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Compromise to be offered in 20-year zoning dispute

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

JACKSON TWP. - A contentious 20 year battle between Jackson Township and American Asphalt Paving Co. may be coming to an end now that the township planning commission has recommended that land the company has been mining be officially zoned for that purpose.

The issue could be settled before the end of the year if the township supervisors approve the zoning change. A public hearing to discuss the change has been set for Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. in the

Jackson Twp. Fire Hall on Chase Rd. No vote can be taken at that time, but the supervisors could vote as soon as their monthly meeting Monday, Dec. 6.

A majority of the seven members of the township's planning commission voted to recommend the land, which zoning officer John Krupa said covers about 67 acres, be rezoned to M-1, Mining from A-1, Agriculture.

The dispute began in the 1970's, when American Asphalt bought land that had been owned by Pennsylvania Gas & Water Co. "He (Bernard Banks, Executive Vice President of American Asphalt)

"If this was untouched agricultural land I'd be up there stopping it with my body if necessary."

Paul Niezgoda
Member, Jackson Twp. Planning Commission

thought it was zoned for mining," said Beatrice Ray, who has served on township planning and zoning boards since 1973. "It was a misapprehension be-

tween our supervisors and Mr. Banks."

Different maps from that time show different designations for the land, which is located between Chase and Hillside roads, near the Fieldcrest development. American Asphalt says it wants the zoning returned to Mining, but "That portion was never zoned as mining," says Krupa. He contends that a map showing mining in the area was roughly drawn and boundaries weren't clearly defined. "It was strictly a brushed-in portion of a map they acquired in 1977," he says.

Two of the four planning commission members who voted to recommend the

proposed change said it was too late to do anything else, since American Asphalt has mined the property for 20 years since appealing the Agriculture designation. "We saw how much has been mined and how little could be restored," said Ray. "The ones who voted to rezone were all ones who went on a tour."

Paul Niezgoda voted for the zone change in part because he thinks the township probably won't win before the land is completely mined out, and he questions the wisdom of spending more township

See MINING, pg 8

School officials get raises

Most receive 2.44% to 3.1%, some get more

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Administrators in the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts received pay raises for the 1999-2000 academic year in accordance with contractual agreements.

Most Dallas administrators were granted a 2.44 percent hike while most Lake-Lehman administrators received an across the board increase equal to 3.1 percent of their annual salaries.

Exceptions include a 3.26 percent increase for Paul Reinert, Dallas Assistant Senior High School Principal and a 4.14 percent raise for Kathleen McCarthy, Wycallis Principal. Dr. Michael Speziale, Assistant Superintendent, received a 3.84 percent increase for the 1999-2000 school year.

Michael McLaughlin-Smith, the newly appointed Elementary School Principal in the Lake-Lehman School District, received an

See RAISES, pg 8



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

A Mitty moment

Dallas High School thespians will present a comic review of works by James Thurber this weekend in the high school auditorium.

Above, Becky Hoffman and Joseph Goryl rehearsed a sketch from "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty." Story, photos on page 7.

Big debt drains sewer budget

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - Overwhelmed by outstanding debts, including a promissory note payable to the Farmers Home Administration (FHA) which financed the construction of the Harveys Lake General Municipal Authority's (HLGMA) sewer system in 1977, HLGMA officials say the authority struggles to pay its bills each month.

Installation of the HLGMA sewerage system cost approximately \$5 million in 1977, a debt the municipal authority is still repaying. "If you look at the budget you will see we have to pay \$156,020 just in interest every year and another \$111,842 on the principal," said Bill Mann, a member of the HLGMA board of supervisors. "That's why I'm saying we can't even fix a truck without scrimping, saving and cutting corners."

HLGMA's working budget for the year ending December 31, 1999 shows an anticipated surplus of \$28,852. "That's a pitiful

See HL SEWER, pg 13

Students on mission to support tiny island's school

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

DALLAS - Two Dallas High School juniors are using their completion project to support a school on Unanu, a remote island near Guam in the South Pacific. Molly Savage and Kirby Mitchell described their project to members of the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association at the group's meeting Nov. 11.

"We want to make this an area project where everyone gets involved," Savage said. They have begun to solicit schoolbooks and supplies that can be sent to the school, which is being administered by Steven Winter, brother of Dr. Thomas Winter, a physics professor at Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

Books and materials are beginning to trickle in, although more are needed. "We have a pile of books in my basement that came from the Westmoreland building," Savage said. But that's only part of the project. After the books are collected, they must be packed and shipped halfway around the world - a costly venture. The girls are asking for cash donations to pay for the shipping.

Dr. Gil Griffiths, superintendent of schools, is the girls' men-



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Kirby Mitchell, left, and **Molly Savage** brought a book about Micronesia when they addressed members of the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association.

tor for the project. Tom Winter told him about the school about six months ago, and he suggested it to the students. In addition to

the need for materials, the school needs assistance rebuilding a deteriorating concrete hut that serves as the classroom.

"We want to make this an area project where everyone gets involved."

Molly Savage
Dallas High School junior

The school serves kindergarten through eighth grade. Tom Winter estimated that 40 to 50 students could attend, out of the island's population of 200 people.

"He's been relying almost entirely on donations," Tom Winter said, although businesses on Truk, the largest island in the Federated States of Micronesia, have given some supplies.

Tom Winter visited earlier this year, and said his brother is making progress restoring the school, which has been inactive for months at a time. He said his brother was introduced to the island several years ago when he visited to set up a solar-powered water pumping station. Steve Winter had been living on the larger island of Wenow, but he and his wife, a native of Unanu, have now relocated to the smaller island.

Anyone wishing to make a donation may call Dallas High School at 674-7208 to make arrangements.

R U ready for Y2K?

We would like to write an article about people who are making special preparations for Jan. 1, 2000. Perhaps you or someone you know is stocking up on supplies, avoiding air travel or just planning a special bash to celebrate the new millennium.

If you have a story idea or a comment, please call us at 675-5211, send an e-mail to dalpost@aol.com, or drop something off at the office at 607 Main Rd., Dallas.

Mounts play for district title

Dallas hosts Valley View Saturday for District 2 football championship. Sports page.

School spirit at Dallas Elementary

Photos, pg 11.

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