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Helping learning disabled to succeed

Misericordia's program was first of its kind

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Since its founding in 1979, College Misericordia's Alternative Learning Project has been helping learning disabled students to succeed in college.

The college's ALP was the first of its kind in Pennsylvania, and has been identified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as a "model program". Because of that designation, College Misericordia has been assisting other schools in setting up similar programs.

All students who are accepted for the program at the local college are enrolled in regular courses. The purpose of the ALP is to build strategies and accommodations to help these students succeed.

Dr. Joseph Rogan has been director of the project since 1979 and is assisted by Sr. Patricia McCann and Connie Havir, program coordinators and Carole Fisher, program assistant.

The coordinators are a liaison between students and faculty; their primary task is to see that each student's program of accommodations helps that student succeed in their regular college courses. The program assistant's responsibilities are to help students in writing assignments and to coordinate notetaking services.

Each year the project is restricted to 15 new students and through attrition, the total number of ALP students in the four class levels ranges from 35 and 40.

Each ALP freshman must meet minimum eligibility requirements for admission to College Misericordia and the same standard requirement as all other students for graduation.

It must be remembered, Dr. Rogan points out, that the ALP is a program for college students who are learning disabled-individuals who are bright enough to succeed but who, because of their atypical learning styles, have difficulty learning in traditional school settings without assistance.

Since the college was the first in Pennsylvania and one of the first in the nation (Curry College was first in 1976) with this program, Misericordia recently did a survey trying to sort out the number of colleges that have initiated similar projects in the last 10 years. The survey found that 12 of the 115 Pennsylvania colleges have introduced a variety of techniques. None are the same as the program at Misericordia which has become increasingly successful.

The program does not attempt to remediate or cure learning disabilities. Rehabilitation services and traditional forms of special education are not available through ALP.

Not all of the students are successful but most are, according to Dr. Rogan. Several have graduated and gone into the world to do wonderful things. More are scheduled to graduate this year and others have not been as successful. Three ALP students have been recommended for the first semester honors program. The average student maintains a C+ GPA at the college.

The college offers several ALP-related programs, the latest being the Kurzweil Personal Reader, a piece of computer-age technology that 'reads'. College Misericordia received the first machine off the assembly line and is the only college in the United States using the machine with learning disabled students. The college is currently doing a series of research studies to determine the efficacy and uses of the machine.

A one-week residential program for high school juniors who are learning disabled and who are considering college is offered but the students must apply for admission.

A three-week residential program for college-bound high school graduates who are learning disabled is offered to students who apply for admission.

The college also offers a one-week program for high school



KURZWELL READER-A student in College Misericordia's Alternative Learning Project demonstrates the use of the Kurzweil Reader machine for Dr. Joseph Rogan, director, and Connie Havir, project coordinator. The local college obtained the first machine off the assembly line and is the only school using it for such a project. (C. M. Denmon Photo)

educators, which prepares them to help students to get ready for college. Participants earn one graduate credit. There is no fee for the program.

The college also offers a long weekend program for guidance counselors which helps them to understand the potentials of learn-

ing disabled students and realize that there are dozens of colleges who have programs to offer these students.

Staff members from Misericordia's program have teamed up with professionals from other colleges

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Water commission calls for meeting on merits of an authority

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Members of the Back Mountain Water Commission, after lengthy discussion, voted unanimously to invite all municipal officials of Harveys Lake Borough, Dallas Borough, and the townships of Kingston, Dallas, Lake, Lehman, Franklin, and Jackson to attend a meeting tentatively set for the third Thursday in March for the purpose of becoming informed about a water authority.

The Commission members have been discussing various alternatives available in the event a water problem occurs in the local area. A water authority is one of the subjects discussed and as a beginning, members approved contacting professionals to speak on the pros and cons of a water authority and how it has worked in other areas.

John Molski, Dallas Borough, Daniel Faison, Franklin Township; and David Abod, Harveys Lake

Borough have been appointed as a committee to make plans for the meeting.

Members also discussed the possibility of a proclamation in the event of a drought due to the mild and dry winter of 1988 and 1989.

Joseph Salla, vice chairman of the Commission and John Molski, secretary, reported that they met with Dallas-Shavertown Water Company manager Mike Coyle, who told them he would attend the next meeting of the Commission to try to answer any questions members might have.

Molski stated that during the meeting, Coyle and the two members discussed the water situation in the Back Mountain, drought education and conservation, and improvements in the company's system.

Members also discussed House Bills 24 and 25, co-sponsored by State Rep. George Hasay, which proposes that small companies

See WATER, pg 5

So you want to run for office? Here's how

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

How many Back Mountain residents have considered running for an office such as councilman, supervisor, school board director, tax collector or any other local office, then dismissed the idea because they are not certain just what is required to do so?

In recent elections, there have been fewer candidates interested in running for local office than in the past and, in some cases, incumbents have had no opposition, leaving voters with no choice in selection of a candidate.

For the benefit of local residents who might be interested in running for a local office, The Dallas Post is providing the following information.

In order to hold a local office, a candidate must first be a registered voter, an American citizen and resident of a local municipality for a specific length of time dependent upon the office in which he or she is interested. Then, he or she must get a petition from the Luzerne County Court House and obtain at least 10 signatures on the petition of individuals registered in the same party as the

candidate-Republican, Democrat, or other affiliations.

In the May Primary this year, tax collector, mayor, supervisor, councilman, auditor and judge of election seats are open in the following municipalities:

•Kingston Township - two supervisors seats; tax collector is appointed because of Home Rule.

•Dallas Borough - tax collector, mayor and three seats on council.

•Dallas Township - tax collector and one supervisor's seat.

•Lake Township - tax collector and one supervisor's seat.

•Lehman Township - tax collector and one supervisor's seat

See ELECTIONS, pg 2

Informational meeting on Jackson sewers March 2

Jackson Township residents will soon have a chance to learn about the effects construction of new sewers will have on their property.

On Thursday, March 2, at 7 p.m., a meeting will be held at the Jackson Township Fire Company, Chase Road, to discuss the project with affected residents.

The Jackson Township General Municipal Authority recently awarded a \$3 million contract to Linde Enterprises, Inc. for the installation of a Sanitary Sewer Collection and Conveyance System in certain sections of the township.

The Authority was able to bring this project to a reality by securing with the cooperation of the Dallas Area Municipal Authority, a Federal Grant from the Department of Environmental Resources, and a 1% loan from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's PennVEST program.

The engineer for the project is the firm of Michael J. Pasonick,

Jr., Inc. The Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority is the Project Administrator.

Representatives of the Municipal Authority, Contracting Firm, Project Engineer, and Redevelopment Authority will be present at the March 2, 1989 meeting to explain the project, present the contractor's proposed work schedule and to answer questions from residents.

Areas to be affected by the construction activity include Hillside Road from its intersection with Route 309, Kingston Township to Fieldcrest Manor in Jackson Township, and Chase Road from its intersection with Hillside Road to a point before its intersection with Cigarski Road. Township subdivisions affected by the construction activity include Chase Manor, Briarwood Terrace, Fieldcrest Manor, Meadowcrest Manor and Sutton Hills.

The Jackson Township Sewage Collection and Conveyance Sys-

tem Construction Project includes the construction of approximately: 37,600 L.F. of 8" gravity sewer;

5,400 L.F. of 6" sewer laterals; 1,460 L.F. of PVC Force Main; 350 L.F. of Ductile Iron Force Main; 155 precast sanitary manholes and 3 pump stations.

The project is expected to be

completed in 365 days.

Inquiries concerning the project can be made by writing the Jackson Township General Municipal Authority in care of the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority, 272 Pierce Street, Kingston, Pennsylvania 18704, or by calling the Redevelopment Authority office at 288-7565.

Harveys Lake planners pass Sordoni subdivision

By SCOTT CRISPELL
Post Correspondent

The Harveys Lake Planning Commission unanimously voted to pass the subdivision of 20 acres of land owned by Public Services Enterprises of Pennsylvania, better known as Sordoni Enterprises.

Steve Sordoni plans to subdivide the land which is located in a 2,900 acre plot owned by Public Services Enterprises.

Tom Garrity, a local realtor, represented Sordoni and explained Sordoni's plans to the commission.

According to Garrity, Sordoni wishes to subdivide the land for his personal use. Although no building is expected, Sordoni still must meet DER requirements for sewage systems.

"Anytime there is a subdivision, the land must be hooked up to a sewer or a septic system," said Garrity.

Chairman George Gwilliam said that Sordoni wants to preserve a teepee that was built on the property several years ago.

The commission unanimously voted to allow the subdivision with the condition that all the requirements set by DER were met.

In other business, Gwilliam announced that the election of commission officers will be held next month. The election process is open to all members of the commission to nominate other members for electoral positions.

The commission also welcomed a new solicitor, John Kennedy, whose office is in Kingston.



New signs for Kingston Township

Motorists driving into Kingston Township may have noticed a change of scenery just before Christmas. That's because the Township installed new signs at every entrance to the community just before the holiday.

The new signs replaced ones that had been vandalized or stolen, according to Jeffrey Box, township manager. They are also larger, and an attractive brown color.

Box said it would be difficult for him to put a cost on the project, since it had been authorized under former manager Fred Potzer's tenure. When asked what value the signs offered, Box said, "Signs aren't really that expensive for the benefit you get from them. They provide community identification and foster community pride." (Photo by Ron Bartizek)

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Coming up:

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE - Tues., Feb. 28, 11 AM-5 PM, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, N. Main St., Shavertown. Appointments preferred.

HARVEYS LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL - Wed., Feb. 22. Work session 6:30, meeting 7:00 PM. Harveys Lake Municipal Bldg.

HARVEYS LAKE ZONING BOARD - Tues., Feb. 28, 7PM. Harveys Lake Municipal Bldg.