

Safety

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Coslett thought those incidents were isolated until a slew of concerned parents asked him what could be done after the school board's last meeting on April 13.

Because children are so likely to dart across the street after they leave a school bus, state law says that all drivers heading in either direction on a road must stop at least 10 feet away from a bus whenever they see a bus stop with its red flashing lights on and stop sign extended. There is only one exception. On a highway where the opposing lanes are divided by a barrier such as a concrete curb, guardrails, or an expanse of grass, opposing traffic does not have to stop for a school bus.

"The bus drivers get upset about it, but there's not much they can do," said Coslett. Coslett has noticed that the problem is generally with drivers heading in the opposite direction, and because Pennsylvania doesn't require license plates on the front of cars, it's tough for bus drivers to get a license number to give to police.

Though driving past a bus with flashing red lights could cost a driver 5 points on their driver's license and a 60 day suspension of their driving privileges, few are ever punished. If you have six or more points on your license you've got to take a special examination or the license will be suspended.

"The way Pennsylvania Law is written it's nearly impossible to prosecute the driver. They have to have the correct license plate number, a description of the car, and be able to identify the driver," said Lake-Lehman's transportation director Barbara Ross. If a witness can't positively identify the driver it's easy for a violator to beat the charge.

"To avoid prosecution, a driver can say they weren't driving the car at that time and don't know who was," said Ross. "I'd like to see the law written so if you own the vehicle you're responsible, or you name the person who was driving."

So far this year, Ross said she's had half a dozen reports from drivers of cars going by while children climb out of the bus, but she knows "some of the drivers don't mention it to me because of the futility with the law."

Though incidents have been reported to the police, Ross said that Lehman has never been able to press any charges because there hasn't been enough evidence.

Coslett recently took an athletic approach to trying to solve the problem by chasing after a car on foot.

"Needless to say," said Coslett. "I'm not Carl Lewis and I didn't catch it."

Seat belts on buses could cause more injuries than they prevent

Pennsylvania law requires that everyone in cars, light trucks and motor homes wear seat belts.

Children especially must be buckled into special safety seats when riding with mom and dad.

Yet once they get into a school bus, most children in Pennsylvania can't buckle up even if they wanted to.

And they may be safer for it.

"In New York, seat belts were required for a time, but injuries on the bus went up," says Barbara Ross, Lake-Lehman School District's transportation coordinator. "The students did not use the seat belts correctly, they became weapons. Students reached their destination with black eyes and bone fractures."

According to the Pennsylvania School Bus Association, it's much safer inside a school bus than out, with no fatalities inside a school bus in the state in the last 10 years. Each year, however, there have been at least two children killed outside the bus, either by the bus, or another motorist illegally passing the bus.

School buses are massive enough to absorb the damage from collisions with most other vehicles without much of the shock being transmitted to the children inside, says the association.

A National Highway Association report notes that nearly all fatal school bus accidents involve the bus being hit by a larger vehicle such as a train or heavy truck, or hitting a large

fixed object like a bridge abutment, and that the accident is so catastrophic that seat belts would not have helped.

Ross also notes that today's buses have improved.

"Seats are now padded so if a student goes forward and hits the seat, the chance of injuries is reduced," said Ross.

So how safe are buses?

In 1987, the National Safety Council concluded that school buses are twice as safe as transit buses, four times safer than trains, five times safer than scheduled airlines, and 53 times safer than passenger automobiles.

— By Eric Foster



JUST CHECKING - John and Michael Pitcavage of Jackson Township check their friend Tramp for ticks after a hard day in the fields and woods. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

Disease

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In later stages it can affect the central nervous system and can lead to facial palsy, meningitis or encephalitis. The final stage affects the heart.

"Lyme disease can be difficult to diagnose, since it mimics other diseases. But it is treatable with several common antibiotics, administered under a doctor's supervision," Healey added.

Lyme disease has become the most common tick-borne disease in the United States, with a concentration in the northeastern, northcentral and Pacific coast states, according to a pamphlet released by the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association.

Lyme disease presents a variety of symptoms in dogs, ranging from lethargy, loss of appetite and possible rash or swelling around the eyelids to fever, chronic lameness and arthritis. Diagnosis also can be made through a blood test, for which Bucha charges \$21.

"I've found most Lyme disease cases in dogs; very few have been documented in cats," Bucha said. "We're not sure why, since the ticks that carry it have been found on many species of large and small game, as well as on waterfowl and migratory birds."

The culprits responsible for spreading it are the deer tick, Lone star tick and American dog tick, all common in the Northeast, and western and midwestern tick species. Other blood-sucking insects, including flies, fleas and mosquitoes, can also transmit Lyme disease.

Vaccines are available through veterinarians and should be administered yearly, according to Dr. John Bucha of Trucksville.

Brushing Rover and routinely checking both him and yourself for ticks after each outing can go a long way in prevention, Bucha suggested.

Using a good pyrethrin spray before and after walking in the woods, routinely dusting family dogs with a good flea and tick powder and keeping the yard free of tall grass and brush where ticks live will also help reduce tick contact.

Healey added, "Ticks can be difficult to remove properly because they don't burrow underneath the skin; they sort of screw themselves in. People should be very careful to remove the tick's head as well as its body to prevent infection."

If someone removes a tick from either themselves or the family pet, they can call the Pennsylvania Health Department to find out how to have it identified to see if it is one of the Lyme disease transmitters. The dead tick should be kept in rubbing alcohol in a closed pill bottle.

Keeping the yard and pets tick-free and being alert for flu-like symptoms can go a long way in reducing the risks of Lyme disease in all family members, two-legged as well as four-legged.

Robbers

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an employee behind the counter to "just give me the money," according to the police report.

After being given approximately \$300, the couple escaped on foot around the side of the building onto Columbia Ave.

Police later recovered both ski masks and a \$20 bill.

Police described the woman as approximately 40 years old, between 5'4" and 5'6" tall, with long, brown hair tied back with a purple pony tail holder.

The man was thin, approxi-

mately 30 years old, 6 feet tall, and had a mustache, police said.

Dallas Borough Police Chief Jack Fowler investigated the incident, assisted by Dallas Borough patrolman James Drury, Dallas Township patrolmen Wayman Miers and Doug Higgins and Kingston Township patrolmen Walter Davis and Mike Moravec.

Dallas Borough police ask anyone having any information on this case to call them at 675-4650.

Daring

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"Everybody is always looking forward to retirement, that's not my goal, to retire," said Daring. "I'm only 66, I'm too young to retire."

Opened in the springtime during the late 1950s, the store has grown through five additions, and is one of a dwindling number of independent supermarkets.

"There used to be a lot of independent stores," said Daring. "Now you have convenient mar-

kets."

The secret of his success?

"Hard work," said Daring. "That's what you do in this business. Work hard."

While supermarkets have changed since Daring started his store, not all the change has been bad. When he first started, he was delivered sides of beef weighing nearly 200 pounds. Today, the beef is delivered in lighter pieces, weighing about 100 pounds.

Pet vaccinations recommended

Keeping family pets healthy goes beyond the initial worming and puppy/kitten shots. Dr. John Bucha recommends booster shots of different vaccines and yearly checkups throughout a pet's life to keep it free of serious and possibly fatal diseases.

Dogs should be vaccinated yearly for:

- Canine distemper, hepatitis and leptospirosis ("DHL")
- Parainfluenza
- Parvovirus ("parvo")
- Bordetella (tracheal bronchitis or "kennel cough")
- Coronavirus
- Lyme disease
- Rabies (some shots are good for two or three years; ask the vet)

The dog's yearly checkup should also include screenings for heartworm and intestinal parasites (roundworms, tapeworms, etc.)

Cats should be vaccinated yearly for:

- Feline distemper
- Feline leukemia (three shots the first year, then one per year)
- Feline respiratory disease (two shots the first year for kittens, then one per year)
- Rabies

Pet owners having any questions about their animals' vaccinations should contact their family veterinarian.

What to do if you are bitten

Even the best precautions can't always prevent unforeseen accidents, such as being bitten by an animal. The Pennsylvania Game Commission has provided some tips on what to do if a family member or a pet has been bitten by a strange animal.

- Contact a hospital emergency room, family doctor or your pet's veterinarian immediately.
- Thoroughly wash the wound with soap and water.
- Make every possible effort to secure the suspected animal without being bitten yourself. If you know the animal's owner, ask to see proof that it has a current rabies vaccination.
- If it is necessary to shoot the animal, do so quickly and humanely, but do not shoot it in the head. The only test for rabies is an examination of the suspected animal's brain.
- Wrap the suspected animal's body in two layers of plastic bags and keep it cold until it can be turned over to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Do not freeze it. Be sure to wear rubber gloves.
- If a person has been bitten, report it to the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 826-3062.
- If an animal has been bitten, report it to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at 388-2416.

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