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As drought severity increases, water system gains criticism

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Water supplies continue to be affected as Mother Nature once again demonstrates that she has the upper hand. Although, some people suggest a change in the current system would help out in situations like this.

With state and local mandated water advisories, the lack of rain is becoming a serious issue. People are being asked to refrain from watering their yards, wash-

ing cars, spraying down driveways and other activities that use an excess of water.

Joe Bontrager of National Utilities, INC., said, "We are starting to see some real stress on the wells. We're seeing the water levels drop and in the Back Mountain they drop fast," he said. Rain-fall is down about five and one half inches, he said.

The Sunrise Estates water company also sent out a request to all of it's customer's last week asking them to conserve water.

A representative from United

Water of Pennsylvania, the largest water supplier in the area said they also are supporting conservation efforts by customers.

According to hydrogeologist Jim Ward, the Back Mountain is not set up with a strong safety net to carry us through drought conditions.

"There are so many small water companies and everybody depends on ground water. Very little comes from the (Huntsville) dam," said Ward, who is also the commissioner of the Kingston Township Water Commission.

Most of the dam water goes to service Kingston and Wilkes-Barre, with a small percent servicing parts of Trucksville and Shavertown. Once the wells are dried up, that's it until the next big rain, he said.

Unlike larger water companies, the smaller ones do not have large reserves in case of a drought, said Ward. Ninety percent of the Back Mountain's water comes from ground water, which is directly affected by the amount of rain.

Ward is in favor of a county water authority. The authority

would oversee all water distribution and interconnect all the smaller networks. The Back Mountain Regional Water Commission (now the Kingston Twp. Water Commission) formed in 1988 after a severe drought that left many residents without water for days and hurt farmers significantly.

The commission recommended to all municipalities to make DAMA the water authority. They suggested DAMA could manage the water supply, much like they now manage garbage removal ser-

vices. "DAMA could work any number of ways with the smaller companies," said Ward, who believes smaller water companies do not maintain their pipes as well as a larger authority could.

"We're all dipping our straws in the same ice cream soda," said Ellie Rodda of Shavertown, a member of the Kingston Twp. Water Commission. Rodda thinks a water authority would be like the installation of sewage systems and

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Camp has activities for all ages

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER
Post Staff

IDETOWN - Whether it's performing an excerpt from *Grease*, swimming, making stars out of clay or taking a trip to Disneyland, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) camp does it all. The camp teaches kids how to have healthy fun, with many activities and an upbeat environment.

"It's fun at JCC. You swim and have fun. It's fun. Newcomb (a form of volleyball) and swimming are fun, but gimp (lacing material into a pattern) is one of my favorite things to do," Kate Logan, a 10-year-old Kingston native, recited this impromptu poem to express her feelings about the camp.

"This is the bestest camp in the world."

Katie Popky, 8
JCC camper

The eight-week program held on 40 acres is complete with two swimming pools, tennis courts, archery range, land hockey area, mini-amphitheater and a variety of rooms spread throughout the camp for other activities.

The camp is 67 years old and started at Harveys Lake on the back of Sandy Beach. Throughout the years it has kept a strong sense of history as two generations sent children and grandchildren there. "I love the people and the history of the camp," said Rick Evans, assistant executive camp director, who started there 24 years ago as an aquatic direc-

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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

PUTTY IN HER HANDS

Molly Kammen worked with putty at the Jewish Community Center camp in Lehman. She and dozens of other area children find plenty to do on summer days at the camp. More photos on page 7.

Disappointment that fertilizer ban on hold

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

HARVEYS LAKE - Michael Shisko was disappointed when he heard Harveys Lake Borough Council president Francis Kopko tell residents the proposed ban on phosphates at Harveys Lake would be tabled for another month.

Shisko is chairperson of the Harveys Lake Environmental Advisory Committee (EVAC), an organization that has been working for the ban since last October. "The council president felt it wasn't enforceable in its current form," Shisko said of the ordinance. "I thought we could get it passed and work it out later."

Kopko told the residents gathered at the July meeting that council still needed to consider issues such as fines and limitations. "At the last EVAC meeting, procedure and enforcement was questioned by lawn care companies," Kopko explained.

"As long as my lawn is green and the lake isn't, I'm happy."

Mike Shisko
EVAC chairman

He said now EVAC will begin the process of researching how other communities have implemented similar bans in regard to penalties, fees, and enforcement. "My feeling is that the public should be informed," Kopko said. "I think the citizens have to be the ones to eliminate phosphates. We're not going to police the use of fertilizers."

Shisko said even though the borough can't police residents' use of fertilizers, they can oversee lawn care companies. EVAC has suggested the borough require these companies to obtain a permit for a

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Late bike race request gets angers council members

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

HARVEYS LAKE - Harveys Lake Borough may soon handle around-the-lake walks and rides differently. At the July borough council meeting, a request to hold the Hospice 100 Ride for Dignity at the lake on July 27 drew complaints from council members.

Betty Jane West was upset by the request, which came less than two weeks before the event. She feels lack of planning makes these events disruptive to residents' lives. "The fire and police are verbally abused by race organizers and by residents," she said. "We need to have them start coming in to sit down with fire and police to organize these events."

Most races held at the lake are linked to national events and are held on Sundays all over the country, which is problematic for lake residents, because Sunday is a heavy traffic day at the lake.

Solicitor Charles McCormick reminded council members the races become a problem every year. McCormick suggested that council draft a letter to send to race organizers informing them they would have to follow borough guidelines to hold future events at Harveys Lake. Council decided on two guidelines. Events cannot be held on Sundays and the borough will need at least three months notice of scheduled events. But until the end of this summer, all events will be held as scheduled.

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Janine Marie Clark of Dallas helps her classmates dissect a cat at College Misericordia. Clark is one of 20 students participating in the Young Scholars program at the school.

Students get head start for college in summer program

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER
Post Staff

COLLEGE MISERICORDIA - Janine Marie Clark is smart and ambitious enough to be one of only 20 students in College Misericordia's Young Scholars Program this summer. The 16-year-old Dallas High School junior with a keen interest in biology has found a place where science and math are celebrated along with cultural diversity.

"I'm really interested in biology and thought it would be great to explore all the resources they have here," said Clark as she curiously dissected a cat to see firsthand how the body functions. "It's been an awesome experience," she said. Notable highlights include a trip to a veterinarian clinic at Cornell University, seeing a cadaver in the school's large anatomy lab and dissecting the cat. Clark isn't sure what exactly she wants to pursue at college, but most likely something involving biology or anthropology, she said.

The four-week program is set up to

"It's been an awesome experience."

Janine Marie Clark
Dallas

encourage students, specifically minority and female, to explore their interest in science and mathematics and eventually choose careers in those fields. The program is free and open to students between the ages of 14 and 16 from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. Some students are originally from Nigeria, Vietnam, S. Africa and India.

The 20 were chosen out of 120 applicants and were required to write an essay, turn in two recommendations from math and science teachers and have at least a "B" average in math and science.

Dr. Karen Walker of Dallas teaches anatomy and physiology at Misericordia and is one of the organizers of Young Scholars. She said a survey of last years

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■ **New hobby** has brought great pleasure to Joseph Drust, with impressive results. Pg 3.

■ **Playoff time** Check out the results from the past week, and take a look ahead! Pg 7

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