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**OPENING THEIR HEARTS** - The Shaver family of Franklin Township has shared their home with 11 foster children during

the past five years. Enjoying a quiet moment are Stephen, Alan, A.J., Samantha and Marleen Shaver.

## Foster families help, reap rewards

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Foster families are as diverse as the children they serve, but they have one common goal: to make a difference in a child's life.

In the Back Mountain, 31 foster families have opened their hearts and their homes to abused and neglected children, and many have adopted at least one of them.

Foster parenting is a family affair for Shavertown residents David

and Charlotte Rogers, who have been foster parents for 2-1/2 years and have two natural children, ages six and four.

David's parents, sister and one brother have been foster parents.

"I grew up with foster brothers and sisters," he said. "I learned it from my family firsthand."

Charlotte's brother has also been a foster parent.

"I feel that we can give something to these little kids that they never had before," Charlotte said. "Their lives have been

so disrupted."

When their two toddlers joined the family, the Rogers home was the fourth that each had seen in their first year of life.

"Our first little one was very quiet when she first came," David said. "She literally didn't know how long she'd be living here. Now she has opened up."

"Our three-year-old knows that he has two mommies and two daddies," Charlotte said. "He accepts it."

The couple has seen the oldest toddler begin potty train-

ing and the youngest learn to walk.

"If I could take 15 little ones, I would do it," Charlotte said. "I have learned that I have more love to give than I thought."

Their six-year-old has already asked for another foster baby brother or sister.

The Rogers children readily accept their foster siblings, the couple said. "Foster" is not an issue in this house - all little ones are loved just the same.

See FOSTER, pg 8

## Bugs invade Back Mountain

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

They're everywhere - wriggling, creeping, crawling and munching their way through area yards.

The caterpillars have arrived, and several species of small "inch-worms" have joined their larger cousins for a feast on Back Mountain residents' trees.

The big ones sporting a long, white racing stripe down their backs are eastern tent caterpillars, which spin tentlike nests in tree crotches. Their favorite foods are wild cherry and old apple trees, although they'll also eat other leaves, according to Ron Rugletic, director of Luzerne County's Office of Environmental Special Projects.

The crawlers with a double row of white spots down their backs are the forest tent caterpillars, whose nests resemble open silky mats on the trunks and branches of quaking aspen, black gum and sugar maple trees, their favorite foods, Rugletic said.

The barely visible green "inch worms" are elm spanworms, responsible for defoliating more than 1.2 million acres of Pennsylvania forest land last year, while the darker brown or black ones are fall cankerworms, heavily concentrated in the area.

While the elm spanworms' favorite leafy treat is beech trees, the cankerworms major in munching oak leaves.

Both will eat other leaves as well.

According to DER forest entomologist Tom Bast, it's already too late to do much about any of the little pests.

"Once they get larger than 15.5 millimeters or 1/8 inch wide, biological sprays like BTE don't work. They're too big now for even chemical sprays to do much good," Bast said. "Within the next two to three weeks, they'll go into the pupa stage of their life cycles, emerging as moths. And it's nearly impossible to effectively spray the moths. They fly too far and you never know if you've killed them before or after they've laid their eggs for next year."

All four caterpillars are native to Pennsylvania and have a natural enemy, a small wasp which lays its eggs in the moths' egg masses, giving the emerging wasp larvae a ready food supply, Bast said.

Most insect-eating birds prey on the elm spanworm and the fall



The fall cankerworm

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## Civil War battle will rage at Lake-Noxen

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Lake-Lehman's Middle Level School will become an armed camp June 11 when Company K of the 81st Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry occupies its grounds.

It's all in fun - Company K is a Luzerne County-based organization of Civil War reenactors who present living history in the area. Dressed in period costumes, eight soldiers, five civilian women and half a dozen children will portray Civil War camp life and military drills and demonstrate weapons, using replicas of pre-1865 military camp implements.

"It's an active way of teaching history," said Armond Casagrande, Lake-Noxen social studies teacher and Company K member. "I spend my free time reliving history, visiting different places and meeting many interesting people."

In addition to participating in the 130th anniversary reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg

**CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT**  
Sat., June 11  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Lake-Noxen School

and other large-scale events, Company K members have appeared in the movies "Glory" and "Gettysburg" and the television series "Civil War Journal," Casagrande said.

Members have staged reenactments for school groups, parades and many historical societies and have been recognized by the National Park Service, the U.S. Army and the Mifflin Guard, a nationally-recognized Civil War organization.

Open to the public, the reenactment will be held from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. on the school grounds, rain or shine.

It is sponsored by parent-teacher organizations from the Middle Level and Lake-Noxen schools.

## Gunfire heard, but no suspect found

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

The Dallas Township police, assisted by officers from Dallas Borough and Kingston Township, investigated reports of semiautomatic gunfire at a home on Lower Demunds Road shortly after 9 p.m. June 6.

"There were two short bursts of gunfire," said chief Carl Miers, who heard the shots at his home. "It sounded like a heavy-caliber assault rifle, possibly using NATO-style shells."

The 911 dispatcher received six telephone calls reporting the incident, Miers said.

Although police were on the scene within minutes, they weren't able to find the gun, empty shell casings or a gunman after searching the area, Miers said.

"We found 11 bullet holes in a back yard. Evidently the person stood on a porch and fired into the ground," he said.

Several minutes later, police were called to a home on Westminster Drive, where a resident reported that a person on a motorcycle had lost control of the bike, fallen, skidded across the lawn and fled the scene.

The homeowner reported that the only damage was scuff marks from the motorcycle on the lawn.

While police were investigating the motorcycle hit and run, they were called to the scene of an accident on Hildebrandt Road, which sent at least one person to the hospital. Further information wasn't available at press time.

Police are still investigating both accidents.

## Well pumps cause minor Dallas water emergency

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Problems with pumps in two main production wells forced General Waterworks to ask some Dallas customers to conserve water for several hours May 31.

According to manager Mike Coyle, a motor bearing in the pump of a well near the utility's office burned out Sunday afternoon, May 29. The well services approximately 900 customers.

"That alone wasn't a cause for concern," Coyle said. "We used

our other wells as backups."

While crews were repairing the pump, the well near College Manor on Lake Street went out of service May 31 after the pump's electrical cable broke, forcing the system to rely on its backup wells.

"That is the main well for customers in the Stone Hedge area, serving about 900 customers," Coyle said.

He asked customers May 31 to voluntarily stop all unnecessary uses of water, such as washing

See WATER, pg 8



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

### Silver medals

Lake-Lehman baseball coach Dwight Barbacci handed a runner-up medal to Harry Owens (11) after the Black Knights lost the District 2 Class AA title game at Lackawanna County Stadium last Friday. Story about Lehman and Dallas title games on page 9.

### ■ Lane changes

again on tap for Route 309 in Shavertown and Trucksville. Map, page 3.

### ■ Brady commits

Outstanding Dallas quarterback Brian Brady will be going to Shippensburg University in the fall. Page 9.

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