

IRS office open extended hours during tax season

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will offer extended walk-in service in Wilkes-Barre at the Stegmier Complex, 7 N. Wilkes-Barre Blvd., Room 349, Wilkes-Barre, for 14 Saturdays during the filing season Jan. 15 through April 17. Each of the offices will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Taxpayers will be able to pick up forms and publications, get answers to account and tax law questions, receive verification of their individual taxpayer identification numbers (TIN), and make payments. For many of these

services, taxpayers do not have to visit the IRS at all. Most products and services the IRS offers are available through other means.

Taxpayers will tax law or account questions can call the IRS toll-free help line, 1-800-829-1040, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Free forms and publications are available to the public through a toll-free order line at 1-800-829-FORMS (1-800-829-3676), on the IRS website at www.irs.gov, and through TaxFax by dialing 703-368-9694.

Rave's

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to get financing, and were turned down by four banks. But armed with proper financial statements and a drawing of their proposed sales yard, they found a friendly president at Luzerne National Bank, where Rave's still maintains its accounts. A 20'-by-30' building was ready for Christmas 1951.

The Shavertown center expanded greatly over the next few years, and the business branched out to its first additional location in 1957, opening a large garden center in Clarks Summit. Three years later, Rave's leased space on Wyoming Ave. in Wyoming, across from the Midway Shopping Center.

Shortly after that, Rob Rave, 44, began to work in the family business. "My first job was weeding and watering the roses. . . we had 25,000 roses," he said. The experience didn't create a great attraction to the business, but "my father told me it would get better."

"That was my job, too," said Scott, 42. "Spring pruning, weeding and feeding; I did that one whole summer."

Chain stores were trying to get into the garden center business

in the early 1960's, and A&P approached the brothers, asking them to operate nurseries outside eight stores in Pennsylvania and New York. The venture was filled with red tape and operational problems, and lasted less than a year.

Just as Rave's was recovering from the A&P experience, they were told the state needed the Shavertown store site to widen Rt. 309. With a year to move, the brothers bought the present location and built a 2,000 square foot store. The next Christmas, Rave's began selling holiday decorations, which became a large portion of the business in subsequent years.



Announcing the start of Rave's 51st year, from left, Rob Rave, Scott Rave, Holly (Rave) Brace, Robert Rave, founder.



In the early 1960's, Rave's was located beside a two-lane Rt. 309 in Shavertown.

The Agnes flood of 1972 took its toll on Rave's, flooding the Shavertown landscaping center and filling the Wyoming building to the roof. "The front porch of the Wyoming store was loaded with fertilizer, so in the flood it was all washed down to Kingston. Everyone there had real green lawns the next three years," he joked.

The next spring, Rave's opened a garden and pool center in Ashley, only to see it burn to the ground in 1974. A new building was built, this one with additional fire protection. Finally, in 1978, Rave's took over the former Kinney shoe store in Wyoming and reopened in that part of the Wyoming Valley.

As the younger Raves became involved, the business began to change. Rob and Holly opened

"Rave's Ski Loft" in the Shavertown and Clarks Summit stores in 1983, then in 1989 Rob bought the ski and landscaping operations and opened a large wholesale yard off Edinger Rd. in Dallas.

In addition to the ski lofts, Holly is active the furniture side of the business.

Rob and Scott Rave became sole owners of Rave Nursery Inc. in 1996, began renovations on the stores, expanded the outdoor furniture selection and added water gardens, a growing area of interest.

Lou Rave died at age 80 in 1998. Robert Rave continues to act as a consultant to the business he and his brother created. "It's been very interesting, and a lot of fun," he said.

Library news



Carol King

Paul Rodda has put on display at the library a sampling of the model ships he has built over the years.

Reared near the water in Brooklyn, N.Y., where his grandfather was a commercial fisherman, Paul was always interested in the water and in boats. He started building models when he was 9 years old; it became a full-fledged hobby in 1970. He was a sailor for many years.

The models are done to scale and are as authentic as Paul can make them. He uses pieces and parts that catch his eye and are of the correct size and form. He finds this hobby very rewarding and enjoyable, as well as a good discipline in patience. He learns a lot of history in researching the style and make of the models he builds.

Librarian's report: The children's Story Hours celebrated Christmas with songs, stories and

Hand-built model ships on display

a visit from Santa Claus. Santa, alias Rick, owner and operator of Bucky's Auto Body Shop, made his 25th visit to the Story Hour children, and mesmerized the adults as well as the children.

Statistics for December, 1999 include: books added, 150; new borrowers, 42.

Book discussion group: Members of the Monday morning book discussion group are reminded that the next meeting will be on January 31st. Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* will be discussed.

Book listings: New on *The New York Times* best seller list for January 16 are *False Memory*, by Dean Koontz; "A woman and her husband scour the past for clues after she is gripped by an inexplicable fear of her own image"; and *Soft Focus*, by Jayne Ann Krentz: "A woman must juggle romantic and financial entanglements when she sets out to save her business partner from industrial sabotage". Check with the library to make sure they're available.

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Am. Legion Post 672 will host pig roast

Daddow-Isaac Post 672, The Dallas American Legion, will hold its 40th Annual Pig Roast at the post home, Memorial Highway, Dallas, on Sat. Feb. 5. Serving will be from 5-8 p.m. with dancing from 9-1 a.m. Call the American Legion at 675-6542 for reservations or further information.

If you missed *The Post*, you missed the Best News in the Back Mountain!



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