

# COMMUNITY



## Lake-Noxen students compete in Social Studies Olympiad

Lake-Noxen Elementary School 5th grade students participated in the National Social Studies Olympiad Test. Consisting of 40 questions about United States History. The questions test the students' knowledge and understanding of factual information, graphs, charts, and political cartoons. The top 10 fifth grade students at Lake-Noxen Elementary School outscored 86.5% of the schools that entered nationally. The students who entered are, above, from left, first row, Sarah Saylor, Melissa Mitchell, Jessica Finch, Joe Halowich, Shawn Titus; second row, Brian Hoover, Rebecca Scott, Debbie White, Michael Ide and Michael Woronko.

## Anderson afield

# Increase in northernstate birds brings both good and bad news

By JOHN M. ANDERSON

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE, Washington, D.C.: For the kids that are killing each other in our city streets, and for the hunters that hope to kill a duck or a goose in the marsh next fall, there is good news and bad news from the prairie pothole region of our north-central states and southern Canada.

For the Louisiana hunters, the good news is the relative abundance of gadwalls, green-winged teal, blue geese and white-fronted geese. For the hunters along the Atlantic Coast, the good news is the relative abundance of Canada geese, Atlantic snow geese, plus an excellent hatch of tundra swans.

The wheat farmers in North Carolina look upon this increase in swans as bad news. Chesapeake Bay water quality is so bad that pondweeds, wild rice, and wild celery can no longer feed the ducks, geese and swans, so these flat-faced fowl turn to nearby wheat fields for groceries. For some reason, farmers take a dim view of this, although they are beginning to charge the hunters who harvest swans and geese of wheat, enough to more than compensate for the loss of wheat. So these farmers look with favor on a good fall flight of geese and swans.

The bad news is that mallards, pintails and blue-winged teal populations are very low. These 3 species depend heavily on the prairie ponds of the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Montana and simi-

lar wetlands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. When these prairie potholes go dry, the ducks fly to north where they more or less sit around and look at each other. This has been going on for the last 3 years. This year, however, the Dakotas and Montana were dry, as were the prairies just over the line in Canada, but most of the prairie provinces of Canada had fairly good rains.

Unfortunately, farmers had plowed the vegetation down to the edge of the shrunken ponds, so when the spring and summer rains filled them, there was nothing but bare ground around the edges. Consequently, the mallards, pintails and blue-winged teal, that depend on these ponds for making little ducks out of big ones, had no place to hide their eggs. It will be another year before there is enough vegetation around these ponds to provide nesting cover.

The reason gadwalls and green-winged teal are more abundant now than 10 years ago is that they nest north and west of the prairie pothole region in what we call the parklands. Ponds are very numerous in the parklands, but they are surrounded by trees and brush. So far, the farmers haven't figured out how to plow up the parklands and convert them to wheat and barley.

The reason the snow geese and swans are so abundant is that they nest above the Arctic Circle and the engineers haven't figured out how to build dams on the rivers or divert them for irrigation.

From the standpoint of prevent-

ing floods, conserving drinking water, and producing billions of dollars worth of finfish and shellfish, our nation has at last begun to see that wetlands are not wastelands, but priceless natural resources. That's the good news.

The bad news is that subsidized agriculture has driven small farms into bankruptcy, drained our priceless wetlands, and established a powerful lobby of large corporate farmers. The Bush Administration and Congress are trying to reduce the billions you and I pay for this foolishness, but so far they're up against a brick wall. But the value of wetlands, like breathable air, potable water and elbow room, is at last being recognized to some extent.

As this head-long human race causes the extinction of more and more plants, birds, mammals and fish, our environment becomes less and less interesting. The monotony of the environment on 125th street becomes deadly. Under these circumstances, human life becomes a commodity of very little value.

For hunters and nonhunters alike, the quality of life is closely tied to the quality of our environment. They may not know it, but restoration and preservation of wetlands means as much to kids in the slums as to hunters in the marsh.

John M. "Frosty" Anderson was Director of the Wildlife Department of the National Audubon Society from 1966 until his retirement in 1987.

## Local riders place at 4-H Horse Show

The Luzerne County 4-H Horse and Pony Round-up was held August 4 with 36 members competing in 51 English, western, gymkhana, novice and therapeutic classes.

Extension Agent Donna Grey states that the purpose of this show was for members to demonstrate their riding skills, one against another. The top three placings in each class will now represent Luzerne County at the District 4-H Horse Show to be held August 18 at New Foundland.

Some local winners included: Annette Ginocchetti, Wyoming; Grooming & Showmanship 12 yrs & under; and Hunter Hack Ponies. Rebecca Ide, Wyoming; Grooming & Showmanship 13-15 yrs; Pleasure Pairs; Stock Seat Equitation, Jr.; and Western Pleasure Horses, Jr. Michele Boyle, Dallas; Grooming & Showmanship 13-15 yrs. Stock Seat Equitation, Jr.; and Western Pleasures Horses, Jr. Amy McLaughlin, Lehman; Grooming & Showmanship 16 yrs. & older; Open Trail, over 14.0; Stock Seat Equitation, Sr.; Western Pleasure Horses Sr.; and Hunter Hack Ponies.

Jennifer Hartels, Dallas; Grooming & Showmanship 16 yrs. & older; County Team; Pleasure Pairs; Stock Seat Equitation, Sr.; Western Pleasure Horses, Sr.; and Western Riding. Joanne Tregaskis, Dallas; Grooming & Showmanship 16 yrs. & older; Open Trail, over 1.40; County Team; Hunt Seat Equitation Sr.; and Bareback Equitation. Neva Bauer, Dallas; County Team; Stock Seat Equitation, Sr.; Western Pleasure Horses, Sr.; and Bareback Equitation. Amber Atherholt, Lehman; Pleasure Pairs; Hunt Seat Equitation Over Jumps, Jr.; Hunter Ponies Under Saddle; and Working Hunter Ponies. Stacie Lanning, Hunlock Creek; Stock Seat Equitation, Jr.; and Western Pleasure Horses, Jr. Amy Honeywell, Hunlock Creek; Pole Bending, over 14.0; Clover Leaf Barrel, over 14.0; and Raised Box Keyhole, over 1.40. Kathleen Sallitt, Dallas; Saddle Seat Equitation, Jr.; Saddle Type Pleasure Horses; and Pleasure Driving. Dene Stull, Dallas; Saddle Seat Equitation, Sr.; and Saddle Type Pleasure Ponies. Sarah Sordoni, Dallas; Hunter Seat Equitation, Jr.; and Hunter Horses Under Saddle. Melissa

Redmond, Harveys Lake; Hunter Seat Equitation, Sr.; and Hunter Horses Under Saddle. Robyn Pavlick, Hunlock Creek; Hunt Seat Equitation over Jumps, Sr.; and Working Hunter Horses. Christy Stull, Dallas; Pleasure Pony Riding. Tania Atherholt, Lehman; Therapeutic Obstacle Trail; Therapeutic Walk-Trot Equitation; and Therapeutic Walk Equitation. Justin Kreller, Sweet Valley; Novice Walk-Trot Equitation; and Novice Walk-Trot Pleasure. Cyndi Boyle, Dallas; Novice Walk-Trot Equitation. Devon Lewis, Harveys Lake; Novice Walk-Trot Equitation; and Novice Walk-Trot Pleasure. Neena Patton, Harveys Lake; Novice Walk-Trot Pleasure.

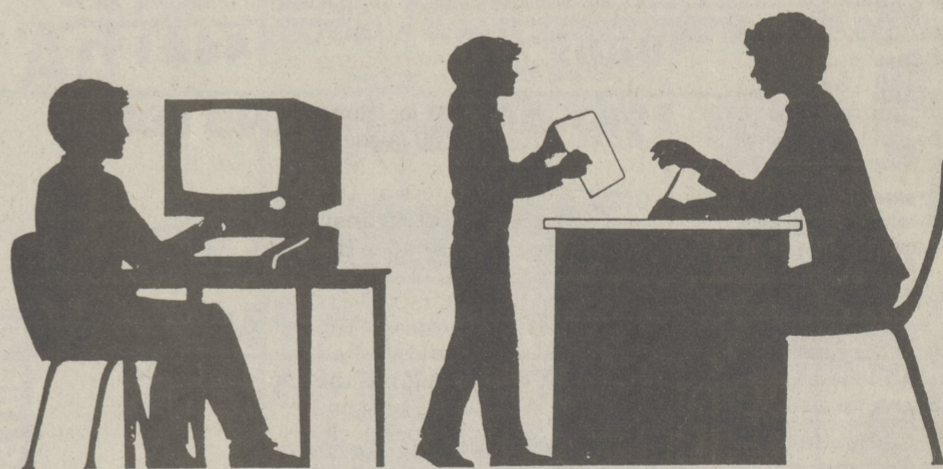
For more information on the 4-H horse program, contact Donna Grey, Courthouse Annex, 5 Water Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711 or phone 825-1701 or 459-0736, ext. 701. The 4-H program is administered through Penn State Cooperative Extension and welcomes youth between the ages of 8 and 19 or adult volunteers regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, or handicap.



## Local basketballers get some tips

Coach Ken Atkins held his annual basketball camp over two weeks at King's College in Wilkes-Barre. Many local youngsters were in attendance and heard leading college coaches and Assistant Fred Carter of the 76ers. Pictured first row, from left are, Matt Pelak, Carlo Santarelli, Matt Bittner, Brian Berlew, Rob Ciaraffoli, Tom Byron and Kevin Kozel. Second row, Ryan Doughton, Dan Natitus, Fred Maier, Greg Bogdan, Chris O'Brien, Justin Jumper, Chris Lohin, A.J. Finarelli and Ray Bartosh. Third row, Rich Klick, Conner Ennis, Steve Lohin, Tony Hite, Joe Hayer, Ted Jackson, Coach Atkins, John Oliver, Dan Podel, Andy Johnson, J.P. Cosgrove, Matt Bogdan, Bill Jenkins, Debbie Coslett, John Leonard, Heather Evanish, David Fosko, and Karen Comiskey.

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL



You won't want to miss this special section, if you provide products or services for students or their families.

Back-To-School will contain bus schedules for Dallas and Lake-Lehman, and features that every family will want to read. It is one of our best-read issues.

Special combination rates available with *The Back Mountain Trader* — delivered to 10,000 families by direct mail.

PUBLICATION DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

AD DEADLINE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

Back-To-School will be published in tabloid format. Each page will be 5 columns by 13 inches, columns will be SAU width.

Regular ad rates and sizes apply, and combination with *The Abington Journal* is available.

Don't miss this special opportunity, call the office today.

THE DALLAS POST

Growing with the Back Mountain

675-5211

Turn that old car into cold cash with

a Dallas Post classified

4 WEEKS • 20 WORDS • \$7.00

Call 675-5211

## Country SKI & SPORTS

Wilkes-Barre



Route 309 & Blackman St. • Phone 824-0541



# Blizzard Ski Sale

August 23 - 24 - 25

See Next Week's Paper For More Details. . .