

Oak Hill

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ice, but that it is not clear if a previously approved rate increase can be rescinded retroactively. He said that once the Commission establishes a level of rates, that level cannot be changed retroactively but can be changed for the future.

Barasch also replied in a letter to Dieterick that National Utilities is currently working on its reorganization plan and recently submitted a draft which needs to be reviewed by his office.

In response to other questions posed by the consumers, Barasch stated that PUC rules do not require a utility to maintain a local or toll-free telephone number to receive calls from customers and that the monitoring and testing of chlorine levels is a matter regulated by the Department of Environmental Resources. He explained that DER has a minimum level requirement of chlorine but to his knowledge there is no maximum level.

Barasch in answer to some of the customers questions as to whether or not the water facilities loan received from PennVest was properly spent, said more specific details could be obtained from PennVest.

He explained that unless the municipality had regulations about drilling wells, there was no restriction on customers drilling their own wells in the area.

Many of the customers asked about property damage reimbursement since in some areas the company had increased the pressure which residents claimed caused water heaters to blow up and damage the heater and interior of the residence. Some of the cases have been taken to the magistrate, but the water company has appealed these as cases to Common Pleas Court.

The company is also claiming that damages to the water mains are possibly caused by settling of the ground and construction-related problems which occurred during sewer line construction.

Residents have been told that under the present law, the PUC cannot award damages to a utility customer whose property was damaged, but such damages only can be awarded by a civil court.

It was also explained to the customers that a utility must take all reasonable steps such as personal contact, phone contact and use of the mass media to notify customers of service interruptions and to resume service as soon as possible and that a utility may not ignore service interruptions during weekends.

The consumer advocate stated that if a utility failed to take expeditious action to remedy a service interruption, it would be in violation of the PUC regulation and subject to fines.

As of October 16, 1989, the complaints of the Oak Hill Water Company customers have not been resolved.



CENTER NEARS COMPLETION - Penn State's Center for Technology nears completion and the Wilkes-Barre Campus begins preparing for the April 5 dedication. Above, Dr. James H. Ryan, CEO of Penn State Wilkes-Barre; Al Sands, Harris Corp., Mountaintop plant manager; and Thomas Ruskey, facilities supervisor and PSU Wilkes-Barre alumnus, stand in front of the Center after touring the facility. One of the labs will be named in honor of Harris Corp., a major benefactor.

Penn State buildings going up fast

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

The Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus is a busy place these days, with the construction of two buildings going on simultaneously. The first is the Center for Technology which was made possible through the generosity of the community in contributions to the campaign under the chairmanship of Atty. Michael J. Hudacek.

Mastrianni, the general contractor, has had his men working fast and furious and has the construction in its final stages, with his goal to turn over the classrooms in January so the faculty and staff can plan their move to the new facility.

"The administration has been able to do some walk-throughs and there have been such comments as 'Wow!', 'We didn't realize how big the building is,'" Phyllis Belk, Public Relations director said. "We hope to get permission in the near future from the contractor to

take the press through the building."

The two-level was originally thought to be turned over earlier but in the spring university officials realized that it would be ready for the 1990 spring term.

The second building under construction is the campus gymnasium center, under the supervision of the state General Services Administration, with Stanley Mirra as project director. The mild weather has been a big help in the construction moving rapidly according to District Manager Wil-

liam Donnelly of the GSA.

"Strausser Construction Co., Inc. is the general contractor on the job which is about 20 percent complete.

"They are pouring the foundation and the footers. Then they will waterproof the walls and start on the building. The sub-contractors are working on the manholes for the electricity and the plumbing and doing work for the fire hydrants. The longer the weather holds up the more we can get done," Donnelly said.

Hit and run boat hearing postponed once again

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

Two individuals charged in connection with a hit-and-run boat accident on Harveys Lake which sent two women to the hospital during the Fourth of July weekend had their preliminary hearing continued for the third time Thursday.

Gary A. Evans, 45, 324 E. Broad St., Nanticoke, and his girlfriend Adrienne Ratchford, 44, 72 Pulaski St., Kingston were expected to face the hearing on Thursday, but District Justice Earl Gregory, Shavertown, granted a third continuance.

Both were charged Friday, August 18 with recklessly operating a watercraft, recklessly endangering another person, and providing false statements. In addition, both were charged with summary offenses including failure to submit a required accident report and failure to render assistance to casualties.

The hearing was originally scheduled to be held before Gregory on September 8, but was continued to September 26. Then,

the hearing was postponed until Thursday, October 26.

Gregory said the District Attorney's Office was not prepared for Thursday's hearing. Gregory set a new date of November 22.

The charges were filed by Harveys Lake Police Officer Ron Spock and Fish Commission Enforcement Officer Claude Neifert.

The charges followed almost two months of investigation stemming from a boat accident which occurred July 1 around 11:45 p.m. near Pole 140. Police say that Evans and Ratchford were operating a 1955 Chris Craft outboard motor boat, which Evans owns, that slammed broadside into a boat carrying five people, including a 6-year-old boy. Two women aboard the boat, Nancy Begala, Harveys Lake, and Adelia Demoulee, Port Orchard, Washington, were treated at Nesbitt Hospital for shock and facial injuries. Evans' boat was allegedly operating without running lights. The boat then left the scene of the accident.

Evans is being represented by Attorney John Moses. Ratchford's attorney is Frank Nocito.

Recycling drive called a success

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

Harveys Lake officials are calling this past weekend's recycling drive a resounding success as glass, aluminum, and newspaper was collected for the first time by any Back Mountain community.

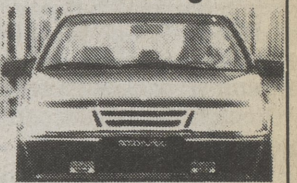
The recycling event was held by the Harveys Lake Environmental Advisory Council on Saturday. The acceptance of glass, aluminum, and newspaper was not done in the past because of the difficulty of finding facilities capable of recycling the materials.

"We had a good turnout," said EVAC member Phil Conrad Saturday afternoon. Conrad estimated a total of 125 people turned out to rid themselves of the three items.

The drive netted 250 pounds of glass, 75 pounds of aluminum, and over 4 tons of newspaper during its four hour time span, according to Conrad.

Conrad said the public can expect another recycling drive on Saturday, November 25.

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