

# Students gather items for SPCA animals

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Thanks to the generosity of students at Dallas Elementary School, animals at the Luzerne County SPCA will have extra food, munchies, blankets and toys for the holiday season.

Organized by first-grade teacher Mrs. Roeder and Lauren Marcikonis of the SPCA, who have done this holiday drive since 1976, the collection netted a van load of food, pet toys, cleaning supplies, blankets, pet supplies and even several pairs of doggy earmuffs.

"All I can say is - WOW!" said SPCA animal shelter manager Ed Gross. "These kids really outdid themselves this year. Our van was jam-packed from floor to ceiling."

Students brought donations to their homerooms, to pack into decorated boxes which were later collected in the gym, where the fifth-graders organized the many items on the stage to be formally presented to the SPCA in a special assembly Monday, December 21.

"The SPCA has been my pet project for many years," Mrs. Roeder said. "My Sheltie, Hope, came from their shelter."

Fifth-graders setting up the stage for the presentation echoed her sentiments.

"My family has adopted three cats and two dogs from the SPCA," said Anna Lloyd.

Assembly emcee Tyler Morgan said that his mother has seen people abandon cats on the campus of College Misericordia, where she works. "We couldn't report them because we weren't able to get their license numbers," he said.

"My grandfather found my cat, Natasha, buried in a snowbank with just her head sticking out on

a street in West Wyoming," said David Jumper. "She was only a tiny kitten then. He took care of her until she was healthy enough to come and live with us."

Michael Bayer has found two lost dogs wandering in his neighborhood, which his family took to the SPCA after searching unsuccessfully for their owners.

During the assembly, Marcikonis shared with the children some of her experiences as an SPCA animal care agent. The SPCA takes care of dogs, cats, horses, hamsters, birds, ducks, gerbils and ducks, she said.

An animal care agent also investigates cases of animal cruelty or neglect. Usually the pet owner doesn't mean to hurt the animals; they simply don't know how to properly care for them, Marcikonis said.

Severe cases can result in the owner being arrested and either paying a fine or going to jail, she said.

Nearly half of the children who had pets told Marcikonis that they had been adopted from the SPCA, which can house up to 100 dogs and 50 cats.

Assisted by Mrs. Lynda Gross and "guest star" Mrs. Roeder, Marcikonis presented a skit on the importance of knowing the right way to select and care for family pets.

Certain Christmas traditions say that the animals can speak during a special magical time around midnight on Christmas Eve.

Someone listening carefully at the SPCA shelter that night might hear them giving thanks for the generous students at Dallas Elementary School.



**CERTIFIED FIREFIGHTERS** - Newly certified as Fire Fighter I, from left, Lynn Sheehan, Jr., Harry Vivian and Ted Wright. Absent from photo, Patrick Hozempa.

## Four Dallas firefighters earn special state certification

Four local fire fighters have received notification from the Pennsylvania Fire Commissioners Office, through the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, that they have successfully completed all the necessary requirements and have been certified as Fire Fighter I by the Pennsylvania Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board. The Pennsylvania Board is accredited by the National Professional Qualifications Board of the National Fire Protection Association.

Fire fighters receiving the professional certification are Patrick Hozempa, Lynn Sheehan, Jr., Harry Vivian and Ted Wright. They are all members of the Dallas Fire & Ambulance, Inc.

The certification process included a comprehensive written examination and practical skills testing in which the candidates were required to demonstrate knowledge, competency and proficiency in accordance with NFPA Standard 1001. Subject areas in which the fire fighters

were tested include fire alarms and communications systems, fire chemistry and behavior, salvage and overhaul operations, ventilation, rescue, sprinkler systems, fire inspection procedures, hoses, appliances and fire streams, ropes, self contained breathing apparatus, forcible entry techniques, CPR and emergency medical care and general fire department safety practices.

Fire fighter certification in Pennsylvania is a voluntary undertaking and those who complete the process have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the professionalism of the fire service and a high degree of dedication to the public that they have chosen to protect and serve. To date only 1900 of the approximately 80,000 career and volunteer fire fighters in Pennsylvania have been certified as Fire Fighter I.

The four men are now preparing for the certification process which will advance them to the level of Fire Fighter II.

## Yoniski receives national financial services award

Thomas J. Yoniski, Jr., vice president and security officer at First Eastern Bank, Wilkes-Barre, has been designated a Certified Financial Services Security Professional. This national certification was awarded by the Institute of Certified Banks (ICB), an independent corporation sponsored by the American Bankers Association (ABA).

This designation is awarded to individuals who demonstrate excellence in their field of the financial services industry. Yoniski met rigorous requirements for experience, education, ethics and an examination in order to receive the certification.

Yoniski, who joined First Eastern in 1978, is responsible for all aspects of bank security throughout the bank's 60 branch offices in a nine-county region of northeast Pennsylvania.

A graduate of St. John's High School, Yoniski attended Wilkes-Barre Business College and Luzerne County Community College. A two-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, Yoniski is a member of the Luzerne County Chiefs of Police Association, member of the Crime Clinic of Wyoming Valley, Bank Security Officers of Eastern Pa., and the United Security Professional Association. He is also a member of the Security/Fraud Committee of the 300 member Luzerne County Bankers Association, Harrisburg.



THOMAS YONISKI

## Police report

### Kingston Twp.

#### MAN CITED FOR D.U.I. AFTER ACCIDENT

According to Kingston Township police, a 1982 Dodge Omni operated by David Nelson Rosencrans, 43, of Falls, and a 1984 Chevrolet Celebrity owned by Shirley and John Farrell of Dallas and operated by Andrew Manusky, 28, of Carverton Road, Wyoming, were involved in an accident Friday evening, December 25. According to the report, Rosencrans was traveling east on Carverton Road when his left front tire blew out, causing him to lose control of the vehicle, which swerved into the oncoming lane, striking the Manusky vehicle. The Manusky vehicle sustained severe damage, police said. Rosencrans was charged with driving while under the influence, police said.

Patrolman Michael Moravec investigated the incident.

#### ONE-CAR ACCIDENT ON DUG ROAD

According to Kingston Township police, a 1987 Subaru owned by Frances Rosencrans of Trucksville and operated by Jim J. Wicks, 37, of Trucksville, was involved in a one-car accident Thursday evening, December 24, on Dug Road. Police said that the Wicks vehicle struck a guardrail alongside the road after the driver swerved in an attempt to avoid a deer which ran onto the roadway.

Patrolman Michael Moravec investigated the incident.

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## Obituaries

### E.L. 'TUG' WYANT

E.L. 'Tug' Wyant of Boulder, Colorado, formerly of Noxen, died Dec. 22, 1992 due to a hemorrhagic stroke suffered on Dec. 19. He was 69.

He was born in Noxen and was graduated from Noxen High School and Bloomsburg State Teachers College with a degree in education.

Wyant enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and experienced wide European action during World War II. Following his discharge, he

joined the Army Reserve, retiring with the rank of Captain.

Surviving are his wife of 41 years, Polly; sons, Ty, Boulder, Colo.; Todd, San Jose, Calif.; brother, James Wyant, Halifax, Pa.; sisters, Elsie Jolley, Dallas; Louise Phillips, Eatonville; grandsons Ben and Jeff, Boulder; granddaughter, Melissa, San Jose.

Interment, Ft. Logan National Cemetery, Denver.

MORE OBITUARIES, PG 10

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