

Health insurance counseling program begins for seniors

A new statewide health insurance counseling program, APPRISE for older Pennsylvanians, is now available through the statewide network of 52 local Area Agencies on Aging.

Services offered through APPRISE will include client assessment, consumer information and counseling activities.

Volunteer counselors will help sort out what kind of health insurance a person needs, whether Medigap or other supplements for Medicare are necessary, and how to assess when a person may have too much insurance.

Medicare is a federally funded health insurance program for people age 65 and older, which

also provides health insurance to some people with disabilities who are under age 65.

Medicare does not cover all medical services, so it is crucial that Medicare beneficiaries purchase supplemental coverage.

Counseling will be offered at Area Agency on Aging offices, senior centers and other appropriate local sites. In-home visits are also available, if needed.

Some people with disabilities under age 65 who are Medicare beneficiaries are also eligible to receive APPRISE counseling, as are people between ages 60 and 65 who seek services through their local Area Agency on Aging.

A century ago, Harveys Lake had another name, Lake Shawanese, and was part of Lehman Township.

Post office

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grille, divide the customer area from the cramped work area, which doesn't even have room for a computer or typewriter.

An old postage scale and a rack of pigeon holes take up part of the work counter.

A century ago, Harveys Lake had another name, Lake Shawanese, and was part of Lehman Township. The road into the lake was only a dirt tractor path.

Until 1947, Shawanese was open only during the summer. The Alderson and Laketon post offices, now replaced by a modern facility at Sandy Bottom, operated all year round.

In its early years, Shawanese didn't have post office boxes - all of its customers received their mail by general delivery.

The brass post office boxes came later from another post office which had closed down. Stamps ran about 12 or 13¢ when Mable Puterbaugh was postmaster. She retired in 1984 after 26 years of service.

"There's nothing different, but there are lots of new people now," she said. "When I started, I knew nearly everyone who came in. Since the 1972 flood, many new families have moved out here."

"I had Box 47 here for years," reminisced Harveys Lake Mayor Richard Boice. "The building is the same age as my father's house. I came here a lot when I was a kid."

"It's like a small village here, very close-knit," Smith said. "People stop by to get their mail, chat and catch up on what's going on. Sometimes they stay

so long that their wives call me looking for them."

Smith said that her heavy mail seasons are Christmas and the summer, when seasonal residents have their mail forwarded from Florida, New York, New Jersey and Arizona to their boxes at Shawanese.

In the fall, the college students renting cottages for the winter arrive.

"I'll see one graduate this year," Smith said.

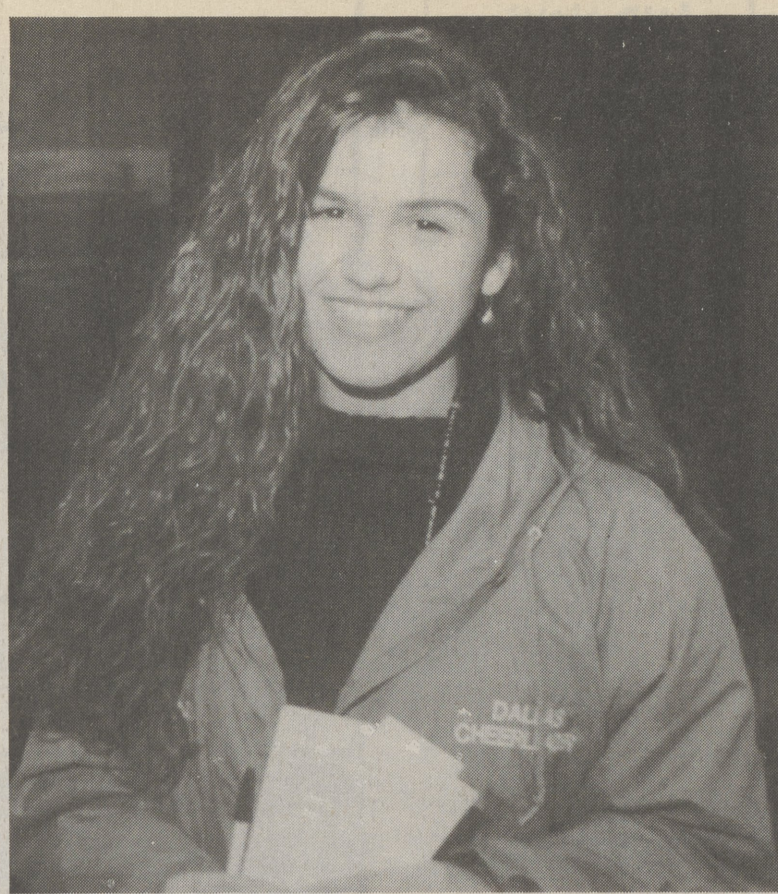
Shawanese is one of the 186-ZIP code's oldest post offices continually operating in the same location, according to Wilkes-Barre postmaster Bill Brady. It's also one of the four smallest, at 149 square feet.

Brady and Boice joined former postmaster Mable Puterbaugh and Joseph Bryant, husband of postmaster Margaretta Bryant in celebrating the milestone.

Brady brought up several computer-made banners to decorate the post office for the occasion. "You show your age well. You're good for another century," he joked to Smith.

Visitors chatted and congratulated Smith as they sampled cake, soda and chips. Several old-timers put together a list of the most recent postmasters: Margaretta Bryant had replaced Mable Puterbaugh, who had stepped in for her father, Walter Puterbaugh, whose predecessor, Patrick Garrity, had taken over for May Gossart.

Bryant said that he hoped to be on hand for the post office's second centennial. "I'll be only 127 then," he laughed.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Working their way to Orlando

Dallas High School cheerleader Vanessa Wysocki sold raffle tickets last week to help finance the squad's trip to national competition February 17 at Sea World in Orlando. A trip to the Bahamas was the prize for the \$3 raffle.

Snowy weather extends cookie sales

Due to the recent inclement weather, Girl Scout cookie sales will be extended until January 24, according to a spokesperson for the Penn's Woods Girl Scout Council.

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Record snow

(continued from page 1)

and more light snow Friday."

The storm wasn't officially classified as a blizzard because it didn't have steady winds of 35 mph or higher for several hours to go with the heavy snow, he said.

The bitter cold didn't break any records, Yankes said.

"This winter wasn't that unusual," he said. "We've lucked out the past few years and had very easy winters. Occasionally you get some bad ones."

Yankes said that the cold, snowy weather doesn't signal any major climactic changes. "We're not starting a new ice age," he said.

Heavy snow and poor visibility had closed down area schools and many businesses by Monday afternoon. Schools, the county courthouse and some area businesses remained closed or on delayed schedules Tuesday.

Conditions had deteriorated quickly Monday afternoon, making a short trip into Dallas a driving adventure, even for trusty four-wheel-drives.

Road crews couldn't keep up with it - 15 minutes after they plowed a road out, it looked as if it

hadn't been touched.

At nightfall, snow swirling in the darkness and drifts buried familiar landmarks, creating a surreal landscape.

The scanner cracked with calls directing plow trucks, reporting stuck vehicles blocking roads and exchanging repair information for broken-down trucks.

"Truck two to anyone?" said a plaintive male voice. Evidently it had become stuck.

"Uh, I can't get up the hill. There's a traffic problem up here," someone else said.

"Yeah, it's called stuck!" another driver fired back.

A Dallas Township plow truck raced up Edinger Hill to clear a path for the Dallas ambulance answering a call at Valley View Park.

The storm was reminiscent of the old movie short in which W.C. Fields said "Tain't a fit night out for man or beast" as he opened his front door and was promptly whipped in the face with snow.

Cheer up - winter isn't even a month old yet.

Spring doesn't begin until March 21.

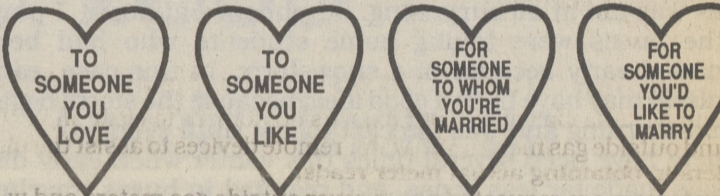
Lake Silkworth Lions to sell hoagies

The Lake Silkworth Area Lions will hold a "Super Bowl Sunday" hoagie sale on January 29 and 30. Proceeds will benefit the sight impaired. Orders may be placed with any Lion member or call 477-2496.



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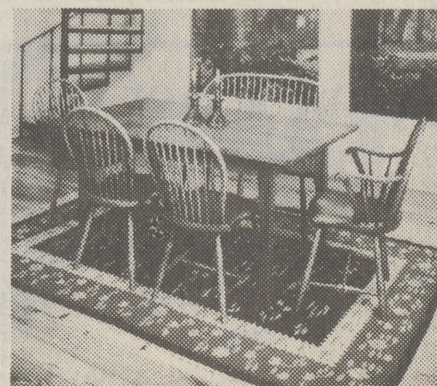
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