

## Hearing set March 9 on lake noise violations

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Concert promoter Thom Greco, holder of the liquor license for the Tijuana Bar at Harveys Lake, will have his day in court March 4 on charges of violating state Liquor Control Board noise regulations.

According to the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement in Wilkes-Barre, noise which can be heard outside a licensed establishment (a bar or restaurant serving liquor) is a violation of the code.

District office commander Sergeant David Douglas said that he had received "numerous" complaints about music emanating from the bar, which residents have said could be heard more than 2-1/2 blocks away.

Greco was sent a notice of violation of the noise regulations August 24, with a citation following a month later, Douglas said.

If found guilty, Greco faces fines ranging from \$50 to \$1,000, with repeated offenses possibly leading to suspension of the establishment's amusement permit or liquor license, Douglas said.

The March 9 hearing at 2:30 p.m. will be heard before a state administrative law judge in Wilkes-Barre.

## Lake man pled guilty to sex offenses

According to Luzerne County court records, Edward Layaou, 30, of Harveys Lake pleaded guilty February 15 before Judge Michael Conahan to charges of statutory rape, indecent assault, corruption of minors, endangering the welfare of children and simple assault.

A charge of involuntary deviate sexual intercourse was dismissed.

The charges stemmed from a three-month investigation after the victim, a teenage girl, complained to Luzerne County Children and Youth Services, according to Harveys Lake assistant police chief Ronald Spock. The victim said that Layaou had performed sexual acts on her since she was 12 years old, Spock said.

Layaou is in the Luzerne County Prison until his sentencing March 4.

Pennsylvania State Police trooper William Bevan and detective lieutenant Gary Sworen assisted the Harveys Lake police in the investigation.

## Back Mountain not immune to drug activity

In the past year, the Mid-Valley Drug Task Force has made 27 drug arrests. All but one were small-time dealers.

"People may not want to admit it, but the Back Mountain has a drug problem," said Chief John Thomas of the task force. "And it's growing. It's as bad back there as it is in the valley."

Along with the drugs come associated crimes, such as burglaries, because users need a steady cash flow to finance their habits, Thomas said.

Police have seen just about everything, from prescription drugs to heroin and LSD.

"Lots of local people are involved," said Dallas police chief Jack Fowler. "We have had quite a few cases, some have been prosecuted, some are still under investigation."

Fowler said that pills and marijuana seem to be the drugs of choice.

"We're seeing an increase in street drugs - cocaine and heroin," said Corporal Evanchick of the Pennsylvania State Police Wyoming Bar-

racks. "They're coming from both local and out-of-state sources."

Kingston Township police chief James Balavage said that his men have found small amounts of marijuana, mostly while investigating traffic accidents.

He hasn't noted an increase in the half dozen cases which his department handles each year.

"Our officers usually find small amounts of drugs or paraphernalia during accidents or traffic stops," said Dallas Township police chief Carl Miers. "The big deals aren't done out in full public view."

Marijuana is the most frequently found drug for his men in the four or five cases which they investigate each year, he said.

Although some parents have brought him diet pills to identify, Miers said that he hasn't seen any crack cocaine, heroin or cocaine.

"The real drug of choice back here is alcohol," he said.

*"The real drug of choice back here is alcohol."*

Carl Miers  
Dallas Twp. police chief

by Grace R. Dove

## Drug arrest

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a steady procession of cars entering and leaving Habblett's driveway at all hours of the day and night.

Other vehicles have stopped along the road opposite his home at odd hours, she said.

Not everyone suspected wrongdoing on the man's part.

Catherine, who didn't want her last name used, said that she was surprised to hear of Habblett's arrest. "He keeps to himself," she said. "I thought that he just got a lot of visitors. There are several small homes behind his that he owns and rents out - I thought that maybe the cars were going up there."

"He gives us senior citizens a bad name," said Alice Jones, who saw the police come for Habblett, with her sister, Esther.

First they saw three kids "heading up the street like a bat," the women said. Then at least eight police cars followed them.

"We thought that it was a fire," they said.

"I thought that he had quit selling drugs after his first arrest," Jones continued. "He certainly doesn't need the money. This scares me. If you talk about him, he might try to get even with you."

"We knew all about it," Esther said. "He deserves everything that he gets. It's the trash that he associates with."

The women said that they

"wouldn't dare" look at the young people stopping along the road near Habblett's. Sometimes you could smell the marijuana on them, they said.

"It's so discouraging to see young people doing that," they said.

Sam Kirk is especially concerned about Habblett's reported sale of heroin.

"I have seen people hooked on heroin," he said. "They'll do anything to get it - they'll even steal from their own mothers. I hope that this stops. We don't need this."

This wasn't Habblett's first drug arrest, according to Luzerne County Courthouse records.

Habblett was arrested in May, 1989, and charged with posses-

sion of controlled substances with intent to deliver and delivery of controlled substances.

He was sentenced to a jail term of three to 12 months and ordered to pay court costs, according to court records.

Habblett's second arrest in February, 1990, on charges of possession of controlled substances with intent to deliver and possession of drug paraphernalia resulted in a \$1,000 fine and a three to 23-month jail sentence, which he served on the weekend program, according to court records.

Habblett's preliminary hearing before District Magistrate James Tupper has been scheduled for March 10.

## L-L Class of '74 reunion meeting

Lake-Lehman Class of '74 will have a 20th class reunion meeting at the Outpost Inn, Lake Silkworth, Wednesday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. For information, call Kyle Yankoski, 675-0921

## Dallas tax discount through April 14

Real Estate Tax Notices have been sent to all property owners in Dallas Borough. The Tax Collectors office will be open every Monday and Wednesday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

All property owners can save 2 percent of the face value if they pay their taxes during the discount period, February 14 through April 14. Between April 15 and June 15 the face value will be collected, after June 15 there will be a 10 percent penalty with December 15, 1994, the final day to pay before taxes are delinquent and sent to Luzerne County for collection.

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## Municipal notes

### HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Acting on recommendations from the Luzerne County Planning Commission and the Harveys Lake Zoning Board, the borough council denied a request by Joseph Paglianite to have a parcel of land on Route 415 rezoned from commercial to manufacturing at its February 15 meeting.

Located near The Grotto Restaurant, the building is leased to Drury's Cafe and Deli and Creative Rooms, which sells Birch Craft custom kitchens and produces custom cabinets for customers.

The Harveys Lake zoning hearing board was scheduled February 22 to consider a request for a variance to operate a manufacturing business in a commercial zone by Creative Rooms' owner Mark Sopp of Kingston.

In response to several complaints about snowplowing, roads committee chairman Tom Kehler explained that the crews' first priorities are the D.C. Roberts fire hall, roads with hills, school bus routes and main roads.

Other roads are plowed after these have been taken care of, he said. In other business, the council voted to:

- Appoint assistant borough secretary Isla Spock as temporary codes enforcement officer while codes enforcement officer Paul Grimes is in California on business. Councilman George Andrews will review the permits with her once a week. Ms. Spock will be paid at her secretary's wage plus work-related mileage.
- Purchase 25 new chairs, three tables and two new toilets for the recreation center, at a total cost of \$385.
- Accept Francis Kopko's resignation from the zoning board because he is now serving on council.

### HARVEYS LAKE ZONING BOARD

The zoning board granted a continuance at its February 22 meeting to a request by Mark Sopp, owner of Creative Rooms on Route 415, for a variance allowing him to operate a manufacturing operation in a commercial zone because codes enforcement officer Paul Grimes is out of town on business and unavailable to testify.

"We didn't know until February 14 that a full hearing would be required," Sopp's attorney, Frank Hagen, said.

The zoning board also continued an appeal from Sopp of a stop work order which Grimes issued January 27 after inspecting Creative Rooms and determining that manufacturing was taking place in violation of a zoning board directive.

The board will hear the appeal after Grimes returns and is available to testify. Former zoning officer Dan Samson may also be subpoenaed, according to Hagen.

After first ordering Sopp to stop all cutting and sanding operations until the hearing can be rescheduled, the zoning board reconsidered and said that he could continue working until the hearing.

"This is a matter of procedure," said attorney Frank Aritz, representing Sopp's neighbor, James Drury, trading as Drury's Deli and Restaurant. "You originally told Sopp that he had either 60 days to stop work or 30 days to appeal your decision to the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas. Now you're telling him that he can appeal the board's decision back to the board."

by Grace R. Dove




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