Depot

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to serve the area.

In 2000 the Noxen Depot won an \$18,000 grant from EMHR to determine if it was even feasible to restore the building. The study showed many serious issues needed to be addressed.

The foundation, chimney, roof and framing all needed major repair. It needed plumbing, wiring, heating and a well. Some elements of the structure, such as passenger waiting room benches, could be salvaged. The study also included a community survey and showed almost unanimous support for saving the structure.

In a community-wide effort, the All Aboard Committee and volunteers installed a temporary roof with donated materials to minimize further damage to the structure in 2001.

The renovations are expected to gear up in the spring, and there should be no shortage of help. "There are community members waiting in the wings to get dirty," Thoma said with a mellow laugh.

When finished, the depot, located on State Route 3002, will service the needs of a steady

Damage suit over gasoline spill tossed

By TERRIE MORGAN-BESECKER Special to The Dallas Post

SCRANTON — A federal judge has denied a Jackson Township woman's attempt to force the Sun Pipe Line Co. to establish a medical monitoring program for residents affected by a gas line rupture two years ago.

Attorneys for Tina Wall sought to certify her case against the company as a class action lawsuit — a move that would have included about 500 people who attorneys said lived within a half mile radius of the spill off Huntsville Road. The class action part of her suit sought to force the company to implement a program that would test her and other residents for potential health problems that might de-

A faulty valve was blamed for the Jan. 19, 2000, rupture that caused about 4,500 to 5,000 gallons of gasoline to spew into the air, contaminating the soil of nearby homes and two nearby creeks. The rupture also caused a vapor cloud to spread over the Back Mountain area.

Wall has a personal injury claim pending against Sun Pipe Line in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, alleging she suffered health problems from the contamination.

In a ruling issued Wednesday, U.S. District Judge James Munley denied the class action status, saying the case did not meet the standards required.

Class action suits are typically granted when the number of potential plaintiffs is so large that litigating the cases separately would be too cumbersome. The originating plaintiff also must show their claims are representative of the entire class.

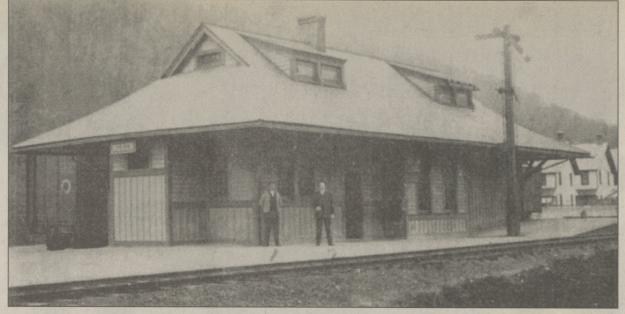
In Wall's case, Munley said Wall is not representative of other residents because she is alleging injury, whereas other residents have not claimed injury to date. Sun Pipe Line alleges her health problems are caused by other factors.

Michael Nast of Lancaster, one of Wall's attorneys, is reviewing the order to determine what, if any, action to take. Nast said the ruling affects only the class action portion of the suit. Wall's personal injury claim remains. Attorneys for Sun Pipe Line could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Sun Pipe Line previously admitted liability for the rupture. Last year, the company settled claims with 17 homeowners whose properties were contaminated. The company bought the homes of eight owners, and paid \$95,000 to the nine who chose to stay. In addition, all property owners received \$50,000 "inconvenience pay."

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The Noxen depot, around 1900, when it was in use.

stream of hunters, fishermen, mountain bikers, cross-country skiers, and hikers currently using the former railroad right-ofway to access activities in the surrounding mountains.

"Endless Mountains Heritage Region has been invaluable, with funding of course, but also with its resources, input and knowledge," Thoma said. Some matching funds for the EMHR

LUNCH - DINNER - LATE NIGHT

JIM DANDYS

grant came from a Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission grant.

The building will serve as a reminder of the role which the railroad and its partners played in tapping the resources of this rugged region, and afford a community the means to come together

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gion, e-mail emhr@epix.net; or call 570-265-1528. Endless Mountains Heritage Region can be explored on the web at www.emhr.org.

Dallas

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said he doesn't believe, legally, council can rescind the suspension at this point.

"What we're concerned about at this point is due process, let it run its course as regulations require." said Moskovitz.

Kathy Kupstas, Council President, said because the matter is a personnel issue, Solicitor Matt Reinert advised council they should not provide further specifics.

In other news, council adopted the 2003 budget by a vote of 4-3. Kupstas, Ed Donahue and Dennis Garvey voted against the bud-

Total proposed revenues are \$747,840 which is balanced with the same amount for expenditures.

The millage rate saw no change

Borough expenses are up from for next year.

\$720,020 in 2002, an increase of \$27,820 since last year.

"Expenses continue to rise, but revenue does not," said Moskovitz. He said the rise is due predominantly to fixed costs that are beyond the borough's control.

Kupstas said she voted against the budget because there was not a pay scale included.

According to councilman John Oliver, instead of putting a salary scale in place, the borough voted to give percentage increases for this year.

"I'm dissatisfied that we don't have a pay scale with a cap. Until we have a pay scale in place, it's not appropriate to give random raises," said Kupstas.

Oliver said the bottom line was the council didn't put enough time into developing a pay scale. He said the plan is to create one



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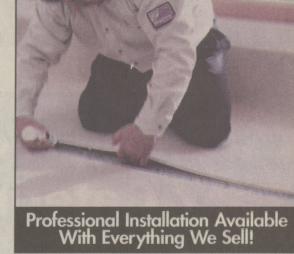


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