



THE DALLAS POST

Vol. 103 No. 11

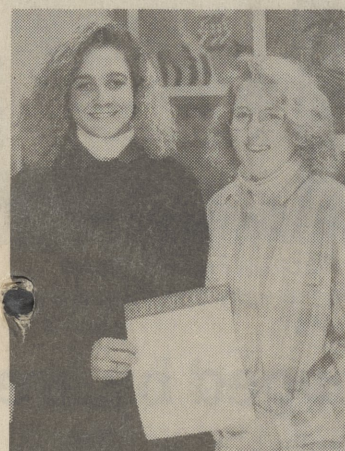
Dallas, PA Wednesday, March 18, 1992

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Inside Story

Water? Is there enough

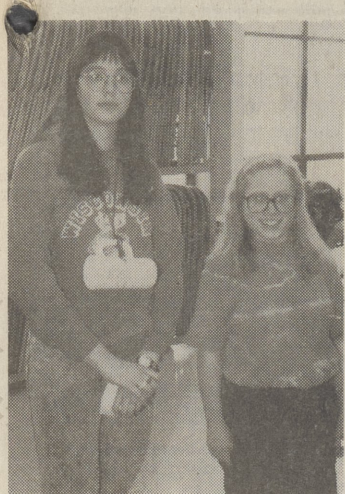
No one really knows. Page 3.



Scholastic Art Awards for two Lake-Lehman students. Page 8.

Back Mtn. Baseball will hold playoffs March 21 and 28. Sports page.

Mike Geurin, Charlie Jacoby place in state wrestling meet. Sports page.



Girl Scouts go to Washington Kelly Freeman leads the Promise. Page 10.

Kingston Township supervisors protest cable TV price hike. Page 16.

Legalize drugs? Johnson says maybe. Page 5.

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Teachers, board agree to 5% raise

By ERIC FOSTER Post Staff

The new contract between Dallas School District and its teachers may become a benchmark for school boards throughout the state. With average annual pay increases of 5%, the agreement will mean teachers will get about one-half the raises they had initially asked for.

The Dallas School Board unanimously approved the three-year contract at a special meeting Monday, March 11. The agreement would grant the district's 142 teachers a 5% average pay raise for the next two years, bringing the average teacher's salary from \$38,646 to \$40,578 for the current year, and to \$42,607 next

year. Salary negotiations would be re-opened in the third year, but the benefits would remain the same. The contract will be retroactive to September 1, 1991.

William Wagner, president of the Dallas teacher's union said the teachers voted to accept the contract earlier Monday by "a very narrow margin."

According to superintendent Gerald Wycallis, the Dallas contract has the lowest percentage increase of any contracts settled this year that he's aware of. Wycallis said the lowest settlement he had previously heard of was a "little under 7%, like 6.9%."

"I'm proud of this staff and what they did to continue the educational program," said Wycallis. "There's probably not any other

More on page 16

- Some benefits deferred
- Individual raises vary widely

school district that has had this much pressure on their staff."

"I think they took into consideration the economy," Wycallis said.

Though the contract grants a 5% pay increase, the cost to the district will be the same as a 4 1/2% package that the board offered the teachers in February because many benefits will be reduced, or come into effect later.

The three major benefit reductions from the previous offer were in life insurance, increases in the hourly rate for homebound and summer school teachers, and in the extra personal day, said board president Ernest Ashbridge.

The total increased cost of the package will be \$275,187 this year and around \$300,000 the second year. The cost of the 4 1/2% package was \$247,668 in salaries and

\$28,434 in benefits for a total of \$276,102.

Ashbridge said that the contract will not cause any tax increase this year as the board used an 8% salary increase when preparing the budget for this year. For the 1993-94 school year, Ashbridge said that, barring unforeseen changes in things such as state subsidies, there would be a minimal tax increase if any at all.

"It is a fair proposal," said board member James Richardson. "It is not what either of us wanted at the beginning, which is what negotiations are about."

When voting to accept the contract, many of the board members praised the district's teachers for

See 5% RAISE, pg 16

Farmland preserved with help from state

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

Twenty years ago, old family farms were a large part of the Back Mountain's image as a quiet, rural community. But as land values rose, many acres of pasture land have been transformed into housing developments.

And the sudden influx of people unaccustomed to rural life has created complaints about the unpleasant noise from crowing roosters, roads blocked by herds of cows on their way to pasture and the unique odor of "dairy-air" produced by manure spreaders working in nearby fields.

Thanks to the Agricultural Security Act, a way has been found to encourage preservation of farmland and to prevent townships from enacting nuisance ordinances which might interfere with normal farm operations, such as manure spreaders, cattle crossings—and even crowing roosters.

The act has been a great help to 24 farmers in Jackson Township, who joined in 1985 to preserve 1,813 acres on some of the area's oldest family farms, according to Fred Wertz of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmland Preservation Office.

This year 2,000 acres in the township will be protected, Wertz said.

Under the Agricultural Security See FARMLAND, pg 10



THREE GENERATIONS OF FARMING - Francis, Butch, Mark and John Manzoni work the family's century-old Forest Heights

Farm in Jackson Twp. Much of the Manzoni's farm has been designated an agricultural security area. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

First rabies case of '92 found in Lehman

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

According to the Pennsylvania Health Department, a fox in Lehman has been confirmed as Luzerne County's first rabies case this year.

Health Department epidemiologist Bernie Healey said that the fox had not been in contact with humans.

"Rabies outbreaks usually run in three-year cycles," Healey explained. "The past two years have been bad; Luzerne County had 15 confirmed cases, mostly in raccoons, in 1991. We expect them to drop off after this year."

What to do if you're bitten. Pg. 10

Last year's rabies cases included one bat, eleven raccoons and three skunks, according to data from the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The data reported no cases in 17 counties.

A fatal viral disease of the central nervous system, rabies is transmitted by the saliva from the bite from an infected animal, according to information supplied by

See RABIES, pg 10

He found \$1,000... and gave it right back

What would you do if you found \$1,000 lying in the road? Michael Stevens found himself in that very position Wednesday afternoon, March 11, but there was never any question in his mind of what he would do.

A manager at the Burger King in Shavertown, Stevens was driving north on Route 309 when he saw something on the road near the traffic light at Center Street. He stopped his car, put on his flashers, and checked to see what the object was.

It turned out to be an envelope with a name on it, \$1,000 in twenty dollar bills, and a bank deposit slip. Stevens called the bank, then turned the cash over to the Kingston Township police, who returned the money to the Harveys Lake man who lost it. The man met Stevens and gave him a reward.

"I'd want the same thing done for me," said Stevens, of West Pittston. "I'm an honest person. I'm a born again Christian. It's how I was raised. It's what I was taught in church."

— By Eric Foster



YUK - Girl Scout inter-neighborhood event: Encouraged by Lee Williams, Junior Girl Scout Erika Turner dabs fabric paint onto a large bluegill, which will be pressed against a piece of cloth to make a printed neckerchief. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

Girl Scouts help 'Save Our Earth'

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

Back Mountain Daisy, Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts learned to print a neckerchief using a real fish, decorate pet rocks, make recycled paper from junk mail and lay out a model fire using pretzels and marshmallows—later recycled as a snack—as part of an inter-neighborhood event, "Save Our Earth," Saturday, March 14.

Organized by Senior Scouts Michelle Zikor of Trucksville and Kelly Freeman of Dallas Township as the final part of their Gold Award project, the event held at Lehman-Jackson school featured environmental education, awareness and fun activities geared to the young girls' ages and interests.

Daisies played indoor badminton using balloons and empty salad dressing containers, explored food chains by tying yarn between different animals and what each one eats and decorated pet rocks.

Squeals and giggles echoed from the Brownies' section as they used a multi-colored parachute to toss a "Nerf" ball into the air. "That helps them work off excess energy," Kelly laughed.

Other Brownies learned to lay out model fires and listened raptly to the whimsical Dr. Seuss story of *The Lorax*, a magical creature

See GIRL SCOUTS, pg 9