

Another failed agreement for Laurelton Center sale . . . Strike 3

By Jennifer Lunt

LAURELTON – The deal is off for the sale of the former Laurelton Center in Hartley Township, Union County, and a ruptured heating oil storage tank is getting the blame.

Gary Ream, director of Woodward Camp, said he learned June 5 of the leaking tank and wanted six months to determine the extent of the fuel leak. That was 25 days before the June 30 closing date.

The state agreed to a two-month extension, and Woodward passed. Ream said that by terminating the agreement for environmental concerns, the camp will have their deposit returned as well as costs for the Phase II study reimbursed.

The 250-gallon fuel tank was removed

and contaminated soil around it excavated this past April. Dan Spadoni, a spokesman for the Department of Environmental Protection said such findings are not unusual with older tanks that were too small to be regulated under the Pennsylvania Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act.

The state is responsible for the cost of the clean up, including the drilling of monitoring wells on the property. Department of General Services spokesman Frank Kane said because Woodward was paying \$175,000 for a \$4 million property, the state did not feel that it should have to incur further costs for the clean up.

Last November, Woodward Camp, a training camp for extreme athletes, announced plans to purchase the

Laurelton Center and expand their gymnastics, in-line skating, skateboarding, and freestyle bicycling programs.

The camp currently sits just west of the Laurelton Center in Centre County. The center once served as a home for the men-

J.C. LAIR

From page 1

ty hospitals," said Richard D'Alberto. "Under current conditions, the hospital does not get reimbursed sufficiently for its costs."

J.C. Blair has suffered operating losses over the past six years. Net operating income has continued to slip through these losses.

"Quite simple

tally retarded.

The state will put the Laurelton Center back on the market in the coming months.

~PBC

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cafeteria after lunch and the reduction of housekeeping and maintenance in non-patient care areas of the

In addition, all costs, including maintenance, will be