

Pool

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too small for meets. They say scheduling time at other pools with diving areas, such as Wyoming Valley West or at Kisler Elementary in Wilkes-Barre, is nearly impossible.

Karey Kyle, a former competitive swimmer who has coached swim teams and managed a municipal pool, estimates it will cost the district \$82,716 per year to operate a pool year-round, while the pool could easily generate \$68,826 in income from pool memberships, summer programs and rentals.

The parents received 83 responses to a survey form, according to Betsy Gaffney, another interested parent.

"We received 67 responses for it and 17 against it," she said, noting the pool's potential value to the community as a place to hold Red Cross programs, senior citizens' swims, scuba and canoe safety lessons, lap swims and water aerobics.

"Swimming could become a valuable part of the curriculum and an excellent way for the less athletic students to build self-esteem and confidence," Gaffney said.

In response to one comment from the survey, which said the district already has a pool in the middle school's sub-basement, Gaffney quipped, "We'll be more than happy to use it if we can find it."

She provided the board with copies of comments from survey responses.

"It's about time!" wrote one reader, while others suggested renting the pool out for children's parties to help defray operating expenses.

"Area residents should be willing to pay a tax (one-time or ongoing) to support it," wrote another.

"It's too expensive. We should use the money on better education."

Pool survey response

One response opposing the pool suggested building a municipal pool instead of having the district pick up the tab for one.

Others wrote, "We have all to do supporting ourselves. We don't need higher school taxes" and "It's too expensive. We should use the money on better education. A home is more important to our youth than a pool."

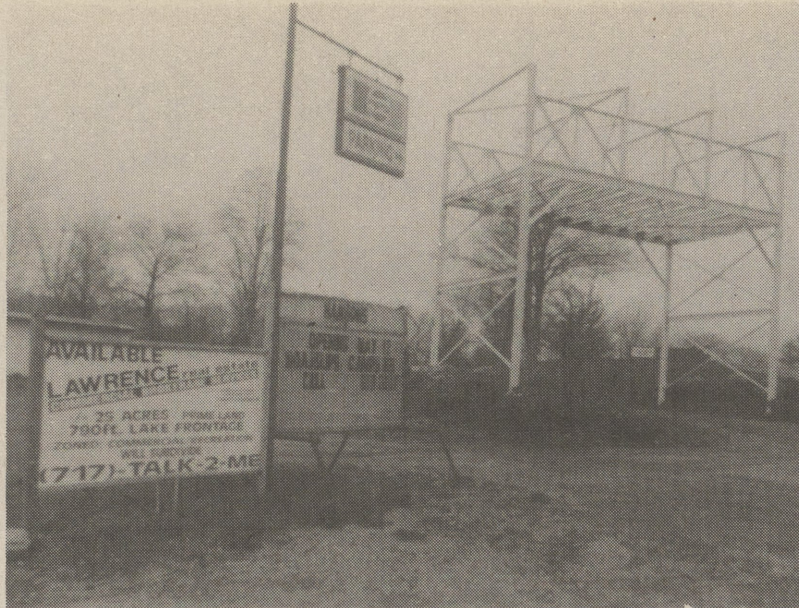
Others suggested the money would be better spent on educational programs.

"It would take a very long time for a pool to generate enough income to recoup all its construction costs," said swim and dive team coach Matt Stretanski. "But it could support its own operating expenses."

Describing College Misericordia's pool as too small, too shallow and "inadequate for competition on an elite basis," he described the ideal six-lane, five to 15-foot deep 25-meter by 25-yard facility, which would also contain a separate training pool between 3 1/2 and 5 1/2 feet deep. Such a facility costs between \$100 and \$200 per square foot, he said.

"U.S. Swimming, who designed and built the Olympic center in Georgia, is the best in the country," he said. "We would want you to work with them or at least to have them advise you."

The board said it would study the figures and take the matter under advisement.



POST PHOTO: GRACE R. DOVE

The former Hanson's Amusement Park, famous for its wooden roller coaster which crossed over the Lehigh Valley Railroad tracks, is up for sale. For the past five years it has been the site of an amphitheater for outdoor concerts.

Former Hanson's Park land on the market

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - The former Hanson's amusement park, which has enjoyed a second incarnation as a music amphitheater, has been put up for sale.

Shirley Hanson, owner of the park, has listed the 25-acre plot with Lawrence Real Estate in Wilkes-Barre. The land, which includes 792 feet of lakefront, the campground and the amphitheater, can be subdivided, according to realtor Larry Lebenson.

"We're just putting feelers out right now," he said. "I don't have any prices yet - perhaps the sign went up a bit prematurely."

He said he has received four calls this week about the land, and isn't sure whether the Hanson family will sell the entire parcel, subdivide it or develop it themselves.

Commercial land in Wyoming Valley is available for between \$85,000 and \$100,000 per acre, depending on its location, while a commercial parcel on Route 415 in Dallas Township is being offered for \$54,000 per acre.

Lakefront property is generally sold by the foot, according to realtor Mike Gerrity, who has seen residential lakefront offered for \$1,000 per foot for 100-foot wide parcels and \$1,000 to \$1,500 per foot for 50-foot wide parcels.

"I don't have any figures for commercial land or lakefront," he said. "There haven't been any commercial areas recently. Our only commercial areas are at Sunset and Hanson's."

Concert promoter Thom Greco, whose five-year lease for the land housing the amphitheater expires at the end of the season, said he has the option to renew his lease and to make a counteroffer to any

bid submitted for the land. He said he hasn't discussed any figures with them.

"No matter who buys the land, my five-year lease still stands," he said. "The buyer then has income from a tenant for the first five years."

He said he sees any bids on the property and has the right either to make a counteroffer or to say he doesn't want to bid. His business occupies three of the eight parcels which make up the 25 acres, he added.

"I'm always interested," Greco said. "A good 60 percent of my business involves real estate holdings in Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton and Allentown."

Greco and the amphitheater became involved with the Hansons in 1991, after the borough refused to approve a zoning change from commercial to residential, which would have paved the way for Shirley Hanson to develop her land into 166-unit townhouses.

Her application for the zoning change was denied August 7, 1991, after two public meetings soliciting comment on the issue, at which more than 100 residents voiced opposition to her plan.

Conflicting reports on the availability of water supplies for the development and its possible effect on the borough's sewer and road systems were cited by residents wanting an environmental impact study performed before the zoning change was approved.

"If you put this commercial property into the wrong hands it could destroy the lake," Hanson said at the May 29, 1991, meeting, adding she had received offers to build low-income housing or a night club with outdoor concerts at the site and offers from a religious organization and a foreign company to buy the land.

OBITUARIES

ELIZABETH MUNKATCHY

Elizabeth Munkatchy, formerly of Noxen, died May 10, 1996 in Specialty Hospital, Houston.

Born Dec. 14, 1911, in Scranton, she was the daughter of the late Gabriel and Mary Kalmar.

She was a member of Noxen United Methodist Church, the Classmates and Eastern Star Dallas Chapter No. 396.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William.

Surviving are her son, Robert, Houston; stepdaughters, Eunice Haverick, East Stroudsburg; Jane Race, Noxen; stepson, William, Noxen; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sisters, Ann Kalmar and Agnes Kish, both of Scranton; Mary Ellen Costanzo, WI; Florence Fleth, Dummore; brothers, George Kalmar, CA; Edward Kalmar, Newark, NJ; nieces and nephews.

Interment, Orcutt Grove Cemetery, Noxen.

ERIC PHILLIPS

Eric Phillips, 37, of RR 5 Tunkhannock, died May 6, 1996 in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, he was the son of Linda Pilger of Beaumont and the late Ernest A. Phillips.

He was employed by Offset Paperback and was a member of Local 137 Printers Union.

Surviving in addition to his mother are, his wife, Karen; sons, Eric John II and Alex Michael, both at home; stepfather, Bob Pilger, Beaumont; brother, Ernie, Dallas; sisters, Elaine Brennan, Beaumont; Eden Alden, Allentown; a half-brother, Walter Pilger, Beaumont; half-sister, Sara Pilger, Beaumont; stepbrothers, Robert Pilger, Kunkle; Mark and James Pilger, both of Harveys Lake; a stepsister, Carol Pilger, Forty Fort; a step-grandmother, Eleanor Phillips, Lewisburg.

Interment was at the convenience of the family.

Lake Twp. to recycle newsprint May 18

Newspaper will be collected at the Lake Township drop off center on Route 29, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Paper should be packed in paper bags and all glossy inserts removed.

All-U-Can-Eat breakfast May 19 at Ruggles

Ruggles United Methodist Church, Rt. 29, behind Harveys Lake, will host an All-U-Can-Eat-Breakfast, Sunday, May 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Adults \$4.50, children \$3.50. Free under five years.

Best choice is building at Middle School, engineers say

At a work session before the regular meeting the board heard a presentation from Quad Three Group architect Paul Degillio and director of educational programs Joel Sims on the elementary school feasibility study.

Sims said his firm doesn't recommend two options, of either renovating the Westmoreland School or building an addition at the Dallas Elementary School, which also needs between \$30,000 and \$40,000 in roof support repairs.

The state probably wouldn't fund renovations to Westmoreland, the district's oldest operating building, he said.

Although demolishing Westmoreland and building a replacement on the same seven-acre site on Lehigh Street sounds

like a good idea, Degillio and Sims said the state would question the size of the site.

"Of the seven acres, two are across the street and on a very steep slope," Sims said. "You can't build there. The other five acres contain another acre of steep slope which couldn't be used, leaving only four acres to use for a new school which would be 20 to 30 percent larger under the present state requirements."

A new building, erected either alongside the present Dallas Elementary school or behind the middle school, could be designed to accommodate either three or four grades, depending on what the district wants, Degillio said.

The earliest that a new elementary school could open is 1999, Sims said.

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Dr. Dennis Gaza

Has announced the closing of his medical practice at 199 Lake Street, Dallas, Pa.

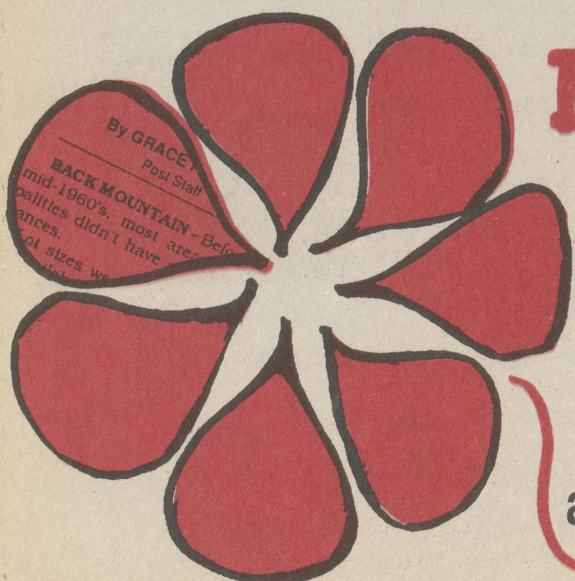
Patient records are being held at Mercy Medical Management Solutions, 330 Montage Mountain Road, Moosic, Pa., 18507.

Patients can request copies of their records by calling Linda Norton, (717) 341-6674 or writing to her at the above address.

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