



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

### Father-son fishing adventure

Garret and Michael Barber, Noxen, a father-and-son ice fishing team, set up on a shallow pond in Lehman last weekend with some surprising results. "We throw away the small ones and some are too big. We just kissed a 19 1/2 inch one and threw it back," Michale Barber told the photographer.



This 14 1/2 inch largemouth bass is a keeper. It fits in a pan.



Measuring against an ice popper, Michael Barber estimates the ice thickness at 8-9 inches.

### STUDY

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example, bypassing the existing "undersized" culvert that carries Toby's Creek below Fino's Pharmacy and Main Street in Dallas was projected to cost more than \$2 million, and have an annual expense of \$108,532, versus benefits of \$83,100.

The most expensive of eight alternatives was building levees and flood walls in Shavertown, at a cost of \$8,500,000. The projected annual cost was \$439,392, with a benefit of \$159,622, a ratio of .36.

In contrast, replacing the bridge at Fernbrook, a \$298,000 project, yields an annual cost of \$15,347 and a benefit of \$39,104.

The annual cost of projects was derived from the construction estimate financed by a 20-year bond, with that total divided by the expected useful life of the work, typically 50 years. The benefit is the projected reduction in damages if nothing is changed.

Where those savings come from is a mystery to Janine Hudak, whose family owns Pizzaz Perfect and the stone bridge behind it. The study estimates it will cost \$51,000 to remove the bridge, which spans Snake Creek, which flows downhill parallel to Carverton Road before entering Toby's Creek.

Hudak said the business has never been flooded, although a bank behind the restaurant has eroded, forcing the relocation of a propane gas tank. She would like to see the historic bridge, which is still useful in providing access to part of the property, preserved.

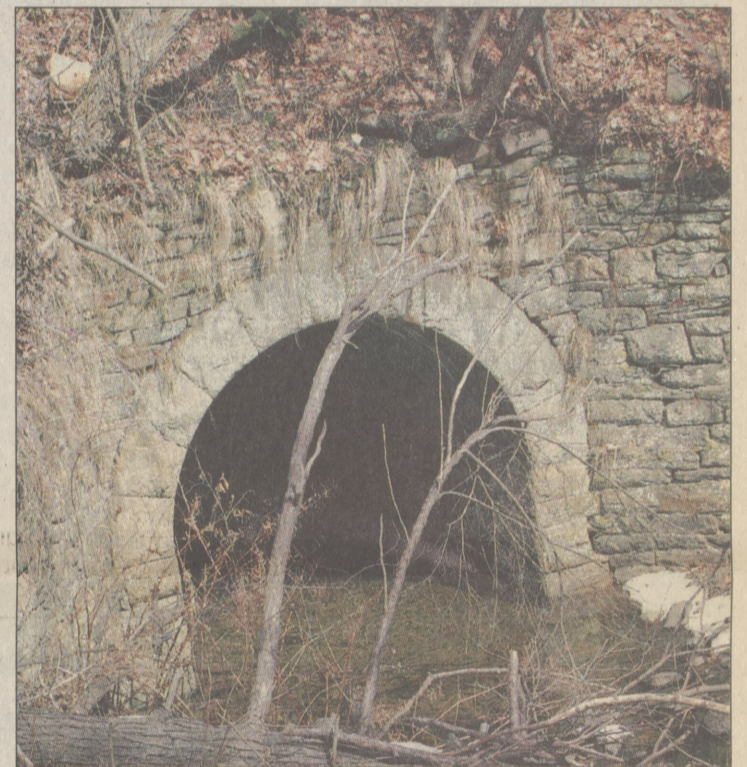
She agrees that simply maintaining stream banks and beds could make a difference in flooding. "Nobody takes care of anything," she said.

The bridge was built in the late 1800s, and carried rail and trolley tracks over Snake Creek.

Hudak's brother, Paul Adamchick, said the bridge has some damage, but that it hasn't increased much over the years. "I grew up playing in this creek," he said, and the family used to stock it with trout.

Paul Ebricht, a Civil Engineer Consultant for the Pa. Department of General Services, which coordinated the study, said now that the report is finished, it will be up to the municipalities if anything will actually be done. "At this point, it's basically just a presentation. If the communities are interested in pursuing any of the projects, they would work with DEP."

In several cases, the report suggests that flood-proofing buildings is a better choice than trying to manipulate the stream.



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A study of potential flood protection measures that might be taken along Toby's Creek and its tributaries suggests removing this historic stone-arch bridge in Trucksville. The owners of the property say flooding is not a problem there, and they would like to see the bridge preserved.

### GRANT

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John Halbing, Attorney Lewis Wetzel said a grade of at least 10 percent would allow for accommodation of a natural gas line that runs through the middle of the proposed 100-lot subdivision. Chairman Phil Walters said, "When you're on a curve, and you've got 10 percent, then you've got trouble."

Halbing's engineer, George Albert said he has considered the danger. "Our recommendation was to widen the roadway in those sections, so it will be

safer."

Vice Chairman Frank Wagner said he is concerned about the extra time to clear the roads after a storm and damage to township vehicles. "There's a compromise with everything," Wetzel replied. "Snowplows can't run the township. They're important. You can't have a development without a snowplow, but by the same token, you don't have the snowplow without the development and the tax base."

"We don't need the tax base, and we don't need the development either," responded Wagner.

### SIGNAL

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said. A target date of April 11 has been set for Bigus' replacement to begin work, a date that Balavage emphasized was tentative.

A third opening, caused by the retirement of officer Robert Parrish, has been filled. The department does not use part-time officers.

Also at the meeting, the

supervisors:

- Agreed to let Luzerne County 911 and the Post Office change the addresses of the two houses on Holcomb Street to Roushey Street addresses. Holcomb Street is not a public road, and the action does not commit the township to taking it over, said Solicitor Ben Jones III.

- Approved the first reading of an ordinance creating a fee of \$5 for each copy of tax certificates and duplicate bills.

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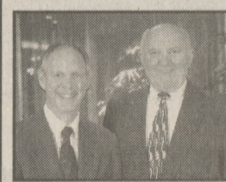
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