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THE BACK MOUNTAIN



FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY

THE DALLAS POST

Vol. 102

Dallas, PA Wednesday, September 18, 1991

Tin bacteria can be a big problem for Harveys Lake

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

If cyanobacteria was a boxer, it would have moves that would keep Mike Tyson awake at night with worry.

The tiny one-celled organism turns lakes a pea-soup color, smells bad, is toxic to mammals, and can give fish a knock-out punch.

At Harveys Lake, outbreaks of cyanobacteria, often going under the alias of blue-green bacteria, or sometimes just plain old algae, have been a recurring problem.

An outbreak of cyanobacteria was severe enough to close the lake, a recreational haven, to swimming in 1981, and again in 1985.

Harveys Lake Borough responded by hiring a firm, Ecoscience, to dump copper sulfate in the lake.

Cyanobacteria hates copper sulfate like Superman hates kryptonite. But too much of the copper can also kill fish. While copper sulfate works in the short run, the borough's Environmental Advisory Council (EVAC) would like to find a more permanent solution to the cyanobacteria menace, as well as other problems at the lake such as

An outbreak of cyanobacteria was severe enough to close the lake to swimming in 1981 and again in 1985

its filling up with sediment.

This year the lake was spared from another bloom of cyanobacteria, but EVAC is working on a strategy to prevent big bad blue-green from ever coming back.

The borough expects to begin an 18-month-long study of the lake near the end of the year. A two-year application process for federal and state grants to fund the \$70,000 study is nearly complete.

The study will be paid for through a 70/30 matching grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, which will provide \$49,000. Instead of paying cash, the borough will meet its 30 percent share of the cost through volunteer labor from EVAC valued at \$8,000, and donated lab

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VOLUNTEER RESEARCHERS - Shown from left are Michelle Boice, a member of Harveys Lake's Environmental Advisory Council (EVAC), David Abod, councilman and chairman of EVAC, Martin Jones, a borough resident and volunteer, Albert Timko, treasurer of EVAC and a biologist.

Price cut may be coming for some DAMA customers

By ERIC FOSTER
and
CHARLOT M. DENMON
Post Staff

Some relief may be coming for Back Mountain residents who can prove that they generate only a small amount of trash. At the first meeting of a committee formed to investigate the Dallas Area Municipal Authority's (DAMA) waste collection plan, municipal officials and representatives of the public talked about the possibility of a lower rate for homes that produce less than the two bags of garbage weekly that is the basis of the program.

At the very least, the meeting, held September 16 at the Kingston Township Municipal Building, seemed to defuse some of the rancor that had marked earlier public meetings on the topic.

"In my opinion, the meeting went very well. There was a lot of open dialogue," said Jim Fowler, of Kingston Township, who was chosen as a citizen representative of township on the committee. Fowler had been one of the most outspoken opponents of the program at earlier meetings.

"It appeared to me that every-one agreed that there were prob-

Residents who can prove they produce less than 2 bags of trash weekly may get a lower price

lems that have to be worked on," said Fowler. "I would have liked to have had more discussions on private haulers and on freedom, but I understand they can't discuss anything about the lawsuit."

At the Kingston Township Supervisors meeting September 11, supervisors William Tippet and Herbert Hill were chosen to attend the meeting, along with Fowler and Jackie Zukowsky, a property owner in the township.

Frank Wagner of Dallas Township chaired the meeting, while William Tippet was co-chair.

The committee will meet again on October 23, at 7 p.m. at the Kingston Township municipal building.

Among the complaints about the program, is that some residents can't afford to pay \$135 a year for collection of two bags of garbage a

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Lehman supers score DER on dump cleanup

Hozempa says it's all politics

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

Three months after the Lehman Township supervisors reported an illegal dump, a followup inspection of the dump has not been done by the Department of Environmental Resources.

The supervisors filed a complaint on June 17 against Ignatius Hozempa for the dump on his Outlet Road property, which they say is illegal.

"Their lack of action and reaction is absolutely ridiculous," said supervisor David Sutton at the supervisor's meeting September 16. "We have a serious problem. It's in a watershed. It's probably on wetlands. People in the downtown

probably drink that water."

on Ignatius Hozempa's property has not yet been made.

"I've made several calls to DER and talked with Richard Mieszkowski," said township solicitor Peter Savage. "He did go out to the place last Thursday (September 12) but no one was there and he didn't investigate further."

Savage said that he was told that Hozempa would be sent a letter warning him that a field order would be issued if the land was not cleaned up by the end of the month. The field order would initiate a lawsuit, which could cost up to \$25,000 in fines, said Savage.

Hozempa said September 17 that the complaints about the

dump are being exaggerated.

"It's a politics move," said Hozempa, "because the stuff has been there for 15 or 20 years and they haven't done anything about it until now."

Hozempa said that he has dumpsters on the property now, and is sorting through about 2 feet of rubbish on the 10 by 75 foot tract of land to collect the recyclables.

"They're making a big story out of nothing," said Hozempa. "There's no toxic waste there. It's not in a watershed or wetlands, it's right on the edge of a field."

Hozempa said that most of the pile is made up of bottles, many of them from his bar in Dallas, along with aluminum cans, cardboard, wood and cinderblock debris.

Hozempa said that he talked

with DER inspectors in late August and asked for 90 more days to clean up the property because he had a difficult time finding dumpsters.

"They told me they would probably go along with it," said Hozempa. "It's going to take probably the whole 90 days. I can't leave my regular job just to sort bottles."

Also, during the meeting, the supervisors also instructed Attorney Savage to send a letter to the Luzerne County Fair, instructing them that the township would not issue a permit for the fair next year unless the fair has a traffic control plan approved by PennDOT.

"It's becoming a problem. They're getting bigger and bigger and they are still using the same dirt roads

See DUMP, pg 3

Family keeps up fight for transfer of deaf child

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Post Staff

The Dutton family renewed their request to allow 12-year-old Mark Dutton to attend the Scranton School for the Deaf at the Lake-Lehman School Board meeting September 10.

Mark, who is hearing impaired, has been a resident of the Lake-Lehman district since April, 1990 and since that time has been a student in a Luzerne Intermediate Unit (LIU) class for special education children. But his family contends that Mark is not getting a proper education in the LIU classes and has requested that he be transferred to the Scranton school.

"Mark's studies have regressed since he has been placed in the LIU 18 class," said Mark's uncle, Don Rubel, a faculty member at Bloomsburg University where he teaches hearing-impaired students. "He is becoming more and more depressed and is having problems in school."

Since Mark has been attending the LIU 18 class in Forty Fort, the

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AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE - Fri., Sept. 20, 12 Noon-6 PM, Shavertown United Methodist Church, Pioneer Ave., Shavertown. Call 823-7161 for appointments, if needed.

Community Events

FAMILY STYLE CHICKEN DINNER - Sat., Sept. 21, 4:30 PM, takeouts at 4:00. Huntsville U.M. Church, Huntsville Rd. Adults \$6.00, children, \$3.00. **SUNDAY BREAKFAST** - Sun., Sept. 22, 8 AM-12 Noon, Lake Silkworth Volunteer Fire Co., Route 29, Lake Silkworth. All you can eat, adults \$4.00, children \$2.00.

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Furloughed Dallas teachers called back

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Two of four Dallas educators furloughed a month ago have been called back to fill in for teachers who have taken sabbatical leaves. But they have no assurance that their jobs will be secure beyond the six months to a year until the other teachers have returned.

Paul Brown, former physical education and health teacher in the senior high school as well as varsity basketball coach, was offered the opportunity to teach the Dallas Elementary first grade class formerly taught by Mrs. Betsy Cannon, who is now on maternity leave.

Mary Ann Storz was in charge of the DEAL (in-school suspension) program at the Dallas secondary schools. She was offered the opportunity to teach a ninth grade English class since the regular teacher, John Johnson, is on a sabbatical for the purpose of education study.

Brown and Storz were two of the teachers furloughed when programs were dropped from the schedule due to cuts in the 1991-1992 budget. Both Brown and Storz said they were pleased to have the opportunity to teach this year, although neither one of them was

optimistic about the positions being permanent, nor do they know how long they will be retained.

"I know I will be teaching the class until January," said Storz. "Then it is up to Mr. Johnson. His sabbatical was approved with the option that he could take six months or if necessary a year."

"I am happy to be teaching. I love teaching and I am thrilled to be back. I hope that all of us who were furloughed will be back permanently, but I don't see that possible at present."

Storz regrets that the suspension program she ran was eliminated.

"Nobody realizes how important the DEAL program was to the students. Low academic students need help in school and they are usually the ones who are neglected. The guidance counselors and agencies worked with me and the students. We worked hard to get DEAL to become one of the best programs in the state," said Storz.

Storz, who has taught a wide range of classes from sixth to 12th grade over the last 10 years, said she would like to see Dallas on top again. But she thinks the quality of local education has suffered in recent years.

See TEACHERS, pg 5



A race for the ball

Sue Richardson of Dallas beat a Wallenpaupack player to the ball during the September 14 field hockey match played at Dallas. The Mounts won by a 1-0 score. (Post Photo/Ron Bartizek)

Kingston Township police have new labor contract

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

After eight months of negotiations, Kingston Township Police have a new three-year contract with the township.

The contract will go into effect January 1, 1992.

According to Michael Moravec, president of the Kingston Township Police Officers Association, one of the main concerns of the officers was the disparity in pay between officers with different levels of seniority. The association represents seven officers.

The five-tiered pay scale in the new contract will lessen the differences in the pay. In 1992, a new officer will be paid \$15,104, up from the present \$14,664. At the other end of the scale, an officer with two years of seniority will be paid \$21,460. In 1994, those figures will rise to \$16,024 and

\$24,936 respectively.

The department's sergeant will receive \$25,605 in 1992, increasing to \$27,164 by 1994. One other member of the department will be an exception to the pay scale. A 17-year veteran of the force, the officer will receive \$23,504 in 1992, but by 1994, his salary will increase only to \$24,936, the same as other officers.

"The members of the department with the lower salaries will get the bigger increase," said Kingston Township Manager Jeffrey Box.

The contract does add a longevity clause, which gives veteran officers a pay bonus, a provision older contracts did not have. An officer with ten years of service will receive \$300 extra per year, with \$50 added for each additional year

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