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Fire co. heartened by community's response

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

A community meeting January 15 may have turned the corner for the Jonathan R. Davis Fire Company in Idetown, which had been faced with closing its doors and having a fire truck repossessed.

"People forgot they had a fire company until we had our backs against the wall," said fire company spokesperson Shirley Wentzel.

"We didn't know if the community needed us. Lehman Township has two other fire companies - Lake Silkworth and the Lehman Volunteer Fire Company."

Serving the Idetown, Briar Crest and Oak Hill sections of Lehman Township, the Jonathan R. Davis Fire Company has 18 active members and a total membership roll of 30 people, most of whom are young.

"You can have all the money and equipment in the world. You need members to make a fire company succeed."

William McIntosh
J.R. Davis Fire Co. chief

The fire company needs approximately \$2,000 per month for utility bills and a \$404 payment on the firetruck, Wentzel said.

"We're about two months behind," Wentzel added. "The bank has been very lenient and let us just pay the interest, but they could come and repossess the truck at any time."

The main fundraiser is the weekly bingo games, which last year were cancelled for six weeks due to

the weather.

"Missing the bingo really put a dent in our budget," Wentzel said.

The fire company's financial problems aren't anything new, according to fire chief William McIntosh.

Formed in 1959 to service the eastern end of Lehman Township, it lost half its members and 55 percent of its territory - Sunset, Worden Place, Old Lake Road and Point Breeze - 10 years later when Harveys Lake Borough was formed.

During the 1980's, general interest in volunteer fire companies had declined. In 1985, the fire company's major fundraiser, the J. R. Davis Horse Show, was discontinued.

"Interest seems to have picked up again, with 911 and other TV real-life action shows," McIntosh said. "Fire companies are good places for young people - in addition to learning to fight fires and save lives,

they'll learn responsibility, teamwork, compassion, respect for others and other people's property, self-discipline and leadership skills."

Of the company's six junior firefighters, three will turn 18 in a few months and be allowed to do all the work of a senior firefighter, he said.

Younger members help man the bingo tables, working alongside the older people to become accustomed to volunteering their time and contributing to the community.

"You can have all the money and equipment in the world," McIntosh said. "You need members to make a fire company succeed."

Members don't have to fight fires, he added. The fire company always needs people to drive the trucks, direct traffic, do office and bookkeeping work, bring refreshments to firefighters and help maintain the

See FIRE CO., pg 12

Isaacs has big plans for old car lot

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

The former Howard "Duke" Isaacs Chrysler-Plymouth dealership at Route 309 and Harris Hill Road in Trucksville will have a new look, once a maze of paperwork is completed.

According to George Isaacs, who is developing the property with his wife, Carol, the property will be marketed for a campus-type center housing several small businesses, as soon as local zoning and state highway occupancy permits and other development plans are approved.

"We want to bring something of quality to the community. We don't want another strip mall."

George Isaacs

"I've lived and done business in the Back Mountain all my life," he said. "We want to bring something of quality to the community. We don't want another strip mall."

The first of many required preliminary approvals came from the Kingston Township planning commission, which has enabled Isaacs to convert his properties comprising the five-acre site into one parcel.

Formerly, the property was made up of 18 separate deeds, Isaacs said.

Other plans for stormwater runoff and removal of underground tanks must be approved by the Department of Environmental Resources (DER), while the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation must approve driveway permits, Isaacs said.

"I still have to do many engineering, environmental and traffic studies," he said. "We've hired the best engineering firm in the area - safety is one of our main concerns."

The Chrysler-Plymouth sales and service dealership was started by Isaacs' father, Howard "Duke" Isaacs, in 1936, with a one-car showroom on Route 309 in Trucksville.

Isaacs later acquired a nearby block garage operated by Tiny Gould, a well-known restorer of antique cars, and converted it into a body shop, which still sports the "Body Shop" sign and stands near the northern property line.

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Hot fun...in the wintertime

POST PHOTOS/GRACE R. DOVE

Dallas Elementary second graders Natasha Hoyt, top left, and Amanda Perschau, top right, enjoyed a slide at the school playground during Friday's springlike weather. Below, Rebecca Miller made it to the bottom.



Mundy calls allegations 'ludicrous'

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Incumbent State Rep. Phyllis Mundy, the target of two recent letters attacking her credibility, has called the accusations against her "ludicrous" and "scurrilous."

The letters which surfaced last week accuse Mundy of lashing out at the Catholic Church over her pro-choice stand and allude to an alleged secret deal between Luzerne County's Republican and Democratic parties to throw the November, 1994 election.

An alleged deal between both parties was supposed to insure that incumbents Mundy and Senator Charles Lemmond ran without official opposition, and won the election in exchange for political favors, jobs and appointments.



PHYLLIS MUNDY

Garnering 62 percent of the vote, Mundy beat Republican Norm Gavlick. Lemmond, a Republican, ran unopposed.

The second letter also urges "bipartisan cooperation" between legislators, supposedly necessary to complete several "choice payoff or kickback situations," including the Luzerne County Arena and the Northeast Railroad.

Both letters, written on what Mundy describes as poor copies of an outdated letterhead, have become the subject of a Pennsylvania State Police criminal investigation.

"This isn't just a political prank or dirty trick - it's a crime," Mundy said. "You don't appropriate someone's letterhead and forge their signature."

Referring to an alleged deal to keep her and Lemmond in office, Mundy said, "The accusations are ludicrous. There was no deal. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that I did not write the letters. Anyone who looks at them can easily see that they're a fake."

Lemmond told *The Dallas Post* Tuesday morning

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Gardner finds adventure in South Korea

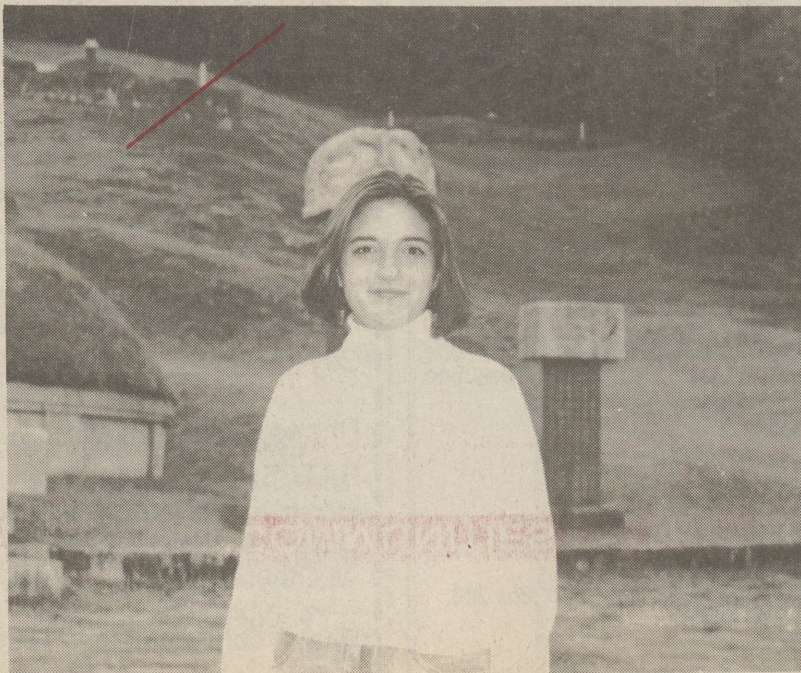
By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Red hot peppers and squid for breakfast weren't the most difficult adjustment for Nicole Gardner while working in South Korea.

Spending a month only 50 miles from the North Korean border during an international dispute was harder.

The Lake-Lehman graduate (Class of 1990) has been teaching English at a boys' high school in Kwangzu, South Korea on a Fulbright grant since July, 1994, shortly after she graduated from Penn State with a double major in history and English literature.

Nicole had originally planned to apply for a grant to go to New Zealand, but her college advisor, Carrie Eckhardt, PhD, suggested South Korea, saying that speaking a different language and living in a different culture would be a more meaningful experience.



NICOLE GARDNER

"It sounded very adventurous and kind of crazy, so I applied to teach English in South Korea, never expecting that it would be approved," Nicole said. "I thought I'd be scuba diving, rock-climbing and participating in a literary research program - and I ended up teaching English in Kwangzu."

For their first month in South Korea, Nicole and the other Fulbright teachers were sent to rural Chunchon, 50 miles from the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, at the same time international disagreements over inspection of nuclear power plants had flared up.

"Chunchon had been one of the first South Korean towns to fall during the Korean War," Nicole said. "We weren't happy being there at all - we felt that if anything big were to happen, we'd be in big trouble."

See GARDNER, pg 2

Nice wheels.

Kingston Township added a new 4-wheel drive cruiser to the fleet. Page 2.

Lehman rules in wrestling match with rival Dallas. The Black Knights are unbeaten so far. Page 9

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