

## Weather

10 a.m. temperature 12, winds from west at 4 mph, courtesy of Rostraver Aviation, Rostraver Airport. Cloudy tonight with thunder showers likely Friday. High in low 80s. Air Pollution Index 82, API forecast 66.

76th YEAR—NO. 38

# The VALLEY INDEPENDENT

The Daily Newspaper For Everyone in the Mid-Monongahela Valley Area

THURSDAY EVENING, AUGUST 11, 1977

## W-P delay

The death of a climber on a Pakistan mountain will delay a decision regarding Wheeling, Pittsburgh, Steel's coke oven emissions. See story on Page 12.

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# Senate okays budget; tax hike delay

By SHARON SEXTON  
HARRISBURG (UPI) — The Senate has ended its agonizing struggle to pass a state budget. The spotlight now shifts to the House and a second fight which promises to be even more bitter and prolonged.

The Senate Wednesday narrowly approved a budget which would increase state spending and postpone until fall the tax increase vote that has caused the two-month budget logjam.

The measure squeaked through the chamber on a 26-24 vote after weeks of coaxing and cajoling by Democratic leaders and several days of intensive pressure to recruit rank-and-file members who had favored a "no-tax" budget.

The Mon Valley's three state senators voted yes in favor of the state budget proposal that holds the line of taxes for the time being but assures a tax increase later.

The bill was passed by a 26 to 24 vote and now goes to the state House.

Voting yes were William E. Duffield of Uniontown; Barry Stout of Bentleyville and James R. Kelley of Greensburg.

One Republican, Charles P. Dougherty of Philadelphia, voted yes and five Democrats voted no. They included Robert Mellow of Lackawanna; Quentin R. Orlando of Erie; John J. Sweeney of Delaware; Thomas M. Nolan of Allegheny and Edward P. Zengrelli of Clairton.

All other Democrats voted yes and all other Republicans voted no.

The bill was sent to the House, where it faced an uncertain future.

The budget proposal must have 102 votes to pass and House Speaker Leroy Ivey Wednesday estimated he had only 78 "yes" votes.

House leaders will have to put heavy pressure on both Democrats and Republicans if they are to pick up the 24 votes they need to send the bill to Gov. Milton Shapp.

One factor that could make the difference in the House is mounting pressure from state workers and welfare recipients who have gone without pay because of the budget impasse.

The \$3.1 billion plan, defeated by the Senate last Friday, will fund an increase in state spending of \$100 million previously earmarked for state colleges and universities.

Legislative leaders plan to return in September and fight to pass a tax hike to fund the House's plan.

The budget plan provides \$100 million in increased subsidies for the state's 360 school districts, and it guarantees the financially-troubled Philadelphia public schools \$30 million.

The plan would spend \$10 million to help the victims of the Johnstown flood and it contains money for county court costs, child welfare programs and mass transit assistance.

Those funds were added as "sweeteners" to win support for the plan.

Legislative leaders designed the plan as a compromise to at-

tract the votes of dissident Democrats who fought for a budget which would avoid a tax increase by cutting state programs and services.

Senate President Pro Tempore Marlyn Murray, D-Luzerne, has worked for a week to chip away at that "no-tax" contingent. As of Tuesday he had won the support of five of those dissidents, but still left the budget fight tied, 25-25.

Murray and other Senate leaders, with help from Shapp, Wednesday convinced Barry Stout, a freshman senator from Washington County, to join the Democratic majority. Stout said he left a responsibility to help end the stalemate.

It was a change of mind by Stout and Sen. James R. Kelley, Westmoreland, that clinched the victory for the bill.

Stout said he was changing only to get something moving and emphasized that his vote for the budget does not now commit him to vote for higher taxes for the state-related institutions.

"It was a hell of a victory. You don't know how difficult it was," Murray said after the Senate vote.

The victory came after a two-hour session during which Republicans and the remaining dissident Democrats almost forced through their "no-tax" plan.

Senate Minority Leader Henry Hager presented the Republican's first budget proposal, a hold-the-line spending plan.

which won the support of the dissidents.

But Hager's move came too late. The Senate Democratic leaders had already won the votes they needed and the Republican proposal was defeated on a 25-25 tie vote.

The core of the "no-tax" senators, led by Senate Majority Leader Thomas Nolan, fought the leadership proposal until the end.

Nolan presented eight amendments to the plan — all of them defeated — and the Allegheny County Democrat planned to offer more amendments before he was cut off by the leadership on a parliamentary maneuver.

Nolan and the Republicans objected to the leadership attempt to block amendments and debate on the bill. They moved for a recess, for an adjournment, for a caucus. But the Democratic leaders prevailed and the budget passed.

Nolan, who has announced his resignation as Democratic floor leaders because of his opposition to the leadership push for increased taxes, expressed Murray after the session and asked that the bill not be sent to the House.

"We want to have the vote reconsidered. We want another shot at this tomorrow," Nolan said.

Murray refused.

"I can tell you this bill is going to the House. I love you my friend, but it's all over," Murray said, putting his arm around Nolan and escorting him from the Senate.



Terri Rudinec, Miss Personality of 1977 at the Donora Community Picnic, is flanked by her two sisters, Patty, 15, and Kathy, 12, two future possibilities. Miss Rudinec succeeds Rose Marie Haller of Carroll Twp.

## 'Son of Sam' arrest

NEW YORK (UPI) — David Berkowitz, a 24-year-old postal worker, was charged today as "Son of Sam," the psychopath who killed six persons in a year-long reign of terror and reportedly planned to go on "in a blaze of glory" with a wholesale slaughter at a discotheque the night of his arrest.

"Okay, you got me," Berkowitz said with an air of resignation as police closed in on him at the end of the largest manhunt in New York history, eclipsing the search for London's 19th Century Jack the Ripper and the Boston Strangler of the 1960s.

In the end, "Son of Sam" was tripped up by a dispute with a neighbor and by a ticket for parking in front of a fire hydrant on the night of his last murder July 31.

"We have him," said First Deputy Police Commissioner James Taylor.

"He made statements of admission after his arrest," added Chief of Detectives John Keenan. "He seemed to



The police sketch of the suspect in the "Son of Sam" slayings is shown on the left with the official police headshot of arrested suspect David Berkowitz on the right. (UPI telephoto)

## Rostraver opens fair tomorrow

Rostraver Twp opens its 35th annual fair tomorrow at 4 p.m. when entries in exhibit contests go on display at Rostraver Gardens.

The three-day event continues that evening with family-oriented entertainment programs, which continue Saturday night and Sunday.

The Gardens will be opened for viewing of the exhibits after officials conduct day-long judging behind closed doors. Displays will include farm produce, vegetables, fruits, prepared foods, arts and crafts, and needlework. Winners receive nominal cash prizes.

The entertainment starts at 6:45 p.m. when the Mon Valley Super Stars drum and bugle corps performs. Following at

## Donora personality, top athlete honored



JON MOSES

Terri Rudinec was crowned Miss Personality of 1977-78 and John Moses was named "Athlete of the Year" to highlight the annual Donora Community Picnic at Kenwood Park yesterday.

Despite an early morning rainstorm, thousands of Donorans attended the annual picnic sponsored by American Legion Post 212.

Miss Rudinec, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Rudinec of Second Street, Donora, was crowned by Rose Marie Haller, 1976-77 Miss Personality.

Jon (Jay) Moses, an outstanding middle guard for the Ringold High School Rams, was named Athlete of the Year, succeeding Chuck Fisher who received the honor last year.

## Scene this morning

- South Carolina grand jury bracing itself for influx of visitors from north.
- Donora mailman from Monongahela riding razzed by fellow bus-riders on his way to work.
- Anniversary greetings for popular Forrest Drive, Sweeney Plan couple.
- Attractive volunteer on way to hospital chores.
- Sports buffs hoping for postponed softball title game to be played tonight.
- "Celebrities" assigning prman.
- Dunlevy man making good use of "weed-eater."
- Women making plans for bowling year.
- Donora woman celebrating after winning \$250 jackpot at bingo.
- Donora Picnic winners cashing in prize coupons in downtown Donora stores.
- Sixth grader from Gallatin Road, Rostraver Twp., proudly demonstrating his newly-learned swimming skills.
- Chartered hospital employee phoning Nova Scotia to talk with her vacationing parents.
- Belle Vernon woman jealous over her brother-in-law's pepper garden.

## In Monongahela Conti quits posts

By EMMA JENE LELIK  
Joseph A. Conti, prominent city official in Monongahela for over 21 years, is resigning all of his positions.

Without explanation, Conti, 55, submitted letters of resignation to Monongahela City Council last night from his jobs as health officer, coordinator and assessor; and also from the policy committee of the Aquatorium and the policy committee of the Community Center.

Tonight he will resign from the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Monongahela, a vice president.

When queried about the

resignations, Conti said "it was a sudden decision and I am giving up everything." He said he has no ill feelings toward anyone and refused to elaborate on any particular reason for his actions.

"You could say it is for health and personal reasons," Conti said, but would give no additional comments.

Conti started work with the city in March, 1956 when he left his father's bus transportation business to take the job as health officer. The other jobs, city coordinator and assessor, were added

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## In Rostraver

# Peoples Gas awaits decision on drilling

Peoples Natural Gas Co., which operates about 40 or 50 gas wells in Rostraver Twp., will learn next week if it can continue drilling in violation of a township ordinance which allows for no drilling without first getting a variance.

The decision on whether the company can continue to search for the much-needed natural gas will be made "early next week" by the Rostraver township Zoning Hearing Board which met last night to air four public hearings — three for Peoples Natural Gas Co.

Board President Ted Stawowy told three officials of the gas company who attended the session in the Municipal Building in Fellsburg, that a decision would be made "in a couple of days."

The hearing was the result

of a gas well explosion on July 27 which injured five drill workers and sent flames shooting about 30 feet in the air in the Indian Hill area of the township.

The well, located on the farm of Paul Likon, has since been tapped and the gas firm has discontinued all drilling pending the outcome of applications for such work.

The firm was charged by the township with violating a zoning ordinance when it drilled a gas well on the farm without first getting the variance.

The charge was filed by Francis Barch, township zoning officer who attended the hearing last night and explained that he had no choice but to file the charge because of the ordinance violation.

The company, according to

## Back to School

It's just about time for Back to School in the Mon Valley. At least, it's time to be getting ready for school.

That's what today's special six-page section in The Valley Independent is all about — getting ready for school.

Character education, pictures and bargains facing Mon Valley parents, be sure to look through Pages 13 through 18 in today's Valley Independent.

## In Monessen Irely awarded contract over Sepesky objections

By LARRY FANSINO  
Monessen's next probable mayor publicly objected last night to awarding two more city jobs to a construction firm employing the incumbent mayor, whom he defeated in last May's primary election.

Councilman James Sepesky voted against awarding Frank L. Irely Jr. Inc. of Carroll Twp. to work the two jobs.

Irely was low bidder on a

contract to reconstruct three sets of outdoor concrete steps. And the company is attempting to get a piece of a city job to construct a new sewer line as a subcontractor.

Irely, which has won hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of Monessen urban renewal contracts through competitive bidding, employs Mayor Thomas Dalfonso as a vice president.

The Irely-Dalfonso connection was a major — although largely submerged — issue in the spring political campaign and apparently contributed to Sepesky's 2-1 margin at the polls. His victory in the Democratic primary is tantamount to election in the one-party city.

Dalfonso did not attend last night's City Council meeting, reportedly due to another commitment.

When Irely was reported as the low bidder on the steps contract at \$1,088.50, Sepesky raised his objections.

He said he opposed awarding the job to Irely because of delays in other projects

## Judge allows state to go ahead on layoffs

SCRANTON, Pa. (UPI) — State Supreme Court Justice Michael J. Eagen today upheld an order that will permit the state to go ahead with the furlough of 3,200 state workers.

Justice Eagen said he found "no sufficiently compelling reasons" for vacating the stay of a Commonwealth Court ruling that ordered a halt to the layoffs.

He ordered the lower court decision set aside.

He ordered a full court hearing to be held at the Supreme Court's September session in Pittsburgh on the merits of the state's appeal.

Commonwealth Court Judge Genevieve Blatt had issued a preliminary injunction Aug. 2 blocking the layoffs of AF-SCME members who were being furloughed because of the state's budget crisis.