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Sheetz gets green light

By ELIZABETH SKRAPITS
Post staff

KINGSTON TWP. - A new Sheetz gas station and convenience store will be built on Rte. 309 in the Pendragon Center.

But not everyone is pleased about its arrival. At a Jan. 29 special meeting, members of the Kingston Twp. Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve preliminary development plans for the Sheetz station and store. Before reaching a decision, the board listened to concerns from those who will be neighbors to the new gas station and store.

William Leandri, president of Luzerne National Bank, cautioned the commission against overdevelopment in the area. He said bringing more traffic to the area could have a negative impact on land and property values.

The concept of property depreciation is not something Wesley Pokrinchak wants to think about, since he and his wife bought their property in Shavertown only one year ago. They also have a pool in the backyard and invite guests over in the summer. Pokrinchak fears the noise from Sheetz's speakers will not add to the ambience. "One of the things I don't want to hear when I'm entertaining friends and relatives in

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Embark on a restaurant safari

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

BACK MOUNTAIN - Some people say you have to go to Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, or even New York to get a great meal in a restaurant.

We decided to explore the Back Mountain in search of family-owned and operated restaurants, cafes, delis, pizza parlors and ice cream shops to see if we could prove that theory wrong. We did indeed find many eating establishments with fantastic food guaranteed to please the palates of almost everyone.

Many families today have two incomes, which translates into "so little time." Going out for a good meal gives everyone a mini vacation. It eliminates the need for planning, shopping.

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Showing spirit, learning a lesson

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - The Wycallis Elementary School gymnasium was the scene of a rousing Pep Rally last week when members of the Wilkes Barre/Scranton Penguins' hockey team arrived at the school.

Fifth grade teacher, Miss Lauren O'Neill, started making arrangements last fall when Kathleen McCarthy, school principal approved the idea. "She said if I said 'yes,' she would figure out how," explained McCarthy during the rally.

The entire student body was pepped up and ready although most students only found out the day before. "I told my class about two weeks ago," said O'Neill. "They made all of these posters and decorated the gym early in the morning with balloons and signs. They were really excited."

Students in Miss O'Neill's class are well aware of her interest in the Penguin's hockey team. "We talk about the games and they bring in things like autographs and hockey pucks. A couple of my students play hockey," said O'Neill, who dressed in a full Penguin's uniform in the school Halloween parade this year. "My best Christmas present was a pair of tickets for front row seats at a game this week," she said.

Student Ryan Duddy, whose grandfather has season tickets, lobbied for weeks to get those tickets for her. "I was thrilled. I couldn't believe they were front row," O'Neill said.

The teacher wanted to share her Penquin enthusiasm with the entire school. "I think it's great to have something like the Arena in our area so I wanted to celebrate it. I heard about players going to other schools so I started calling last spring," she said. "Tom Grace, 'the voice of the Penguins,' scheduled this date back in September and we were just hoping it wouldn't get canceled because of snow. It turned out great," she said.

Recently, Wycallis Elementary held a raffle and the top prize was a signed Penguins' jersey. "My students had agreed to give me the jersey if any of them won. I didn't get it though because a kindergarten student won it," lamented O'Neill.



Tux, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins mascot visits with Wycallis Elementary School students after a pep rally in the gym last week when members of the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins' hockey team also attended and discussed the importance of nutrition and exercise.

That jersey was worn at the pep rally by Mrs. Karen Mertz the kindergarten teacher who organized and solicited prizes for the raffle. Students

to bed really early."

The importance of going to school was Brendan Buckley's topic. "It is important to listen to your teachers

Teachers throughout the school didn't mind the interruption in their schedule. They really got into the spirit of the event and many classes marched in holding banners and sporting Penguin colors of white, black, yellow and orange.

They were impressed with how the players spoke and interacted with the children. "We've just finished 90 days of school and I think it was a wonderful way to celebrate," said McCarthy. The "academic stars" of the marking period always receive a certificate for earning all A's on their report cards. These students had the pleasure of being introduced at the rally, getting a "high-five" from Tux and shaking hands with the Penguins.

Grace then gave out the certificates and noted that these achievers are the real heroes and are setting a good example.

"It was a lot of fun for everyone and I really appreciate the willingness of the Penguins to visit our school," McCarthy said. "It is important for students to hear that they share many of our same values."

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"We have to eat well to be good athletes. We also go to bed really early."

Alex Mathieu
W-B/Scranton Penguin

raised \$1,700 to benefit the family of a Wycallis student who is undergoing medical treatment.

Students and teachers had a lot of fun at the rally, but they also had an opportunity to see these sports stars in a very positive way. Players Darcy Verot, Brendan Buckley and Alex Mathieu were introduced by Tom Grace.

They each took a few minutes to tell the students how important good nutrition, proper exercise and a good night's sleep are to good health. They talked about the food pyramid and Alex Mathieu said, "We have to eat well to be good athletes. We also go

and your parents," he told the crowd. Another important health issue was addressed by the speakers. "No one in the Penguin's organization smokes cigarettes or has anything to do with illegal drugs," Grace said, with great emphasis.

There was a near-deafening roar when the Penguin's mascot, Tux, made an appearance. He did a little disco-dancing and was a big hit when he cuddled with the principal. "Tux was born two years ago at the Pittsburgh zoo," explained Grace. "This year he was named mascot of the entire League because of the great job he does."

Happy birthday, sweet 95 And the winner is ...

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - Minerva Sauers, Irene Mappes and Elda Shaver are living proof that the rest of us have much to learn from this generation of Americans who have seen almost a century of life and have contributed much to this country.

As the three residents of the Meadows Manor in Dallas recently celebrated their 95th birthdays, they took a few minutes to reminisce about days gone by - days they spent working as a stenographer in World War II; at the family bed and breakfast; and in factories to support U.S. troops at war overseas.

Mrs. Sauers, a stenographer for the Defense Department in Wilkes-Barre during World War II, was born in Scranton and graduated from the Scranton-Lackawanna Business College in 1925.

When asked about her family, she proudly pointed out that "they came here from England in 1750, but my most satisfying achievement was raising my stepson who now lives in Massachusetts."

She also has fond memories of living at Lake Nuangola as a child. "We lived next door to the old playhouse. My parents had a bed and breakfast and we often hosted the actors and college



From left; Mrs. Minerva Sauers, Mrs. Irene Mappes and Mrs. Elda Shaver recently celebrated their 95th birthdays at The Meadows Manor.

students who came there to perform. As children, we were fascinated by them," she said.

"There have been lots of changes (at the lake) since I was a young girl," Mrs. Sauers said. "Back then, I never thought I would get to be this old. Life is a lot more stressful than it was when I was a child."

Mrs. Mappes was one of many women who went to the cities during World War II to work in the factories to support our fighting men over seas. She was indeed a "Rosie the Riveter." She helped build airplanes in Philadelphia and volunteered

with the U.S. Army to help feed the troops in port. Hard work came naturally for Mappes. "I was born and raised on a farm in Delaware," she said. "My father was a butcher and worked in Philadelphia all week. I helped my mother raise my four brothers. I cooked meals, cleaned, did laundry and helped work the farm right alongside the boys. After I got married, I lived here in Wyoming."

She then smiled and said, "I was glad I could do all of the things I have done in my life. Helping others has been my life's

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By SANDY PEOPLES
Post correspondent

TRUCKSVILLE - It wasn't the Kentucky Derby, but you'd never know it by looking at the excitement on the faces of the young men of Trucksville's Cub Scout Pack 155.

More than 100 parents, siblings and friends came to share in the fun and to cheer them on at the annual Pinewood Derby at the Trucksville United Methodist Church.

It was an event the scouts looked forward to all year long. Finally, the night had arrived, and they were ready. The scouts received their car kits around Christmas time, and had one month to build cars from a block of wood and give it wheels and a fantastic paint job.

This event has been a tradition with Pack 155 for more than 25 years.

The Cub Scouts, ages 8 through 10, were looking forward to the two chances they would get to win the race with the fastest time.

"This race is a big deal for these boys," said parent Linda Baines.

"They take great pride in making their cars look different. The variety is incredible."

Preparing for the derby is a great opportunity for the boys to work on a project with their fathers, older male siblings, or other male role models in their lives.

Their sense of accomplishment and pride were evident as you looked around the room at their smiling, and sometimes intense, faces.

"The race is a good teaching tool for the boys," said Baines.

"The competition helps them learn about winning and losing and how to do either one with dignity and good sportsmanship."

The winners were: first place, Zachary Smith; second place, Eric Baines; third place, Ryan Williams; and fourth place, Nick Frey. Joshua Pavlico also received a trophy for the best car.

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