

Rabies reported on increase locally

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Like the rest of the state, Luzerne County has recently seen an increase in the number of reported rabies cases.

"All counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania have had an increase in rabies during the past year," said Dr. Robert Davenport of the state Department of Agriculture. "The increase is not a large percentage but we saw more cases in the Northeast during 1990."

Dr. Davenport explained that since mandatory inoculation was instituted for domestic animals the increase has been in wild animals, particularly raccoons, skunks and fox.

"Raccoons are gregarious animals and inquisitive," said Dr. Davenport, "which makes them susceptible when coming in contact with other animals already infected. Skunks are slow-moving and apt to be bitten by an infected animal and the foxes are aggressive by nature and fast-moving and more apt to go after other wildlife.

Possoms are said to have a natural immunity, but that has never been proven. We do know that they are at least five times less susceptible than other animals if they are in contact with a rabid animal. All warm-blooded animals are susceptible to rabies."

Jim Spencer of the Back Mountain Veterinarian Clinic said the vaccine used by most veterinarians is good for three years for animals over one year of age. He also explained that the law in Pennsylvania now mandates that all dogs and indoor cats be inoculated with the vaccine. Like Dr. Davenport, Spencer said barn cats do not come under the law since they are too wild to get near them.

"It is not mandatory," he explained "But horses, cows and sheep can be inoculated and quite often are in order to protect them especially those who are out in the fields."

Low cost clinics for rabies inoculation are not held at any particular time but usually the demand for the lower cost clinics is during the warm weather.

"When there is a large demand for lower cost inoculation, some of the veterinarians get together and decide to schedule them at announced sites," the official explained.

Foaming or frothing at the mouth is a sign of an animal being rabid, as well as mood changes in an animal such as being unusually friendly or aggressive.

"Rabies is only contagious in the last 10 days. That is why they tie up an animal suspected to be rabid for 10 days," he explained. "If the animal is not dead in 10 days, it is not thought to be rabid. Some scientists or clinicians have been trying to develop a blood test to determine rabies but they have not been successful to-date," Spencer said.

Persons with domesticated animals are recommended to have them inoculated if they have not already done so. It protects the animal as well as persons in the family of the owner and others whom the animal might come in contact with.



Rainbow Installation held

Dallas Chapter of Rainbow Girls installation was held Friday, January 25, at the Eastern Star Hall in Dallas with Jessica Johnson installed as the Chapter's Worthy Advisor. Above, Jessica is shown with her newly-appointed officers and other Chapter officials. Seated, from left, are Kelly West, Hope; Jennifer Johnson, Junior Past Worthy Advisor; Jessica Johnson, newly-installed Worthy Advisor; Meagan Wega, Installing Marshal; second row, Melanie Transue, Chaplain; Gail Culver, Drill Leader; Kristen Hardisky, Treasurer; Melody Meeker, Confidential Advisor; Chrissy LaBarre, Love; third row, Helen Neylon, Soloist and Musician; Robert Johnson and Linda Johnson, Mother Advisor. (Post Photo/Charlot M. Denmon)

Ducks

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Shoveler also took a third place ribbon for Best of Show.

Disque's current projects are carving a falcon and a challenge carving of a black duck. The duck carving will be of a duck in an eating position. Drust is currently doing a Green Wing Teal Duck. Disque has now won seven ribbons in three shows.

The two men say it takes from 300 to 325 hours for one duck carving.

"To carve the ducks, first you must study their anatomy, feathers, their coloring and their actions," Disque explained. "Every time a duck turns ever so slightly, it changes its appearance. The painting alone takes at least 40 hours or more."

"I didn't want to make a job out of carving," Drust explained. "Now I can't stay away from carving."

"I went through stages when I started carving," Disque said. "I finally found it was a

great relaxation after I became semi-retired, so I continued. It takes interest, patience and talent and when I saw the hummingbirds that Joe made I knew he had the talent to do carvings. He did the birds without using a pattern. He got started and to win in less than two years is great."

The men use Tupelo gun wood from the South. They started first with basswood but Tupelo is almost without grain and it sands or grinds easily. Their carvings are so excellent and the painting so great that the ducks look real and the feathers look as soft and perfect as those of a live duck. An observer is amazed when touching the feathers makes you realize that they are made of painted, carved wood.

Disque and Drust are charter members of the Keystone Carvers Artistry and Wood Club. Members will display their works at the Kingston Armory during the annual Sports Show.

Trip

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guidelines. In Allentown there has been publicity about the various districts which are trying to get their money refunded.

"Unless the State Department issues a travel advisory, there is no guarantee. We called the state department and their only answer was, 'We recommend that people don't travel overseas.' The only country outside of Iraq that has a ban on such trips is Jordan," Comitz explained.

As it stands, each traveler paid a \$75 deposit and is liable for a \$350 cancellation fee.

"I'm sending 39 cancellations in today so we don't lose more money than that," Comitz said. "After 46 days or less before the schedule departure we would be charged more."

"Our plans for this trip were started in September and we paid our fees in full by December. The company has offered to keep the money in escrow for a future trip for anyone who wanted to do that, but who knows when the war and the threat of terrorism will be over," Comitz concluded.

The district has contacted Congressmen Paul Kanjorski and

Senator Arlen Specter, to ask them to intervene in the situation, but it is too early for them to have obtained any information.

"The parents understand that it is not the school's fault and agree that they are concerned about terrorism. None of them want their children to go but it's a lot of money to lose because of something beyond our control," Comitz said.

The only solution to the problem is if the State Department issues a ban on such trips since the travel agency contract contains a clause to that effect.

Dallas board approves maintenance building

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Following a lengthy discussion in their work session, members of the Dallas School Board finally voted to construct a new maintenance and central supply building by a 5-2 vote. Directors Ernest Ashbridge and James Richardson voted against the motion.

Construction will be done by Champion Building contractors at the base bid of \$197,218 with a dumb waiter and offices eliminated. The electrical work was awarded to B.J. Electric at a cost of \$23,701 and the plumbing work to Contractors Group at a cost of \$16,025. The mechanical work will be done by the Contractors Group at a cost

of \$22,965.

The offices eliminated will be constructed by district maintenance men at a date to be decided in the future.

In other business the directors • Gave permission for King's College students Jill M. Oliver and Edward John Zasada to do their teaching assignments at the Dallas Senior High School.

• Approved payment of \$3,471.52 for architectural services of Pasonick & Seargent Inc. for the Maintenance/Central Supply Building.

• Granted a sabbatical leave of absence to Ms. Mary Gelso for health reasons for the second term of the 1990-91 school year.

• Approved an unpaid leave of absence to Ms. Michaeline Kmush for the third marking period to commence January 25, 1991 and continue through April 9, 1991, with the understanding an additional request might be made by Ms. Kmush for extension to the end of the year.

• Approved an unpaid leave of absence to Ms. Carol A. Pierson for health reasons for six months to begin during the month of February, 1991.

Runoff

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he said.

Stark replied he was not happy with the board's performance on this and said, "...I'm not playing politics."

Board members assured Mrs. Poepperling that they would contact her when the engineer made his recommendations.

In other business at the meeting, the board tabled a motion dealing with the county municipal waste dumping act. In conjunc-

tion with State Act 101, the county has required all municipalities to license all private haulers and require them to take all waste to the Keystone Landfill.

The supervisors are hesitant to adopt such an ordinance and said they need more time to look into the matter.

"I think we need to sit down at a work session and hammer something out," said supervisor

Douglass Ide. "Let's find out what we want to do and get it over with."

Supervisor David Sutton said that he wanted to contact other municipalities to see how they handled the ordinance and to find out "...what effect did it have on the private haulers."

Ide agreed with Sutton's recommendation, saying, "I don't want to do anything to deter private haulers from coming in here."

Operation Desert Storm family support groups

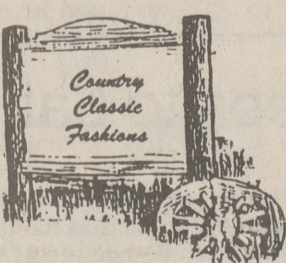
Several groups have formed to provide support, counseling and financial assistance to the families of soldiers who have been called up in Operation Desert Storm. Some of them are:

- Mercy Center - Every Tuesday, 7 p.m.-Support Group
- Shavertown United Methodist Church-Open 8 a.m.-10 p.m.-Silent Prayer
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church-Open daily 7:30 a.m.-Prayer Vigil; Doors open 9:15 a.m.-8 p.m. for prayer
- St. Therese's Church-Daily Noon-2 p.m. Blessed Sacrament exposed Monday-Friday
- St. Stephen's Episcopal Church-Open Noon daily for Prayer
- Trinity Presbyterian Church-Prayer for all Service Personnel every Sunday
- Gate of Heaven Church-Rev. Michael Sullivan or Rev. William Cusick-Counseling by appointment
- American Red Cross-823-7161 for location of support groups
- U.S. Army support group network-800-542-9254
- Salvation Army-Counseling, food, rent or utility assistance
- Hospice St. John-823-2144
- Lutheran Welfare Service-800-468-9136

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Correction

Due to a recording error the 1990 population listing for Lake Township and Ross Township were reversed in the Jan. 30, 1991 edition. The correct population figures released by the census bureau to area municipalities is shown in the chart below

Census Figures for Back Mountain communities

MUNICIPALITY	1980 POP.	PRE-POP.	1990 POP.	% CHG. 80-90
Dallas Borough	2,679	2,520	2,567	-4.2
Dallas Twp.	7,287	7,079	7,625	+4.6
Franklin Twp.	1,473	1,096	1,414	-4.0
Harveys Lake	2,318	2,687	2,746	+19.2
Jackson Twp.	2,941	5,179	5,336	+81.4
Kingston Twp.	6,535	6,582	6,763	+3.5
Lake Twp.	1,783	1,919	1,924	+7.9
Lehman Twp.	3,030	3,035	3,076	+1.5
Ross Twp.	2,323	2,571	2,634	+13.4

*1980 population is final census. PRE- is the 1990 preliminary count. The 1990 population is the latest count.

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