As Development of Sharpsville Furnace mined the decades’ worth of slag discarded as a byproduct of blast furnaces, hundreds of bottles (above) and a variety of tools (right) were unearthed. The tools probably were accidentally dropped, while the glassware likely was just discarded.

Grind
Crusher is new part of daily grind at DFS from page P-1

for water and sewer lines and also for creating walkways and driveways.

There’s also something in this for the contracting community. When removing concrete from a project it can cost a contractor between $20 to $25 a ton to dump in a landfill. For a typical truckload hauling 22 tons, that can mean up to $550 in dumping fees, plus the trucking costs in getting the material there — which Zoccole figures runs another $150 bringing the total cost to around $700 a load.

DSF offers contractors a deal where they pay them $1 a ton to bring the concrete to their Sharpsville operation.

“That’s a swing of almost $800 a load,” Zoccole said. “And that doesn’t count using up valuable landfill land to bury the product.”

Local demolition projects that have benefited from the deal include Sharon School District’s Case Avenue school building and the former Rex TV and Chiccarron’s restaurant buildings in Hermitage. Parts of the causeway stretching Shenango Lake set for a road rebuilding project starting this summer will also be trucked to DSF, Zoccole said.

Recycling is nothing new for the company. Sitting on 65 acres, DSF was once the home of blast furnace operations of Shenango Furnace Co. and later Shenango Inc. Sharpsville Quality Products Co. operated there for a time but didn’t have a blast furnace.

During its heyday in the late-19th and much of the 20th century blast furnaces at the location pumped out enormous amount of slag — a byproduct of the iron and steelmaking process. DSF continues to reclaim and sell that slag along with sand and gravel also located at the site.