

# Shopping center

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were a matter of age, and that work on other stores in the shopping center is still in progress.

Reishtein also said no business will be moving into the former McCrory's store as of yet, but the renovations should help make the property more appealing to a prospective client.

"There is a lot for us to look forward to (as a renter)," said Humphrey. "We will be purchasing a new sign, and hopefully we can get all of the other stores to do the same. It will make the shopping center look better, and should make it easier to rent the old McCrory's building."



POST PHOTO/TIMOTHY RAUB

The Back Mountain Shopping Center in Shavertown is undergoing a renovation. The McCrory's store is closing, and the landlord hopes sprucing up the facade will help attract a replacement.

# Cures

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Pedersen has collected 80 plant samples, but he is closely researching two plants — the quelite and the limonaria.

Along with two professors of the University of Leon in Nicaragua, Pedersen is studying the plants' chemical compositions. Local people use the two plants for skin rashes, asthma and heat conditions.

Pedersen has found that most of the information on the plants comes from natives. With Nicaragua being the second-poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Pedersen said there is only about one doctor for every 40,000 people. As a result, the indigenous peoples use plants to treat headaches, diarrhea, malar-

ia and other conditions.

This summer he plans to learn from some of the best medicine men by living among the Miskito Indians in the Kakabila Village, on Nicaragua's eastern coast.

"I want to record all this knowledge before it is lost," he said.

With modern medicine becoming more common, some indigenous people are turning away from traditional healing practices.

"Nowadays, if they don't respond to (the plant) treatment soon, they get impatient and may take a three- to four-hour trip to the city," Pedersen said.

The only potential problem Pedersen might face is the language barrier. With about 3,000

people in the world speaking the Miskito language, he said it's difficult finding language books. But from past experiences, Pedersen knows that sign language goes a long way.

Although Hollywood inspired Pedersen's adventure, there is little doubt that common medicines have been derived from plants.

Aspirin was the result of German chemist Friedrich Bayer finding the composition of willow bark and isolating the chemical compound, Pedersen said.

Perhaps one day, Pedersen will be known as the chemist who uncovered the healing properties of a plant that can be used in modern medicine.

# Dining Guide

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