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Water commission will study supplies, offer solutions

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP - An unusually wet summer may have helped wash away the memories of last year's drought emergency, but the Kingston Township Water Commission hasn't forgotten.

Served by 13 small water companies, the township created the commission earlier this year and has obtained a state grant to pay for a study of its water supplies.

"Last summer we ran out of water every Saturday night at 5 p.m. - and we weren't the only ones," said commission member Marlene Hogrebe. "The water table is dropping as development increases. I've heard estimates that the Back Mountain could run out of water by

the year 2000."

Hogrebe tied into the public water system, formerly owned by Goeringer and purchased by Pennsylvania Gas and Water, after her well water began leaving orange iron deposits on her home's fixtures. Ironically, a week after she went on the system she lost her water.

"PG&W sent a tanker to our neighborhood to maintain our water supply," she said. "We called it the Silver Bullet."

Final approval on the grant will come from the Department of Environmental Protection in November or early December, with work beginning soon thereafter. The study must be completed by June 30, 1997, Hogrebe said. The state will pay for 75 percent of the costs, with the water commission giving the remaining 25 percent in in-kind services.

"Last summer we ran out of water every Saturday night at 5 p.m. - and we weren't the only ones."

Marlene Hogrebe
Water commission member

The study will be made by R. E. Wright Environmental in Middletown. It will examine the water service available to township residents, the township's demographics, industry, topography, population and land use, and will propose possible solutions based on its needs for the next decade using a regional approach, according to project manager Walt

Harner.

His staff will visit each of the township's 13 systems - Echo Valley, Maplecrest, Meadowcrest, Sunrise Estates, Cedar Lane, Midway Manor, Midway Manor-Harris Hill, Homesite, Trucksville, Hillcrest, Huntsville and Brown Manor - and map them for the study.

"We plan to make a detailed inventory, evaluate current usage and project the future needs of the systems owned by the 13 small companies," Harner said. "We'll look at the water sources, storage and treatment facilities, capability to be used to fight fires and distribution of each system. We will also identify each system's deficiencies and how they can be overcome, giving a cost projection for each. We will also propose regional solutions." Possible regional solutions could in-

clude connecting all the systems into one which would buy water from Pennsylvania America Water Company, which recently purchased PG&W's water division, or having PAWC buy several small systems outright, according to PAWC director of business development Chuck Johnson.

"Another possible long-term solution is to tie into the Huntsville Reservoir and its treatment plant at Hillside," Johnson said.

No matter what the township decides after the study is complete, "it will have facts and figures to make educated choices," Harner said.

If the study is successful, after it's completed the township will propose discussions with neighboring municipalities, Hogrebe said.

Williams gets a peek at college sciences

By ANN POEPPERLING
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - Dallas High School junior David Williams of Pioneer Ave., is getting an early taste of college life this summer on the campus of College Misericordia.

While most high school students are spending the summer relaxing or working, Dave is living on campus taking classes as part of the month-long Young Scholars - Explorations in Mathematics and Biology program.

The program, headed by Dr. Mazen Shahin, professor of math and computer science at Misericordia, explores the link between mathematics and biology. Designed to encourage minority and female students to choose careers in science and mathematics, the program is made up of 20 young men and women age 14 to 16, including Hispanics, Asian-Americans, African-Americans, and whites.

Dave explained his interest in the program. "In school, math and science are my favorite subjects. I don't know exactly what I want to be, but I feel this might show me what occupations and opportunities are out there."

"I've definitely learned a lot so far - especially some new math concepts. We've also studied applications in math and biology and how they relate to each other." And, he adds with a laugh. "We



Terri Lewis, Teaching Assistant, worked with David Williams to measure the diameter of the tube with calipers.

also have time for some fun." The young scholars from Pennsylvania and New York have a full day of classes beginning at 8 a.m., lasting until about 4:30 p.m., made up mostly of math and computer labs, biology labs, and technical writing.

On Fridays, the students take field trips to various industries and labs such as the PP&L Berwick power plant; Sire Power, Tunkhannock; Temple University and Franklin Institute, Philadelphia; the Albert Einstein Medical Center in the Bronx, NY; and ecological activities with the naturalist at Frances Slocum State Park.

The field trips allow students to see how math and biology could solve problems in real life situations. "For example, at Temple University Medical School we observed a lab which was exploring ways to help premature babies with liquid in their lungs to breathe easier," said Dave. In addition to their classroom and lab work, the students listen to lectures given by math and science professors from various colleges and universities, as well as a speaker from the Multicultural Resource Center in Philadelphia.

On weekends, according to Dave, the kids accompany their

counselors to different recreational areas like Hickory Run State Park, Ricketts Glen, and Frances Slocum. "We play basketball, soccer, and go swimming," he said. "I'm having fun making new friends. With this diverse group, we learn a lot about different cultures."

Dr. Shahin feels the mix of students adds a different perspective to the program. "We work in teams of four; one from each culture. The students get the exposure of working with each other."

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PennDOT will tackle Carverton Road next

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - With new signals on Back Mountain highways almost ready to operate, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation officials are planning their next project.

Work will begin on the Route 309 intersection with Carverton and Church roads in Trucksville next summer.

According to PennDOT district engineer Charles Mattei, bids to realign the intersection and upgrade the bridge over Toby's Creek will be let August 22, with most of the work taking place next summer.

Anticipated to cost \$450,000, the project will involve removing the deck of the existing bridge on Carverton Road and replacing it with a wider one to accommodate right turning lanes onto Carverton Road and Route 309. Engineers plan to use the bridge's existing

abutments, which are "in very good condition," Mattei said. Plans also call for realigning Carverton and Church roads and adding additional concrete barriers for traffic control.

The bridge over Toby's Creek was last replaced in 1975 or 1976, when Carverton Road was upgraded, according to Kingston Township road foreman Butch Chamberlain.

The construction is part of a state and federally funded safety improvement project on the Route 309-415 corridor, which has upgraded and/or added traffic signals at seven Back Mountain intersections between Harris Hill Road and Route 118.

Although no specific time frame has been given, further plans call for upgrading the five-street intersection at Dallas Corners and construction of a jug handle turn and installation of a traffic light at Route 309 and Hillside Road in Trucksville.

Rules eyed for nuisances, temporary merchants

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP - The planning commission will hold a special work session August 19 at 6 p.m. at the fire hall to discuss two ordinances.

According to chairman Ed Dorrance, the supervisors have asked the commission for input into drafting ordinances regulating itinerant merchants and nuisances.

Although the township hasn't had any encounters with itinerant or seasonal merchants setting up tents to sell items, officials want to address the issue, which

has become "somewhat of a problem in neighboring municipalities," Dorrance said.

Present regulations require transient salespeople working door-to-door to obtain a \$2 permit. No other guidelines exist, according to secretary Davida Roberts.

The commission will also discuss a second ordinance dealing with public nuisances at the August 19 work session.

The commission also discussed the Tall Pines subdivision with owners Willard and Carol Bullock. At its last meeting it ap-

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Hoover descendants gather for 84th time

By JACK HILSHER
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN - On the third Saturday in July, a venerable American custom took place in the Back Mountain. It was called a "family reunion." This one was the 84th reunion of the Hoover family and it was held at the home of Laurence and Iva Killian on Troxell Switch Road. (For those who don't recognize the location, you just can't get any "backer" in the Back Mountain than Troxell Switch!)

Iva was a Hoover as Larry explains. "Her dad Robert Hoover lived to be 90 and had a long-forgotten road nearby named after him - 'Hoover Road,' on another forgotten place - 'Sister Hill,' so-called after his three Hoover sisters named Cathy, Stella and Fanny. Hoovers, you'll realize, are scattered all over the area."

Reunion hostess Iva Killian is also such a good president for the reunion committee that she gets renominated each year automatically. Next year will be her sev-



Hoover Family Reunion members and guests posed for their annual group portrait.

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■ **Family evicted** A mother and two sons were evicted from a Harveys Lake home, and the house condemned. Pg 2.

■ **State Olympians** A bevy of Back Mountain athletes are entered in the Keystone Games. Pg 9

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