

CABLE

(continued from page 1)

tent percentage, he said, because of changes in the channel offerings within each one, which he described as "repackaging."

The "goldpak," for example, will add 16 channels instead of the present 13. Its price will rise by 7.9 percent.

The most expensive digital option, "ultimatepak," will cost \$48.95 monthly, a 7.7 percent increase. All digital pricing is in addition to the analog service, plus a \$4.50 monthly charge for a converter and remote control.

In a mailing the company sent to customers last month, Adelphia suggested "an exciting change" in packages that costs \$86.82 per month to replace one that is now \$75.98, a 14.3 percent increase.

After being notified by Adelphia of the pending increases, which will take effect with the March billing cycle, the Kingston Township supervisors voted at their February meeting to send a letter of protest. But since cable suppliers, unlike public utilities, do not need governmental approval for rate changes, the vote was little more than a token reaction.

Adelphia pays Kingston Township a 5 percent franchise fee for the right to operate. That brings in nearly \$60,000 per year, said township Manager Eddie O'Neill.

Other municipalities collect only 3 percent, including the

"An exciting change" will cost 14.3 percent more per month

municipalities in the Abington Council of Governments, in the Clarks Summit area. But David O'Neill, South Abington Township Manager, said the fee is simply an additional tax on residents, since it is tacked on to the price of service.

"Adelphia cable does not pay us to be here," O'Neill said. "Our residents are paying us to keep them here."

The Abington council negotiates a contract with Adelphia that covers all 14 member municipalities, but does not get any better prices than the Back Mountain, although it does receive free service in public buildings and a pledge to upgrade service to match what is offered other places.

DeStefano says Adelphia is aware of dissatisfaction with rates, but is trying to keep them as low as possible. "This is a fiercely competitive industry," he says, with the company battling for customers with satellite service providers such as Dish Network and Direct TV.

That competition will continue to grow, he said, as the companies expand their offerings into voice over internet and video on demand services, which he says Adelphia is now exploring.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Harveys Lake resident Robert Costigan has teamed up with Helen Cummings of Trucksville to write an account of Costigan's experiences as a combat medic in the Vietnam War

Lake man pens memoir of Vietnam War experiences

By GAVIN ROBB
Post Intern

Harveys Lake resident Robert Costigan recently teamed up with local writer Helen Cummings of Trucksville, completing a manuscript based on Costigan's experiences as a combat medic with the 173rd Airborne Brigade during the Vietnam War.

According to Costigan, the manuscript, built around U.S. paratroopers from the 173rd, focuses on his real life struggles as a medic in the jungles of Vietnam, trying to keep his platoon alive under adverse conditions.

"The book depicts surviving in a jungle amongst animals, disease, and the enemy," Costigan said in a gravelled voice.

Costigan, a barrel-chested 57-year-old standing over six feet tall, said he served three tours of duty in Vietnam, from 1968 through 1970, acquiring a long list of awards, including two purple hearts. He said his wartime nickname of "Doc Zoo," which also serves as the manuscript's title, was derived from a humorous interaction with one of the jungle's more frightening inhabitants.

Cummings said that although the manuscript does deal with the horrifying reali-

ties of war, light-hearted anecdotes, such as the acquisition of the "Doc Zoo" nickname, play a key role in telling Costigan's story.

"A lot of the books out now are filled with gore," said Cummings, "That's not what this book is all about. We give descriptive accounts, but there's also lots of funny stories."

Cummings said that she and Costigan have spoken with several publishers and are hoping for a late fall release.

Costigan also will be featured in a documentary produced by Richard Briggs, titled "Voices from Vietnam," which is scheduled to air March 30 on WVIA-TV.

"It's all local vets" said Briggs, "They all have interesting stories to tell and Bob is one of them. I was quite honored to speak with him."

Briggs also spoke of the fierce conditions Vietnam combat medics faced, trying to fulfill their duties as soldiers and give aid to the wounded while under enemy fire.

"Bob was a warrior medic, so he did a great deal of fighting as well as healing," said Briggs, "To be a combat medic is one of the most intense experiences anyone could ever face, and these guys were 18, 19 years old. It's amazing."

Homeowner seeks help in adding garage at lake

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — Jack Smulowitz asked council members for help in navigating the borough's construction codes as he attempts to build a garage for his home at pole 51.

Smulowitz told the council at its Tuesday meeting that his wife is ill, and the garage is designed to contain a lift that will help her to get into and out of the house.

But Smulowitz said he has had difficulty working with the firm that oversees the borough's building code. All municipalities in Pennsylvania were required to adopt the Uniform Construction Code last year, and Harveys Lake contracted with Atlantic-Inland, a Wayne Pa. firm, for inspections.

"I just had an absolutely horrible time with Inland," Smulowitz said.

Smulowitz said because of the snags, he missed "the window of opportunity" to begin construction before winter. He did not argue with the dozen points raised by Inland, but with their attitude and responsiveness.

"I have spent an enormous amount of money with designers and architects attempting to comply," he said. "I didn't get the feeling they were working with me."

Chairman Bernie Ozovek apologized for the delays and referred the matter to council member Betty Jane West, who is the borough's liaison with Inland. "I'll contact them tomorrow and request all the files," West promised.

Mayor Richard Boice said two arrests had been made and "some are about to be arrested" for breaking into three homes in the Hanson's area of Lakeside Drive. Boice said the break-ins occurred in daylight hours last week. The state police assisted in the investigations.

In other business, the council:

- Appointed Joseph Tierney, Matt Ross and Gary Evans to the zoning appeals board, and Justin Mazur as alternate.
- Voted to raise the fine for contractors violating borough regulations from \$50 to \$250 plus court costs.
- Appointed Jason Boice as chairman of the Environmental Advisory Council.

WATER

(continued from page 1)

Protection requires a letter from at least one public water supplier stating that it will provide water to the development, according to township engineer Thomas Doughton. He said that John Halbing, the principal developer, has commitment letters from two suppliers. "That's it for us, we can't go any further than that," he said. "The P.U.C. (Public Utility Commission) regulates those water companies, and they're saying they have the capacity to serve him."

According to a preliminary plan, Saddle Ridge, located between Lower Demunds Road and Wyoming Road, would place 101 lots on about 73 acres of land. It would have public water and sewer service.

In other news:
• Robert Besecker Jr. and Daniel Jones were appointed to fill the two empty seats of the

five-person planning commission.

• The board approved the hiring of part-time police officers Todd L. Adams, Mark J. Liparella and Robert J. Odgers. Pending completion of the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission, the officers will receive an hourly rate of \$13.

• The spring cleanup program will run from May 2 through May 7. Vice Chairman Frank Wagner said there would be a charge this year. "We ended up with nine more dumpsters than we did any year so far. We have to put a limit on it." The fee for a load the size of a small pickup truck will be \$15, and \$20 for any load eight feet or larger. He said the fee is comparable to what Kingston Township and Dallas Borough are charging.

Adelphia rate increases

Adelphia has announced new rates for cable television service, beginning in March. Here are selected examples, with the old and new monthly prices, and the percentage increases.

Service	Old Rate	New Rate	% Increase
Broadcast basic (12 channels)	\$11.95	\$11.95	-
Classic Cable (channels 2-71)	45.94	48.37	5.3
bronzepak (1)	10.45	11.95	14.4
silverpak (2)	20.45	22.95	12.2
ultimatepak (3)	45.45	48.95	7.7
Digital converter/remote (Required with all digital packages.)	4.50	4.50	-
High-speed internet (Requires classic cable service. With lower Adelphia cable service, \$54.95. Without other Adelphia service, \$59.95.)	53.40	57.90	8.4

(1) Replaces digital basic, adds 41 digital channels.
(2) bronzepak plus any one multi-channel premium service.
(3) bronzepak plus all four multi-channel premium services, HBO, Showtime, Starz/Encore/Cinemax.
Notes: All "paks" are in addition to analog service. Prices do not include franchise fee paid to municipalities.

Commonwealth plans 'bundle' with Dish Network TV service

DALLAS TWP. — Soon after Adelphia's price increases take effect in March, the cable television supplier may face new competition. Commonwealth Telephone is planning to launch a bundle of services that will include satellite television service "in the May timeframe," said David Weselcouch, a Commonwealth vice president.

The local telephone company has formed an alliance with EchoStar, which markets the Dish Network brand. Commonwealth is planning to offer a "one-bill" service of its local and long-distance telephone services, high-speed internet and digital video.

"Customers will be able to deal with us as one point for customer services," Weselcouch said. And he promised aggressive pricing. "We'll be ready to compete with cable," he said.

While he was not ready to be more specific, he said the price for digital video would be less than if someone purchased the Dish Network separately. Channel choices are expected to be comparable to cable. "The Dish Network is a very robust digital video offering," he said.

Commonwealth had hoped to introduce the package in March, but is holding up until it can integrate the billing into its present system. Marketing materials and plans are also in the works, so that the package can be launched throughout its service area.

Weselcouch would not say what variations, if any, would be available, such as phone and Dish Network or internet and Dish Network.

— Ronald Bartizek

Dallas Lions welcome new members

The Dallas Lions are looking for new members. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact any club member or they can contact Frank Rollman at 675-4485.

SCHOOL WORK

(continued from page 1)

The board wants one of the companies to study existing buildings and possible future needs, then recommend any new construction or renovation. The most pressing project would renovate the high school, the only classroom building that hasn't been touched in recent years.

Galicki said there is no timetable for the firms' presentations. "I would hope that it would be soon," he said, but it

will not be at the March work session.

The board agreed to tour the Luzerne Intermediate Unit's Auditory/Oral Center before the March 7 work session at the request of Sue Zerfoss, who heads the center. The program is housed in the district's former administration building, and Zerfoss wants to discuss expansion plans that would include remodeling the building.

T-TOWN SHEDS

Since 1976
Tunkhannock, PA

FEBRUARY SALE ON SHEDS & GARAGES

Best Quality
Best Price

836-5686

or 1-800-SHEDS-30

Dallas Borough Christmas tree pickup

Due to the recent winter conditions, many of Dallas Borough's residents Christmas trees have not been collected. Because of the snow and icy conditions the trees are now frozen and snow covered. In order to facilitate collection, the borough is asking residents to uncover the trees and free them from the frozen areas. The Dallas Borough Road Department will collect trees that are uncovered and placed at the curb. The trees remaining beneath the snow will need to be left until early spring. Residents may call the road department at 674-5362 to pick up a tree or with questions pertaining to the tree collection and removal.

Need extra copies of this week's Post?
They are on sale at local newsstands through Saturday

Life changes. Your insurance should keep up. That's our stand.

Call me today for a complimentary financial and insurance review.
(570) 696-0380

Edward Donahue
405 N MEMORIAL HWY
DALLAS
a010182@allstate.com

You're in good hands.

Subject to availability and qualifications. Insurance offered only with select companies. Allstate Insurance Company, Allstate Indemnity Company, Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company, and Allstate Life Insurance Company. Northbrook, Illinois ©2004 Allstate Insurance Company.

NEWS

Coverage Area: The Post covers the "Back Mountain" area of Luzerne County, including the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts, and southern Wyoming County. We try to get to as many events as possible, but staff and space limitations make it impossible to cover everything. If you have news about your family, town or organization, please send it to us and we'll try to get it in. Photographs are welcome. You may send items to the address above, or drop them off at the Uni-Mart in Dallas near the intersection of Routes 309 and 415. E-mail is the best and most timely method for submissions. Send items (digital photos, too) to: thepost@leader.net. Deadline is noon, Wednesday prior to publication.
Corrections, clarifications: The Post will correct errors of fact or clarify any misunderstandings created by a story. Call 675-5211.
Have a story idea? Please call, we'd like to hear about it.
Letters: The Post prints letters of local interest. Send letters to: Editor, The Post, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18711. All letters must be signed and include a phone number at which we can reach the author.

THE POST

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

15 N. MAIN ST., WILKES-BARRE PA 18711 • 570-675-5211
thepost@leader.net

WANT A PHOTO?

We can provide color prints of photos taken by our staff. Only 8x10 is available, at \$25 for the first print and \$15 each thereafter. Prepayment required. Call, mail in, or stop by to order.

ADVERTISING

Display Advertising Deadline: Mondays at 5 p.m.
Call (570) 970-7101
We have a variety of rates and programs to suit your advertising needs. The Post satisfies most co-op ad programs. Creative services at no charge. Combination rates with The Abington Journal, Clarks Summit, and the Sunday Dispatch, Pittston available.

CIRCULATION

Orders for subscriptions received by Friday at noon will begin the following week. Please inform us of damage or delay, call 829-5000.

The Post (ISSN - 1551-1650)

Published weekly by Cypress Media, LLC. \$26 per year, in Luzerne and Wyoming counties (PA). Call 829-7141 for rates to other areas. Periodicals postage paid at Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-9998
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Post, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18711

©COPYRIGHT 2005. Entire contents copyrighted. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced by any means without the express written consent of the publisher.