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Florists protest tents

By GRACE R. DOVE and ANN POEPPERLING
Post Staff

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP - About 30 area growers and florists, angry about the presence of Flower Tents in the region, attended Monday's Public Caucus to ask the supervisors for help.

Kingston resident Tim Ansilio, whose brother, Tom, owns the chain of 30 Flower Tents, described the business as "permanent, but seasonal in nature."

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Norm Darling Jr. made his point to the Kingston Twp. supervisors during the Public Caucus Monday night. Darling and many other local florists and growers turned out to protest the presence of flower tents in the region.

POST PHOTO/ANN POEPPERLING

Traffic signals finally going up

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - The state Department of Transportation isn't kidding this time. Work has begun to install four new traffic lights and upgrade four intersections.

According to PennDOT construction inspector/supervisor Patricia Maguschak, contractors have already begun laying the concrete footers for the new traffic lights and signal controllers in the \$600,000 project at these locations:

- Route 309 and Main Road at Offset Paperback, where the intersection will also be reconfigured by removing a section of the steep bank at the corner. Concrete traffic islands will also be added.

The large pine tree and the bus

stop shelter won't be affected, Maguschak added. The master control box for all the lights from Pioneer Ave. to Orloski's will be installed in a protected area between the tree and the bus stop.

"We'll try to disturb highway traffic as little as possible," she said. "We plan to open the highway for the evening rush hour as much as possible and have our crews work from the side streets."

- Route 309 and Franklin Street, where a center left turn lane and striped pedestrian crosswalks across both roads will also be added.

- Route 309 at Orloski's, where striped pedestrian crosswalks across the highway will also be added. Although this light wasn't part of the original highway safety

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Tents have unfair advantage, shop owners say

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - For the past four or five years, the tents have appeared before Easter and closed up around Memorial Day, offering daffodils, hyacinths, azaleas, hydrangeas, tulips, and later in the season tomato and bedding plants.

Florists say the tents have caused their potted plant sales to drop dramatically, although the prices are nearly the same.

Flower Tent owner Tom Ansilio of Kingston says it's free enterprise, similar to two fast food res-

taurants setting up on opposite corners.

"I think I'll shut down my year-round business and become a gypsy like them," said Jeff Hosle, who has operated Hoss's Garden Hut on Route 415 at Harveys Lake for the past 13 years. "For \$75 a year they can set up for three months in the borough and make as much as I do in a year - without an overhead and bills for rent, sewer, telephone and electricity. I can get permission from a landowner to set up a tent. All I need is a job johnny and I'm in business."

Hosle sells mainly potted plants

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and says he offers "a greater variety" of plants than the flower tents.

Hosle, a Dallas native whose parents still live in the borough, said he's boycotting "anything that has to do with Dallas" until the matter is resolved.

"It's the principle," he said. "I could get a permit and set up a newspaper in a tent with a small printing press right next to *The*

Dallas Post - and it's perfectly legal."

Unlike the established area florists and growers, seasonal merchants like the flower tents don't pay taxes or support the community through donations to youth sports or charitable organizations, Hosle added.

"If this (seasonal sales set up in tents) is what the borough wants, why do we need our local businesses who support the community?" he continued. "Why be in business all year round - it isn't

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JUNE NELSON

Speaker brings unique perspective

By ANN POEPPERLING
Post Correspondent

KEY WEST, FL - June Nelson is no stranger to literary circles. However, there is something a bit strange about being labeled a "cult figure" in the poetry community of Key West, Florida, where she lives most of the year. She laughed, "A friend of a friend of mine once described me as a cult figure. I guess because I'm a bit unusual and I have a following." She explained, "It's not every day you see a little old lady in tennis shoes reading poetry to a bar full of young people."

Nelson will read from her recently published anthology, "Double Vision" at the upcoming Back Mountain Memorial Library's "Luncheon With a Special Author," on Thursday, April 25.

During a telephone interview, she described her poetry as "easy

WANT TO GO? All the details on pg 8.

to understand," written in "simple" language. "Double Vision" is a collection of 32 poems, "all short, never over one page," she said briskly. "They are somewhat philosophical," she continued, "humorous, with ironic twists." But she is most proud of the fact that her work is universal; crossing lines and boundaries. Nelson described an event after one of her poetry readings at the Apperlouth Grill in Key West: "A young black man with dreadlocks was tending bar. As I was leaving, he said simply: 'Lady, I like your poetry.'"

June's work is not limited to poetry; she has also written several plays and many short stories. "I've always been interested in writing," she said. "All my life I've

written press releases for various organizations, and I taught philosophy at Wilkes College in the 1970's."

After living in the Wyoming Valley for about 50 years, Nelson and her husband, the late Charles Nelson, retired to Key West 12 years ago.

"I was a Hemingway fan and when my husband retired we wanted our retirement to be very different, adventurous, less structured than our life had been," Nelson continued, "Key West is a very cultural city, home of some of the literary elite like authors Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams, and poets James Merrill and Richard Wilbur."

Although Nelson finds the southern Florida community quite receptive to her poetry readings, she still returns home to Dallas five months a year, from June to

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Robert Humphrey, left, and Mike Dobranski have been invited to the state band festival this weekend. They'll be joined by Kathryn Martin of Lake-Lehman.

Back Mountain students will play at all-state band

By MICHAEL TWICHELL
Post Correspondent

BACK MOUNTAIN - The Back Mountain is going to be well represented in this weekend's Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Festival, to be held April 11-13 at Valley Forge, with performances open to the public held at Norristown High School, beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 13.

Dallas High School has three students attending, two from the band and one from the chorus,

while Lake-Lehman has one band student participating in the state orchestra.

Dallas band members Bob Humphrey, percussion, and Mike Dobranski, trombone, both attending for the first time, are enthusiastic about their participation. "It feels pretty incredible," said Humphrey. Dobranski remarked, "I'm thrilled that I made it. It's a dream come true."

Dallas chorus student Kristen Faerber, making her second con-

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Tom Byron knows his way around

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS TOWNSHIP - When it comes to math and social studies, Tom Byron can usually find the correct answer.

An eighth-grader at Wyoming Seminary, Tom placed second in the state in the National Geography Bee and second in the county in the recent Math Counts competition, in which he also placed fourth overall and second in the countdown round. He also competed in the statewide Math Counts at Carlisle. "We didn't place, but we had fun," he said,

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Tom Byron showed off five of the many awards he has earned in academic competition.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

■ **Seek and find**
Easter egg hunts brought out area children last week. Pg 2-3.

■ **Boys of spring**
Lake-Lehman and Dallas boast loads of talent on the diamond. Pg 9.

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