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Inside Story

Huntsville

Historic District gets thumbs up from state museum personnel. Now, forms must be filled out and sent to make it official. With a map of the historic homes. Page 3.

Daffodil Days have taken on a new significance for American Cancer Society volunteer Helen Kishbaugh, since family members have been struck by the disease. Page 3.

Water rates may go down, if a new proposal to consolidate Back Mountain companies with one in Dauphin County are approved. Page 8.



Life members are honored by Arts at Hayfield. Page 6.

Brian Morgan won the right to advance to the state wrestling tournament. Page 9.

New gym and complete sports/health complex at College Misericordia will be dedicated Saturday. Page 9.

Black Knights send boys' and girls' basketball teams to state playoffs. Page 9.



Off to see the wizard. Lake-Lehman High School Players will present a musical for the first time in 10 years. Page 13.

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A storm to remember



By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

The Blizzard of '93 will be remembered for its intensity and two-foot snow accumulation. It also will be recalled for the cooperation of residents, road crews and emergency service personnel who braved the fierce winds and blinding snow to bring vital services to those in need.

As the worst snowstorm in more than a century roared through the area Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14, life in the Back Mountain came to a standstill.

Blizzard of '93 photos, Page 16

The Back Mountain resembled a ghost town for the entire weekend: most businesses closed Friday night and didn't reopen until Monday.

By dinnertime Friday night, local supermarkets were nearly cleaned out of everything; customers with shopping carts overloaded with everything from coffee to cat food good-naturedly joked among themselves as they stood in long checkout lines that wound through the aisles.

The snow began around 4 a.m. Saturday, quickly making roads treacherous, even for four-wheel drive vehicles. Only all-terrain vehicles pulling skiers or snow-tubes, hardy hikers, a few Jeepes and cross-country skiers braved

See STORM, pg 8

HELPING OUT - Dan Davies attacked Route 118 in Dallas Township with his snowblower several times over the weekend. He was

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK helping keep the roadway open, because high winds drifted snow across it almost as soon as it was cleared by plows.

Dallas district losing \$1000's, director says

Board president pledges new policy

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

As the result of a school director's questions about tax collections, changes in the way that Dallas School District collects its school taxes are planned for late spring.

The district presently doesn't have a tax collectors' policy on how often payments must be made to the district, which has caused Dallas school director Clarence Michael to complain that the district is losing money in interest income.

Michael is currently running for tax collector in Dallas Township.

"We have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest from the tax collectors' holding onto school taxes for up to a month before they turn them over to us," Michael said.

"I was flabbergasted to find that we aren't earning any interest on

this money. Interest income could have funded textbooks and more activities for the students. We could have had an easier time balancing our cafeteria budget."

Dallas school district's financial manager Charlotte Williams said the district generates approximately 10,000 tax bills, spread out over four municipalities: Dallas Borough and Kingston, Dallas and Franklin townships. The district pays for printing of the tax bills, envelopes and postage.

The tax collectors separate the duplicates, stuff the envelopes and turn them in to the district to be mailed.

When the money comes in, it is deposited to the tax collector's official account and paid to the district on the tenth of the following month, as required under state law.

Williams said some tax collectors

See DALLAS DISTRICT, pg 8

Other districts earn interest, require timely deposits

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

The absence of a policy for tax collectors to follow has prompted Dallas School District to study how other school districts handle their tax collections.

Lake-Lehman School District generates more than 13,000 tax bills, with 12,709 collected last year. The tax collectors are paid \$2.50 per bill and use First Eastern, Mellon and Merchants banks for their business checking accounts, according to financial manager Ray Bowersox.

"I doubt that these are interest-bearing accounts because the balance is run too low too often," Bowersox said.

According to state law, all school taxes must be turned in to the district by the 10th of the month following their collection; however in the late 1970's, the board learned that the district could require more frequent payments from the tax collectors.

Each year Bowersox sets up a deposit schedule; for example between July and January the tax collectors must make between 12 and 13 payments to the district.

Some tax collectors make more frequent payments, with the busiest time being close to the end of the rebate period, between six and nine weeks after the date that the tax bills were sent out, Bowersox said.

Local tax collectors may set up their official accounts in the bank used by their respective municipalities.

Lake-Lehman expects to earn \$150,000-\$155,000 in interest

See TIMELY DEPOSITS, pg 8

Principal cleared of charge

By DAVE KONOPKI Sports Correspondent

Anthony Martinelli never felt that he had to appear in court to prove his innocence. He just wanted a chance to clear his name.

District Justice Earl Gregory dismissed harassment charges against the Dallas Middle School principal last Friday afternoon. The charges stemmed from an incident on January 8 between Martinelli and a 14-year-old student, William Jones, in the school's cafeteria.

"I feel great," said a smiling Martinelli moments after hearing Gregory's decision. "I was never concerned about the charges. I knew that I didn't do anything wrong. We had a very good chance of having the charges dismissed (before the hearing) but I wanted to testify and tell my side of the story."

The student testified that Martinelli had grabbed him by the upper chest and threw him to his seat. Two other students testified on behalf of the youthful plaintiff.

The student was taken to the emergency room at Nesbitt Memorial Hospital later in the day where he was treated for a "superficial scratch" on his chest. There was no testimony given which stated that Martinelli caused the scratch.

Martinelli, who faced a \$300 fine if convicted, testified he saw the boy standing over another student, apparently grabbing a slice of pizza from the individual. Martinelli testified that he "redirected" the student and "grabbed him by the arm and put him in his seat."

During cross-examination by Dallas Township patrolman Brian Feeney, Martinelli stated that he grabbed the student by the arm, not the chest or ribs which the students had testified.

Before Martinelli took the stand, Dallas Middle School teacher Michael Pollack testified as an eyewitness to the incident. Pollack stated that Martinelli approached the student from be-

See PRINCIPAL, pg 2

Lake-Lehman High musicians gain honors

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

For only the second time in the district's history, Lake-Lehman High School will be represented at the All-Eastern Conference Regional concert, an elite group of high school musicians from 11 northeastern states.

The district will also be represented at State Band, composed of one-half of one percent of all high school musicians in Pennsylvania.

Selected by their high scores at last year's State Band auditions, saxophonist Robert Trescavage will play in the All-Eastern band, while trumpeter J.C. Link will join the orchestra in concerts Sunday, March 21 in Springfield, MA. "It's really neat," Link said. "I'm looking forward to meeting other music students from all over the northeast."

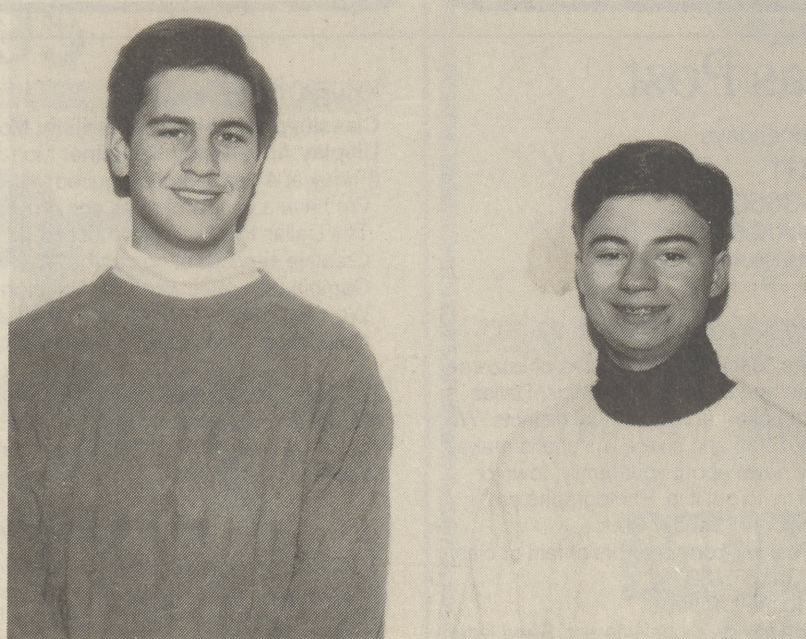
Link, trombonist Jason Poplaski and alto clarinetist Johanna Miller will play in the State Band concert on March 17 in

Wilkes-Barre. "I was surprised, but I feel really good about being able to play," said Trescavage, who plans to major in music at college.

The state band competition was especially challenging for Johanna Miller, who knew before the auditions that she would have to come in first in order to be accepted. "It wasn't that bad," she laughed.

"Eastern Conference is the highest that a music student can go. There isn't any national competition," said band director Ed Richards. "I'm very proud that these kids have gone this far in their high school musical careers."

In order to compete for All-Eastern Conference, students must first be accepted to District Band or Orchestra, Regionals, then States, Richards said. Lake-Lehman sent more students to regionals this year than any other participating school, some of which have music departments and bands four times the size of Lake-Lehman's, he added.



THE BEST IN THE EAST - Lake-Lehman music students Robert Trescavage, left, and J.C. Link, right, will represent their school at the All-Eastern Conference band and orchestra festival March 21 at Springfield, MA. Additional photo, page 8.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE