



# DALLAS POST

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35 Cents

## Story



**Lehman students** attended the District 9 Orchestra Festival. Page 10.

**Daffodil Days** are just around the corner. Page 3.



**Judy Fitch** crowned Miss Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. Next stop — Miss Pennsylvania pageant. Page 3.

**Dallas Junior Football** will hold registration for the new season Saturday, March 7. Page 10.



## Red Cross Blood Drives

Wed., March 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Penn State Wilkes-Barre.  
Wed., March 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lake-Lehman High School.  
Call 823-7161 for appointments.

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## Taxpayers, teachers spar at meeting

By ERIC FOSTER  
Post Staff

They didn't quite kiss and make up.

But the two sides in the controversy over salary negotiations for the Dallas School District teachers did behave more amicably at the school board's March 2 meeting than they had at the previous month's meeting.

At the February 10 meeting, about 1,100 people packed into the Middle School Auditorium to show their concern over the contract negotiations, which have been ongoing since the end of 1990.

That meeting was punctuated

by loud applause, cheering, occasional booing, with speakers often being interrupted.

About 200 people attended the March 2 meeting, and attended it rather quietly.

At the latest meeting, former school board president John Litz said the behavior at the last meeting was "damn near a lynch mob."

Litz pointed out that all those concerned with the negotiations were lucky for several reasons.

"You have a good board, a good staff, and a dedicated community," said Litz. "I think we are lucky we have the staff that we do. This faculty has worked long past August 31." The teachers contract

expired August 31, 1991. Litz pointed out that in some other district's the teachers went on strike soon after the contract expired.

And in contrast to some other school boards which settled contracts in only a few weeks that were not in the taxpayers' best interest, Litz said that this board has held firm in negotiations for over a year.

"It's a credit to the taxpayer," said Litz. "It's one of the most active taxpayers' groups."

Joseph Kuncic, president of the Dallas Taxpayers Forum contin-

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## Taxpayer group: Don't pay

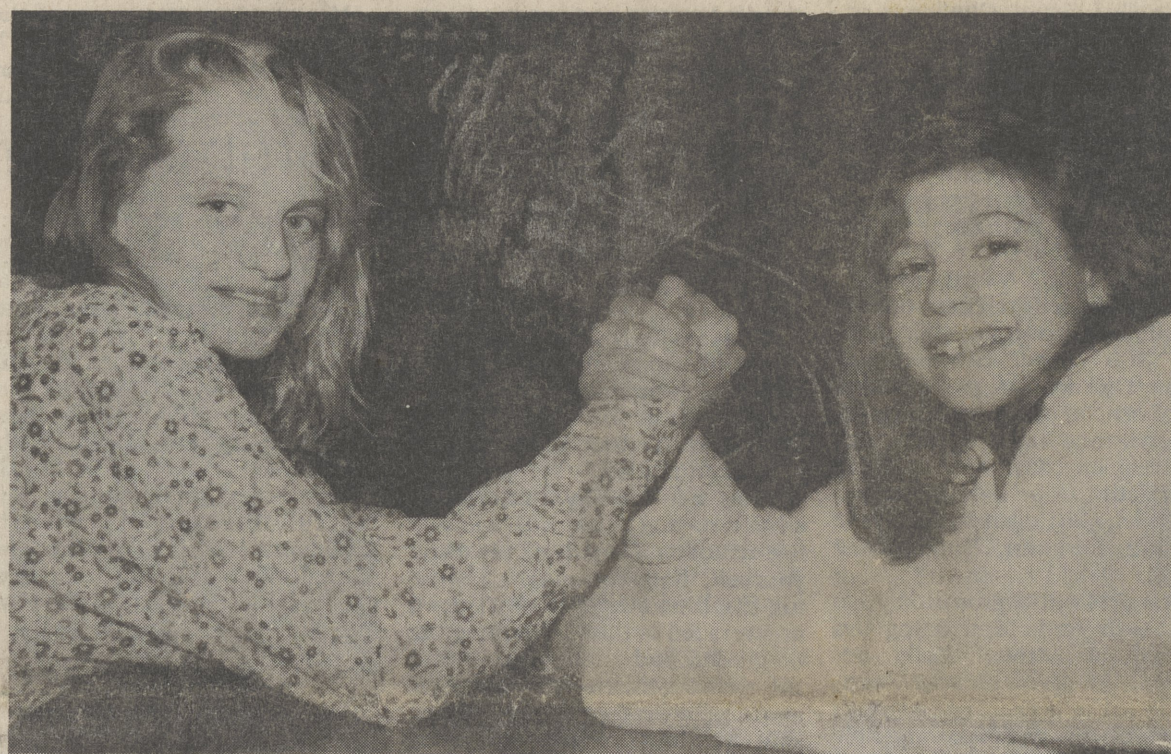
By ERIC FOSTER  
Post Staff

Are they revolutionaries or anarchists? Probably neither. The Dallas Taxpayers Forum has circulated a flyer calling on residents of the Dallas School District to withhold their taxes unless a two-year teacher salary freeze and merit pay program is instituted.

But in reality, the group has a much more flexible position. The flyer, of which about 1,000 have been circulated, doesn't make any bones about the freeze and merit pay program.

But Joe Kuncic, president of the Forum, quoting a newspaper editorial that said a 3% raise was reasonable, said the Taxpayers Forum could probably accept a raise like that. The teachers last

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**THE WINNING TECHNIQUE**— Girls' Division III champion Mandy Kehler and Division II champion Erica Fugate demonstrate their holds at Lake-Noxen School's arm wrestling tournament. Additional photo on page 14. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

## Putting some muscle into it Lake-Noxen picks arm wrestling champs

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

More than 85 students at Lake-Noxen Elementary School recently participated in the school's 10th annual arm wrestling tournament, featuring three divisions for girls and four for boys in fifth and sixth grades.

"We run the competition in late February," explained gym teacher Dwight Barbacci. "But the kids have been preparing for it and asking me about it since September. It's very popular."

Sixth graders Mandy Kehler and Erica Fugate demonstrated their winning techniques, maintaining the correct arm position and concentrating on their grip, while Brian Smigielski and Eddie Engleman glared at each other as aggressively as

Hulk Hogan confronting Andre the Giant.

School winners in the girls' competition included Amy Grabner, fifth grade, Division I; Erica Fugate, sixth grade, Division I and Mandy Kehler, sixth grade, Division II.

Boys' division winners included George Nichols, sixth grade, flyweight; Howard Long, sixth grade, lightweight; Eddie Engleman, fifth grade, middleweight and Brian Smigielski, sixth grade, heavyweight.

Barbacci observed a similar tournament ten years ago while student teaching at Muncy Elementary School and brought it to Lake-Noxen. He says that it is very safe and a good outlet for the kids' energy.

And the seven winners were very proud to take home a winning trophy.

## HL Water Company to drill new well

By ERIC FOSTER  
Post Staff

After years of low water pressure, and worrying about the quality of their water, the Harveys Lake Water Company's 58 customers may have water from a new well soon, and better service along with it.

Michael Coyle, manager of the company said a one-acre lot has been purchased along Carpenter Road from the Ruckno family for \$18,000 to drill a well on. Coyle also manages the Noxen, Dallas, and Shavertown water companies, which were purchased by General Waterworks in May of 1990.

The Harveys Lake Water Company's problems in providing good service spring from the location of its present well — in the traffic island where Route 415 meets Harveys Lake.

The company does not own the land the well is located on, and can't make any large improvements to it, such as adding a storage tank. The well is also considered to be under the influence of Harveys Lake by the Department of Environmental Resources, and so

See WATER, pg 2



**GOING FOR GOLD** - Senior Girl Scout Kelly Freeman of Dallas Township is working to earn the Gold Award, Girl Scouting's highest award. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

## Kelly Freeman goes for Girl Scout Gold

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

After 11 years in Girl Scouts, Kelly Freeman of Dallas will soon realize a dream — achieving the Gold Award, Girl Scouting's highest honor.

During her scouting career, Kelly has earned more than 35 badges, many patches, two leadership torches and the Silver Award. She also has volunteered many hours in the concession stand at the Lehman Horse Show, at the Back Mountain Memorial Library, and as a candy stripper at the Meadows Nursing Home.

Kelly has also helped at Girl Scout inter-neighborhood events, assisted other troops with badge work and served as a counselor and chairman at a day camp.

But the 18-year-old Dallas High School senior's greatest challenge has not come through scouting.

"I am learning disabled," Kelly explained. "That's the main reason that I decided to try for the Gold Award; to show my community that I am capable of achieving something important, of working in a position of responsibility in spite of my learning disability."

Equivalent to the Boy Scouts' Eagle Scout award, the Gold Award has a strict set of requirements.

When Kelly first decided to attempt it, one of the Gold Award's prerequisites was achievement of the Silver Award, which she earned. But the Gold Award rules were recently changed and the Silver Award is no longer required.

Kelly's Silver Award work included earning three special-interest badges and a career explorer pin, working 20 hours as a volunteer and completing a challenge and a written self-evaluation.

For the Gold Award, Kelly had to earn four additional patches, another career exploration pin and the Senior Leadership Award, complete a challenge and do a project. Penn's Woods Girl Scout Council interviews each Gold Award candidate and approves her project before she can begin.

Kelly's career exploration pin required reading in the Girl Scout Handbook, writing a resume and choosing one of five options: to plan a career fair, plan a speaking project, work for an employer as an intern, get a paying job or start

See GIRL SCOUT, pg 2

## Teacher guilty in bank scam is fired

By ERIC FOSTER  
Post Staff

Dallas High School social studies teacher Kit Karuza was suspended for "immorality" by the Dallas Board of School Directors at its meeting Monday, March 2.

The board voted unanimously to suspend Karuza.

Karuza and Diana L. Olsen, both of 2568 Lower Demunds Road, Dallas, pled guilty to bank larceny in federal court on February 21, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Brandler.

Karuza and Olsen were charged with running a check kiting scheme between accounts at the Franklin First Federal Savings Bank and First Eastern Bank in Wilkes-Barre between November, 1990 and

October 1991. On repeated occasions, worthless checks would be deposited in an account and the funds withdrawn for use before the check could be cleared. Olsen had been employed by First Eastern Bank.

The Franklin First Federal Savings Bank lost \$15,726.41 as a result of the scheme, according to the U.S. Attorney's office.

The pair were indicted November 26, 1991 by a federal grand jury for bank fraud, according to James J. West, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. After the indictment, Karuza continued to teach at the district on the advice of solicitor Benjamin Jones on the principle

See FIRED, pg 2

## Jackson soil cleanup could cost \$200,000

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

After having excavated twice as many oil tanks as had been expected from the front of the new Jackson Township municipal building, Jackson Township supervisors unearthed another unpleasant surprise—nearly twice the expected amount of contaminated soil. That discovery could add as much as \$200,000 to the cost of cleaning up the area.

When the township contracted with R. N. Fitch and Sons to remove two 2,000-gallon and one 1,000-gallon oil tanks, they instead found four 4,000 gallon and two 1,000 tanks.

And after Fitch removed approximately 569 tons of gasoline-tainted soil from the site, an additional 600-700 tons of contaminated soil were discovered.

"Removing the soil alone will cost us \$84 per ton," said supervisor Joseph Stager. "But after figuring in the costs of the hydrological study, removing the tanks, excavation, obtaining permits and other work, the estimated cost of the cleanup could run between \$200,000 and \$230,000."

Stager said that the contaminated soil will be shipped by truck to Pittsburgh, then by barge to

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