

New family practice to be bigger and better

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Editor

Although it's not well known, "We often make house calls," said Dr. Irvin Jacobs of Dallas Family Practice. But after next spring, it may be hard to pry Jacobs and his associates from their offices in the spacious new facility being built in Dallas Township.

Jacobs began practicing in Noxen 40 years ago, with Dr. Lester Saidman. Ten years later he moved his office to Dallas, establishing Dallas Family Practice as a solo practitioner. Now, he is poised to move into a 34,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility designed for up to 10 full-time physicians with additional space for specialists, labs and therapy rooms.

"We're very excited about it," Jacobs said during groundbreaking ceremonies November 18. Dr. Thomas Campbell, who joined the practice in 1979, also attended, along with Dr. Gary Nothstein, Dr. Jane Durkin and a large contingent of nurses and administrative staff members. Dr. Diane Lowe, the group's fifth physician, remained at the office to attend to patients.

Campbell described the building as a "flexible facility," with space for eight to 10 doctors on the first floor, which will operate much like the present practice. A second floor will contain rooms for specialists who will rotate in and out of the facility, saving patients travel time.

"We'll have the ability to present to the Back Mountain a full service medical center with the



CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? - Dr. Irvin Jacobs, founder of Dallas Family Practice, pointed to a rendering of the new building now under construction in Dallas Township. Jacobs was joined at a groundbreaking ceremony Nov. 18 by, from left, physicians Thomas Campbell, Gary Nothstein and Jane Durkin; John McCarthy, chairman of the board of Wyoming Valley Health Care System; and Ron Stern, president and chief executive officer, WVHCS.

latest technology," Campbell said. He said plans call for adding one or two additional full-time physicians shortly after opening.

Ron Stern, president of Wyoming Valley Health Care System, said the system is "putting our money where our philosophy is" by building the new facility. "We owe something to this community," for the years of support of the existing practice, Stern said.

Working from the present building, which was expanded twice, Dallas Family Practice has a patient roster of 10,000 and handled 20,000 office visits in the past year. Counting visits to hospitals, the physicians recorded 38,000 patient visits.

Anticipating changes in how health care is delivered, the practice affiliated with Wilkes-Barre General Hospital in 1986. "The doctors felt they had to be allied

with a health care system," Jacobs said. Wyoming Valley Health Care System was formed from a merger between General and Nesbitt Memorial Hospital in 1992.

Paul Provenzano, who manages the paperwork, said all records will be put on computer, a job made easier because terminals will be installed throughout the building, including in examination rooms. The conversion to computer records will take about a year, with paper backups remaining on file.

John McCarthy, chairman of the System's board of directors, thanked patients and employees for putting up with overcrowded conditions at the present building. "We appreciate the patience of the residents," McCarthy said.

Being constructed at a cost of about \$4 million, the new building will be located on 15 acres of

land between Upper Demunds Road and Route 309, just north of the Dallas Township municipal building. According to Mike Messersmith, the vice president who is spearheading the project, public water and sewer service will be run to the site, as well as gas for heating and cooling. While the only present entrance is from Upper Demunds, access directly from Route 309 may be added.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by dozens of Back Mountain residents as well as a large contingent from Wyoming Valley Health Care System.

Stern said no decision has been made about whether to locate the Medic 1 emergency unit at the new building, or what will happen with the existing Nesbitt Hospital satellite center near the Luzerne County fairgrounds

Taxes to stay same at Harveys Lake in 1995

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

The Harveys Lake budget will be on the upswing next year, but taxes won't have to be increased, according to the 1995 preliminary budget passed November 15.

The plan calls for spending of \$606,410, an increase of \$92,986 over the projected actual 1994 figure. The borough had planned to spend \$593,561 this year, but decreases in the cost for police, other public safety spending, trash collection and road work helped lower that amount.

The borough had spent \$697,267 in 1993.

Property taxes will remain at 21.5 mills in the new budget, along with a 1 percent income tax and a \$10 per capita tax.

"These aren't the final figures," said council president Martin Noon. "We still have to adjust some figures and accept bids for equipment before everything is finalized."

According to the draft budget, the borough must make \$6,535 in adjustments before the expenditures are reconciled with the projected \$599,875 income, a one percent increase over last year.

The borough's biggest loss will be \$10,000 in fees from the Bud Light Amphitheater, which had paid \$5,833 in 1992 and \$8,718 in 1993 for police and emergency

services at concerts.

Real estate revenues are expected to increase from \$224,000 to \$266,000, while interest and license fees for cable television and liquor are expected to increase by \$1,000 each.

State and federal grants for equipment purchases and construction/demolition projects are expected to add \$54,000, or an additional \$5,000 to the borough's coffers next year.

Expenditures for general administration are expected to increase by 36 percent or \$21,700, to \$80,800. A \$20,000 dredging project at the Outlet, designed to alleviate flooding caused by beaver dams, is expected to make up the bulk of the increase.

The borough council plans to pass the final budget at its December meeting.

In other business, the council voted to:

- Set fees of \$150 and an additional \$20 per lot and reimbursement for all engineering fees for all major and minor subdivisions and land development plans.

- Accept the resignation of Isla Spock as part-time secretary and borough building cleaner.

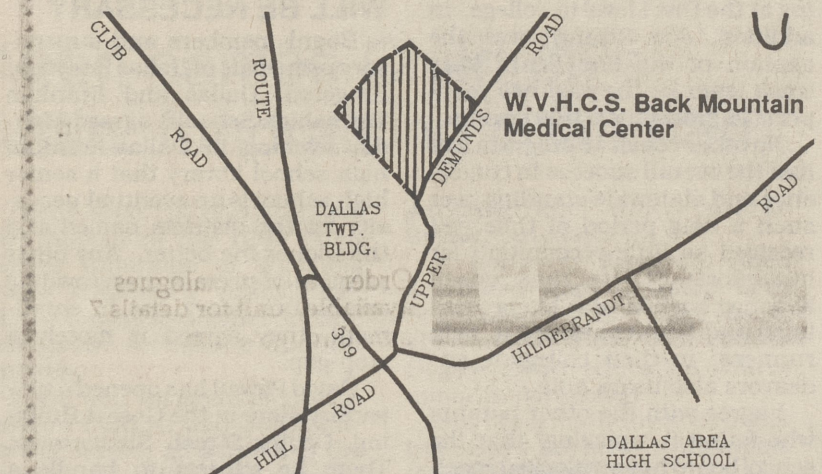
Codes enforcement officer Paul Grimes announced that all contractors' licenses expire December 31 and must be renewed for 1995.

Country dance lessons to benefit library

Country dance lessons will once again be held at the Dallas Elementary School to benefit the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

Classes will begin on Tuesday, Nov. 29 and Thurs., Dec. 1 from 7-8:30 p.m. and will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week thereafter, depending on attendance.

Larry Griffin will be the instructor. Lessons will cost \$3.00.



The new Back Mountain Medical Center is located off Upper Demunds Road in Dallas Township.



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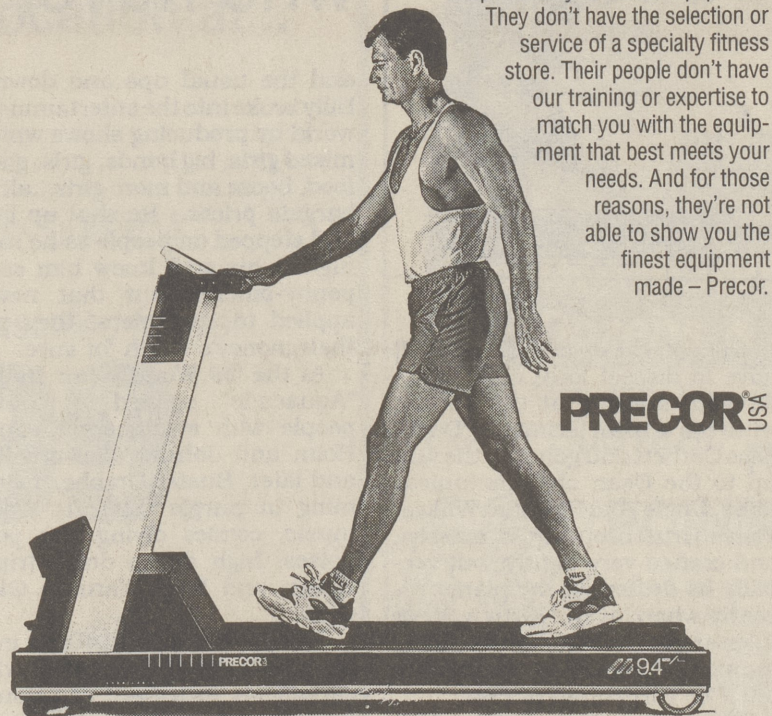
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