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35 Cents

Sunset Beach sale to Grotto off, group hopes to reopen it

By ERIC FOSTER
Staff Writer

Joseph Paglianite, the owner of Grotto Pizza, will not purchase Sunset Beach from the Harveys Lake Beach Association.

Attorney Joseph Burke, representing 14 dissenting members of the beach association, said he received a letter over the weekend from Paglianite's attorney saying that he will not defend against the dissenters' suit to stop the sale.

"I'm withdrawing from the purchase of the beachfront property because I didn't want to bring in-

creased litigation and legal fees for the Harveys Lake Beach Association," said Paglianite, who is a member of the association's board of directors.

The beach association voted on June 20, 1990, to sell Sunset Beach, located across from Grotto Pizza, to Paglianite for \$13,422.

Dissenting members of the association formed the Committee to Preserve the Harveys Lake Beach Association, and filed a suit on Nov. 1 to stop the sale of the beach. Paglianite was added to the suit when he signed a sale agreement later that month.

The suit alleged that the vote taken to sell the beach was improper, and the sale price was far

below market value.

"It really doesn't involve him except that he was a third party who wanted to buy the beach," said Paglianite's attorney, Paul Mahler. "It's a conflict between two factions in the beach association over who has the right to sell the property. We were a nominal party."

The gates to the beach were chained shut in the summer of 1990.

Paglianite had planned to do about \$100,000 worth of renovations to the beach, which would open it for public swimming and meet Department of Environmental Resources standards.

"The main reason I got involved with the beach is that the DER told them 2 years ago that they could not operate the beach with the idea of using someone else's restrooms," said Paglianite.

"I wanted an agreement in which the tone was reconciliation," said Burke, who added that he hoped the development would "reopen a dialogue with the directorship of the beach association to come up with a plan to reopen the beach."

The Committee for the Preservation of the Harveys Lake Beach Association has petitioned resi-

See BEACH, pg 2

"We just got used to the noise, that's all. Now that we're getting older we're losing our hearing partly anyway. That helps a little bit."

Jim Taylor
Owner of home next to Rte. 309

Life next to the fast lane

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

No one is closer to the increased traffic, noise, and accidents on Route 309 than Jim Taylor. Taylor's Trucksville home sits only 18 feet from the busy highway.

Since 1955 Taylor and his wife Florence have lived in a small white house just south of the intersection of Route 309 and Carverton Road in Kingston Township.

"You didn't have half this traffic then," said Jim Taylor. "It was real quiet. That was only a two lane highway in the beginning, then they made it a four."

As the highway became bigger, Taylor's house became smaller.

"We used to have a front porch," he said. "Had to take it off."

Along with the front porch, Taylor covered up the front door; they use a side door instead now.

Taylor talks about his neighbor, the four-lane highway, with an air of resignation. "Modern times, what are you going to do?" he asks. The grey house next to his is no longer occupied.



HOME ON THE HIGHWAY - Jim Taylor stands outside his home, which is 18 feet from Route 309. There used to be a front porch where the mailbox stands, but it had to be removed when the highway was expanded from two to four lanes. (Post Photo/Eric Foster)

To block out the noise, he and his wife don't use any special strategy, like blaring the TV or turning up the radio.

"We just got used to the noise, that's all," Taylor said. "Now that we're getting older we're

losing our hearing partly anyway. That helps a little bit. Our house is pretty well insulated, so it does keep it down."

"My wife really loved the place when we bought it. It's bad real estate now."

Initially, the Taylors had a garage, but the Agnes flood washed it away and it wasn't replaced. The yard was filled, but washed away into Toby's

See FAST LANE, pg 5

Citizens' group to study safety on Route 309

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

More traffic signals, a median barrier from Luzerne to Harveys Lake and greater use of car pools were just a few of the ideas offered to enhance safety and reduce congestion on Route 309 when the Back Mountain Citizens' Council hosted a meeting to discuss the highway.

As a result of the meeting, Citizens' Council members and municipal officials will form a Transportation Management Association (TMA) to discuss traffic problems that will be created on the Back Mountain section of the highway when it is connected with major interstates in October.

PennDOT Engineer Chuck Mattei said there is no doubt the Luzerne-Dallas Highway will be a congested road.

"Roadway improvements are no longer enough. The highway from the end of the Cross Valley to Route 118 already has various levels of congestion. Now is the time to begin planning solutions to reduce congestion and to ensure the safety of the highway," Mattei said.

"There will be a need for more police enforcement, additional signals, education of the public by the media and, most important the TMA, which can meet in small groups and come up with some ideas," he said.

Mattei said some possibilities are construction of a median barrier to control access in some ar-

IDEAS TO MAKE ROUTE 309 SAFER AND MORE CONVENIENT

Some of the ideas brought up at last week's meeting with PennDOT officials include:

- Install a median divider from Luzerne to Harveys Lake
- Install more traffic signals
- Reduce the number of driveway and parking lot entrances
- Close some side road accesses
- Have businesses stagger working hours
- Encourage carpooling. Build park and ride lots.
- Lengthen time traffic signals stay green
- Establish alternate routes for emergency use

reas, closing some driveways, establishing a completely limited access highway and the closing of some side roads. He also explained that there is not much area on either side of the highway to expand any more than has been done.

From 25,000 to 45,000 cars daily

PennDOT Engineer Ray Radomski told the group that he knows the highway's problems well since he is a resident of the Back

See SAFETY, pg 5

Changing channels?

Harveys Lake considers running its own cable TV

ERIC FOSTER
Staff Writer

Harveys Lake Borough Council is considering going into the cable television business.

At a special meeting July 31, the council heard a presentation by resident Conrad Hislop who said that the borough could install a system of its own for \$400,000 and in the process extend service to people who can't get it now, reduce rates, and increase the number of channels available.

But Donald Zagorski, manager

of the borough's present cable company, Tele-Media, thinks Hislop's picture has got too much rose in it.

"His figures are way off," said Zagorski. "At a bare minimum, we're looking at \$1.2 million to construct a system at Harveys Lake at today's cost. That's just to give identical service to what we have."

If you're talking about serving the outlying areas like they are, it'd be another couple of hundred thousand."

See TV, pg 6

Abstention halts variance

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

When a public official is in a position to decide an issue in which they have a personal interest, often the correct action is to abstain from voting.

That's just what Bill Zimmiski did at the Harveys Lake Zoning Hearing Board meeting at July 30. But because only two of the three members of the board were present, Zimmiski's abstention was enough to effectively deny a request for a zoning variance from

Nicholas Arnone which would have allowed him to put a residence on a commercially zoned property he owns on the Old Lake Road by Shawnee.

Arnone wanted to put a modular home on the property for use by his son and his sister-in-law.

At one point during the meeting, Zimmiski, who owns Bill's Cafe across from Arnone's property, said, "You're the worst neighbor I've ever had." Zimmiski gave the example of a brick building across

See ZONERS, pg 3



County Fair planners

The Luzerne County Fair Committee met recently to plan for the fair which will run from Sept. 4 to 8. Shown from left are committee members, kneeling: Gary Hozempa, Lillian Piatt, Judy Kmetz, Jean Hillard, Marie Deitz. First row standing: Charlie Hillard, John Urbanc, Ralph Sands, Ed Kelly, Dick Williams, Jim Rogowski, Donna Cupinski, John J. Jablowski Jr., Elena Leandri, Norma Leandri, Charlotte Williams, Stanley Wojciechowski, Linda McLaughlin, Butch Grey. Second row standing: Ray Hillman, Wayne Pettit, Al Radginski, Ron Ercolani, Bob James, Ayleen Landon, John Baranowski. The committee is standing in front of the Francis (Red) Ambrose Exhibitors Building. Ambrose, who passed away earlier this year, founded the Luzerne County Fair in 1962. The structure was completed in July. The committee's next meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m. at the fairgrounds. (Post Photo/Eric Foster)

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RED CROSS BLOOD
Fri., Aug. 9, 1-6 PM,
Meadows Nursing Ctr.,
Dallas.
Apts. 823-7161.

Community Events

ICE CREAM SOCIAL - Sat., Aug. 10, 4:30-7 PM, Loyalville Methodist Church, Loyalville Rd., off Route 118. Wimpies, hot dogs, baked beans and more.
LAKE TOWNSHIP RECYCLING - Sat., Aug. 10, 10-Noon, Lake Twp. Bldg., Rte. 29. Glass, bimetal cans, aluminum, all plastics except oil containers.
AUCTION AND FLEA MARKET - Sat., Aug. 10, Sweetland Homestead, Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming. Adults \$3.00, children under 6 free.

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