

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

SERVING THE BACK MOUNTAIN

FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS



# THE DALLAS POST

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35 Cents



## One little Indian

Five-year-old Christian Baloga of Harveys Lake has a ball playing an Indian in Ms. Monaco's pre-school class at Little People Day Care School, Dallas. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

## Alleged arsonist's trial continued for third time

By SCOTT A. DAVIS  
Post Staff

A Trucksville volunteer firefighter suspected of arson will not be going to trial this week as expected, after he signed a third continuance to allow his trial to be postponed.

John Joseph Tibus, 30, is facing two arson charges. Authorities have said they suspect him of setting several other blazes in the

Back Mountain.

The Luzerne County District Attorney's Office had a November 19 deadline to bring Tibus to trial, but Tibus agreed to sign the continuance. If he had not signed, the trial would have had to start by last Sunday or the charges would have been dropped.

"He signed about three continuances for us," a District Attorney's

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## DER says it can't find source of Lake water contamination

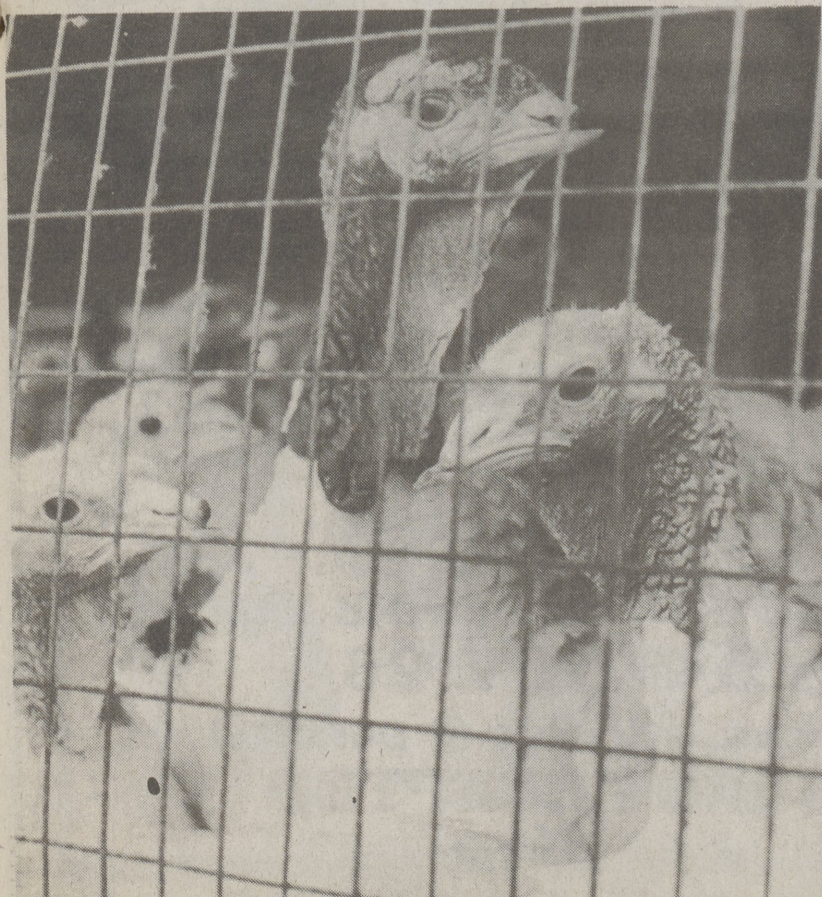
By SCOTT A. DAVIS  
Post Staff

The state Department of Environmental Resources has closed its investigation into well water contamination at Harveys Lake, saying it is impossible to find the source.

"There is no way to ascertain where the contamination is originating from," said DER bureau of water quality spokesman Mark Carmon Monday.

Carmon explained that the department had hydrogeologists

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## What, me worry?

This gobbler at Pallman Farms in Clarks Summit doesn't seem a bit concerned that Thanksgiving is almost here. But his pose is a precursor of things to come. (Photo by Ron Bartizek)

## Making the holiday happier for others

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

As most local families plan their Thanksgiving feasts and visits, some Back Mountain residents have spent the past few weeks working to make the holiday happier for people less fortunate than they.

The aid will take the form of the things most of us take for granted - food, clothing and shelter.

The Dallas High School junior class took as their project this Thanksgiving, collecting and providing clothing for the needy families who are fed daily at the St. Vincent De Paul soup kitchen in Wilkes-Barre. For two weeks, the students collected clothes, made certain they were clean and in good condition, sorted them by size and category and packed them in boxes which they will deliver to the persons in charge of St. Vincent De Paul's. The day they deliver the clothing, the juniors will also stay and help serve meals to the less fortunate.

The students of Westmoreland Elementary School and Cub Scout Pack 155, Trucksville, joined Channel 16 to 'Feed-A-Friend' Day by declaring Nov. 16 as Westmoreland's special day to bring donations of canned foods as they came to the cafeteria for lunch.

The aim of the 'Feed-A-Friend' project in the Back Mountain and throughout Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania is to feed hungry families in the area for Thanksgiving. All of the food donated by the Westmoreland students will be taken to the Back Mountain Food Bank in the Kingston Township building to be distributed to needy families in the Back Mountain.

See FOOD, pg 2



FOOD FOR NEEDY - Westmoreland School students fill some of the bags with food for Back Mountain needy. From left are, Toni Gorgone, Mike Sabol, Timmy Dickson, Jonathan Meehan, Tara Oatridge, and Kathy Grundowski. (Photo by C.M. Denmon)

## Buck fever about to grip area hunters

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

Local hunters will join more than one million others on Monday, November 27 for the opening day of buck season, according to Ed Sherlinski, education and information specialist of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Dallas.

Traditionally, Potter, Tioga and Bradford Counties have the highest deer harvest but Luzerne County holds its own.

"In 1988, Luzerne County had 1913 buck killed," Sherlinski said. "Bradford had 2,419. Bradford County had slightly over a total of 5,000 buck and doe, Luzerne County had almost 3,700, better than Sullivan and Susquehanna County."

"In many rural counties, deer hunting is a big business," explained Sherlinski. "People in the northern counties live all year on deer season. The deer attract countless hunters, who spend money while boarding or dining in the area during hunting season; having the buck cut up and

wrapped, and spending money for various items."

Displaying a minimum of 250 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material on the back, chest and head combined, the hunters may start trying for their buck a half hour before sunrise or 6:35 a.m.

Buck season runs for a two week period ending Saturday, December 9.

Lately there has been an above average herd in Pennsylvania. They are a valuable natural resource which if managed wisely, are a public asset.

Sherlinski explained that proper management of the deer herd means keeping the population under control.

"This is done by having a special doe season, this year Dec. 11 through Dec. 13," Sherlinski said. "Hunters need a special license for doe season to shoot a deer having no antlers or both antlers less than three inches long with a required antlerless license."

See DEER, pg 2



HUNT SAFE - Ed Sherlinski, Pa. Game Commission explains key points of deer season for public.

## Balash leads POW-MIA effort

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

Michael J. Balash of Orange considers himself one of the fortunate Vietnam War veterans. He served in Southeast Asia for 22 months and returned home to the United States in one piece.

Because of his concern for fellow servicemen who weren't as lucky as he, Balash is now National Prisoner of War-Missing In Action Director of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc., "the people who care."

Balash works with other veterans coordinating different projects to promote public awareness of the organization. He also speaks before clubs, schools and other groups about the POWs and MIAs. The organization also sells bracelets with different missing serviceman's name on each one. There are seven from Luzerne County, 116 from Pennsylvania, and 2,338 from throughout the United States still missing.

"In the last three years a lot of remains have been returned and although some are not genuine, the majority are bones of the United States Servicemen. There are still some over there who are living," Balash said. "This has been confirmed by the boat people and some agencies. About 200 MIA's have not been determined to be dead or alive. Private individuals have also brought out information."

"A small percentage of veterans are there because they wanted to

be but it is still believed others are still there," Balash said.

Balash said that right after the war, the Vietnamese said that there were none of our servicemen there but now they say there are some there in areas they can't control.

"They were promised \$32 million to rebuild their country but Congress voted it down on the grounds as to how the men were treated," Balash said.

"In Korea we know that there are 389 POW's never returned after the Korean War. Over 20,000 POW's after World War II were unaccounted for."

There are 20,000 to 30,000 Vietnam veterans active in the United States, according to Balash. In Luzerne County, approximately 250 from posts in Wyoming and Nanticoke are active.

"There are high and low points in public awareness of the veterans who never came back," Balash said. "There are a lot of sympathetic people but those who become involved are fewer. It's only those who were hit who become interested."

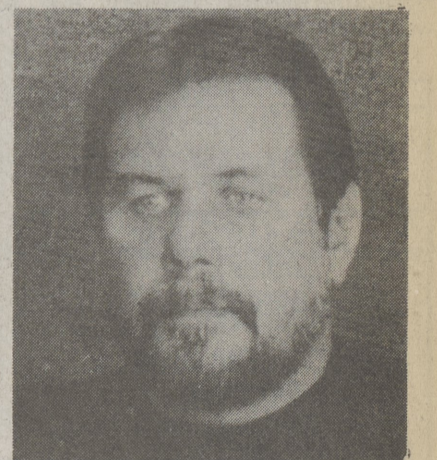
A native of Edwardsville, Balash moved with his family to Montrose and in 1966 graduated from Montrose High School. Following graduation Balash tried to find work but couldn't so in 1968 he went into the service and spent two years in the states before being shipped overseas until 1972 when he was discharged. He returned to his family in Edwardsville but in 1978 after he was married he moved to

the Back Mountain.

In 1983 Balash joined the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc., Wyoming Post, and as he talked about and read more about veterans who never returned to the states, Balash became more deeply involved. He realized that he could have been one of those who were left behind as a prisoner or a missing in action soldier.

Balash spoke recently at the Penn State Campus Allentown where the students showed interest, he said. Penn State has become more involved and the

See POW, pg 5

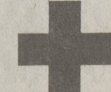


Michael J. Balash  
Orange resident heads  
POW-MIA group

## Inside The Post

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## Coming up:



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE - Fri., Nov. 24, Noon to 6:00 PM, Gate of Heaven School, Machell Ave., Dallas

HARVEYS LAKE ZONING BOARD - Tues., Nov. 28, 7 PM, Harveys Lake Municipal Bldg., rte. 415

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY - Mon., Nov. 27, 8 PM, Lehman Twp. Municipal Bldg.

RECYCLING - Sat., Nov. 25, 9AM-Noon, Harveys Lake Municipal Bldg. Aluminum and glass only