

Rave's

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predominantly residential, Rave Landscaping also takes on commercial work, including projects out of state. "Right now we're doing a job in Virginia," Rob said, although most of their accounts are in the Luzerne and Lackawanna County areas.

As they worked toward their decision, the brothers considered closing one store, or even two while transforming one into a "super store." But, "the numbers just don't make sense," in retail, Rob said.

Rave's will retain its 15-acre property off Edinger Road in Franklin Township, and will receive a wholesale plant operation that has been on the back burner in recent years. But the first priority will be providing material for Rave's own crews, which complete upwards of 150 jobs each year.

The garden center locations, which are owned by the brothers, are listed for sale with Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services of Wilkes-Barre.

Rob Rave and his sister, Holly, own Rave's Ski Loft, which has locations in the Shavertown and Chinchilla stores. That business usually stays open until early March, which is the approximate time the garden centers will close for good.

Changes for Rave's

Rave's Garden Centers will close these three retail locations this winter. They are listed for sale with Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services.

Route 309, Shavertown. 1.9 acres, 5,800 square foot building, \$800,000

Route 309, Ashley. 6 acres, 8,000-9,000 square foot in several buildings, \$1.1 million

Route 6-11, Chinchilla. 1 acre, 4,000-5,000 square foot building, \$800,000

Remaining open are Rave Landscaping, headquartered off Edinger Road in Franklin Township, and Rave's Ski Lofts, in the Shavertown and Chinchilla stores. The Ski Loft business may relocate once the garden center properties are sold.



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Arch damaged, but in use

College Misericordia's main entrance is open.

The entrance was closed December 27 after a woman drove across Lake Street, through shrubbery, and struck the arch that stretches across the access road and an adjacent brick wall, police said.

College spokesman Jim Roberts said the college's facilities director, a contractor and an engineer inspected the arch and deemed it safe. "It's fine, but the brick wall next to it will need to be repaired," Roberts said.

Township police said the woman, whom they did not identify, was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Information on her condition was unavailable.

Roberts said the arch has been located at the college for at least most of the college's existence, if not all of it. The college was founded in 1924 by the Religious Sisters of Mercy.

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 Jan. 5

MONDAY: Baked meatloaf, whipped potatoes, seasoned broccoli, chilled pears.

TUESDAY: Breaded chicken fingers, baked potato, carrot coins, gelatin.

WEDNESDAY: Sausage and peppers, cabbage and noodles, peas, chocolate cake.

THURSDAY: Closed for New Year's Day.

FRIDAY: Welcome 2004 Special Dinner. Roast pork with gravy and stuffing, whipped potatoes, broccoli au gratin, holiday cupcake.

Help us tell local soldiers' stories

The Dallas Post would like to know how Back Mountain residents are responding to the war in Iraq. We would like to publish articles that cover a wide variety of subjects, including profiles of

military and civilian personnel who are in Iraq. E-mail your stories about local service men and women, as well as how your group or organization is responding, to dallaspost@leader.net.

Pub

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dents shoulder to shoulder with older regulars.

The walls are freshly painted with geometric designs. Funky art has replaced graffiti in the bathroom. A bustling, full game room is arranged where the always-empty band room used to be.

The owners say a spruce green awning for the front has been purchased and flower boxes are on their way.

In addition to attracting college-age patrons and older regulars, the pair aim to bring in families looking for a meal out. Posters and cardboard cutouts of scantily clad women promoting beer have been removed. An eating area is arranged on the band stage.

Scanlon joked, "The moment those cutouts come in the door, we dance them right out to the dumpster."

Newhart said the two friends bought the business after four years of searching. Their criteria: a good neighborhood with friendly people, which they found in Dallas.

"Everybody here is welcoming and nice. The mayor and borough manager came over to meet and welcome us. Neighbors have said how good the bar looks and asked whether we need help," said Scanlon.

The women said it's important to them to be a contribut-

ing part of the community. They have been attending visioning meetings, and monthly community-wide theme nights have resulted. Starting in January, the bar will open for all-ages entertainment. Themes will range from jazz to poetry, said Scanlon.

The long-time friends have years of experience in the bar and restaurant business, although each brings a unique perspective.

"She's outspoken and I'm diplomatic. That's why we work so well together," said Scanlon.

She said they knew going into the venture would mean 100-hour work weeks and a cut in pay. For the first couple of years, every cent they make will have to be poured back into Libations.

"This was our dream and we were well aware it would be harder before it would be easier," said Scanlon.

Libations is already open, while the official grand opening will coincide with firing up the kitchen the first week of January.

A dart tournament is scheduled for February 21. Pool tournaments are bi-monthly. Theme nights will be announced. Libations also books parties. Call 675-2627 for more information.

Rotarians host children's shopping spree

For more than 25 years, the Rotary Club of Dallas has created a very special day in the lives of 30 Back Mountain children who are treated to a day of food, fun and gifts. With the help of McDonald's in Shavertown, the children were recently treated to a pancake and sausage breakfast before a shopping trip to the Bon Ton at the Midway Shopping Center.

Historically, each child has been paired off with a Rotarian for this wishes-come-true shopping experience. This year several family members and friends of Rotarians joined to help the children select new outfits, coats and boots. Parents were consulted to find out the children's needs, wants and sizes.

Each child was given spending money that was raised by the Rotary Club of Dallas during a year of events such as the charity golf tournament, the Luzerne County Fair, a spice sale and others.

The Bon Ton helped the children stretch their shopping dollars by offering a generous discount. They also provided a Christmas party complete with a visit from a special Rotarian Santa. The children were given stuffed animals and a chance to sit on Santa's lap to have their pictures taken for a keepsake of their wonderful day.

For the members of the Rotary Club of Dallas, the shopping spree had a very special meaning this year because the idea for the event came from Rev. Andy Pillarella, who passed away only weeks before the trip.

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Advertisement for the 'At Home' section of the Times Leader, featuring articles on autumn tree care, parsnips, and golden asters. Includes a 'Pick of the Week' section with a recipe for parsnips.

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