



THE DALLAS POST

Vol. 101 No. 15

Dallas, PA Wednesday, April 18, 1990

35 Cents

Gas fumes may start at gas station

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Officials were not able to locate the source of gas fumes along Route 309 Monday morning but they said the fumes were not dangerous, according to Tony Ellis, administrative assistant of Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

"DER, EMA officials and the township fire company officials spent approximately three hours trying to find the source, but before we left the odor had dissipated. Once the fumes were gone the potential danger was over," Ellis said.

"Nothing got into the drinking water, just into the sewer lines," Ellis explained.

Ellis said that the most likely source of the fumes was the Hess gas station on Route 309, since the fumes were traced to a location near it.

Ellis also said that as a precautionary measure, that on Tuesday, April 17, DER, Hess officials and a contractor would drain one of the station's tanks, excavate it and if it should have a leak in it, replace it.

"Until the tank is taken up, however, it can't be certain the fumes were coming from the Hess Station," Ellis said.

Sale of area water companies approved

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

The Public Utilities Commission approved the sale of the Dallas, Shavertown, Harveys Lake and Noxen Water Companies, April 16, to the General Water Works Management Service Company, located in Bryn Mawr. The final contract signing will take place in the near future, according to General Manager Michael Coyle of the Dallas-Shavertown Water Company. The companies have been owned by Eastern Gas and Water Investment Company in King of Prussia.

"The General Water Works Company is a very reputable operation and the area is fortunate to have a company of that caliber. Officials of the company have not discussed their long range plans with me but in my opinion, I believe they will continue to provide quality service to the Back Mountain community," Coyle said.

Coyle also said that he will remain as manager of the water company and all of the other personnel will also remain.

The four companies serve approximately 2,735 customers in Dallas Borough and Township; Shavertown, Harveys Lake and Noxen.

Jackson Twp. sewer permits going fast

By RICH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The Jackson Township General Municipal Authority has changed the days and hours when a permit to connect to the new sewer project can be purchased.

Jack Ziegler of the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority said that the permits can now be purchased at the Jackson Township Fire Hall on Monday evenings

See JACKSON, pg 2



Big catch

Nine-year-old Jennifer Stolarick of Dallas found the fishing easy at Harveys Lake Saturday. She landed these five trout on opening day. Story on page 2. (Photo by Rich Johnson)

Jackson Police join Back Mountain Comm. Center

By RICH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The Back Mountain Communication Center is continuing to grow and that makes its members happy.

Last week, the Jackson Township Police Department became the newest member of the communication center, after the Jackson Township Supervisors voted to pay the membership fee for the department.

With the addition of Jackson Township, the communication center now serves six police departments in the Back Mountain. Paul Sabol, the president of the communication center's board of directors and the police chief in Kingston Township, said that he is happy to see more members joining the center. "I feel great that they (Jackson Township police) have joined," said Sabol. "I would like to have every emergency department in the Back Mountain be part of the center," he added.

Besides the six police departments, the communication center

**JACKSON TOWNSHIP POLICE
EMERGENCY NUMBER IS
NOW 675-9911.**

also serves eight fire departments and seven ambulance services, along with Medic 1 and Medic 302.

Sabol said that one reason some of the emergency departments have not joined the center is the cost. Depending on the size of the department, there is a membership fee to join. Many of the departments affiliated with the center are part-time departments and must pay an annual fee of \$8,000, according to Sabol.

However, Sabol said that the service given to the departments is worth the money. "The funds go to getting better equipment for the center," said Sabol. Besides paying for the equipment Sabol also said the membership money also helps pay the salaries of the three full-time and five part-time dispatchers at the center.

See POLICE, pg 2

Harveys Lake residents protest sewer extension

By RICH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Controversy continues for the Harveys Lake Sewer Authority as some residents of the Hemlock Gardens section are vowing legal action to help stop an authority order to connect to the borough's sewer system and pay for the cost of the project.

Last week, the sewer authority and borough council both gave preliminary approval for a plan to run a sewer line to Hemlock Gardens and for the residents and landowners to pay for it.

This does not sit well with the

residents, who say the plan is not necessary and is unfair to them.

"This decision was made long before any meeting," says resident Ed Spera. "The sewer authority says that the sewer line is going in and we have to pay for it and that is that."

According to William Wilson, chairman of the borough council, the decision to put the system in came after the borough received a recommendation from the Department of Environmental Resources that the sewer line run through Hemlock Gardens. "There is a sewage problem up there," said Wilson. "We haven't been able to

find the cause of the problem but we want to stop it now instead of having another incident like we have now in Warden Place."

Currently, some wells in Warden Place have been contaminated by sewage leaking from septic tanks.

Despite the alleged sewer problem, the residents of Hemlock Gardens say the whole story is not being told. "I contacted DER," said resident Wilma Schierer. "They said that the letter was only a recommendation and not a mandate." She added that a person from DER

See LAKE SEWERS, pg 3

Gag order frustrates victim's dad

By RICH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

A gag order on comment about the manslaughter case of a Back Mountain teen is still in effect and has some people upset over it.

The gag order was handed down by a Luzerne County judge in the case of Chris Smith, who was convicted in the shooting death of 18-year-old Richard Hillman last year. Smith was reportedly sentenced to three years in a reform school last month by Judge Donald O'Malley.

After the sentencing O'Malley retained the gag order, which prohibits anyone dealing with the case from publicly discussing its details.

When contacted about the case, Ray Hillman, the victim's father said he is upset that the gag order is still in effect. "We suffer through this everyday," said Hillman. "Friends and other people ask us everyday what is going on with the case and we can't discuss it. It is not fair," he added.

A source with knowledge of the case says that the gag order is still in effect because Smith is seeking to appeal his sentence. According to the source, a hearing is scheduled for next month before Judge Gifford Cappellini.

When asked to confirm the hearing, Robert Roman, of the Juvenile Detention Center said that his office is "...not allowed to release any information in the case."

Smith was convicted of manslaughter after the shooting death last June. The incident occurred after the two had been arguing at a graduation party. Hillman died after being shot twice, once in the head and once in the abdomen.

The Post wins three state journalism awards

The Dallas Post has won three awards in a Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers' Association statewide contest, including first place in the prestigious Best News Series category. The Keystone Awards annually honor newspapers throughout the state in a variety of subjects.

The Post was awarded first place in the Best News Series category for a number of articles on the contamination of wells at Harveys Lake. The stories, written by Scott Davis, ran throughout the latter half of 1989.

The Post also won a second place award in the Best News Story category for a report on the danger of fast boats and alcohol consumption on Harveys

Lake. The story also was written by Davis and appeared in the May 31, 1989 issue. Only first and second place awards are given in each category.

An editorial written by publisher and editor Ronald Bartizek was awarded second place for Best Editorial. The editorial questioned why the state wanted to place a traffic light at the intersection of Route 309 and Hillside Road when local communities' requests for lights at other locations were ignored.

The Post's entries were included in a group for all weekly newspapers of less than 6,000 circulation from throughout the state. Plaques will be awarded at a dinner meeting in mid-May.

Developer opposes neighboring subdivision Says water runs off on his land

By RICH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The Kingston Township Supervisors have asked for more information before deciding on a proposed subdivision plan in the township. That decision came at last week's meeting of the board when a developer of nearby land stood in opposition to the proposal.

The plan being considered is for the Maplecrest Phase II subdivision, which is being developed by John Moreck. However, Harry Salavantis, who is the developer of Crane's Landing, has asked that the subdivision be denied because

of a large amount of surface water that is draining onto his property from the Maplecrest property.

According to Salavantis, the water deposit has been a continuing problem. "This has been going on for a year and a half now," said Salavantis. "The water started as a trickle and I have watched it increase in volume and velocity for the last 18 months."

Salavantis said that the proposed drainage system for Maplecrest will not alleviate the problem.

However, a representative for Moreck said that the drainage situ-

See RUNOFF, pg 5

Inside The Post

Calendar.....18	Police Report..... 2
Classified.16-17	Property Transfers..... 9
Editorials.....4	School.....12-14
Obituaries.....2	Sports.....14-15

Coming up:

+ RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES - Mon., April 23, 12 Noon to 6 PM, Irem Temple Country Club, Dallas
Wed., April 25, 9 AM to 2 PM, Lake-Lehman High School, Lehman

HARVEYS LAKE ZONING BOARD - Tues., April 24, 7 PM, Harveys Lake Municipal Bldg., Route 415

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD - Mon., April 23, 7 PM, Lehman Twp. bldg.

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION - Mon., April 23, 8 PM, Lehman Twp. bldg.

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL BOARD - Tues., April 24, 8 PM, Lake-Noxen Elementary School



Something to celebrate

Members of the Beaumont Union Gospel Church and their friends attended the dedication service of the new building built by members of the congregation and friends without debt, to replace their church destroyed by fire a year ago. They were welcomed by Pastor Jim Cummings, Pastor Jerry Tallent and Pastor Jim Howell. (Photo by C.M. Denmon)