

## Investigation into child abuse is continuing

Investigations into an alleged child abuse incident at a Back Mountain Day Care center are still under investigation, according to Luzerne County District Attorney Bernard Podcasy.

"We are still into the early stages of the investigation," Podcasy said Monday. "Right now, the State Police and county detectives are checking out leads, but we probably won't know anything more until sometime later this week."

The probe stemmed from an alleged occurrence at the Kiddie City Child Care Center when the parents of a child who attended the center alleged that some form of abuse had taken place there.

The building, which was located on the campus of College Misericordia, is currently out of operation because of problems of obtaining insurance — problems that college officials say occurred before the alleged incident.

According to reports, the college had been advised in November, 1985 that an alleged child abuse incident had taken place at the center. But the charges were later dropped, however, because of a lack of evidence.

Then on January 6, the school was advised that new allegations had cropped up. As had been their policy with the prior report, officials at the college said they would cooperate to the fullest with authorities.

College Misericordia president Joseph Fink said that at the time of the first allegation a student aide who had been accused was dismissed even though the allegations were not substantiated.

It is believed that a former staff member may be involved. But because very little has been uncovered thus far, no charges have yet been filed.

— JOHN HOINSKI

## Seniors probably won't get any relief

By JOHN HOINSKI  
Staff Writer

Senior citizens of the Back Mountain area who voiced their displeasures last week about the lack of busing they have been receiving to the Mercy Center on the campus of College Misericordia aren't likely to get any additional help in the near future.

Last week concerned citizens met with Congressman Paul Kanjorski at the center to discuss some of the problems they have been experiencing, particularly with regard to busing. The group said they would like more than the one van they are currently allocated. But according to officials, that isn't likely to happen anytime soon.

"The county fiscal budget for 1985-86 doesn't expire until June 30,"

said Charles Adams, director of the Bureau of the Aging. "I've met with Commissioner Jim Phillips, but there isn't much we can do right now, at least not until the summer."

Even then it is doubtful the seniors will get additional service. The bureau is already experiencing a financial crunch because of federal cutbacks, and according to Kanjorski, it isn't going to get any better. In his conversation with the elderly last week, he warned them of a new piece of legislation called the Gramm-Rudman bill that is about to be passed.

"When President Reagan was re-elected, he told the people 'You ain't seen nothin' yet', Kanjorski said. Well, he was right. If this bill passes, you ain't seen nothin' yet."

The bill, which has since been passed, will initiate even more cuts. (See SENIORS, page 2)

## Ad campaign works at College Misericordia

In case anyone was wondering why there were giant blue paw prints posted on various billboards around the Wyoming Valley recently, the answer can be traced back to College Misericordia.

It was all part of a well developed ad campaign to help the school introduce its new logo and nickname — the Cougars.

For years the school had gone by the name "Highlanders." But in an effort to change its image, school officials opted for a more aggressive and powerful symbol, and it not only reflected in the new symbol but also in its promotional drive that had national overtones to it.

On separate billboards near the Wyoming Valley Mall, on River Street near Antonio's and at Rt. 11 near the Narrow's Shopping Center, huge blue paw prints were depicted with the words "Paw Power Is

Coming". The same ad without wording also appeared in local newspapers and at the campus itself, including the road inside the school grounds.

"That was part of the campaign called the Teaser Approach," said Judy Daley, Public Relations Director for the school. "We contacted the Hal Berg Agency from Wilkes-Barre and we used them as consultants. We had a limited budget to work with and they helped us maximize our dollars. We discussed different ways of promotion and they helped us place the billboard ad in high traffic spots."

That was part of the external phase of the campaign to arouse the curiosity of the general public. But there was also an internal phase that took place on campus and that, (See CAMPAIGN, page 2)



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

### Sign erected

Shown here following the erecting of a sign at Sunrise Estates, off Carverton Road, denoting the first organized Neighborhood Crime Watch Operation in Kingston Township are, from left, Harold Shelly, crime watch coordinator; Chet MacMullen, section coordinator; and Chester Daniels, president, Homeowners Association.

## Crime Watch group erects street sign

By JOHN HOINSKI  
Staff Writer

Kingston Township officials gathered last Thursday to mark the dedication of a newly developed Neighborhood Crime Watch program at the Sunrise Estates, Trucksville.

The program is the first-ever organized sub-division of the six that exist in Kingston Township, the others being Brown Manor, Bunker Hill, Midway, Carverton Heights and Trucksville Gardens.

Under the direction of crime-watch coordinator Harold Shelly and sector coordinator Chet MacMullen, residents of the committee meet once a month to obtain information and discuss problems they may be experiencing. Officials say the program has been a success so far and they hope the other sub-divisions will follow soon.

"The main objective is to keep their interest," township manager Fred Potzer said. "That's our main goal in '86. If we can get all the sub-divisions involved, that would be a real accomplishment."

The project began last year when then District Attorney Robert J. Gillespie spoke to a group of concerned citizens at the Dallas High School, including Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol and Shelly. The initial crime watch meeting was sponsored by The Dallas Post. The two then gave a report to the township supervisors who were so impressed that they not only appointed Shelly as crime-watch coordinator but also kicked in \$500 from revenue sharing towards the program.

With the help of MacMullen and Chester Daniels, President of the

Homeowners Association, the program was introduced to the rest of the community and has since become a big success.

"We started out by getting three or four people interested, but now we have about 40 people at our meetings every month and we're expanding," Shelly said. "Right now, we are getting speakers lined up for every month. We're just trying to make people aware. We know there isn't much crime around here, but we just want to let people know that it can happen."

Those participating in the program don't actually get involved if there is a crime in progress. Their job is simply to report what they see and let the local police handle it. The members receive instructions on just what procedures to take and officials say that because of the new methods of crime prevention being taught, they will be better prepared than ever.

Kingston Township policemen Gary Beisel and Jim Balavage are currently enrolled in the program, which has been completely revised, and Estate residents will be the first ones to benefit from the newest methods of crime prevention.

And aside from the crime watch, Shelly hopes there will be other benefits, too.

"We want to make the people aware of just who their neighbors are," Shelly said. "Maybe someday we can even have a block party, like they used to in the old days. It wouldn't cost anything and it would give everyone that neighborhood spirit."

Members of the Sunrise Estates hold their meetings every month and anyone interested in the community is invited to attend.

### In New Year's stabbing

## Woman ordered to stand trial

By JOHN HOINSKI  
Staff Writer

The case of a Forty Fort woman accused of the fatal New Year's Day stabbing of her father has been forwarded to Luzerne County Court for further action.

At a preliminary hearing last Friday, Caroline Ross Rittinger, 48, of 37 Walnut St., was ordered to stand trial for the death of her 67-year-old father, Robert August Shipkoski, who had been a resident of the Hillside Personal Care Home, RT. 309, Dallas Township. She is charged with one count of criminal homicide.

Testimony at the hearing was given by two employees of the care home who said Mrs. Rittinger told them she had killed her father. A third individual, James Estabrook, Shipkoski's roommate who supposedly witnessed the murder, also testified. However, Estabrook's testimony was shrouded in a haze of confusion.

District Magistrate Carmen Maffei ruled that a prima facie case had been established and that Rittinger, who did not take the stand during the hearing, would have to stand trial. She is currently being held in the Luzerne County Women's Detention Center in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

Estabrook, a 70-year old patient at the home, was the first to take the stand, but appeared confused and disoriented. He had trouble remembering his name as well as Shipkoski's name and he could not identify Mrs. Rittinger.

Estabrook said that Shipkoski hit his daughter with a cane, then said that Mrs. Rittinger struck Mr. Shipkoski with the object and later changed his story again, saying that Shipkoski struck himself with the cane.

Barbara Buchman, a nurse aid at the home, followed Estabrook's testimony and said that Mrs. Rittinger

gert told her she had killed her father.

Buchman said she had encountered Mrs. Rittinger in the dining room where staffers had just finished eating at around 1:30 in the afternoon and said she could see something was wrong.

"I met her in the doorway," Buchman said. "I could see she was worried. She kept turning her head to the side. She could barely talk and I thought she was going to pass out. Then she said, 'I', she said it several times, 'I killed my father, I murdered him.'"

Buchman said that Shipkoski was lying on his right side facing the window and that she could see blood on the sheets.

"I called to him, but there was no answer," Buchman said. "Then I turned to Jim (Estabrook) and said 'Are you all right?' He knew something was wrong, but I don't think he realized exactly what happened."

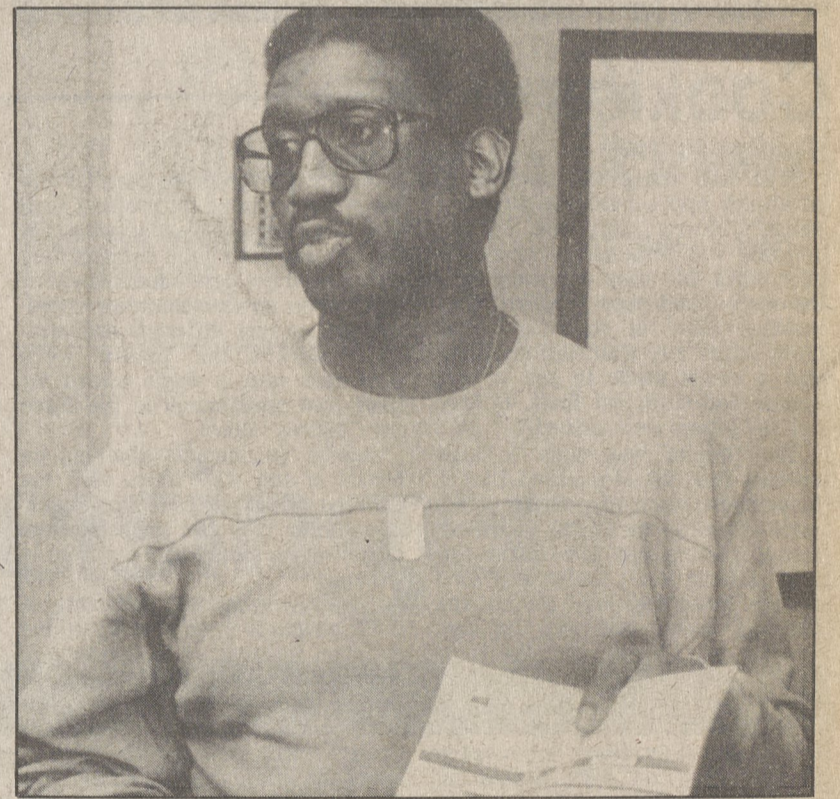
Upon cross-examination by defense attorney Basil Russin, Buchman said that Estabrook told her that his (Shipkoski's) daughter "had gone crazy."

Nancy Kriedler, also an employee at the care home, testified next and said that Mrs. Rittinger told her that she killed her father.

"I didn't know that she meant it literally," Kriedler said. "I thought she said something upsetting to him. I said 'Don't worry, everything will be all right.' She said 'no it won't be OK.'"

Chief Deputy Coroner Joseph Shaver also testified at Friday's hearing and said that Shipkoski died of blood loss due to a stab wound of the chest.

The hearing had originally been scheduled for Jan. 10, but at the request of Rittinger's attorneys the trial was delayed until she could undergo a psychiatric evaluation. The results of that test have not yet been made public.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

### Taking orders

Scotty Morris, an inmate at the State Correctional Institute at Dallas, display an order sheet for Girl Scout Cookies. Morris and other inmates at the prison are aiding members of the Lehman Girl Scout troop in their fund-raising efforts to visit the birthplace of Scouting in Atlanta, Georgia.

## Prisoners aid Scouts' cookie sales

Whenever mention is made of the State Correctional Institute at Dallas, most people think of prisoners serving time for crimes for which they have been convicted. But not this time. This time, the prisoners are spending time doing something for the good of the community.

This past week prison inmates made positive news by participating in two worthwhile projects on both the local and national level.

For the first time ever, inmates of the "Lifers" Association (all of which are serving life sentences), in conjunction with local group 706 of the Penn's Woods Girl Scout Council, actively participated in the buying and selling of Girl Scout cookies to inmates throughout the Chase facility in an effort to help the Lehman chapter raise funds for various activities and for a one week summer vacation in Savannah, Georgia.

Then on the national front, inmates representing several clubs within the institution were presented with a certificate of

appreciation for their contributions to the "Save the Children" Foundation in an effort to help the grief-stricken victims of Ethiopia.

The projects are just two of many they are dealing with, but the Girl Scout involvement is of special interest because it is the first time inmates anywhere in the state of Pennsylvania have participated in such a happening, and it's one they are extremely proud of.

"We decided to get involved in this venture for basically three reasons," said Frank Metzger, president of the "Lifers." "First, many of the inmates have daughters that are directly associated with the Girl Scout. Secondly, the inmates do have a soft spot for children, and any time we can help a wholesome organization, such as the Girl Scouts, we will. If it will help them develop and stay out of a place like this, it's worth it. And thirdly, the product itself. If you've ever tasted the cookies you know what I mean."

The drive, which has already produced a sale of close to 1,000 boxes, came to fruition nearly a

year ago when Charlene Cook, leader of troop 706, Metzger and affairs coordinator Scott Morris, also of "Lifers", met to discuss the details. (See COOKIES, page 2)



Dallas Post/Fay Brody

### Trooper injured

This is the vehicle in which State Trooper John Scoble, 38, was injured in late Saturday night. According to police reports, Scoble was driving north on Route 309 when he was struck by a car driven by Alvin H. Scott Jr., 28, of RD 1 Box 186, Dallas, who was making a right turn from Legislative Route 40051. Scoble's car veered to the right and came to rest on an embankment. Scoble, suffering from severe injuries, was transported from Wilkes-Barre General Hospital to the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital where he is listed in serious condition. Police are still investigating the accident and did not say whether or not they would file charges against Scott.

### Inside The Post

Births .....	4
Calendar .....	16
Classified .....	14, 15
Commentary .....	6
Cookbook .....	7
Entertainment .....	4
Obituaries .....	2
People .....	8
School .....	12
Sports .....	9, 10, 11