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## Surprise!

Preston's contract not renewed; replacement names surface

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

The Lake-Lehman School Board's decision not to renew the contract of District Superintendent M. David Preston last week came as a complete surprise to the administrators, faculty members, taxpayers and students.

And, reports that Anthony Marchakitus, assistant to the superintendent, and William Price, administrative official at Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18, are interested in the position of superintendent at Lake-Lehman are apparently unfounded.

In a conversation with Marchakitus, he said he has too

many other things on the horizon. "It's the first I have heard any of the rumors," said Marchakitus. "I have no

M. DAVID PRESTON

idea what the board's plans are. They haven't discussed them with me. I have entertained no intentions at all of applying for the position, nor has anyone asked me to do so."

Marchakitus also explained that although he has many credentials for the position due to his many years of service in the

district, he is not certified to hold the position of superintendent, meaning he does not have a certificate of eligibility.

In a telephone conversation

with William Price, he told The Dallas Post he has no intentions of applying for the position.

"I'm a strong supporter of Dave Preston," he said. "I have

worked closely with him on several occasions and I have the utmost respect for the man. I would never do anything to hurt him, but would do what I could

to support him."

Following the opening prayer of last Tuesday's school board meeting which was late in com-

(See PRESTON, page 12)

## Investigation satisfies complainant

By JOHN HOINSKI  
Staff Writer

A Dallas man who filed a complaint against a Dallas Borough policeman last month over his handling of an incident at a private residence says he is pleased with the investigation into the matter to date.

Arthur Miller, 39, of New Goss Manor, said he filed a complaint against officer Chris Purcell in November over the officer's handling into an alleged underage drinking incident that took place at 84 Norton Ave. The home, owned by Miller, is currently undergoing remodeling and was the site of a Nov. 1 slumber party held by his daughter, a student at Dallas High School.

The party was reportedly attended by approximately 20 Dallas High students, eight of whom were cited for a number of violations.

Purcell, a part-time policeman, was subsequently suspended without pay by Borough Council, pending outcome of the investigation.

"I am pleased with the investigation so far," Miller said. "I think the sessions they (Council members) have been having, interviewing various people, has been handled very professionally and I think it is headed in the right direction."

Although details are still sketchy as to what exactly happened, Miller said it has been established that Purcell did enter the house through the cellar door.

Miller said there was damage done to the cellar door and that the door is presently boarded up.

One student, who was reportedly interviewed by Council members, said he locked the door the previous night prior to leaving the home. He did not know, however, if anyone had unlocked the door before he arrived at the residence on Nov. 1.

The student, who was allegedly let go by the officer and who was not one of the students (See INVESTIGATION, page 12)



Dallas Post/Jane Renn

### Christmas giving

Joseph Kosior, left, age 8, and Jeffrey Carroll, age 3, place gifts in the manger at the Children's Christmas Party at the Huntsville Christian Church. Both boys live in Sweet Valley.

## Tele-Media Cable, customers clash

By JOHN HOINSKI  
Staff Writer

Kingston Township officials met with representatives from the Tele-Media company cable television systems last week to discuss service problems a number of residents have been experiencing.

Several customers have filed complaints at the township building over the past month and a half because of poor reception, hook-up service and downed lines (due to a snow-storm). Township leaders say they will give the company two weeks to clear up the situation.

"We met with George Buchan, an assistant manager with the company and some other people last Wednesday," said Kingston Township Manager Fred Potzer. "And they explained all the changes that were made, the

cost and some of the bugs that had to be worked out. But these people (township residents) are paying for a service and they deserve what they pay for."

"Last week there was an ad that Tele-Media put in one local daily paper thanking residents for putting up with fuzzy pictures and so forth, and that if they had any problems to call their office and not to phone the township building," Potzer noted.

"But that was the only way we were finding out about the problems. I would tell the people to call Tele-Media first, but if they don't get any satisfaction to call the township. I'll be here from 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday."

Potzer said the township would give Tele-Media two weeks to clear the situation up, but said if service doesn't improve by then other action

may be taken. Potzer said he also spoke with Jerry Toma, manager of Dallas Cablevision, who informed him that he has been given the okay to hire another person to help speed up service.

Frank Vicente, general manager of Tele-Media, says Buchan has received the list of those customers who have filed complaints and said Buchan has been in touch with most of those people.

"We are trying to service these people as best we can," Vicente said. "We have virtually rebuilt that plant up there which cost in excess \$300,000 and have done everything we said we would do when we made our outline in the Spring. Unfortunately, there are some interruptions that have to be worked out because of the number of improvements. But if subscri-

bers are having problems, I would ask them to phone the company to have them taken care of."

Some customers have called the local cable company office, but were not happy with the service they received. Only after contacting Potzer, they say, has their service improved.

"The first time I called, the woman in the Dallas office said someone would be up that day to make the necessary repairs," said one woman who was having problems with her reception, but asked not to be identified. "A lot of times there would be no answer. Then I called Mr. Potzer and they did come within 10 days."

"I have no complaints about the repairman. He was very nice," she continued. "In fact (See CABLE, page 12)

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