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35 Cents



PREPARING - Two firefighters enter a blazing house, as two others intentionally set afire so that area fire companies could get some practice. More photos on page 3. (Photo by Scott A. Davis)

Firefighters burn vacant home to train for real thing

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

Saturday, flames shot high into the air. Smoke could be seen for miles. Intense heat radiated from the Trucksville home as it burned, forcing the crowds of spectators to move further away from the fire scene.

In front of the home, several firefighters stood bravely with their backs to the flames as a photographer snapped their picture. That's right, while a photographer snapped their picture.

This fire, which left nothing but a foundation and chimney, was set purposely by local fire departments for use as a training session for firefighters.

By setting the donated Atherholt Drive home ablaze, firefighters were able to obtain experience in firefighting without the risk of an uncontrolled fire, explained fire officials. They also said that by being able to look at the home before the fire was set and removing any substantially hazardous situations, firefighters would be safer than in an actual fire.

About 50 firefighters from Shavertown, Dallas, Trucksville, and Jackson Township Volunteer fire departments participated in the training. Kingston Township Ambulance assisted.

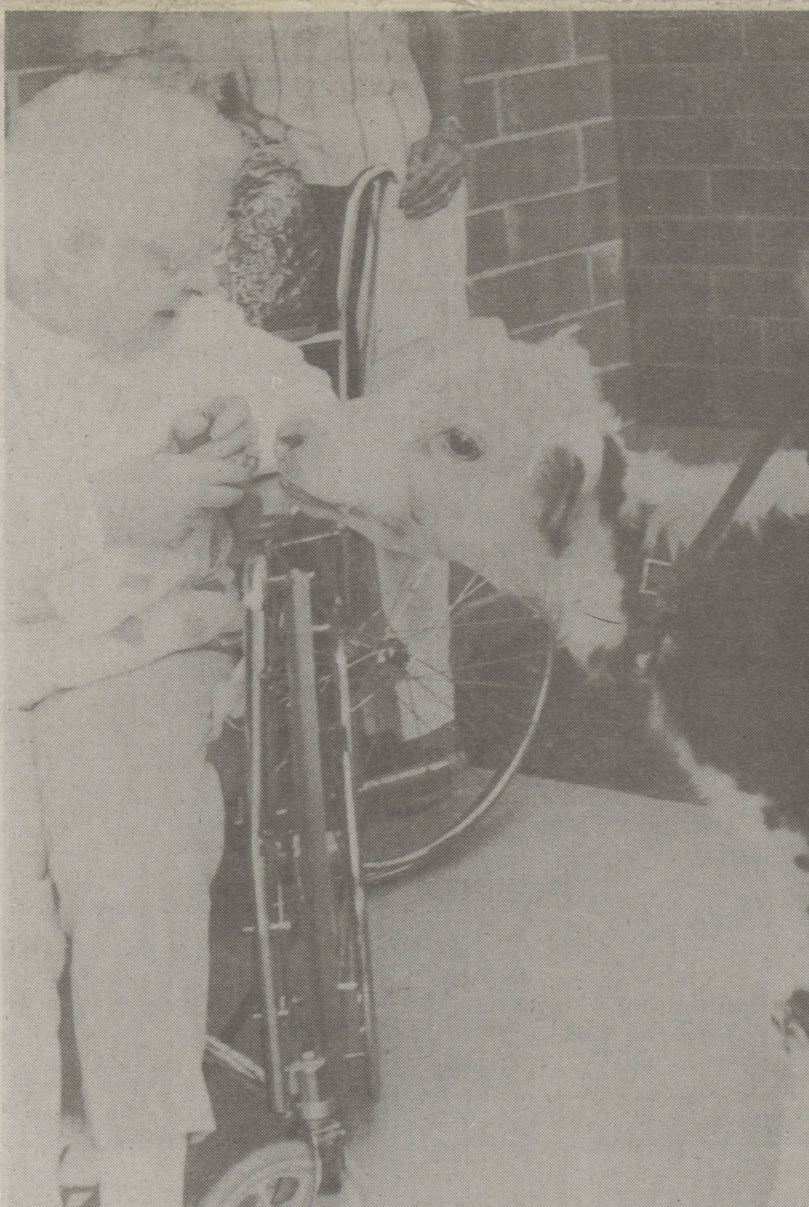
The fire training session was directed by Dallas Fire Chief Ted Wright, who could be seen throughout the exercise yelling commands and directions into his hand-held portable radio.

One fireman was transported to Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston, where he was treated for a leg injury and released.

The exercise began by setting ablaze only parts of the home. Firefighters were then sent in with air-tanks and hoses to douse the flames. The average time to douse these sporadic flames was four to six minutes.

The second part of the training was a bit more difficult. Using a suggestion from another firefighter, Wright decided to set the first and second floors on fire, but not just in spots. Both floors were com-

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ORPHANED CALF - Harriet, the orphaned calf, is pictured here with Agnes Franc at the Meadows Nursing Center.

Young calf orphaned - parental neglect at issue

Harriet didn't do anything to deserve her unusual predicament. And according to Merle Thomas, her owner, he's never seen anything like it. Harriet (pictured above) now four months old, was born a normal calf to a normal cow. Harriet's only problem seemed to be that she was a twin and Mom wasn't ready for the responsibility the two calves presented. So much so, that, in fact, she wouldn't feed Harriet. "In all my years I've never seen anything like it," said Thomas.

So Merle, family and friends, set out to bottle feed Harriet until she was well on her own and ready to eat grass. While she still takes an occasional bottle, she is essentially an orphan and is kept in the Thomas greenhouse near the fruit stand. Merle says that since her mother will never care for her he fears she might be prey to roaming dogs in the fields alone. "I expect to let her loose in the spring when she can take care of herself. She'll be bigger then and can roam with the herd," says Merle.

Meanwhile Harriet is somewhat of a tag-a-long, just another kid without a home, a cow without a herd.

Lake resident claims widespread drinking water contamination

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

Harveys Lake may be facing a greater water contamination problem than was first indicated, as residents from around the lake are reporting tainted water.

Since bacteria contamination was discovered at Warden Place, residents from around the lake have been expressing concern as to the extent of the contamination. This past week, several of them sent their water to Kirby Health Center in Wilkes-Barre for testing.

"This problem is not confined to Warden Place," said William Mann Saturday. Mann was the first person to detect contamination at Warden Place, and said he has taken on a personal effort to correct the problem.

According to Mann, he has received calls from various lake residents claiming they have had their water tested and the tests have shown their water unsafe to drink. Mann said the calls have been from Sandy Beach, Hansons Picnic Ground area, Lake View Terrace, Sunset, Outlet, and Point Breeze.

Mann said he has received calls from various areas, reporting unsafe levels of bacteria in drinking water

Although Mann would not release names to the press for print without individual approvals, he did show a list of about ten residents from around the lake to a Post reporter who agreed not to print the names.

"Lake View Terrace has had several high readings of contamination," Mann said. Mann said people are receiving readings between 4 and 80+. The legal limit for safe drinking water is 0 or 1. 80+ is the highest reading available, according to Kirby Health Center.

One resident who contacted Mann called The Post Saturday. Denise Sult, Queen of Peace Road, said her water tested 80+. "I plan on purchasing an ultraviolet system," Sult said. The ultraviolet system is a filter light which hooks

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Fear of lower property values hampers identification of wells

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

Many Harveys Lake residents seem to be afraid to announce water test results for fear of lowering their property values, and some have even become threatening.

William Mann, who has been leading an effort to find a solution to recent bacteria contamination of wells in Harveys Lake, said some people have called to inform him their water is also contaminated, but will not release their names for fear of lowering the value of their property. Mann said several of these calls originated at Point Breeze.

A Post reporter has witnessed Mann's notebook indicating some of the anonymous callers. The notebook markings recorded several callers refusing to give their names for fear of lowering their property values.

The Post spoke with a couple

from Point Breeze Sunday. The couple refused to offer their names, but said their water test returned showing an unsafe drinking level of 4. "I spent a lot of time working on this home to build up the value. I do not want the value to fall just because someone wanted my name. When they solve the problem, then we will ask for their help," said one of the couple.

Mann said he has had several calls expressing similar concerns. "Several residents are afraid to give their names for fear the association of the water problem with their property will lower its value," Mann said.

Mann also claims he has received some "derogatory" calls from people who fear his pursuit of the water problem and the publicity created by it will lower their property values. "One even threatened me physically," Mann said. "And believe it or not, a woman made the worst call."

Fish Commission makes another boating arrest

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

A West Wyoming man has been charged with operating a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol at Harveys Lake.

Robert Michael Lampman faced a preliminary hearing before District Justice Earl Gregory, Shavertown, on Friday. Gregory ruled a prima facie case had been established and all charges have been forwarded to Luzerne County Court for trial.

Lampman was apprehended June 18, 1989 at Harveys Lake by

Pennsylvania Fish Commission Waterways Enforcement Officer Claude Neifert and Deputies Paul Grimes and Harry Ream.

The penalty if convicted for boating under the influence of alcohol is a fine up to \$2,500 and loss of boating privileges for one year.

Lampman is the latest in a string of arrests made in an alcohol crackdown by the commission this year. Last week, James Michael Olson, Lake Areil, was charged for the same offense in an unrelated occurrence.

Excitement building for football season

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

The conditioning rooms in the schools are empty, the practice fields are quiet, booster club and gridiron club members are no longer hurrying from place to place selling ads for the programs to be handed out during the season's games.

Sportswriters have completed their weekly or pre-season predictions, and TV sportscasters have named the opening Top 10 pick as the day draws near.

Yes, opening day excitement is in the air as band members and cheerleaders finish their final practices to prepare for opening day.

Excitement fills the air as the day is here—the day of the first game. Back Mountain fans head toward the newly-painted bleachers overlooking the field carefully prepared by maintenance for the big day.

Band members in new uniforms of Columbia blue and white for Dallas, or yellow and black for Lake-Lehman, stand outside the

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gates of the stadiums nervously trying a note or two to make certain instruments are in tune. Cheerleaders in their short skirts and colorful sweaters bearing their school monograms run about nervously exchanging last minute instructions as they prepare to enter on the field with their large paper banners bearing such phrases as "Stamp out the Trojans," "Down with the Grenadiers".

Whether at home or away, loyal fans file into the stadium early in order to stop for a hot dog, pizza or coke before climbing the bleachers to find a place among friends or a spot high enough to see the entire field.

Media reporters walk down the sidelines to talk to friends then climb to the press box atop the bleachers while fellow photographers line themselves along the

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Coming up:

GREATER WILKES-BARRE TRIATHLON - Sun., Sept. 3. Swim starts at 8 AM at Harveys Lake, race concludes about 10 AM at College Misericordia.
DALLAS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS - Tues., Sept. 5, 8 PM, Dallas Township Bldg.
LUZERNE COUNTY FAIR - Starts Wed., Sept. 6, Luzerne County Fairgrounds, Route 118. See calendar page for schedule.