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Towns add up flood damage, and it's a big number

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Meltdown '96, the flooding caused by rapid melting of more than five feet of accumulated snow, has redesigned numerous roads and rewritten the budgets of area municipalities.

Local officials face two major challenges: estimating the damage for preliminary reports submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and paying to repair it.

"Our road budget is a shambles," said

"Our road budget is a shambles. We'll get through somehow, but it's disheartening."

Doug Ide
Lehman roadmaster

Lehman Township roadmaster Doug Ide. "We'll get through somehow, but it's disheartening. Just to keep the roads passable we spent more money in a month than

we ever did."

The federal government will only pay for about 75 percent of the reported damage, with either the state or the municipality picking up the rest of the tab, he said.

The preliminary estimates released to FEMA last week will probably increase, once the snow melts and officials get a more accurate picture of the damage.

"Our preliminary estimate could double by the time we're finished," said Harveys Lake Borough councilman Fran Kopko. "Many roads are still covered by snow and ice and our original estimates could double

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Fran Kopko
Harveys Lake councilman

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Especially frustrating is the destruction of roads completely upgraded or paved within the past two years, including Fedor Road in Lehman Township, Firecut Road

in Kingston Township, Lockville Road in Franklin Township and Baird Street at Harveys Lake. Many of these projects were funded with county grants.

"It broke my heart to see the condition of Fedor Road," Ide said. "It was in beautiful shape three weeks ago. The water saturated the base material and caused the pavement to crack along the edges. It cost us about \$60,000 of county grant money to pave it and it could cost that much to repair it."

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Woman is newest local cop

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS TOWNSHIP - Patrolman Ruth Peters, the Back Mountain's only female police officer was sworn in to the Dallas Township force February 2 by District Justice James Tupper.

"It's about time," Tupper wisecracked.

Peters, 31 and a township resident, is a graduate of Wyoming Valley West High School and the Lackawanna Junior College police academy and Act 120 certification program.

"I have wanted to work in law enforcement for, well, forever," she said. "I want to give something to the community."

Being a woman in an all-male force isn't daunting to the petite brunette.

"I wasn't given any breaks at the academy and didn't expect any," she said. "Sometimes it's an advantage to be a female officer - especially when investigating rapes, domestic violence and child abuse cases, whose victims often relate better to a woman."

She also hopes to work in community education programs with

See NEW COP, pg 2



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Memories

Meghan Davis sang "Memories," from the play "Cats," at the Gate of Heaven School talent show Feb. 1. She and other students showed off their talents - hidden and otherwise - to an appreciative crowd. More photos on page 3.

Ousted member back on panel

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP - The supervisors appointed Lee Clark and Frank Hilstolsky to the newly enlarged planning commission at their regular February 5 meeting. Last month they voted to add two more seats to the five-member group.

Robert Redmond voted against the appointments, while chairman Bill Miller and Martin Murray voted for it.

"It's part of a plot to get Hilstolsky back," Redmond said after the meeting.

"If there was a plot, I could have put Hilstolsky back on the commission last month," Miller countered. "Having seven people on the planning commission will give us more input. The more input from smarter people, the better."

Hilstolsky, a mechanical engineer, was removed last Septem-

"It's part of a plot to get Hilstolsky back."

Robert Redmond
Dissenting supervisor

"If there was a plot, I could have put Hilstolsky back on the commission last month."

William Miller
Supervisor chairman

ber after a hearing which he requested after the supervisors, headed by Redmond, asked for his resignation. Redmond had said he was concerned Hilstolsky

See OUSTED MEMBER, pg. 8

Glenda Crabtree's class learns math, teamwork

By ANN POEPPERLING
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - Mrs. Glenda Crabtree, fifth grade mathematics teacher at the Dallas Elementary School for more than two decades, says if you ask former students what they remember most about her, it's usually not math - it's volleyball.

Mrs. Crabtree, who began playing volleyball during her college days at Tift College in Georgia, brings her skills and love for the game to her students to this day.

She uses volleyball to motivate her students to get their homework done and behave well in class. "It's a reward system for those who have turned in all their

homework," says Mrs. Crabtree, referring to the weekly volleyball game she sets up for her students to play during homeroom period. "But I don't force them to play," she says.

The benefits of the game are more than just motivation and physical exercise. "It's also a way to teach team spirit and teamwork," says Mrs. Crabtree. "They learn each team has three hits per side, and to set the ball up to each other, which teaches cooperation. I tell them they have three chances to get the ball over the net to the bad guys," she chuckles. "It also gives students a chance to learn another sport in addition to the

See STUDENTS LEARN, pg 3

Marina Knappman aims for career in medicine

Her favorite TV show?
The Operation, of course

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

TRUCKSVILLE - When Marina Knappman's human physiology class saw a film on performing a face lift, most of the students were repulsed.

Not Marina, whose dream is to become a surgeon. Her favorite television show is "The Operation," a series on The Learning Channel which features many different types of surgical procedures.

"I love to dissect - to take an

animal apart and see how its different systems work," she said. "It's neat. Right now we're working on a fetal pig, which closely resembles human anatomy."

"She also loves to tell us about the many things she's learning in science class," said her mother, Marlene Knappman, laughing. "Unfortunately that usually happens at the supper table."

The outgoing 16-year-old has been nominated to attend the prestigious National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine in Boston in July.

The 11-day conference features many different seminars about different areas of medicine, presented by the top individuals and

organizations in medicine today at teaching hospitals in the Boston area. The nearly 500 participating students are housed at Simmons College.

Participants must have a grade point average of "B+" or better and be high school juniors or seniors.

The only catch is the tuition. Marina must raise \$1,535 plus lunch, travel and incidental expenses by the end of May and is seeking private and corporate donations from individuals and area service organizations. She has already received a private pledge for \$500.



MARINA KNAPPMAN

See MEDICINE, pg 8

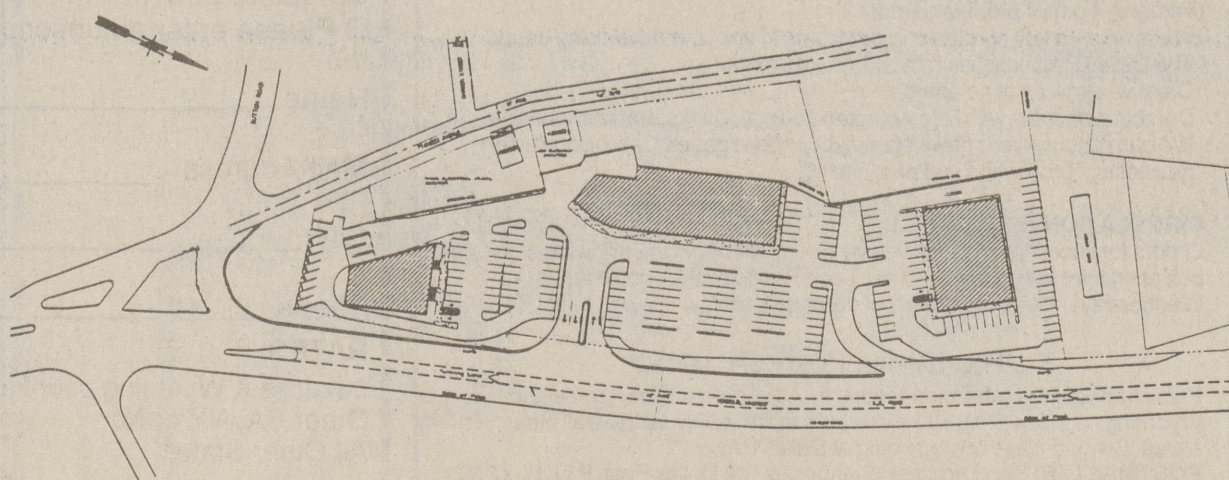
Isaacs plan takes shape

By ANN POEPPERLING
Post Correspondent

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP - George and Carol Isaacs' plan for development of a retail/commercial complex along Route 309 gained necessary zoning approvals Monday.

Two tenants, Grange National Bank, and Wireless One Network, have already signed leases to occupy portions of the complex.

See ISAACS, pg 8



This site plan shows the three buildings that will occupy the 5-acre parcel which formerly housed the Howard "Duke" Isaacs auto dealership along Route 309. The building at left will contain Grange National Bank and other offices. Wireless One Network will move to the center building when it is finished. Other tenants are in the works. Drawing courtesy of Flack Wallack Inc., Dallas.

■ **'The Beatles'**
visited Dallas Middle School for an English class project. Pg 11.

■ **Gridiron honors**
Dallas Gridiron Club wraps up year with honors banquet. Pg 9.

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