

The Dallas Post

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BRIGHTON BINDER
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BRIGHTON, IA

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In
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STATES

COMMUNITY



Holiday play
at Shavertown Methodist
Page 12.

Odd drums
gain award for Black
Knight band. Page 3.

SCHOOL

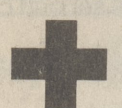
Honor rolls
Pages 9-10.

SPORTS



Kirby Jo
Richards skates
at national meet. Sports
page.

Basketball
previews
Sports page.



Red Cross
Blood drive
Tuesday, December 15,
11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Irem
Temple Country Club.
Call 823-7164 for ap-
pointments.

INDEX

- 16 Pages 1 Section
Calendar.....12
Classified.....14-15
Editorials.....4
Obituaries.....13
Police report.....2
Property transfers..2
School.....9-10
Sports.....11

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NEWS OR ADVERTISING

Emergency planning
needed, experts say

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Six accidents, one on Hillside
Road near Route 309, two within
two years of each other on a 1/2-
mile stretch of Route 309 in
Shavertown, and three in the past
two years on Route 29, have several
disturbing similarities.
Each resulted in the two
highways being closed down, once
for more than 20 hours.
Each involved hazardous
materials, including chlorine,
natural gas, diesel fuel, gasoline
and flammable industrial
byproducts, which either leaked
or could have leaked into the air,
onto the roadway or into nearby
streams.

And although emergency
personnel from many communities
worked efficiently together to
prevent these situations from
becoming disasters, the Back
Mountain has no formal, written
emergency guidelines for such
emergencies.
Route 309 at Hillside Auto Sales,
opposite the Ranch Wagon, was
the scene of a natural gas leak
Wednesday, December 2, shortly
before 1 p.m., when a contractor's
backhoe accidentally broke a gas
main.
Police shut down the
southbound lanes of the highway
for half an hour, until the gas was
shut off and danger of explosion
was past.

The highway had been shut
down a year ago, on a rainy mid-
October afternoon, when a chlorine
leak developed at the water
filtration plant on Hillside Road,
near Route 309.
In late October, 1990, a tanker
full of gasoline overturned on the
same stretch of highway, spilling
gasoline onto the roadway, into
storm sewers and into a nearby
creek.
In Thursday's accident on Route
29 near the intersection with Chase
Road (the Bonkotown section of
Jackson Township), a tanker full
of hazardous industrial waste
overturned and almost slid into a
nearby creek.
See EMERGENCY, pg 16

Two incidents in 2 days
test police, fire depts.

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Quick action by emergency response personnel prevented two
potentially dangerous situations within two days last week from
becoming possible disasters.
Several lanes of Route 309 in Dallas Township were closed for
half an hour shortly before 1 p.m. Wednesday, December 2, when
a backhoe owned by Hourigan Brothers Contractors hit and broke
a 1/2-inch gas line in front of Hillside Auto Sales, opposite the
Ranch Wagon.
At noon Thursday, December 3, a tanker carrying hazardous
liquid waste overturned on Route 29 in Jackson Township, near the
end of Chase Road, causing the road to be closed for 20 hours and
a dozen nearby homes to be evacuated.
According to Pennsylvania Gas and Water Co. spokesman June
Ann Greco, crews shut off the gas line on Route 309 at Hillside Auto
Sales and had the leak repaired in less than two hours. There was
no danger of gas leaking into nearby buildings because the gas
quickly dissipated into the air, she said.
See 2 INCIDENTS, pg 16

The Dallas Post gets a new home



The Dallas Post is now completely set up and operating in its new quarters on Main Road, Dallas
Township, opposite Offset Paperback. (Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)

Jackson Twp. taxes
to take big jump

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Jackson Township supervisors
unanimously approved the draft of
a \$586,062.90 budget which will
raise property tax rates from 3.5 to
13.5 mills at a special meeting
Monday, December 7.
"Taxes have not been raised in
Jackson Township for more than
30 years," said supervisor Joe
Stager.
"The township has been
fortunate to see great growth,
resulting in more revenues from
the earned income and property
taxes. But that growth has levelled
off, and we must become
responsible and realistic in order
to maintain what we have."
Stager said that more than
\$390,000 alone is needed for road
repair and maintenance because
guidelines for these projects set up
in 1974 were not followed. The
same eight roads at the top of the
"must repair" list in 1974 weren't
worked on and are still on the 1993
list.
"If the supervisors back in 1974
had stuck to their original format,

all of our roads would be paved by
now," he continued. "And paving
costs have tripled in the past 19
years."
In addition, the road department
employees, who did not receive
pay raises last year, were awarded
a four percent cost-of-living raise.
Health insurance and workmen's
compensation insurance
premiums have skyrocketed,
Stager continued.
Other necessary expenditures
include increased fees to the Back
Mountain Communications
Center, a new police cruiser, a
VASCAR unit to apprehend
speeders and a portable breath
test unit to test drivers suspected
of driving while under the influence.
Walter Glogowski said that the
average assessed valuation is
\$2,500, with one mill generating
\$7,600 in revenue. Under the new
budget, one mill will equal \$13.50
per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.
The budget draft will be posted
for public inspection at the
municipal building until Monday,
December 28, when the
supervisors will vote on it.



"Twas the night
before Christmas..."
Stacey Fox narrated the Lake-
Lehman school district's
kindergarten Christmas program,
Friday, December 4. (Post
Photo/Grace R. Dove)

Lot next to Jackson Twp.
building holds leaky tank

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

The person who purchased the
old LaSalle Oil Company property,
adjoining the property where the
Jackson Township municipal
building is located, is in for a big
surprise when Luzerne County
issues his deed January 15.
Purchased for less than \$300
for back taxes at a recent sheriff's
sale, the land contains a buried
tank that is leaking oil into the soil
of the adjoining municipal parcel.
And the Jackson Township
supervisors want the tank removed
and the contaminated soil cleaned
up.
A year ago, the township received
an unwelcome surprise when
contractors refurbishing the
municipal building found six large
underground tanks leaking oil into
surrounding soil.
Removal of the tanks and more
than 1,200 tons of contaminated
soil cost the township in excess of
\$200,000, but didn't totally correct
the problem; contractors found
another leaking tank on adjoining
property then belonging to LaSalle
Oil Company.
Township solicitor Blythe Evans
made numerous unsuccessful
attempts to contact LaSalle Oil
Company to request that they
remove the leaking tank.
Although the supervisors have
decided to wait to take further
action on the leaky tank until
Luzerne County issues the deed to
the parcel, the new owner will

ultimately face three choices:
remove the tank and clean up the
contamination, attempt to settle
the matter through legal channels
or default on the taxes and allow
the land to once again be sold at
sheriff's sale.
"The rule in a sheriff's sale is let
the buyer beware," Evans said.
"You never get a clean bill of health
from a property purchased for back
taxes and liens."
In other business, the
supervisors commended township
emergency management director
and fire chief Rollie Evans and all
those involved in Thursday's
accident on Route 29, where a
tanker full of hazardous chemicals
overturned, for their fine work.
Chief of police Don Jones
reported on an accident involving
the marked police cruiser, which
slid over an embankment on
Hardisky Road Saturday afternoon,
December 5, while responding to
an accident on Route 29.
The supervisors approved the
sale of the old police office trailer to
Dallas Nursery for \$625.
Action on bids for an insurance
package were tabled until the
December 28 work session, so that
the supervisors can meet with
representatives from the two
companies who submitted bids.
Michael Tribendis was
unanimously appointed to the
recreation board.
A meeting to approve the budget
is scheduled for Monday, December
28, at 6:30 p.m., to be followed by
the regular work session at 7 p.m.



PTA AWARD - Lehman-Jackson PTA president Tammy
McMahon, principal Charles James and past president Debbie
Maskalis show off the award for best local unit, which their
organization recently won.
(Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)

Lehman-Jackson PTA
wins statewide award

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Lehman-Jackson school's
Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)
recently won its fifth statewide
award for most outstanding local
unit.
Presented at the state PTA
convention October 23-25 at the
Woodlands in Plains, the award
recognized the local unit with the
best scrapbook of activities, largest
increase in membership, highest
quality of student programs and
best local press publicity.
"I felt surprised, very gratified.
They didn't give us any advance
warning," said 1991-92 president
Debbie Maskalis, describing last
year as "very challenging."

Last year the Lehman-Jackson
PTA purchased and installed a
fitness-obstacle module and two
pieces of play equipment to upgrade
the school's play areas.
Working with UGI Corporation,
which helped fund the program,
the PTA also started Reading is
FUNdamental (R.I.F.), a nationwide
program which encourages young
students to learn to enjoy reading,
in the school's first grades.
Other activities included a visit
from a local fire company for Fire
Prevention Week, a Halloween
parade and party, book fairs,
special educational assemblies, the
monthly school store, where
students may purchase pencils and
other inexpensive school supplies.
See PTA AWARD, pg 16