

United Water gets rate increase from PUC, lower than requested

The Public Utility Commission allowed United Water Pennsylvania Inc. a 11 percent annual rate increase instead of 15.4 percent as requested.

Yearly bills of the average residential customer using 60,000 gallons will go from \$292 to an estimated \$311. The new rates took effect Jan. 30.

The commission's disallowance of \$850,600 of the requested increase is the result of adjustments to company rate base and ex-

pense claims and a finding that an 11 percent rate or return on common equity "is reasonable and appropriate." The Harrisburg-based utility had proposed an 11.9 percent return.

United Water, serving 45,500 customers in its Harrisburg, Mechanicsburg, Dallas and Bloomsburg operations, had filed the \$3 million increase to take effect last July 1, but the commission suspended it for investigation.

DISTRICT COURT BRIEFS

D.U.I. CHARGES

• Sweet Valley resident Ronald R. Morrison, 33, was arrested Nov. 22 by Dallas Township patrolman Robert Jolley after driving erratically on Rt. 309 and in the parking lot of Cousin Bill's restaurant.

Morrison was placed in a patrol car to be taken to the Luzerne County Processing Center for a blood alcohol test. Once in the car he proceeded to start kicking and kicked one officer in the left thigh. He was then taken to the township police station where he continued kicking when outside the patrol car until police restrained him.

Morrison was then taken to the Luzerne County Processing Center. While en route to the center he began kicking the protective screen and other areas in the patrol car. Results of a breath test determined his blood alcohol level to be .237.

Morrison was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. Related charges of aggravated assault, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct were dismissed.

• Plymouth resident David Mackiewicz, 23, was arrested Nov. 29 by Kingston Township patrolman James J. Ibbotson after police observed him driving erratically on Rt. 309. Mackiewicz stopped his vehicle in the middle of the right lane on Rt. 309. Ibbotson told him to pull off into the Grange Bank parking lot, which he did.

After failing field sobriety tests, he was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital where his blood alcohol was determined to be .142.

Mackiewicz was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and failing to note a change of address.

Related charges of careless driving and disregard for a traffic lane were dismissed. He waived his right to a preliminary hearing before District Justice James Tupper.

• Tunkhannock resident Randy Everetts, 39, was arrested Oct. 6

by Kingston Township patrolman Walter Davis after police responded to an automobile accident on Manor Dr.

Upon arrival to the accident, police found Everetts exiting a Chevy pickup truck that was smashed into the base of a large pine tree.

Everetts was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital where his blood alcohol was determined to be .198.

He was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. He waived his right to a preliminary hearing before District Justice James Tupper.

• Edwardsville resident William Henry Meixsell, 37, was arrested Oct. 24 by Dallas Township patrolman Douglas Higgins after police were called to an automobile accident on the grounds of Commonwealth Telephone Company of Rt. 309.

When Higgins arrived he found the car Meixsell was driving resting on a drainage ditch and Meixsell lying on the grass near the front of the car. Meixsell told police that he must have passed out and did not know what happened. He also said that he "had a couple of beers."

Gary Berholtz told police that he witnessed the accident. He said the station wagon Meixsell was driving hit a stop sign and then hit a slight slope in the grass before going airborne. The car then hit a set of guard rails and Meixsell was flung from the car onto the grass.

A police investigation determined that Meixsell was driving north on Rt. 309 before he crossed over the southbound lane and into the stop sign and guard rails. After Meixsell was flung from the car, it bounced over guardrails and hit a BD box, which contains hundreds of telephone wires.

Meixsell was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. He waived his right to a preliminary hearing before District Justice James Tupper.



Westmoreland holds geography bee

Twenty five Westmoreland students competed in the first round of the National Geography Bee on Tues., Jan. 13. Jillian Ungvasky, in the fourth grade, was the winner. Katelyn Fritzges and Jacob Kovalchik were runners up. The final was a very challenging written test which Jillian completed two days later. She said that at first she didn't want to compete because she was nervous. "But I was excited when I won," she added.

Lynne Kosak, Gifted Support Teacher who coordinated the contest, said she was impressed with the knowledge of United States geography and world cultures which all the contestants demonstrated. "I look forward to increased student interest in this contest next year."

Kathleen McCarthy, principal, believes that we need to prepare children to live and work as world citizens. "Knowing the geography and cultures of distant places will be essential during the 21st Century. We want the Geography Bee to be an annual event to encourage our knowledge of the world".

Pictured, from left, sitting, Katelyn Fritzges, Jacob Kovalchik, Jill Ungvasky; standing Lynne Kosak (gifted support teacher), Kathleen McCarthy, principal.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfer were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of Jan. 23 - 29:

Matilda R. Moreck, et al, to Peter Schneeman, Machell Ave., Dallas Borough \$72,000

Keith A. Seroka, to Rachel C. Miers, et al, Lots 45B, 46B Woodland Ave., Harveys Lake Bor. \$30,000.

Phillip J. Santarelli, et ux, to Joseph M. Barone, Harveys Lake Bor. \$130,000.

John F. Putney et ux, to Prudential Residential Services, 1.493 ac., Jackson Twp., \$172,000.

Prudential Residential Services to James J. Durkin III et ux, 1.493 ac. Jackson Twp. \$172,000.

Hill Brook Corp. to James Joseph Heintz, et ux, Lt. 23 Hill Brook Farm, Kingston Twp., \$65,000

Carl A. Rittenhouse, to Gordon L. Harmon, et ux, Lot 323 Lake Ave., Ross Twp., \$70,000.

Jean Wesley, to Daniel P. Crawford, 10.00 ac. Ross Twp., \$80,000.



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Ruby Elston

(continued from page 1)

A life member of the Huntsville United Methodist Church, where funeral services were held Tuesday, Mrs. Elston was a Sunday School teacher there, along with other affiliations.

For 60 years author of a news

column in the Wilkes-Barre Record, Mrs. Elston also wrote a history of the Huntsville church and a family history. Until recently she had done needlepoint and was a member of a craft group.

Snow blower, other items stolen from church

KINGSTON TWP. - The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints on 80 Manor Dr. recently had items stolen from their property. On Jan. 29, it was reported to police that a snow blower, Casio keyboard, shop vacuum and step ladder were missing from church grounds.

The theft was discovered Jan. 22 and is believed to have taken

place between Jan. 10 and Jan. 22.

Someone who had keys to the church and an outdoor storage shed is believed to have stolen the items. Police say there was no forced entry.

Currently there are no suspects.

- Kylie Shafferkoetter

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NEWS

Coverage area: The Dallas Post covers the "Back Mountain" area of Luzerne County, including Dallas, Kingston, Lehman and Jackson townships, Dallas Borough, Harveys Lake and the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts. We try to get to as many events as possible, but staff and space limitations make it impossible to cover everything. If you have news about your family, town or organization, please send it to us and we'll try to get it in. Photographs are welcome; we prefer black and white, but color will usually work.

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