

# DALLAS POST

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## Harveys Lake threatens to pull out of Comm Center

By ERIC FOSTER  
Post Staff

Complaining of high costs and poor service from the Back Mountain Communications Center, Harveys Lake Borough Council voted at a special meeting October 30 to take steps to join the Luzerne County Communications Center.

The Back Mountain Communications Center has asked Harveys Lake to provide \$25,811 or, 15 percent, of its proposed 1992 operating budget of \$172,071.

According to David Macekura, director of Luzerne County Emergency Communications, the cost

to the borough for using the county dispatching services is nothing.

"I don't have any problem with any of the guys at the Comm Center," said councilman David Abod, who made the motion to begin the move to the county's system. "It's just gotten too expensive. I can't walk away from 0 versus \$25,000."

Macekura said that the county communications center has added an extra repeater, a station which rebroadcasts radio signals, which will eliminate the dead spots in the Harveys Lake area.

The county's communication center is also planning to move its

*"I don't have any problem with any of the guys at the Comm Center. It's just gotten too expensive."*

Dave Abod  
Harveys Lake Councilman

communication tower from the courthouse to Larksville Mountain, which should further improve service, Macekura said.

"The only reason we didn't do

this before is they didn't have the extra repeater up," said Abod.

Besides the cost, Assistant Harveys Lake Police Chief Ronald Spock, isn't pleased with the service from the Back Mountain Communications Center.

Spock said he's had officers radio the communications center asking for criminal histories, and the officers have been asked why they wanted them. He also said the radio signals aren't always received.

"There are dead spots with Back Mountain," said Spock. "You can't get on with your radio. Even 100 feet is too much of a dead spot."

Spock says that so far this year,

*"I don't want to start a fight with them. I'd rather see them stay and sit down with us."*

Paul Sabol  
Chairman of the Comm Center

seven officers around the country have been killed making traffic stops. "If that's going to happen," said Spock, "you really have to be in contact."

Councilman Joseph Sgarlat said he, Spock and Abod tested the

county system on October 31 and found only two dead spots - but they disappeared when the car was moved several feet.

**Where was Harveys Lake?**

The complaints of high costs and poor service have the chairman of the Back Mountain Communications Center, Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol, wondering why Harveys Lake's representatives don't show up at the center's monthly meetings.

"They should have had somebody there to argue on their be-

See COMM CENTER, pg 5

### LEAF PICKUPS SCHEDULED

Area municipalities have announced schedules for leaf collection. In all cases, leaves should be bagged and left at curbside. No burning of leaves is allowed because of drought conditions.

Kingston Township will pick up leaves the week of November 11-15 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Collection will be made in Dallas Township the week of November 18-22. Dallas Borough picks up leaves anytime until the first snowfall.

Leaves should not be swept into gutters or onto roadsides because they will block storm drains.

## Fire risk still great due to drought

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Correspondent

Four fire engines, a tanker and fire fighters from the Trucksville and Shavertown Fire companies responded to a structure fire early October 31 at the John Hilstolsky residence on Mount Olivet Road, Kingston Township. According to Trucksville Fire Company's Assistant Chief Brian Johnson, a 16-by-16-foot storage shed at the rear of the residence caught fire when leaves on the roof were ignited by sparks coming from the smoke pipe of the shed's woodburner.

Johnson said the fire was tapped out very quickly, although the shed burned to the ground. A tanker from Jackson Township had been placed on standby, Johnson added, while the Kingston Township Fire Police and personnel from nearby Frances Slocum State Park assisted in directing traffic on Mount Olivet Road.

Johnson took the opportunity of the fire to warn residents that

See DROUGHT, pg 12



**THE BACK MOUNTAIN REELERS** - Formed two years ago, the Reelers perform traditional songs and dance tunes of America and the British Isles. Shown from left are Rob Lewis, of Lehman, Margaret Bakker, Lehman, MaryLou Mehl, Shavertown, Paul Mehl, Shavertown.

## Dancing back to colonial times

By ERIC FOSTER  
Post Staff

You'd like to go dancing - but disco leaves you dizzy? Then you may be interested in contra dancing.

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Folklore Society and Chicory House will hold a contra dance Saturday, November 9, at Wilkes-Barre's First Presbyterian Church on South Franklin Street. Admission to the dance will be \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children ages 10 to 16. The dance will start at 7:30 p.m.

Contra dancing looks a bit like square dancing, but with an English rather than Country and Western feel. The dances, also called row or column dances, evolved from ancient fertility rites.

A contra dance can last up to ten minutes. But you needn't worry about looking like a dancing fool - the caller will go through each dance slowly at first.

"Some places in New England have had the dances continuously since colonial times," says Rob Lewis, of Lehman Township, a member of both the Folklore Society and Chicory House.

Lewis is a guitarist of the Back Mountain Reelers, a string band which plays traditional folk and contra dance music. The band, which has

been playing together for two years, also includes Paul Mehl of Shavertown on banjo and guitar; MaryLou Mehl of Shavertown on hammered dulcimer, recorders, and piano, and Margaret Bakker of Lehman on cello.

Most contra dancing music is from the British Isles, Irish, Scottish or English, but there is also some French and French Canadian music.

Because a dance can last for up to ten minutes, bands often combine two or three songs.

While Reelers played at the contra dance last June, Saturday's dance will feature Philadelphia area caller Sue Dupre, with music by Polansky, Stokoe, and Deane. The New York band features fiddle, tenor banjo, mandolin and guitar.

The first contra dance was held in the fall of 1990, after Dave Martin of Centermoreland and some other members of the Folklore Society had gone to a contra dance in New York.

Since then they've been held each month from September to June.

"We get 150 people sometimes," says Paul Mehl.

Singles, couples, beginners, young and old are welcome to the dance. Dancers should wear casual clothes, and preferably, soft-soled shoes.

See DANCING, page 12

## Dallas plans change to 7 school periods

By ERIC FOSTER  
Post Staff

Dallas School District secondary students may spend part of their spring semester in seven-class-period days, as opposed to the eight-class-period days the district currently offers.

At their committee of the whole meeting November 4, the Board of School Directors voted to have Middle School principal Dr. Gilbert Griffiths develop a 3-2 program for the Middle School.

The program would call for three school days a week with eight periods, and two days a week with seven periods - and could start next semester if the directors vote to do so. The seven-class-period schedule would call for fewer classes, but each class would be longer.

"My intention is that we move to a seven-period day next year," said director John Cleary, who made the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved by the directors.

Griffiths said that some preliminary work has been done since the

beginning of the school year.

"This is in anticipation of the 1992-93 school year," said Griffiths, who described the action as making a transitional step to having a seven-period day for grades six to 12.

"We're trying to put some more nuts and bolts in the courses," said Cleary.

Cleary said that a move to a seven-period day would mean that students would have more instructional time and fewer study halls.

Cleary also made a motion that District Superintendent Gerald Wycallis post a job opening for an assistant superintendent of instruction and curriculum.

"It's generally recognized that we could use some more continuity in curriculum," said Cleary.

"In the past 10 years, there has always been a director of curriculum," said director Ellen Nagy. "It wouldn't be creating a new job, but filling one left by Mr. (Fred) Templin."

The position of director of curriculum was left unfilled when

See SCHOOL PERIODS, pg 12

## Expressway opens Friday

Friday, November 8 might be called T Day, or Traffic Day for the Back Mountain.

That's the day the final leg of the Cross Valley Expressway will open.

There will be ribbon cutting ceremony at 1:30 p.m., and the highway will be open to traffic at about 3 p.m., according to Rolly Keisling, spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

The completed section of the expressway will connect Interstate 81 directly with Route 309 - eliminating the need to travel through Wilkes-Barre.

The opening of the highway has many area government and police officials worried that the Back Mountain will be flooded with a huge surge of new traffic on the already busy Route 309. In response to the concerns of increased traffic, PennDOT and area officials have formed the Back Mountain Transportation Management Association, which will meet again December 4 at 7 p.m. at Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

While the expressway will be open November 8, it will not be completely finished.

The exit ramp from the expressway to Wilkes-Barre Boulevard will not be completed until around Thanksgiving, according to Keisling. He said an acceleration lane at the River Street ramp will also be finished at around that time.

## 'PhoneFriend' lends an ear to latchkey kids

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Correspondent

"I'm home alone and I hear a strange noise." "My pet kitten died today." "Do you know how to multiply three numbers together?"

In its first year of operation, PhoneFriend, an after-school telephone help line for children answered 350 calls such as these from so-called latchkey children.

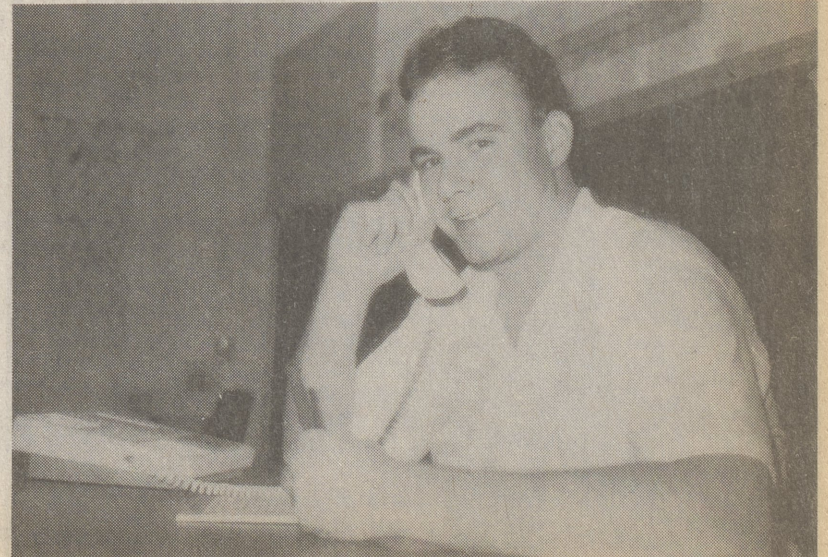
For the second consecutive year, Dallas United Methodist Church has made "PhoneFriend," a non-profit community outreach program and supportive system, available to children who spend time alone between the time that they arrive home from school and the time that their parents come home from work. The phones are manned by trained volunteers, mainly junior and senior students from the social work program at College

Misericordia.

Due to the need for many parents to work outside the home, the number of children home alone for an hour or two after school has grown significantly during the past several years. This situation can be worrisome not only for the children, but also for their parents, according to Reverend Michael Bealla, pastor of Dallas United Methodist Church. Calling a local number will put a child in touch with a trained operator who can lend a listening ear, help with a crisis or simply chat with the child about what happened that day at school. PhoneFriend services are available during the school year between 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on school days.

Volunteers have been trained to provide information to young call-

See PHONEFRIEND, pg 12



**PHONE FRIEND** - Brendan O'Leary, a senior liberal arts student at College Misericordia, is one volunteer in the PhoneFriend program for youngsters who are home alone. (Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)

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**AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** - Wed., Nov. 6, 11 AM-5 PM, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, Lehman. Appointments, 823-7161.

### Community Events

**VIETNAM VETERANS MEETING** - Wed., Nov. 6, 7 PM, Dallas Legion, Route 415. All veterans and interested parties invited.

**CRAFT FAIR** - Sat., Sun. Nov. 9, Trucksville Fire Hall, Carverton Rd.

**ROAST BEEF SUPPER** - Sat., Nov. 9, 5-7 PM, takeouts 4-4:30. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Shavertown. Adults \$6.00, children \$3.00.

**ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW** - Sat., Sun. Nov. 9-10, 10 AM-7 PM, Sat., 9:30-4:30 Sun. Our Lady of Victory Church, Harveys Lake. Free, refreshments available.

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