



The Dallas Post

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35 Cents

Inside Story

Lively elections

expected this year. Offices in school districts, municipalities and the district magistrate are open. For a list, see page 3.

Regional land trust

will be the topic when a group of citizens meets March 18 at 7 p.m. in Hayfield House on the Penn State campus. Sponsored by the Back Mountain Citizens' Council, the meeting is open to the public. Page 3.

Phone breakdown

knocks out new 'Home-work Hotline' at Lake-Noxen School. But the school board quickly ok's a new system. Page 3.

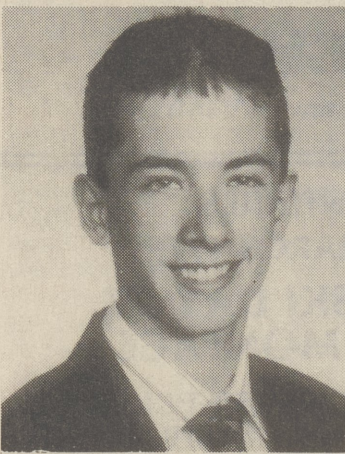


Boy Scouts of Troop 281 participate in swimming meet. Page 6.

Gate of Heaven

students raised \$4,000 for the Heart Association by jumping rope. Page 8.

Order trees now from the Luzerne County Conservation District. Page 7.



Matt Samuel, outstanding Dallas High distance runner, will make his college career at Pitt. Page 11.

Brian Burd will attend Bloomsburg University on a partial football scholarship. Page 11.

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Lake-Lehman: No comp for employees

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

If House Bill 174 is enacted, nonprofessional school employees would be able to collect unemployment compensation for the summer months when they don't work.

If enacted, this bill could add at least a mill to Lake-Lehman school district's budget.

Currently, a school district's nonprofessional employees can't collect unemployment as long as the school provides a "letter of reasonable assurance" stating that they will have jobs to return to in September.

According to Lake-Lehman director of

finance Ray Bowersox, paying additional unemployment taxes for the district's 31 nonprofessional employees (25 cafeteria workers, three custodians and three secretaries) could cost Lake-Lehman \$25,000, or approximately one mill.

"We would have to either add this extra mill to the budget or make cuts somewhere else to make up the difference," he said.

Dallas school district wouldn't be affected as badly because it has fewer nonprofessional employees, according to finance director Charlotte Williams.

"Our 12 housekeepers work during the school term and the last two weeks of the summer," she said. "Our cafeteria workers

already collect unemployment because they are employed by Service-America, our food services contractor, and not by the district."

Although Ms. Williams had not computed specific figures, she said that the district's costs for 12 employees' unemployment compensation wouldn't be excessively high.

Representative George Hasay, who originally supported a bill to this effect last year, now is not in favor of it.

"I will not support a bill that will cost my school districts a dime more than they are paying now," he said. "Governor Casey's handling of school funding has already

caused problems for area school districts, who are only receiving as much state money as they did two years ago, despite additional enrollments. I will work actively against the passage of this bill."

Hasay said that he had removed his name from a similar bill last year when he found out the great expense that it would cost local school districts. "I wasn't the prime sponsor - that was Stanley Jarolin - but having my name on that bill was certainly a mistake on my part," he said.

"I believe that enacting this bill could ultimately set a precedent for teachers' lobby to be allowed to also collect unemployment," Bowersox said.

Huntsville home owners plan historic district



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDSAY BUTLER

"THE FOLLIES" - This landmark home, owned by Lenore and Ken Hayden, at the corner of Huntsville and Follies Roads is one of 14 homes within a square mile of Huntsville's "Five Corners" built by settlers from Connecticut.

Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part series on the history of Huntsville and Jackson Township. Part two will appear next week.

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Residents driving through Huntsville have no doubt remarked on the stately older homes and fine, hand-laid stone walls along the main roads.

Now these noteworthy landmarks are being studied as possible candidates for designation as a historic district, to be registered with the state and eventually the federal government.

According to Mildred Hogoboom, author of a historical Bicentennial book on Huntsville and Jackson Township, within roughly a square mile of the "Five Corners" at Huntsville Dam, between 12 and 14 older homes and their stone walls have the distinctive architectural style of Connecticut.

Interested area homeowners plan to meet Friday, March 12, with Greg Ramsey and Ted Hanson of the Bureau of Historic Preservation of the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission, who will tour the neighborhood with Mary Ruth Kelly, executive director of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society.

"I believe that this area of Huntsville is definitely historically significant and worth preserving," said Ms. Kelly, after having toured homes older than a century, owned by the Butlers, the Carmiels and the Haydens.

There are only two other designated historic districts in Luzerne County, the Eckley Miners' Vil-

Huntsville historical trivia, pg 14

lage and a section of Wilkes-Barre's River and Franklin Streets between North and South Streets, Ms. Kelly said.

Ramsey is looking for a concentration of buildings of a similar age, with similar architectural styles, or buildings which have been documented as having some connection with a specific historical event or person, similar to "George Washington slept here."

"An area nominated for recognition as a historic district must have a good group of buildings of similar age, constructed within the same time period, mixed with as few more modern structures as possible," Ramsey said. "You should feel as if you've stepped back into that time period."

The Butlers first became concerned with preserving their homestead when a proposed Luzerne County road improvement project threatened to destroy the century-old stone wall and hand-cut stone steps leading to their front door.

The Butlers learned that the most practical way to preserve their home would be through establishing a historic district, because the Historic Preservation Commission has too large a workload to consider individual buildings unless they are in imminent danger of destruction.

They then set out to research the oldest homes in their neighborhood, finding at least 14 homes

See HUNTSVILLE, pg 14

Paris dancers, strange voice in local lore

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Often mistaken for a sleepy little rural community, the Huntsville area of Jackson Township was once a bustling community, a treasure trove of offbeat names and interesting local traditions, including ghosts, monsters and the girls of the Follies Bergaire.

Of the four homes at the "Five Corners" by the Huntsville Dam once christened "The Follies," "Damsite," "By Dam" and "Dam Near," only "The Follies," owned by the Hayden family, and "Damsite," owned by the Butler family, retain their original col-

orful names.

"At one time 'The Follies' was owned by the Loomis family. Apparently Mr. Loomis, who didn't like the Back Mountain, dubbed it 'Her Folly,' referring to what he considered the folly of his wife's love for the place," said owner Mrs. Lenore Hayden.

Mrs. Hayden recalled another colorful local tradition, that the ladies of the famous (or infamous) Follies Bergaire used "The Follies" as their summer hideaway. "I can't confirm this, but it certainly adds a spot of local color," she laughed.

See LOCAL LORE, pg 14

Shrinking subsidies may force Dallas school lunch price hike

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

If school cafeteria subsidies continue to decline at their present rate, Dallas School District may have to raise its lunch prices next year.

James Richardson reported to the school board at its regular meeting Monday, March 8, that cafeteria subsidies have decreased by at least \$6,000, forcing the district to directly fund approximately 50 high school students on the free or reduced-rate lunch program, a cost which it formerly didn't have.

"Next year, we may have to either cut back on food service or pass the additional cost on to the students, with the cost of food going up and the subsidies decreasing," Richardson said.

The district has already gone over its 1992-93 food service budget of \$20,000, and the costs for the rest of the year will have to be paid for with funds from other sources, he continued.

The average price of a Dallas student's lunch is \$1.35.

In other business, school board president John Cleary reported that a state mediator has been brought into the teachers' salary

negotiations because the negotiating committee did not resolve them by February 26, as was required.

"We have a proposal, but neither side has made any formal offers yet," he said.

The school board approved the following resolutions:

- Ellen Nagy was appointed to chair an ad hoc committee to study the feasibility of continuing to send Dallas students to West Side Tech. The current agreement expires in 1996.

- Course descriptions for grades 9-12 were accepted.

More tests for lead in water planned

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Coyle said that the company also tested its production wells and two or three sites in the water distribution system for lead contamination; these test results showed low lead levels.

Tests for lead in the Shavertown, Harveys Lake and Noxen systems are planned for late summer, Coyle said.

High concentrations of lead can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys, according to a General Waterworks press release. The highest danger is to small children and pregnant women.

Lead, which can't be detected by taste or smell, enters household drinking water by corrosion of lead pipes, lead-based solder and brass or chrome-plated faucets.

A \$15 test for lead can be performed at Kirby Health Center in Wilkes-Barre.



POSTPHOTOGRACER DOVE

SWEATING IT OUT - Nicole Parsons, left and Amy Newell demonstrated their arm wrestling technique last week at Lake-Noxen School.

The best boy (and girl) win in Lake-Noxen arm wrestling

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

They sweated. They groaned.

Even the girls made horrible faces, as more than 100 fifth and sixth graders at Lake-Noxen School squared off for trophies in seven divisions in the school's 12th annual arm wrestling tournament last week.

Always held in late winter, the tournament has become a hot item with the students, according to gym teacher Dwight Barbacl. "The kids begin to ask me about arm wrestling almost as soon as they return to school in Septem-

ber," he chuckled.

Boys compete in flyweight, lightweight, middleweight and heavyweight divisions, while girls are grouped into Divisions I, II and III.

Lightweight division winner Justin Harris said that he practiced for the meet with older brothers Jayson and Gary.

This year a brother and sister, Amy and Mack Newell, both won in their respective divisions of girls' Division I and boys' flyweight. "I practiced with Mack and beat him a lot," Amy said. She said that she

See ARM WRESTLERS, pg 5