

## Hearing Nov. 6 on water rate hike for Meadowcrest

**KINGSTON TWP.** — A 106 percent rate increase proposed by the Meadowcrest Water Company will be the topic of a public hearing scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, at the township municipal building, 180 E. Center St., Shavertown.

Public Utility Commission Administrative Law Judge Richard M. Lovenwirth will preside. Earlier this summer, the water company requested a \$64,352 revenue increase, which is about 106 percent above the existing rates. The public input hearing will be held prior to a PUC ruling on the request.

For more information about the hearing, call the PUC scheduling office at 717-787-1399.



Bears have become habituated to life around humans, and are found throughout the region.

## Bears

(continued from page 1)

ments, under decks; "They are habituated to living near humans."

Shellenberger surmised that the additional problems with the bears this year have been brought on by a shortage of nuts and berries due to the drought.

Wenzel agreed. "It's been a double whammy, a drought and a late frost (last spring)," he said.

It seems the bears have run into some terrible luck thanks to the antics of unpredictable mother nature. The rainy spring soaked the ground drowning out their after hibernation gorge on skunk cabbage. Soon after, a late spring frost prevented blueberry season from coming to full fruition in the summer and finally the drought and frost combined hurt fall acorn and beechnut growth, the black bear's food source in the fall. As a result bears are scrambling to locate food

*"In the Back Mountain they're all over the place; they're in all the townships."*

**James Jolley**  
Game Commission Wildlife Officer

where they can.

"In the Back Mountain they're all over the place; they're in all the townships," said James Jolley, Game Commission Wildlife Officer.

Shellenberger says her store doesn't sell bear repellent. "We have stuff for deer and squirrel, but we don't have any kind of repellent or trap (for bears). I tell them if they're persistent, only solution is to take down bird feeder."

The Game Commission, suggests that people living in bear country should try to avoid encouraging the development of "nuisance bear" behaviors by not engaging in the intentional or unintentional feeding of wildlife. To prevent bears from coming to your property, the Game Commission recommends putting bird feeders away until January when the birds really need the food, and bears are hibernating. It is also helpful to keep trash inside until the morning of trash pick-up.

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