



**Donation made**

Members of the 1986 Luzerne County Fair accept a donation recently from Robert Andrews, Senior Vice-President, Franklin First Federal Savings & Loan, Wilkes-Barre. Franklin First Federal will co-sponsor the appearance of BOXCAR WILLIE and the TEXAS TRAINMEN at the Fair on September 3 with performances at 8 and 10 p.m. Advance tickets are available by calling the fair office at 675-6448. Accepting the check, from left to right are Ray Hillman, 1986 fair chairman; Robert Andrews; Joseph Suprum, entertainment chairman and Dave Crisman, 1986 fair co-chairman. The fair is planned for September 3 to 7.

**Rent rebate filing deadline extended**

Rep. Frank Coslett has announced that the filing deadline for participation in the property tax and rent rebate program has been extended to Dec. 31. The 120th District lawmaker noted that this year, for the first time, households with incomes of up to \$15,000 qualify. The increase was enacted by the Legislature last year. The property tax and rent rebates are cash grants of up to \$500. Those

qualifying for the rebates automatically qualify for an inflation dividend which will be distributed in December. Citizens age 65 and older, widows and widowers age 50 and older and permanently disabled persons age 18 and older are eligible for the program. Coslett said that more than \$103 million was distributed in this year's first mailing of rebates to senior citizens and disabled persons.

The property tax and rent rebate program, inflation dividends and other programs benefitting senior citizens are funded by profits from the Pennsylvania Lottery. Applications and filing assistance are available at Revenue Department district offices, most Area Agencies on Aging, senior citizen centers and Coslett's district office at 1265 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, Pa. 18704. The telephone number is 288-3990.

**Politics**

(Continued from page 1)

coach relieving Bearde from that position, Bearde coached baseball, basketball, directed the audio-visual program and built a highly-respected athletic program recognized by other coaches and athletic directors throughout the area. Suddenly, Noon has a problem with the athletic director also coaching basketball, a duty common to most athletic directors in the area such as Mickey Gorham, AD and football coach at Meyers; Marv Antinnes, AD and football coach at Wyoming Seminary, and Gerry Stinson, AD at Dallas and, until recently, baseball coach. The reason, no doubt, is politics, but a reason that should not enter the picture for these directors, like all school directors, are elected by the taxpayers to make decisions that benefit the students and the faculty, who are employed to teach the students. All people are not expected to like all people — it is human nature that there are personality clashes, but when school directors come into a board meeting, they are expected to put personal differences behind them and vote for the welfare of the students. To use their position on the board as a personal vendetta against another board member is wrong, wrong, wrong! To put down a man, who is known as a gentleman and a professional athletic director, respected by college recruiters throughout the East, is a disgrace to the entire district. Bearde has built an athletic program and helped build an outstanding curriculum at Lake-Lehman. If he is let go as AD it will be tearing down one of the finest athletic programs in the area, one respected and admired by both boys and girls coaches in Wyoming Valley. Bearde first came to Lake-Lehman in 1979 as basketball coach and when Athletic Director Edward Edwards became ill, Bearde

became his assistant, then took over from Edwards when he retired in 1982. Since that time Bearde has devoted hours of his time, saved money in athletic budgets, and attended most every sporting event. All one had to do was look around, Bearde was there. With the late James Nicholas, Bearde helped come up with the slogan "Good Things Are Happening at Lake-Lehman," and they made them happen. The kids became enthused, teachers and students developed great school spirit and good things did begin to happen. Arnie Garinger, former Lake-Lehman director for many years and past president of the board, can attest to Bearde's performance. "His record speaks for itself," said Garinger. "We were fortunate to get him. He spent years upgrading the program. Bearde is a professional athletic director as well as an admissions counselor. He knows what it takes for a kid to get into college and he is always there to help." Garinger said he was appalled at the things he has been reading in the papers about Lake-Lehman. He said it appears this new board is trying to tear down the good things that have been done over the past years in the district. "Instead of 'Good Things are Happening at Lake-Lehman', it seems 'Terrible Things Are Happening'," said Garinger. According to Garinger, realtors had reached the point where they were suggesting to newcomers in the area that they settle within the district. They pointed out that the district had a total school program, upgraded buildings, excellent curriculum, quality faculty and a respected athletic program. "There has always been a majority and a minority on the board, I guess there has to be," said Garinger. "In the past, it has been my

experience that when a motion was for the best welfare of the students, the minority would bite the bullet and vote 'yes'. My fervent hope is that the silent majority who used to come forward on important issues will do so now and discourage these political vendettas. Don't hurt innocent persons just to get even with a

member or members of the former board majority." Garinger stated that this Lake-Lehman board was handed a very nice school system with good kids, good teachers, good curriculum, good extra-curricular programs and good buildings. He said all it had to do was to perpetuate what had been

done. "If the judgment of the board is penurious, I can accept that; if the judgment of the board is stupid, I can't accept it. What is best for the kids should always come through," said Garinger. Political vendettas have no place in a school system, according to

Garinger. The majority of the district's taxpayers and students are in accord with Garinger's opinion. These five people were elected to the board by the taxpayers to represent them and their children, to continue to move the district forward, not put it back where it was nearly 10 years ago.

**Obituaries**

**Emily Motichka**

Mrs. Emily E. Motichka, 81, of Centermoreland, died July 21 in the Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas, where she had been a guest for three days.

Born in Larksville, she had been a resident of the Centermoreland area most of her life. She was a member of the Blessed Sacrament Church, Centermoreland.

Surviving are her husband, Anthony F.; son, Bernard, Centerville, Md.; daughters, Mrs. Louise Christina, Endicott, N.Y.; Mrs. Harold Montross, Centermoreland; 18 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; brother, George Zavatske, Bridgeport, Conn. She was preceded in death by daughter, Eleanor Halvorsen; son, Edward; one brother and five sisters.

Funeral services will be held today at 10 a.m. from the Harold C. Snowden Funeral Home, 140 N. Main St., Shavertown with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. in blessed Sacrament Church, Centermoreland. Interment will be at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Carverton.

**Xenia Mehalick**

Mrs. Xenia Mehalick, of RD 4, Box 351K, Dallas, died July 19 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Kriel, with whom she resided.

Born in Austria, Hungary, she came to the United States in 1909, settling in Alden Station, where she had been a resident for many years.

She was a founder and member of the Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Church, Alden Station. Surviving are daughters, Mrs. John Kriel, with whom she resided; Mrs. Helen Wolfburg, Harveys Lake; Mrs. Vladimir Semonchick, Fort Lauderdale,

Fla.; son, Stevan, Clark, N.J.; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; several nieces. Her husband, John, died in 1932.

Funeral services will be held today at 9 a.m. in St. Andrew's Russian Orthodox Church, Dallas. Interment will be in Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Cemetery, Alden Station. The Rev. Joseph Gallick will officiate.

**Tomas Culver**

Tomas Edison Culver, 21, of 85 Crispin Road, East Dallas, died July 15 as a result of head injuries sustained when a truck tire exploded in his face. He was inflating a soft tire on a dump truck at the Mehoopany plant of the Procter & Gamble Paper Products Co. when the tire's tube blew up in his face.

His death was attributed to massive brain injuries, according to Lackawanna County Coroner William Sweeney.

Culver worked for the company for three years, during the summer, in the grounds and services department. His father, Gerald Culver, worked at the company for more than 20 years.

Born in Meriden, Conn., Culver was the son of Gerald and Dolores Cedeno Culver, with whom he resided.

He was a graduate of Dallas High School and was student at Lock Haven University at the time of his death.

He was a member of the East Dallas United Methodist Church.

Surviving, in addition to his parents, are a brother, Gary, at home; paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Williams, of Dallas.

**Legislation will toughen penalties**

Rep. George Hasay has co-sponsored legislation to toughen the penalties for assaulting police officers who are performing their duties.

Hasay said the measure would make it a second degree felony to knowingly, intentionally or recklessly cause serious bodily injury (or attempt to do so) to a police officer in the performance of his or her duties. Second degree felonies are punishable by a maximum of 10-year prison term and-or a maximum \$25,000 fine. Currently, this penalty only applies to assaults on police officers when they are

making or attempting to make an arrest.

The measure would also make it a first degree misdemeanor, punishable by a five-year prison term and-or maximum \$10,000 fine, to intentionally, knowingly or recklessly cause any injury, as distinguished from serious injury, to a police officer in the performance of his or her duty.

"In many non-arrest situations, assaults against police officers (causing bodily injury) can only be punished as simple assault with a maximum two-year prison term and-or a maximum \$5,000 even though the police officer was per-

forming his or her duties when attacked," Hasay said.

Hasay said the measure (House Bill 2709) would plug this loophole by treating all attacks which cause bodily injury as the more serious crime of aggravated assault and by punishing offenders with appropriate prison terms.

Hasay, who represents portions of Luzerne and Columbia counties, said the measure was co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of 37 lawmakers in response to a number of violent incidents throughout the state.

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