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For a change, National Utilities customers get good news

By BILL GOODMAN
Post Staff

LEHMAN - Joseph Pagoda, who lives in the Oak Hill development in Lehman Township, has finally found some satisfaction with the service of National Utilities Inc. (NUI).

"Service has definitely improved," he said. For many years, the water company

failed to respond to customer complaints of poor quality and service, and was slow to complete repairs.

"We haven't had any problems dealing with them in the last year and a half," said Pagoda.

NUI does work with customers, Pagoda said. For example, if a customer wants to flush out their system because of poor water quality, they can keep track

of their meter readings and the company will reimburse them for the water used.

Service has improved, but the water quality at Oak Hills hasn't, Pagoda says. He uses the water to bathe and wash clothes with, but not to drink. "We buy bottled water," he said. "It's not what I expected from country water."

NUI's latest water report lists all the contaminants as at or below levels estab-

lished for safe drinking water. That doesn't sway Pagoda.

"It doesn't matter what the reports say. I'm still not drinking the water," Pagoda said. Most of the test results are from 1997 and 1998; only one if from 1999. Slight levels of most substances were recorded. Two samples, lead and beta/photon emitters, tested at about half the allowable level. The federal Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets a goal for drinking water of no measurable amount of the substances.

NUI serves 650 customers in four areas in Luzerne county. United Water, which serves 3,000 customers in Dallas and Shavertown, tests for more than 140 substances, and treats the water with

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HL Borough snags grants for drainage, trail study

By ELAINE SLABINSKI
Post Correspondent

HARVEYS LAKE - Councilman Daniel Hanson announced that the borough would be receiving the \$38,100 balance of a Growing Greener Grant totalling over \$80,000 for repairs to Old Sandy Bottom and Sandy Beach Creek as well as the resolution of drainage problems behind the Municipal Authority building. Hanson is currently preparing to apply for the fall, 2000 series of Growing Greener Grant funds for road surface improvements and better drainage in Hemlock Gardens.

Additional funds are coming to the borough in the form of a \$226,000 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Grant. These monies will support a feasibility study to explore the possible construction of a walking, biking and roller blading trail around the lake, looking at recreation as well as safety issues.

Millie Monk and her husband, Bill, who live in Hemlock Gardens, volunteered to work as a team to help identify sources of financial assistance such as grant programs. Council members unanimously accepted their offer.

Joe Shonis complained that his neighbor has erected a dock right against his property line ignoring the required 10 foot setback. "It's an illegal dock," Shonis said. "There is no (borough) permit, only a DEP permit." George Andrews, Council President, asked if the dock was floating or permanent. Shonis responded, "There are pins in the water to keep it stationary and it is permanently anchored there."

He told council members that this situation has been in existence for more than a year and he is very frustrated. He

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Thrill of victory

POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

Kasey Corbett ran to congratulate her teammates on the Back Mountain Major League Girls Softball team after they won the District 16 championship. The team bounced back from its first loss to beat Nanticoke for the title. Gathered on the mound, from left: Cassie Snider, Sofie Grossman, Sara Brown, Sara Swepston, Joanna Williamson, and Sheree Horvath. More photos on sports page.

Youthful rockers off to fast start

□ *ninefoldpunch* members take their music seriously

By BILL GOODMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS - For many kids with musical interest and a bit of courage, garage and basement bands are a part of life. Parents buy them guitars and drums, and the instruments are played for a few months and thrown into the hallway closet. But Jerry and Jon Taylor, age 14, Matt Rattigan, age 14 (all of Dallas) and Chris Blaker, age 15 of Plymouth have moved their music out of the basement and into the local limelight.

The Taylor twins developed an interest in music because of their father. "I watched my dad play guitar when we went camping," said Jerry. Jerry eventually wanted to play six-string guitar, and his brother Jon wanted a bass guitar to keep even.

Jerry Taylor met Rattigan in Cub Scouts, and they disliked each other. But later the two played on a Back Mountain all-star baseball team, and became friends. Along with Jon Taylor, they've been playing together for three years. After working with several different drummers they met Blaker through a mutual friend, and this ninefoldpunch lineup has been stable for the past nine months.

The band describes themselves as a mix of pop, punk, and a more recent style called "emo," but they play melodic, if sometimes noisy, heavy pop with a strong emotional undercurrent. Because of their

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Kids learn all about creepy crawlies at Frances Slocum park

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

KINGSTON TWP. - Weekends at Frances Slocum State Park in Kingston Township are filled with typical summertime activities like swimming, boating and fishing, but they also include many educational opportunities.

"We offer programs every Friday and Saturday evening and on Saturday afternoons," said Kathy Kelchner, Park Naturalist. "We also have a program on Sunday afternoon during holiday weekends like Memorial Day."

This past Saturday afternoon a program about spiders was held for 3 to 5-year-olds, but more than a few older children enjoyed the activities, also.

"We were looking for something to do so we came out for the show," said Anne Schwartz of Forty Fort, who brought her sons Ryan and Jonathan.

Other visitors have discovered the program in the past, and return for more.

"We came out here last year for a few of the programs," said Christine Mash of Nanticoke. Her children, Peter, Katie and Mary, really enjoyed making the Name Tag Necklaces complete with spider web stamps and beads.

"Use your eyes now and look at these dandy spiders," instructed



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

Kathy Kelchner, naturalist at Frances Slocum State Park, helped Peter Mash, Jeffery Thomas and Nicole Ann Kell look at spiders they had captured.

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