

GUEST COLUMN

New bill trades farmland for Walmart

House Bill 66 passed the PA House on December 16 in a 106 to 89 vote. The bill now goes to the Senate but has not been put on the calendar or assigned to committee as far as we know. However, we guess that it will probably move quickly. (State Rep. George Hasay voted for the bill. Rep. Phyllis Mundy did not cast a vote.)

Please contact your Senator as soon as possible and ask that they oppose HB 66 until such time that critical issues raised by the bill can be thoroughly studied. You can find the name and phone numbers for legislators with your zipcode at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/index.cfm> (upper right corner)

House Bill 66 would strip state-imposed development deed restrictions on prime farmland previously owned by the state in Warren County to enable development of a Walmart.

HB 66 could set a poor policy standard if legislators do not take the time to consider:

- 1) Are there extraordinary circumstances that warrant removing the deed restriction?
- 2) Are there no alternative sites nearby that could be considered before focusing on the

prime farmland option? It is our understanding that other, more appropriate sites including a brownfield, may be available. While proponents say no other sites are possible, we feel that disinterested parties should study the situation rather than relying on hearsay.

3) From a long-term fiscal and planning perspective, is a piece of prime agricultural land without infrastructure the most appropriate place for development? Isn't long-term economic prosperity more likely to be achieved by reinvesting in underutilized properties with infrastructure?

Proponents of HB 66 can argue that the bill will trade restrictions from one farm to another and place substantial sums into the agricultural conservation easement purchase account, so no damage is done. This misses the point. In the end, the pros of HB 66 could be found to outweigh the cons. However, the time has not been taken to determine whether this is the case. And this sets a bad precedent. If the state is willing to remove and shift agricultural use protections to other lands without first taking great care to determine whether the action is truly necessary and the best alternative for achieving the public good and honoring agricultural preservation goals, then agricultural protections afford no substantial protection. Allowing the removal or release of agricultural use restrictions without substantial review and consideration turns agricultural preservation into a temporary measure to be thrown aside for any development opportunity that comes along.

Only extraordinary circumstances established by a full and fair investigation should be the basis of a modification in agricultural or open space protections imposed on public lands. In the case of HB 66, the legislature should initiate such a full investigation.

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, the Pennsylvania Grange, 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, PennEnvironment, American Farmland Trust and the Sierra Club are among other opponents of the measure.

— Andrew M. Loza is Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association.

He can be reached at 105 Locust St., Harrisburg, PA 17101 717-230-8560 aloza@conserveland.org <http://www.conserveland.org>

OBITUARIES

EMYLOU MCGUIRE

Member of American Legion

Emylou McGuire, 83, of Dallas, died December 14, 2003 at Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas.

Born in Belleville, Ill., she was the daughter of the late Irvin and Mabel (Pope) Steiner. She graduated from Belleville High School. She served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. She attended Our Lady of Victory Church, Harveys Lake. She was a member of Daddow Isaacs American Legion Post 672, Dallas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James E.

Surviving are her son, Kevin J., Trucksville; daughter, Denise A. Cook, Dallas; and three grandchildren.

Interment, Chapel Lawn Memorial Park, Dallas.

ROMAN WISNIESKI

Brothers live in Shavertown

Roman J. Wisnieski Jr., 71, of Dalton and formerly of Towanda, died December 12, 2003 in the Hospice Unit of Mercy Hospital, Scranton.

Born April 26, 1932, in Luzerne, he was a son of the late Roman and Frances (Moses) Wisnieski. He graduated from Luzerne High School and King's College. He served in the U.S. Navy. He worked as a lab technician supervisor for Bridon American, Hanover Township. He was a member of American Legion, Towanda; the Polish Progressive Club, Scranton; and the Church of St. Gregory, Clarks Green.

Surviving are his wife of 47 years, the former Lorraine Kowalchuk; daughters, Mary Varonko, Duxbury, Mass.; Lorraine M. Wisnieski, Dalton; two granddaughters; brothers, Thomas, Leonard and Daniel, Shavertown; sister, Frances Spatola, Staten Island, N.Y.; and nieces and nephews.

Interment will be at the convenience of the family.

Memorial donations may be made to the Hospice Unit of Mercy Hospital, Scranton, or to the Church of St. Gregory.

AMELIA COMITZ

Son lives in Dallas

Amelia U. Comitz, 93, of Wilkes-Barre, died December 16, 2003 at Little Flower Manor, Wilkes-Barre.

Born June 30, 1910, in Glen Lyon, Newport Township, she was a daughter of the late Joseph and Anna (Sembicka) Cimbal. She was employed by the American Tobacco Co., Mountain Top. She was a member of Holy Trinity Church, Wilkes-Barre.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John F.; brothers, Anthony and Leonard Cimbal.

Surviving are her daughter, Jacqueline, with whom she resided, Wilkes-Barre; son, John, Dallas; three grandchildren; sisters, Mary Skiptunas, Wilkes-Barre; Anne Purcell, Naples, Fla.; and nieces and nephews.

Interment, Holy Trinity Church parish cemetery, Bear Creek Township.

Memorial donations may be made to Holy Trinity Church

RUTH MIRABELL

Member of Nativity BVM Church

Ruth G. (Mirabelli) Mirabell, 84, formerly of Tunkhannock, died December 10, 2003 at Abington Manor, Clarks Summit.

Born June 21, 1919, in Jami-son City, she was a daughter of the late Oscar and Clara (Babb) Steinruck. She attended East Lemon schools. She was a homemaker. She was a member of Nativity BVM Church, Tunkhannock.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Theodore; son, Joseph; and eight brothers and sisters.

Surviving are her daughter, Marie Marcy, Scranton; sons Theodore Jr. and Donald, Tunkhannock; and Lewis, St. Augustine, Fla.; 14 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Interment, Sunnyside Cemetery, Tunkhannock.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, Wilkes-Barre.

DOROTHEA WEINSTEIGER

Member of Pikes Creek Campfire Club

Dorothea C. Weinstein, 79, of Pikes Creek, died December 16, 2003 at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township.

Born Aug. 27, 1924, in Philadelphia, she was a daughter of the late William E. and Florence (Bauer) Yerger. She worked for Kinsey Corp., Linfield. She was a member of the Campfire Club, Pikes Creek.

She was preceded in death by her son, Ronald Chicigo; brothers, George, Kenneth and William Yerger; sisters, Mary Slody and Loretta Slody.

Surviving are her daughter, Teresa McMillen, Pikes Creek; seven grandchildren; and sister, Florence Shaner, Boyertown.

Interment, Maple Grove Cemetery, Pikes Creek.

ELEANORE LOEFFLAD

Daughter lives in Dallas

Eleanore F. Loefflad, 84, of Pierce Street, Kingston, died December 12, 2003 in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, she was a daughter of the late Julian and Helen (Dulski) Krych. She graduated from Coughlin High School and attended the Wilkes-Barre School of Business. She worked for Consolidated Cigar, West Pittston, and American Tobacco, Mountain Top. She was a member of St. Ignatius Church, Kingston.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John P.; and brother, Ted Krych.

Surviving are her son, John P. Jr., Plains Township; daughter, Paulette Bent, Dallas; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brother, Edmund Krych, Bellville, N.J.; sister, Emily McLean, Niagara Falls, N.Y.; and nieces and nephews.

Interment, Mount Olivet Cemetery, Carverton, Kingston Township.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Wilkes-Barre.

ROBERT WILLIAMS

Daughter lives in Beaumont

Robert J. Williams, 76, of South River Street, Wilkes-Barre, died December 15, 2003 in Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

Born Oct. 26, 1927, in Wilkes-Barre, he was the son of the late Albrecht John and Mildred (Conner) Williams. He graduated from Forty Fort High School. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He worked for Wilkes-Barre General Hospital in the central supply department. He also worked for Main Hardware, Wilkes-Barre. He was a flagman and driver for open wheel racing at Lollipop Raceway, Dallas; Bloomsburg Raceway; and Evergreen Raceway, Mountain Top. He was a member of Central United Methodist Church, Wilkes-Barre; Masonic Lodge 442, Wilkes-Barre; and the North End Slovak Citizens Club, Wilkes-Barre.

Surviving are his wife, the former Leona Elizabeth Roberts; sons, Robert J. Jr., Wilkes-Barre; William A., Kingston; daughters, Margaret A. Randazzo, Wilkes-Barre; Nancy Smith, Beaumont; Jerry Nenko, Shorewood, Wis.; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and cousins.

Interment, Evergreen Cemetery, Shavertown.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Wilkes-Barre.

VERNA HUSOVSKY

Daughter lives in Dallas

Verna M. Husovsky of Swoyersville, died December 13, 2003 in the Mercy Center Nursing Unit, Dallas.

Born in Swoyersville, she was a daughter of the late Vincent and Mary (Saxon) Olejnik. She was a self-employed caterer. She was a member of Holy Trinity Parish, Swoyersville. She was a member of the church's Christian Mothers, Altar and Rosary Society, and Quilters. She also was a member of the Senior Citizens of Swoyersville and Forty Fort, the Maltby Fire Auxiliary and Jednota and Ok Res.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John S.; brothers, John, Joseph and Vincent; sisters, Helen and Anna Olejnik and Mary Marcin.

Surviving are her sons, John, White Plains, Md.; Joseph, Placencia, Calif.; daughter, Mary Hoyes, Dallas; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Interment, Holy Trinity Cemetery, Swoyersville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Holy Trinity Church; the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Villa Sacred Heart, Danville; or to Mercy Center, Dallas.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfers were recorded recently at the Luzerne County Courthouse:

Daniel Kostick and spouse to Mark PA Route 415 Associates, Dallas, \$600,000.

Carmela C. Thomas to Mary Siegel, Dallas Terrace, Dallas, \$7,500.

John M. Yuscavage to Mary Siegel and spouse, 260 College Ave., Dallas, \$7,500.

John Banks and spouse to Demitra B. Xidas, Orchard West, Dallas, \$60,000.

Richard J. Biscontini to Frank Coslett and others, Dallas Township, \$275,000.

Andrew Novak and spouse to Richard Biscontini, Elmcrest, Dallas Township, \$144,000.

William Griffin and spouse to Richard Rowland and spouse, Wedgewood Acres, Dallas Township, \$260,000.

Benjamin Jacobson and spouse to Jeffrey English and others, 45 Overbrook Road, Dallas Township, \$135,000.

Robert Glicini and spouse to David Farrell and spouse, 13 Rice Drive, Dallas Township, \$215,000.

Anne Connery to Marion J. Lanman, Dallas Township, \$126,000.

Kathryn Leigh Strand to Mark A. Lamoreaux, Dallas Township, \$76,000.

Norman C. Barbero to James

Semyon and spouse, Dallas Township, \$11,800.

Robert Barna and spouse to Donald Hilstolsky and spouse, Franklin Township, \$20,000.

Joseph J. Sadowski to Ronald Lucarino, Harveys Lake, \$25,000.

Nicholas DeAngelo and spouse to Frank Burnside Jr., Harveys Lake, \$395,000.

James Fisk and spouse to Matthew D. Owazany, Jackson Township, \$133,000.

Holden Newell and spouse to Dennis Scheuermann and spouse, Jackson Township, \$113,000.

Fannie Mae to James J. Eiden, 1279 Huntsville Road, Jackson Township, \$106,900.

W.H. Conyngham & Co. Inc. to Thomas McGrath and spouse, Hillside, Jackson Township, \$38,000.

Francis Baur and spouse to Arthur Reabuck and others, Heritage Hills Estates, Jackson Township, \$27,450.

Estate of Madeline Havrilla to Tri-County Realty Agency, Jackson Township, \$34,000.

Joseph Bowanko and spouse to Jeremy Toma and others, Meadowcrest, Kingston Township, \$116,000.

Antoinette Tomassetti to Christopher Bilardi and others, Kingston Township, \$125,000.

John Dillon and spouse to Antoinette Tomassetti, Trucksville Gardens, Kingston

Township, \$89,500.

Eugene Martinchak and spouse to Ann Marie Bertinelli, Hill Crest View, Kingston Township, \$43,000.

Kenneth Joja and spouse to Gary L. Masaitis, 126 Cedar Ave., Kingston Township, \$27,500.

Thomas Raskiewicz and spouse to Nicholas Kratz and spouse, Kingston Township, \$40,000.

Thomas Raskiewicz and spouse to Richard Connors and others, Kingston Township, \$40,000.

John J. Bourke to Dakota Group Inc., Westmoreland Hills, Kingston Township, \$38,000.

Helen Mras Harvey to Joseph Stec Jr., Lake Township, \$72,000.

Rachel M. Crispell trustee to Charles Petrillo and spouse, Lake Township, \$13,000.

Zavalosea Inc. to Paul Mancia and spouse, Lake Township, \$40,000.

Grace Goodwin to Richard Goodwin and spouse, Lehman Township, \$1,200.

Grace Goodwin to Richard Goodwin and spouse, Lehman Township, \$1,200.

Banc One Consumer Discount Co. to Douglas DeVore, Lehman Township, \$12,000.

Joseph Anistranski and spouse to Michelle Sobiecki, Lehman Township, \$10,000.

mise, it appears the seat left vacant by the October death of Vincent Marchakitis will have to be settled in the courts.

— One month after voters chose five new members of the Dallas School District Board of Directors, the board itself is caught up in selecting a sixth. On their first try, two candidates, Thomas Moyer and Robert Bolton, drew four votes each.

20 Years Ago
December 21, 1983

FREE FOOD FEEDS 1700

— Approximately 1700 residents of the Back Mountain area were accommodated in the free food distribution program conducted last Friday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Shavertown.

— If the Lake-Lehman School District Board of Directors can't come to a compro-

SENIOR MENUS

Senior Citizens Centers sponsored by the Area Agency on aging for Luzerne and Wyoming Counties offers hot noon meals Monday through Friday to people 60 years of age or older. Donations from participants are gratefully accepted and needed in order to expand this program. The following is the menu for the week of Dec. 1 to Dec. 5. All menus include margarine, milk and coffee. The Senior Center is located at 22 Rice St., Dallas.

MONDAY: Beef Stroganoff over noodles, peas & carrots, chocolate brownie.

TUESDAY: Cheese omelet, hash brown potatoes, broccoli, blueberry muffin, chilled peaches.

WEDNESDAY: Chicken Scampi, over pasta, vegetable medley, chocolate pudding.

THURSDAY: Closed in observance of Christmas.

FRIDAY: Cheese ravioli with tomato sauce, hot fruit compot, seasoned spinach, vanilla ice cream.

Yesterday

(continued from page 1)

30 Years Ago
December 20, 1973

HLMA MISSED GRANTS, SAYS OUTGOING PREZ

— In his last regular meeting as a Harveys Lake council member, William Hoblak read numerous letters that he believed proved conclusively that the HLMA had not obtained all possible grants for the lake's sewer project.

— The Dallas School District has recognized the responsibility to reduce the use of fuel and to conserve energy during the energy crisis. Thermostats will be lowered and employees will wear more clothing.

— Items that could be purchased at the A&P: Butterball deep basted turkeys, 68 cents a pound; Jane Parker fruit cakes, \$4.49; cranberry sauce, 16 oz. can, 23 cents.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Puzzles appear on page 10

S	Q	U	A	B	D	A	T	E	D	O	W	E	S	G	T				
P	U	R	G	E	R	O	S	A	L	I	E	R	E	B	O	R	A		
E	A	G	E	R	A	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	B	O	N	U	S
D	Y	E	L	A	N	K	C	O	I	L	A	I	N	T					
K	I	N	D	F	L	A	U	N	T	R	O	T	A	T	E				
S	C	A	N	T	I	L	O	I	S	C	R	A	N	E					
A	H	O	Y	C	O	R	D	H	O	M	E	S	P	U	N				
M	A	M	E	T	C	L	U	E	T	H	U	M	P	I	K	E			
A	R	P	U	S	H	E	R	S	W	A	M	P	A	G	N	E	W		
D	I	E	R	H	E	A	A	C	I	D	A	M	I	S					
O	F	T	E	N	A	R	R	I	V	E	S	J	U	S	T	I	N	H	E
I	T	E	M	D	E	N	T	P	L	O	D	R	E	X					
A	F	T	E	R	A	L	E	R	T	S	T	O	P	S	F	R	E		
P	L	O	B	L	A	S	T	R	I	O	T	T	A	P	E	R			
T	U	R	M	E	R	I	C	D	A	R	N	N	E	S	T				
E	R	A	T	O	J	O	V	E	B	R	A	N	D	I					
A	M	U	L	E	T	N	I	A	C	I	N	L	O	N	E				
R	E	N	O	Z	I	N	C	G	E	E	K	O	F	F					
S	A	I	N	T	N	I	C	K	O	F	T	I	M	E					
O	T	T	R	I	O	A	B	R	A	D	E	D	E	S	L				
N	Y	E	Y	A	N	S	A	G	A	N	T	O	T	E	M				

Rational Numbers answers

1	4	4	5	1
2	4	7	2	5
7	5	2	1	2
7	0	9	8	7
5	4	7	2	0
7	3	2	3	5

King Crossword Answers

R	H	O	A	S	A	P	T	W	S			
O	E	R	S	O	L	E	W	E	R			
D	E	A	T	H	O	F	A	I	B	E	X	
E	L	L	I	O	T	S	I	X				
			T	R	Y	A	R	T	H			
C	H	I	L	E	I	N	K	A	C	E		
H	I	D	E	P	O	T	F	I	L	L		
U	F	O	V	A	N	D	E	L	A	Y		
M	I	L	L	E	R	D	E	E				
			E	T	A	C	L	O	C	L	O	C
P	A	L	M	S	A							