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Local police see more gun crimes

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

A new federal program to put more police officers on the street will come to the Back Mountain when Washington approves Kingston Township's application to fund two more officers.

"We had already budgeted to hire another officer before we applied to the program," said township manager Jeff Box. "We asked for funding for two officers. If they don't approve us, we'll hire one officer with our own funds."

The township's recent growth and increasing police workload warrant additional police protection, Box said, noting that King-

ston Township is one of the fastest developing Back Mountain communities.

Putting more police on the street can work two ways, according to Kingston Township police chief James Balavage.

"It's a two-edged sword - if the crime rate goes down, people tend to question the need for additional officers," he said. "An extra officer can work in public education, such as the DARE anti-drug program in the schools, as well as solving crimes. We can also offer more services to the public and be a true community police force."

Certain types of crimes decreased last year in the Back Mountain, Balavage said.

"We have fewer crimes but are solving more of them," he said. "In general, we are seeing fewer burglaries, sex offenses, drug offenses, DUI's and disorderly conduct."

On the other hand, liquor law violations, vandalism, thefts, assaults, domestic cases and gang-related activities in the schools have increased, according to Balavage's records.

Dallas Borough police chief Jack Fowler noted more weapons offenses, assaults and domestic cases last year.

"I can't see it getting any better," he said. "We're seeing more weapons. You look the wrong way at someone and they pull a gun or

a knife on you. There's more danger out there for our officers than when I was a patrolman."

With the area's increased accessibility due to the opening of the Cross-Valley Expressway has come more visitors to Back Mountain watering holes and many more bar fights, he said.

He's also seeing more illegal drugs of every type.

"It's not the same old Dallas that it used to be," he said.

Dallas Township has also seen a decrease in burglaries, thefts and disorderly conduct, according to police chief Carl Miers.

"We have more assaults, though," he noted.

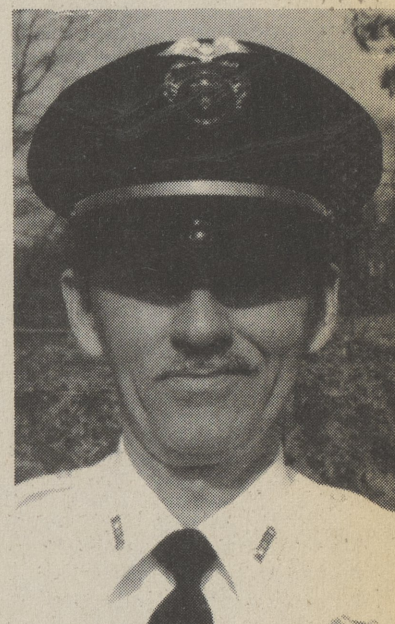
All three chiefs have noted a

decrease in DUI arrests, possibly due to increased enforcement.

"The State Police DUI checkpoints, the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) public awareness campaigns and the increased penalties have helped keep drivers off the road," Balavage said.

The community could make the officers' jobs easier by becoming more involved, Fowler said.

"Sometimes people will tell us something months after it happened - their house was broken into four times but they only told us about the latest incident," he said. A police force is only as good



JAMES BALAVAGE
Kingston Twp. police chief

See CRIME, pg 8

New L-L plan promotes skills

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Now that the Lake-Lehman school board has adopted the district's strategic plan, students and parents won't see any major changes in the curriculum or grading system.

"Most of what we're doing now is already in compliance with state requirements," said middle level principal Robert Roberts, leader of the strategic planning committee.

The only major changes are:
◊ Starting with next year's ninth grade, every student will be required to do a senior project in order to graduate.

◊ Starting with next year's first

grade, every student will be required to speak a second language well enough to ask for and understand directions, order a meal, introduce oneself, etc.

◊ Student portfolios will be gradually introduced into the system. A portfolio is a collection of the student's best work from all grades, showing his or her growth and development from grade to grade.

"A portfolio shows what the student is capable of doing," Roberts said. The students, teachers and parents will approve everything going into them. The district will continue to use its present grading system in addition to

See L-L plan, pg 8

Two locals in Japan are safe from earthquake

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

The January 17 earthquakes in Osaka and Kobe, Japan, are literally half a world away from the Back Mountain - except for the families of two Dallas High School graduates, Paul Eckert and Shannon Cleary, who live and work in Tokyo.

Eckert, a journalist with the Reuters news agency, has been working 20-hour shifts since the earthquake.

"I didn't feel a thing when it happened," he said in a January 19 telephone call to *The Post*. "I'm pretty far from the epicenter."

Although Reuters' offices in Osaka have provided the main coverage of the quake despite the destruction of a large portion of the city, the journalists in the Tokyo offices have also been work-

ing round the clock, Eckert said.

When his mother, Nancy Eckert, called him right after she heard about the earthquake, he said that people were still having problems with the telephone service.

Paul's offices are in the middle of Tokyo, which is very spread-out, she said.

Eckert, 33, is a graduate of Penn State and Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Before working at Reuters, he worked for three years with a Japanese publication.

Shannon Cleary, a licensed Japanese-English translator, teaches English with NOVA, Inc., headquartered in Osaka.

Like Cleary, she lives and works in Tokyo.

"When Shannon called me, she said that the government has told

See QUAKE, pg. 8



YES!!!

Joe Bednash's car came in first in the heat at Dallas Cub Scout Pack 281's "Pinewood Derby" January 21.
(See right)

Leaders of the pack

The top four racers at Dallas Cub Scout Pack 281's "Pinewood Derby" were Jonathan Mutche, Jonathan Mancke, Joe Bednash and Eric Goeringer.
(See below)

POST PHOTOS/GRACE R. DOVE



These square dancers spin webs of fun

By JACK HILSHER
Post Correspondent

If you recognize "Skip to my Lou" you probably also know what "Do si do" means. If so you are one of an estimated 10 million square dancers in the country.

What you may not know is that Trucksville is the home of an accomplished square dance caller - Andy Glowach of Atherholt Drive. (He also teaches square dancing; most callers do.)

For over 10 years Glowach presided over the "Webspinners," a modern western square dance club who met in the Education Building of the Trucksville United Methodist Church on Church Road.

The group is holding its first reunion at 8:00 PM on January 28 and Andy hopes all former members will come, whether they still dance or not, to renew old acquaintances. In fact, all area square dancers are also invited for an evening of fellowship and dancing. Light refreshments will be available. (Andy's wife Barbara says, "If nothing else, square

dancers love to eat. It must be that energy loss!")

Glowach, 58, retired from IBM after over 31 years servicing personal computers, but he doesn't "feel retired" because he is constantly busy consulting and doing church work. He also likes camping when he can find the time.

The Glowachs were married in 1958; both were from Wilkes-Barre but moved to Trucksville in 1959. They have watched the Back Mountain grow. Andy says, "We were pretty much alone out here until after the '72 flood; right after that we had two quick offers on our property! I guess, that's when it all started."

Both Glowachs have enjoyed square dancing for a long time. Barbara says being married to a caller is okay but she doesn't get to dance as much as she would like. "There are compensations," she says. "Our club did a lot of charity exhibitions, like at nursing homes. At one after a dance a woman asked if she could touch my skirt, and I realized she was blind. She said, 'Thank you my dear. I can see you in my mind!'

I cried."

The Glowachs have an eight year-old Siberian Husky, Bandit, who does not dance. He weighs 130 lbs. and measures 40" around his chest. The Glowach vet can't stand to look at the dog and begs them to put him on a diet, but it doesn't work.

Andy has left a trail of square dance pupils all over the Back Mountain, and hopefully all of them will attend the reunion. Some who have said they wouldn't miss it for the world are:

•Ruth and Roy Greenley of Centermoreland.

Roy operates a dairy farm and busy to enjoy themselves."

•Lee and Marilyn Smith of Chase.

He is retired from DER. They are Glowach's original pupils and still keep active, dancing some weeks three times - Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays! Lee says, "We've had our share of problems. I had by-pass surgery and have diabetes under control, but we both feel dancing is a great way to

exercise, and we both feel great."

•Charlotte and Lloyd Kingston of Lake Carey.

Lloyd is an architect. Wife Charlotte says, "This is a good outlet for energy, and we've made fine long-lasting friends. We'll be there, don't worry about that!"

Any of you square dancers out there who want more information can call Andy or Barbara Glowach at 696-1093.

Then why don't you go and find out whether your do si do is a bit rusty!

says they've been dancing for 10 years. Roy says, "This generation is not interested. They don't know the fun they are missing."

•Dick and Betty Lowery of Lehman.

Dick works at Mr. Z's and says, "We've been square dancing since '82. Sad to say, it's only the older ones who come out."

•Ralph and Veronica Corby of Thurston Hollow.

Ralph, a retired iron-worker, thinks youngsters today are "too

See SQUARE, pg 2

■ Sue the council
Harveys Lake councilman threatens to sue borough council and president. Page 8

■ Mounts lose
to Sem's Blue Knights despite aggressive play. Page 9

INDEX

14 Pages, 2 Sections	
Calendar.....	14
Classified.....	12-13
Crossword.....	14
Editorials.....	4
Obituaries.....	12
School.....	11
Sports.....	9

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