

# Police plan mild-mannered crackdown to emphasize importance of seatbelts

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Motorists traveling through the Back Mountain will soon see more police officers face-to-face, as three area police departments begin a public education campaign to call attention to Pennsylvania's seatbelt law.

Funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and operated by Catholic Social Services, the program will involve Dallas Township, Dallas Borough and Kingston Township police.

Police chiefs Paul Sabol, Jack Fowler and Carl Miers estimate last year that only 30 to 40 percent of drivers stopped by their officers wore seat belts.

According to Cathy Sabulski of Catholic Social Services and Dallas Borough Police Chief Jack Fowler, police will visit area schools to educate students on the

importance of wearing seat belts and stop motorists in shopping centers to check whether or not they are wearing belts.

"We'll give key chains to drivers wearing seat belts and verbal warnings and literature on the seat belt law to unbelted drivers," Fowler said.

Failure to wear a seat belt is a secondary offense in Pennsylvania; drivers who don't wear them can't be stopped and cited by police, unless they have broken another law, such as speeding or running through a red light, Fowler said.

Police statistics indicate that drivers who wear seat belts and are involved in accidents are less likely to be killed or seriously injured, according to figures supplied by Sabulski.

In the 300,000 accidents reported in Pennsylvania in 1991, 178,000 drivers were wearing seatbelts, 58,000 weren't, and there was no data available for the

remaining 64,000 drivers.

Of 1,100 accident-related deaths in 1991, 300 victims had been wearing seatbelts, while 800 victims weren't belted.

Of 3,700 reported major injuries, 1,400 victims had been wearing seatbelts, while 2,300 weren't.

Of 57,000 reported minor injuries, 40,000 victims had been wearing seatbelts, while 17,000 were not.

The seatbelt safety awareness program also includes the use of helmets by motorcyclists and children's safety seats.

Catholic Social Services was selected by Luzerne County and PennDOT to operate the seatbelt awareness project because it already operates an awareness program about driving under the influence, Sabulski said.

"The bottom line is that parents should set a good safety example for their children by buckling up," she concluded.



## Student artists paint windows

Recently, senior art students from Dallas High School traveled to Valley Crest Nursing Home to paint windows for the Holidays.

Shown in the photo are, seated from left, Ann Klimek, Stacie Suchodolski, Michelle Sivar, Chris Updyke, Kim Murray, Amanda Marshall, Stefanie Dwinchick, Amy Helgemo, Richard Banks. Row 2: Denise Harris, Activities Director; Nancy Klimek, Shannon Pilecki, Jenna Gentsch, Grace Helgemo, Kim Higgins, Joan Kinney, Rita Monto. Row 3: Debbie Bayer, Art Instructor, Mike Banta, Tom Hite, Andy Johnson, Kevin Loeffler, Dan Perrotto.

## Excuses, excuses

Many people have valid reasons for wearing seat belts. After all, it's the law.

And many other people also have reasons for not wearing them. Three area police chiefs have shared some of the more creative excuses for not wearing seat belts that their officers have encountered.

- "I can't see when I'm wearing a seat belt."
- "I'm too fat - it won't fit."
- "I don't drive fast enough to need one."
- "It doesn't matter if I'm not belted - the steering wheel will stop me."
- "I don't drive far enough to need a seat belt."
- "I don't like them."
- "They wrinkle my clothes."
- "Uh...I guess I forgot."

## Seat belts do save lives

Traffic accident statistics provided by police and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) indicate that out of 300,000 car accidents reported in 1991:

- 178,000 drivers (60 percent) wore seat belts.
- 58,000 drivers (19 percent) didn't wear seat belts.
- There was no seat belt information available for 64,000 drivers (21 percent).
- Of the 1,100 reported accident-related deaths, 800 victims (72.7 percent) didn't wear seat belts, while 300 victims (27.3 percent) wore them.
- Of the 3,700 reported major injuries, 1,400 victims wore seat belts, while 2,300 did not.
- Of the 57,000 reported minor injuries, 40,000 victims wore seat belts, while 17,000 did not.
- Three out of four fatal car accidents occur within 25 miles of home.
- A person's chances of getting killed by being thrown from a car during an accident increase by 25 percent when seat belts aren't used.

# Open house to honor Chief Sabol

The Kingston Township Board of Supervisors have announced that they will be sponsoring a farewell open house honoring retiring Chief-of-Police Paul M. Sabol.

The open house will be held Sunday, Jan. 24 from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Kingston Township Municipal Building, 11 Carverton Road, Trucksville. The Supervisors have scheduled this township

function as an opportunity for residents who want to visit with the Chief one last time before his retirement.

"We want our residents to know that we are grateful to Paul for his many years of dedicated service. Residents who would like to come down and say goodbye is why we are having the open house," stated Township Manager Jeffrey Box.

The open house is free and open

to the public from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Chief Sabol has served as Chief since 1971 and will have completed 30 years of service upon his retirement date.

Residents who would like more information are asked to call the Kingston Township Municipal Building at 696-3809 weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

# Schools help recycle phone books

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

In a pilot program in Luzerne County, Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts are participating this week in a telephone book recycling program.

According to Beth Kerpovich of Luzerne County Solid Waste Management, telephone book dropoff points for students and the

public have been set up at buildings in both districts.

In Dallas School District, telephone books may be dropped off at the senior high, middle school and Westmoreland and Dallas Elementary schools. Lake-Lehman residents may drop them off in the lobbies of the Ross Township, Lake-Noxen, Lehman-Jackson, junior high and senior high school buildings.

Similar projects in Wyoming Valley have netted more than 12 tons of outdated telephone directories in three West Side communities, Kerpovich said.

The recycling program is funded by Bell of Pennsylvania and Wyoming Valley Recycling.

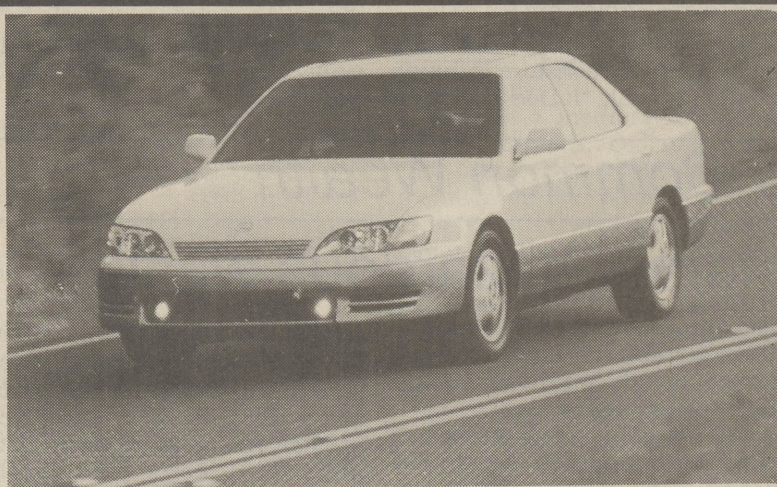
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# Lake-Noxen Head Start adds p.m. session

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Fourteen children were introduced to the "big kids" world of school Tuesday at their first afternoon class at Luzerne County Head Start in the Lake-Noxen center.

An assortment of interesting learning games, puzzles, storytelling and other individual and group opportunities have all been designed to better prepare them for kindergarten next year.

By learning the meaning of catchy slogans such as "use your walking feet" and "use your inside voices," they'll also learn how the "big kids" work and behave in school.

Each half-day begins with a hot meal (breakfast for the morning session and lunch for the afternoon session) and ends with a tasty, nutritious snack.

Adding the afternoon session at the Lake-Noxen center has allowed Luzerne County Head Start to expand its existing program there, which began operations serving 15 children at a morning session in September, 1991.

Head Start is a private, non-

profit organization serving more than 600 children of low-income families yearly in nine centers in Luzerne and Wyoming counties with a variety of services.

Head Start programs have operated nationwide for more than 20 years.

In addition to the half-day classes, Head Start also provides health services, referral to social service agencies when needed, transportation, nutritional programs and, most important, family involvement, according to director Lynn Biga.

Working with Head Start's board, parents are involved in all

phases of operation, including programs and staffing.

"The nutrition program includes teaching students and parents about healthy foods and balanced meals, as well as providing a hot breakfast for the morning students, lunch for the afternoon students and a snack," Biga said.

Studies show that Head Start graduates score higher on math tests, have stronger self-concepts and are less likely to be held back a grade or be assigned to special education classes, when compared with other children of low-income families who did not attend an early childhood program.

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