Flood damage severe in many towns

Post Staff

Due to an error in composition, this part of the story about area flood damage was omitted from last week's issue.

BACK MOUNTAIN - The flooding caused by Meltdown '96 has rewritten the budgets of many area municipalities, whose officials face the daunting tasks of estimating the damage to roads and figuring how to pay for their

Most expect their preliminary estimates to increase - possibly to double - by the time they're fin-

Runoff caused by the heavy rains and melting snowpack was compounded by the hard freeze following the flooding, which caused the saturated ground to expand and more roads, both gravel and paved, to buckle.

"It's a full-time job for our three men just to keep the roads passable," said Lehman Township roadmaster Doug Ide. "It's overwhelming."

Lehman Township reported \$224,000 in damages to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Fedor Road alone could cost about \$60,000 to repair roughly the same amount which it cost to pave it through a county grant last year.

The base of the road leading in to Thorny Apple Acres was undermined to the extent that the pavement later collapsed under the weight of a snowplow truck, Ide

Half of the pavement on Jackson Road was washed away by the

overflow from Smith's Pond, he

"We may have to completely rebuild some of the roads," Ide

"I'm looking at a pile of bills," said Jackson Township roadmaster Jay Wilkes, who expects to find much more damage once his crew begins digging.

Wilkes estimates the flood tab to hit at least \$158,000, with the worst damage on Weavertown, Zbiek, Sutton, Shady Rill, Hardisky and Mizdail roads.

Hardisky Road, which was under water for three days, is still

Mizdail Road suffered the worst damage when the entire hillside along Harveys Creek at Route 29

At Harveys Lake, pavement was torn up along Carey Street and buckled on Baird Street after water undermined it, according to councilman Fran Kopko.

The borough reported \$26,696 in damages, which Kopko expects

On Heller's Grove in Kingston Township, the creek bank, which is part of an abandoned railroad embankment, was partially washed away by Toby's Creek.

Manager Jeff Box conservatively estimates its repairs at

The gravel portion of Cliffside Ave. in Trucksville was washed out by water running down the side of the mountain at what Box described as "an incredible rate."

Toby's Creek is clogged with debris, notably a huge tree stump nearly 30 inches in diameter, which came to rest behind Rave's Nursery on Main Str.

Green Road, Brown Manor, Harris Hill Road near the old Schooley farm and Church Road in Carverton were also heavily damaged, Box said.

Kingston Township's total flood tab is estimated at \$172,211.

In Franklin Township, 17 roads need repair, according to former secretary Mary Ann Bump.

"A conservative preliminary estimate is \$295,750, which could change because we don't know the total extent of the damage," she said.

Lewis Road was torn up where the creek crosses it and is closed, while the surface of Coon Road heaved where water ran under the pavement and froze, Owen

Dallas Township reported \$5,000 in damage to three dirt roads - Stredney Road in kunkle, Glendalough and Goldmsith roads - which were washed out and repaired with gravel.

"By the time we add all our expenses up, it could be an expensive winter," said treasurer Glenn Howell, who foresees his preliminary estimate doubling.

In Dallas Borough, Reservoir Road was washed out to the tune of \$55,890, according to manager Milt Lutsey.

Columbia, Luzerne, Lackawanna, West Center Hill and Hickory roads suffered a total of \$17,074 in damage, he said.

Although the federal government will pay for 75 percent of approved expenses, the state hasn't decided whether or not it will pick up the remaining 25 percent of the tab. If it doesn't, the burden will fall on the municipal-

Messersmith named head of Temple Physicians staff

Dallas resident Michael Messersmith has been appointed chief executive officer of Temple Physicians, Inc., a division of Temple University Health System.

As CEO, Messersmith will oversee the recruitment, acquisition and management of a growing network of primary care physician practices.

Before coming to Temple, Messersmith was CEO of General Medical Services Corp. in Kingston. In this position he was responsible for the operation, recruitment and strategic development of a multispecialty group practice made up of 140 physi-

Messersmith has also been vice

president of medical staff development and vice president of ambulatory care services at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London, CT.

Messersmith is not entirely new to Temple. In 1976 he graduated first in his class from Temple's School of Business.

In 1978 he earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Chi-

He also holds the rank of lieutenant commander in the United States Naval Reserve, Medical Services Corps.

He resides in Dallas with his wife, Lucy, and two children.



MICHAEL MESSERSMITH

Air Force promotes Kravits to Major

United States Air Force Captain Tina M. Kravits has been promoted to the rank of Major.

Since November 1993,. Major Kravits has been assigned to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), in Mons, Belgium. At SHAPE, Major Kravits is a member of the Crisis Response Center, where she provides current and strategic intelligence analysis to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe on the current crisis in the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

In June, Major Kravits also received the Joint Service Commendation Medal, presented for exceptional meritorious service as the Chief, Battle Damage Assessment Cell, Intelligence Directorate, Combined Air Assessment Center (CAOC), OPERATION DENY FLIGHT and Joint Forces Air Component, whle she was assigned to the 5th Allied Tactical Air Forces, Vicenza, Italy.

During her tour with the CAOC, Major Kravits played a critical role in the planning and execution of operational and humanitarian aid missions into the former Republic

PA Optometric

Society honors

Dr. Jay Tanner

Dr. Jay Tanner was honored at the recent Northeastern Pennsyl-

Dr. Tanner practices optometry at Pugliese Eye Specialists.

He resides in Dallas with his wife

vania Optometric Society meeting after completing a productive term

as society president.

and three children.



MAJOR TINA KRAVITS

of Yugoslavia. Major Kravits is the daughter

of USAF retired Technical Sergeant John J. and Elaine Charney of Dallas.

She is married to Brian J. Kravits, son of William and Ruth Kravits of Swoyersville. Brian and Tina have two sons, Brian William 10, and Joshua John, eight.

She is a 1979 graduate of Dallas Senior High School and a 1983 graduate of Wilkes University. Major Kravits was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1983, through the USAF Reserve Officer's Training Corps, Detachment 752, Wilkes University.

Major Kravits' previous assignments include the Air Strategic Intelligence Analysis Training Center, Lowery Air Force Base, Denver, CO; the 544th Strategic Intelligence Wing, Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, NE; the 42nd Heavy Bombardment Wing, Loring Air Force Base, Limestone, ME; the 4300 Provisional Bombardment Wing, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory; the 4th Composite Wing, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro, NC and the 5th Combined Air Operations Center, Vicenza, Italy.



JAY TANNER, MD

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