth grade students back to the Ross building instead of bussing the students to Lake-Noxen and Lehman-Jackson schools. Fifth and sixth grade students are presently bussed to the other buildings

because there is not enough classroom space at Ross Elementary, which now has kindergarten through fourth grade classes.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Borchetta explained the district does not forget the Ross students, but the neighborhood school has been replaced in many districts with the balancing of class sizes.

Dr. Borchetta also told the more than 50 taxpayers at the meeting that despite a survey that indicates no noticeable growth in the Lake-Lehman District over the next 10 years, housing in the Back Mountain is on the increase. He also said that the district will keep a close watch on Ross and Jackson Townships. He emphasized because of the growth in the Back Mountain area and because of the increase in many state-mandated programs, he believes that there is a need for a capital improvements projects for the Lake-Lehman School District.

Board president Marc Elgaway told the taxpayers that the study is just a starting point and that the board wanted the public's opinion on the proposed building plan before any decisions are made. He said there will be plenty of discussion at future meetings and that changes can be made in the recommendations at any time.

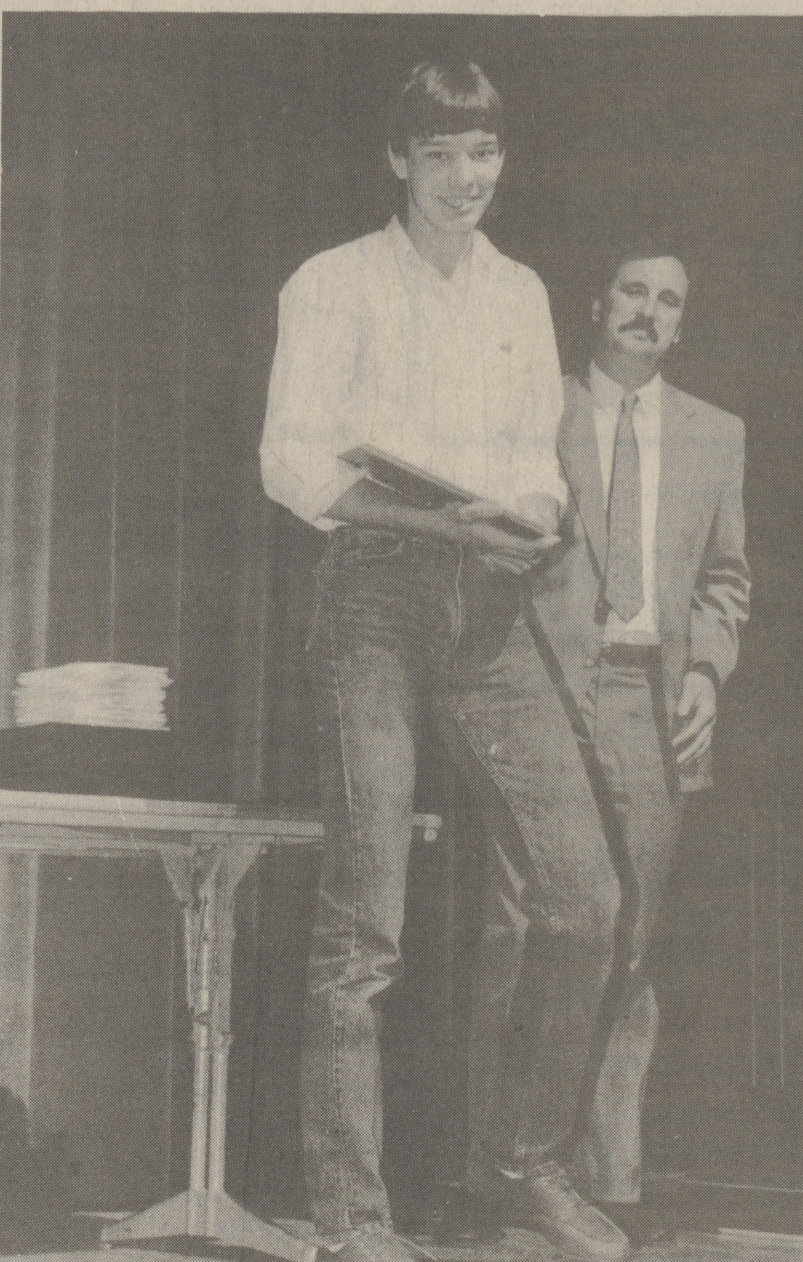
Franklin's to close for remodeling

Franklin's Restaurant at the intersection of Routes 309 and 415 in Dallas will close for remodeling June 11.

Franklin's has been owned by the Friendly Restaurant chain for several years. For a time, Hershey

Food owned the restaurant company.

The local Franklin's will be remodeled into a Friendly Family restaurant, according to manager Will Morgan. He said the popular spot would be closed for several weeks.



Breining award winner

Dallas Senior Harry Schweppenheiser was this year's recipient of the Darren Breining Baseball Award presented annually in memory of Breining, outstanding Dallas player, who died of an illness contracted in the United Service. Also in the photo is Dallas Coach Jack Wolensky. Story on page 13. (C.M. Denmon Photo)

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Coming up:

DALLAS SCHOOL BOARD - Tues., June 13, 8 PM, Administration Bldg., Church Street
JACKSON TWP. MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY - Mon., June 12, 7 PM, Jackson Twp. Fire Hall
KINGSTON TWP. SUPERVISORS - Wed., June 14, 8 PM, Kingston Twp. Municipal Bldg.
KINGSTON TWP. PLANNING COMMISSION - Tues., June 13, 8 PM, Kingston Twp. Municipal Bldg.
LAKE TWP. SUPERVISORS - Sat., June 10, 9 AM, Lake Twp. Municipal Bldg.
LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL BOARD - Tues., June 13, 8 PM
LEHMAN TWP. SUPERVISORS - Mon., June 12, 8 PM, Lehman Twp. Municipal Bldg.