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L-L contract talks 'professional, pleasant'

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

The Lake-Lehman Education Association's request for fact-finding during its teacher contract negotiations isn't as serious as it sounds.

"In the past, either side requested fact-finding only when they had run out of alternatives, as a last-ditch effort," said Ellis Katz, chief negotiator for the school board. "Act 88 provides for a mandatory period of fact-finding as part of the negotiation process. Either side may request it."

Katz is employed by Curtin and Heefner,

a law firm which has a department specializing in school district matters and contract negotiations.

Act 88, which was adopted by the state Legislature in 1993, provides a specific timeline for school districts to follow during different phases of contract negotiations to keep them moving smoothly, said Lake-Lehman Education Association president Barbara Wall.

"It puts more pressure on both sides to get things done and try to settle the contract earlier. Ideally the contracts should be settled by August 31, but that isn't a firm requirement. Not having a mandatory deadline is a real drawback because talks

"So far negotiations have gone very well. The atmosphere is very amicable."

Ray Bowersox
Lake-Lehman business manager

can still continue for a long time."

Fact-finder James Paley, appointed by the Pennsylvania Labor Relations board March 29, has until May 9 to make his report to the board, according to district business manager Ray Bowersox.

Under Act 88, the board and the teachers' association have ten days to either accept or reject it.

If both sides accept the report, it becomes the teachers' contract.

If either side rejects the report, the Labor Relations Board releases it to the media to be made public.

Within ten days of the report having been made public, both sides must vote on it a second time.

"Many things must be studied by both sides," Wall said. "The talks are moving slowly but so far have been professional and pleasant."

"So far negotiations have gone very well,"

Bowersox said. "The atmosphere is very amicable."

Wall, Bowersox and Katz refused to release any details of either side's demands.

"In my experience, many school boards don't release any details of the bargaining process," Katz said.

The school board's negotiating team members are Jeffrey Fritzen, Dr. John Presper and Elizabeth Sichler, with Katz acting as chief negotiator and Bowersox sitting in.

See L-L CONTRACT, pg 12

Schools will open in August

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

After starting late, the summer vacation will end early this year for Dallas students and teachers.

At its regular meeting April 4, the school board adopted a calendar setting the first day of the 1994-95 school year for teachers at August 29 and the first day for students at August 31.

The last day of school and graduation will be June 12, 1995 with eight additional snow days built in during the April vacation: the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before Easter and the entire week after Easter.

Superintendent Gerald Wycallis noted that many neighboring districts are adopting similar calendars because they lost so many days this past year due to the

See SCHOOL, pg 12



The perfect Easter shape

Liz DiGiovanni, left, and Katie Bartizek inspected the eggs they had colored in anticipation of last weekend's Easter celebration.

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Fishermen: More stocking needed

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

It's a good start, but not enough.

Several anglers at DiVeronica's store and Bob's Bait at Harveys Lake said that while they're happy that the Fish Commission will stock the lake with 4,200 adult trout during the season, they don't think that's enough fish.

Old-timers can recall anglers standing practically shoulder-to-shoulder along the lake shore and many boats on the water the first day of the season, and most hauling in a catch.

"It's not fair. They should stock more fish before the first day, so that everyone has a chance," said Tom Gwynn, who fishes with relatives at the lake.

Another man who refused to give his name said that 20,000 legal trout would be a better amount.

"I'm happy that they're doing it

Stocking of large trout will follow opening day, page 3

but it won't help much," said Bob Albee. "Maybe it will bring more people back - anything will help."

"This is only a drop in the bucket," said Tom Sponseller. "The lake could use at least 25,000 adult fish, stocked before the first day of the season. In the past, they've stocked as many as 40,000."

Besides area streams, Harveys Lake is the only place in the immediate area where anglers can try their luck for trout, he said.

Sponseller believes the Fish Commission should discontinue stocking brook trout in the lake and concentrate on rainbow trout.

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Police suggest alternate routes

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Those orange signs proclaiming "New traffic patterns ahead" will soon become an understatement as motorists face bottlenecks on Route 309 in Kingston Township during the road construction season.

Anticipating unavoidable traffic tieups, Kingston Township police chief James Balavage has suggested that commuters on their way to and from the Back Mountain allow at least an extra 20 minutes of driving time each direction.

"People should remember what

the traffic was like six years ago when the last major work was done on the highway," he said. "People encountered delays of up to 40 minutes. Unfortunately there aren't many shortcuts for this stretch of roadway."

In order to minimize delays, he has suggested that motorists form car pools, use the bus or select alternate routes to and from the valley.

• **To Luzerne, Swoyersville and Forty Fort:** use Carverton Road and Dug Road, which goes over Bunker Hill and ends in Luzerne.

• **To Exeter, Wyoming and points north:** use Carverton Road

Revised lane map on page 12

and West Eighth Street.

• **To Courtdale, Larksville, Plymouth and points south:** take Overbrook Road to the Huntsville Dam, then Huntsville Road over Plymouth Mountain to Larksville.

• **From Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and the outlying areas to Wyoming Valley:** take Huntsville Road to Huntsville Dam, then turn left onto Hillside Road, which joins Route 309 at Russ Majors', below the construction zone.

Drivers who normally take Sutton Road to Pioneer Ave. and Route 309 should turn left on Sutton Road, go to the Huntsville Dam and either turn left onto Hillside Road or follow the road over Plymouth Mountain.

"Using Pioneer Ave. as a bypass to the construction zone may not be a good idea," Balavage said. "You'll probably run into bottlenecks at the Route 309 intersection."

He suggested that drivers try alternate routes as soon as possible to familiarize themselves with the time needed for trips to the valley.

Students make quilt

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

For several years, students at Dallas Elementary School have worked on a special art project which has helped the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

They make special quilts to be sold at the library's annual auction. The proceeds are used to buy books for the children's reading room.

Begun by Mrs. Hayden, the quilt project is now being done by Mrs. Cathy Flick's class.

Each student in the class makes a quilt block by stenciling a design onto material, under the direction of Shirly Stec of Back Mountain Quiltworks and several volunteer mothers.

Parents stitch the blocks together. Stec brings the quilt top, batting and backing to the school for the children to tie together.

"We tell them that they're making surgeon's knots, so some



YOUNG CRAFTERS - Dallas Elementary School students Paul Luksa, Julie Howell and Gabrielle Huh work on their quilt squares under the direction of volunteer mother Caroline Howell.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

See QUILT, pg 12

Hungry bear browses through bird feeders

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Several Dallas Township homeowners reported to the Game Commission last week that a bear was breaking into their bird feeders.

The bear hit two feeders in White Birch Trailer Park and one on Upper Demunds Road near the Country Club Shopping Center.

According to wildlife conservation officer James Jolley, the best way to discourage the bear is to remove the bird feeders for several weeks.

"We'll try to trap it and remove it as soon as possible, but right now there are still too many snowdrifts for us to set a trap," he said. "Right now they're just ending their hibernation and are very hungry."

Jolley said that anyone spotting a bear in their yard should leave it alone. At this time of year, female bears have young cubs with them and are extremely protective, especially if a person unknowingly comes between the mother and her cubs.

According to information provided by the Game Commission, bears generally travel at night. Their favorite diet is vegetarian, making home bird feeders and garbage cans ideal munchie sources.

Jolley said that this bear may be the same "garbage gourmet" bear seen rummaging through garbage cans on Davenport Street in Dallas last November.

■ 'Harvey' will be this season's play for Dallas High Theatre Troupe. Photos, details on page 3.

■ Baseball preview
Dallas is young but talented, Lehman looks like a winner. Page 9.

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