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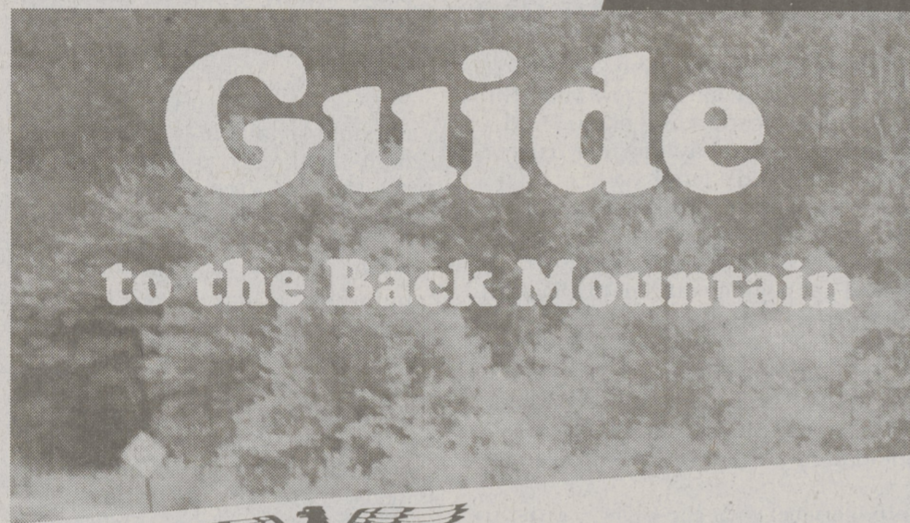
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Water co. customers could pay price if drought continues

By KASIA McDONOUGH
 Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Harvey's Lake residents may be required to boil their water if the record lack of precipitation continues. And customers of municipal water systems may find themselves paying more for excessive use.

Dallas and Shavertown customers is at a historic low right now," said Dave Bradley. "The wells which serve Noxen and Harvey's Lake are also very low."

The ground water levels are so far below normal that United Water may be forced to draw from a reserve supply in order to meet the demands of its customers in the Harvey's Lake area. "It is not uncommon for the Harvey's Lake well to be low, but if it drops much further we may have to go to an alternate supply," said Bradley.

"If we get into a rationing situation rate penalties would go into effect."

Dave Bradley
 United Water

The reserve, unlike the wells in Dallas, Noxen and Shavertown, is not regularly utilized. "Supplies in those areas are on-line and operating each day but the

standby in Harvey's Lake has not been used in some time," said Bradley.

A boil advisory would be implemented as a health precaution if the secondary source is required. "The advisory would last a short while, until we and the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) are satisfied the water meets appropriate standards."

While most areas are not facing water quality issues like Harvey's Lake, the quantity of available water is nearing a critical juncture. "The drought emergency decla-

ration is the highest we can go," said Susan Obleski of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. "It gives us the authority to take a look at water usage permits which have been issued in the past and possibly modify levels previously authorized."

These changes may affect groups or corporations that regularly use large quantities of water. The review is done to ensure that should we get into dire cir-

See WATER, pg 8

Ruling has potential to bring down Dallas tower

By RONALD BARTZEK
 Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - A decision that blocks construction of a cellular telephone tower in Kingston Township may have repercussions for an existing tower in Dallas Township. Judge Thomas F. Burke, of the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas, ruled July 19 that the Kingston Twp. supervisors committed an error of law when they concluded a proposed 150-foot-tall tower was a "semi-public" use. Burke went on to write in his decision that even if that determination was



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