

# Park offers lots of opportunities for winter fun

☐ *Skating, sledding and fishing await the hardy*

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**TRUCKSVILLE** — Weeks of near-record snow, ice and cold have created great conditions at Frances Slocum State Park for winter enthusiasts, or just those looking to escape the seasonal doldrums.

"We have some dedicated park users, no doubt about it," said Dave Madl, park manager. "Even on the coldest days, with the very low wind chills, we had people walking their dogs."

With a consistent snow pack on the more than 1,000 acres and at least 12 inches of ice on the lake, the park is ripe for cross country skiing, snowmobiling, ice skating, sledding, hiking and dog-walking.

On a recent Sunday, the park was bustling with fisherman too numerous to count, skiers, skaters and walkers from around the valley and Back Mountain.

"There's a lot of big fish out here," said Pasquale Allabaugh, 14, of Wilkes-Barre, who came the 20 minute drive with his uncle to fish. He said fishing "gets you out of the house and keeps me away from fighting with my brother."

Pasquale's father, Ted Allabaugh, was fishing in a hole nearby. "It's not a big deal to run out here, bring your son and brother-in-law for a couple of hours — and the fish are usually cooperative."

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Madl said the cold weather has created ice conditions conducive to providing a plowed area for ice sports such as skating and hockey.

Cindy Serafin said she, her husband and three children usually go to the Ice Box to skate. "It was so warm today I told them it would be a good day to come," said Serafin.

Stephanie Serafin, age 8, said she preferred coming to the lake because of the "fresh air. It's more fun," she said.

Although all of the lake is open for skating, Madl said the two-acre area near the fishing pier is maintained. "People have to use some common sense (on the ice), especially in the beginning of the season," said Madl. "There are some areas that are going to have better ice conditions than others in both depth and quality."

Also for children (and the young at heart), Madl said there is a maintained five-acre sledding hill west of the swimming pool.

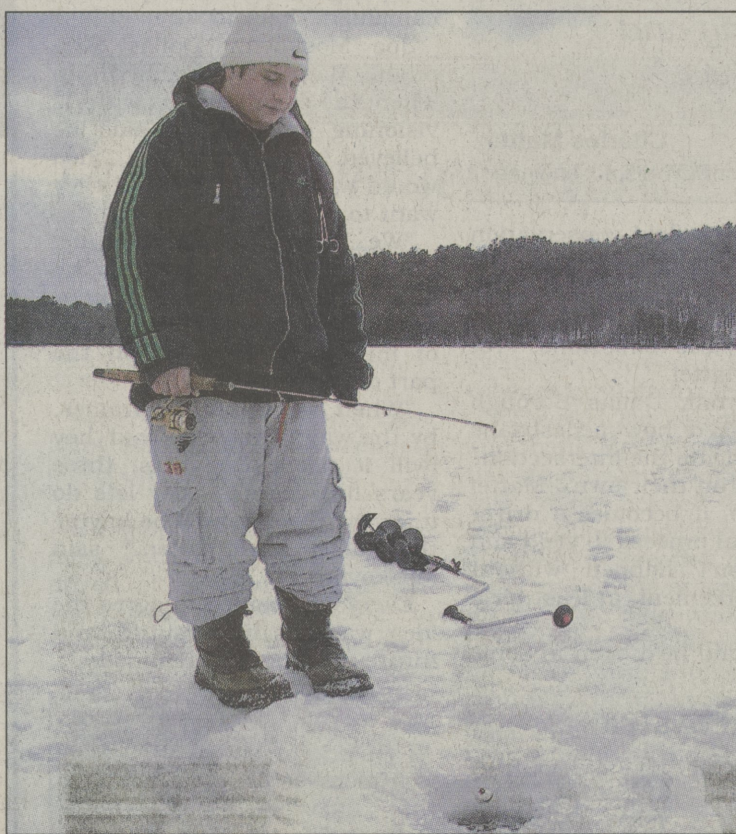
The Stettner family from Dallas said as long as the roads are clear, they're game to venture out to the park. "The greatest thing about this area is the park. We take some tea, crackers, and enjoy nature," said Irving Stettner.

For more information contact the park office at 696-3525.  
www.dcnr.state.pa.us



POST PHOTOS/ERIN YOUNGMAN

Winter fun at Frances Slocum State Park. In photos, clockwise from above: Cindy Serafin helped her son, Ronald, 8, tie up his skate laces; Fallon and Stephanie Serafin helped each other keep their balance; Pasquale Allabaugh fished for blue gills, bass, perch, and calico.



## LaJeunesse named to state psychology task force

The chairperson of the College Misericordia Psychology department was recently named to a special task force of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association. Dr. Charles LaJeunesse, a faculty member at College Misericordia since 1979 and Dallas resident, is a member of a committee of psychologists from across the state that are examining how other practitioners are utilizing research and other scientific methods in their practices.

"Science speaks to practice.

There are a lot of people doing research on how psychologists practice. They need to subscribe to journals and read them to learn the newest techniques. Not a lot of people are doing that," he said.

LaJeunesse obtained his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri and is licensed to practice in Pennsylvania. Dr. LaJeunesse teaches numerous courses including Introductory Seminar, Introduction to Psychology, Career Seminar, Psy-

chopathology, Counseling and Psychotherapy, Personality Theory, Practicum, and Senior Seminar. He works part time at Childrens Service Center assessing children who are receiving extensive services. His research interests lie primarily in the area of cooperative learning, and he has made numerous presentations at regional and national conferences on this topic. Dr. LaJeunesse is also the faculty advisor to Psi Chi and is a member of the College Choral Society.



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