Phone crash ko's 'Homework Hotline'

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

March didn't begin auspiciously for Lake-Noxen principal Robert Kunkle when the school's 13-yearold telephone system abruptly conked out last week, just as the school was starting up an experimental "Homework Hotline."

"The old system had been slowly deteriorating for some time,' Kunkle said. "But when the office's main phone gave up the ghost, the entire system went

At one point Monday and Tuesday, March 1 and 2, Kunkle had to string a telephone wire across the ceiling from his office to the secretary's desk to have any servService was still sporadic; cancelling all homework for the Kunkle joked about two tin cans day. and a string being more efficient.

In the middle of all the confuof an experimental district-wide continue using it. "Homework Hotline" program, which allowed students to find out the day's homework assign-

Set up through Commonwealth Telephone Company, the hotline operates like voice mail, with each teacher assigned a specific code number. Using a touch-tone phone, students can access the teacher whom they need and hear a recording of the day's lessons and assignments.

Of course, there's a safeguard built into the system to prevent pranksters from getting into a teacher's voice mail program and

After its month-long trial run, the teachers will evaluate the sion, March 1 was the beginning hotline and decide if they want to

Meanwhile, back at Lake-Noxen, Kunkle, secretary Mrs. Komsisky and the faculty gamely struggled with the improvised setup until a new touch-tone system, featuring call-forwarding to the main office and other conveniences, could be installed.

Luckily the school board authorized Kunkle to replace the school's phone system immediately at its March 2 committee-of-

the-whole meeting. "Now that we have to do is figure out how it works," Kunkle

Back Mountain Citizens' Council

The Back Mountain Citizens Council board of directors will meet on the campus of Penn State Wilkes-Barre, March 12 at 8 a.m. to plan a series of programs for coming months, relating to conservation, land trust, transportation in the Back Mountain and a quality of life study. The BMCC at its recent annual meeting re-elected Will Conyngham as president, Ray Boyle, as vice-president, and Dr. Tom Winter as

Shown here are some of the board members: front row, from left. Ray Boyle, Ben Phillips, Dr. Winter. Standing, Phyllis Belk, Murray Miller, Mary Reddy, Rob Lewis, Irene Thomas, Larry Law, Al Babetski and Ed Schechter.

Persons who want to be involved with the organization, which is dedicated to planned development and conservation causes, may contact Conyngham at the Dairy Store on Hillside Road. Recent projects included the development of the first detailed map of the Back Mountain, a forum on land trust and a home beautification contest.

Group to form regional land trust

A group of interested citizens within the Back Mountain have recently met and initiated discussion with the intent of organizing a Land Trust within our community. Calling themselves "The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust" they soon hope to become one of the newest members in what is becoming the fastest growing conservation movement in the

Charles Wasserott IV of Dallas Township, one of the group's organizers, said the group was being formed to "provide for the longterm stewardship of natural and historical resources by the conservation and preservation of forests, woodlands, waterways, wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, significant historic sites and structures and to protect and enhance scenic natural beauty and cultural landmarks within our community."

The group has already scheduled another organizational meeting March 18 at 7 p.m. in room

105 of Hayfield House on the Penn staff. Together large and small— State Lehman Campus. That night they plan to formally develop the group's mission statement prior to the formal submission of the land trust's Articles of Incorpora-

According to The Land Trust Alliance, the national organization of land trusts, on an average, a new group like the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust is forming every seven days somewhere within the United States. These separate trusts currently report memberships of more than 640,000—making their collective size greater than most national conservation organizations.

According to Wasserott, "Organizations like what we hope the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust will become, have been making tremendous conservation contributions throughout the last decade. Some are large, sophisticated organizations. Others operate with small budgets and no land trusts have helped protect almost 2 million acres from Maine to California.

Land trusts can fulfill their mission through a variety of strategies. They may acquire properties through gifts and purchases or as is often the case they can protect land through conservation easements, leases, agreements, exchanges, and in cooperative ventures with government agencies. Funding comes from individuals, foundations and corporations.

Any interested member of the Back Mountain community is welcome and encouraged to attend, participate and join this effort. This project is another community development venture of the Back Mountain Citizen's Council who have initiated these discussions following the Council's sponsorship of a public educational presentation on land trust development last November.

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Library sponsors essay contest for all ages

The Back Mountain Memorial Library, in conjunction with the 10 other libraries of the Luzerne County Library System, is holding an Essay Contest on how "Libraries Change Lives".

In 100 words or less, tell us how a library or librarian helped change your life or made a difference for you. All ages are invited to participate. Essays will be judged at the Back Mountain Memorial Library and awards given to entries from the following categories: funniest, most dramatic, most money saved, and most unusual. The winners will then be judged on the county

These testimonials will be used to support the case for library funding with legislators and policy makers to tell others how the library can help them. All entires will be forwarded to the American Library Association. The Association will select three people who submit outstanding stories from all received to be awarded a trip for two to the 1993 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference where they will be honored at the opening General Session.

For more information and/or entry form, call 675-1182 or stop by the library.

Help support your library with your essays!



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Brave business persons

The Back Mountain Business & Professional Association held a mixer at Gager Associates last ay evening. Originally scheduled in December, the event was cancelled because of snow. As luck would have it, the weather last week wasn't any better, but several hardy members made it out anyway. From left, enjoying the hors d'oeuveres and conversation, Carol Eyet, Dennis Oliver, Liz Lloyd and Dr. Bruce Goeringer.

Thresholds training set March 13-14

The training weekend for Thresholds' volunteers will be held on Saturday, March 13 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Parish House of the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church on Main Street, in Dallas.

Thresholds teaches decision making and problem solving skills to inmates at the State Correctional Institution in Dallas on a one to one basis over a period of 10 weeks. The course is endorsed by the administration of the Dallas Correctional Institution as well as by the Bureau of Corrections.

There is a great need for new volunteers to give as many men as possible a chance to complete the course and point them to a new life upon their release from prison.

For further information, call Ingrid Prater at 823-9548 or leave a message at 675-1723.



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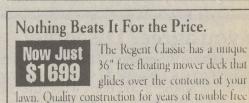


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