



Deposits and doughnuts

Pioneer American Bank is celebrating the grand opening of its branch inside the Mr. Z's Food Mart in Dallas. The branch offers all banking services except safe deposit boxes, and includes an automatic teller machine. Hours are Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.;

Fridays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shown helping a customer earlier this week are, from left, Angie Cheskiewitz; Carol Novajosky, manager; Chuck Love; and Brandy Ktytor.

Garage

(continued from page 1)

back yard and into the woods in Bonnie's back yard. Later on I was told they had been checking the creek."

One man later came onto the Gross's front porch to talk with Mrs. Elko.

"He didn't show me any identification," she said. "I asked him who he was, but he kept on telling me I was going to jail because I had violated some wetlands laws. He screamed at me the entire time. He was a nasty person."

Mrs. Elko said the man wouldn't let her explain that the home belonged to her daughter and she was there only to watch it for a few hours.

The man also jumped into the road in front of the couple's friend, who had just delivered a truckload of dirt for the footers, Mrs. Elko said. "He waved his arms

and screamed at Mike that Mike had dumped dirt on some wetlands and he had taken several photos of Mike as proof," she said.

Mark Carmon, public affairs officer for the Department of Environmental Resources in Wilkes-Barre, identified the man in question as Larue Wyrick, a DER employee from Harrisburg working on a stream improvement project connected with several beaver dams on Harveys Creek.

"This is not DER procedure," Carmon said. "Wyrick shouldn't have handled it this way. Mrs. Gross's garage is totally unrelated to the stream improvement project Wyrick was working on. The garage was a normal, routine situation which he should have simply referred to our Wilkes-Barre office. He could even have notified

us later by E-mail from Harrisburg if he wanted to."

The investigation was then turned over to DER field inspector Gene Trowbridge, who has recommended that Gross move the dirt dumped in his yard and hire a private consultant to delineate the wetlands on the property, Carmon said.

DER biologists define wetlands by testing soil for specific characteristics and looking for certain plant species, Carmon said.

Once DER gets that information, they'll tell Gross what he's allowed to do near his wetlands, he added.

According to Harveys Lake codes enforcement officer Paul Grimes, Gross's yard isn't listed as a wetland in his records, which include a wetlands survey done in

1991. "It could still be a wetland - DER will have to make the final determination," he said.

Gross is still paying for the materials for the garage, now stacked in his back yard, until the matter can be resolved.

He has had to move some materials indoors and leave the larger pieces, including several roof trusses, outside under a cover, hoping the weather doesn't damage them.

Gross has asked Representative George Hasay to help him settle the issue.

"We're paying for something that we won't be able to use," Bonnie Gross said. "We can't really move the garage to another part of our property, or we'll be looking at it from our back deck."

Police investigate two Trucksville burglaries

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

Kingston Township police are investigating burglaries at two businesses at the Hickory Corners Shopping Center on the corner of Carverton and Dug roads.

Police said that someone used a cinder block to break the front windows of the Mary Taylor Beauty Salon and the Olympic Restaurant and enter both businesses some time between midnight and 9 a.m. November 28.

Approximately \$40 in cash, six hairbrushes and various beauty

aids and supplies were removed from the beauty salon, owned by Mary Taylor, police said.

Police were unable to determine what items had been removed from the restaurant because they have been unable to locate the owner.

Nick Tsiolos, owner of the building, told police he didn't know who owned the restaurant, police said.

Patrolman Robert Weiss, assisted by the Pennsylvania State Police Research and Identification Unit, are continuing the investigation.



Keeping the beat

The Back Mountain Business & Professional Association recently donated \$250 to the Back Mountain Memorial Library. The donation will be used to add to the library's collection of compact discs, which was begun with a business association donation in 1993. Above, Bart Slocum, association president, presents the check to Martha Wheeler, librarian.

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