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Seniors bow again at donkey ball game

Lehman teachers maintain 67-year winning streak

BY VALERIE WOLFE
Student Correspondent

As the first semester ended and a new one began at the Lake-Lehman High School, things began to get hectic. The school event that seemed to release some of the stress was the Donkey Basketball Game.

The Donkey Basketball Game was designed to help seniors collect money for the many activities they take part in during their last year at Lehman. Between the trip to Washington, moving-up day, and the senior picnic, things can get very expensive.

The game, which took place on Friday, January 27, was not different from the years before. As usual, the high school gymnasium was packed at 6:30 p.m. to see the "boxing glove" game. The guys who wear boxing gloves try

See DONKEY BALL, pg. 12



IT WENT THAT-A-WAY - Tom Williams, left, and Jamie Patton watched the flight of the ball during last week's donkey basketball game at Lake-Lehman High School. The teachers maintained a 67-year winning tradition with an overtime victory.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Water rates will decline in most of area

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

If the Public Utility Commission (PUC) approves a suggested water rate settlement, most area General Waterworks customers will see slightly lower water rates for the next year.

PUC administrative law judge Wayne Weismandel approved a 5.14 percent across-the-board rate increase for General Waterworks of Pennsylvania, which the PUC will consider at its February 9 meeting.

Under the settlement, water rates for customers of the Dallas, Noxen and Shavertown water companies will decrease 12 percent, from an average of \$333 per year to \$292.

Customers of the Harveys Lake division, however, will see rates

Only Harveys Lake customers will see increases

increase nine percent, from \$266 per year to \$292.

"We won't really know what the commission will do until Feb. 9," said Mike Coyle, manager of General Waterworks' Dallas area office.

"They could approve it or reject it."

A rate increase resulting in a decrease isn't as confusing as it sounds, Coyle said.

General Waterworks owns water companies in Harrisburg,

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Officials cautious on joint police

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Officials from seven Back Mountain municipalities want more information before committing themselves to consolidating their police departments, now that a feasibility study on combining their police departments into a regional police force is half completed.

Representatives from Dallas and Harveys Lake boroughs and Kingston, Jackson, Lehman, Franklin and Lake townships attended a meeting January 24 to hear the results of the first phase of the study, done through the state Department of Community Affairs. Dallas Township did not wish to participate in the study.

Funded through a state grant, the study is taking a long, hard look at the area's police services - the number of officers in each department, departmental budgets, officers' training - even how many cruisers each police department has.

Combined with information on each community's population, size and tax information, the study when finished will portray each community's police services and cost to the residents.

In its final stages, it will break down the cost and number of officers which a consolidated police department would need, if one were to be formed.

"It might look good on paper, but would we have adequate police coverage?"

Patricia Pieffer
Dallas Borough councilwoman

The study has no strings attached - none of the participating municipalities will be required to join a regional police force.

"Based on the information presented Tuesday, the estimates of the number of officers needed for each department isn't too different from what we already have," said Back Mountain Citizens' Council vice-president Will Conyngham. "The remaining questions are how much it will cost us and how consolidation would improve our police service."

The group plans to visit existing regional police departments to see how they work and to speak with the officers and residents as soon as possible.

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"The results to this point are very positive."

Walter Glogowski
Jackson Twp. supervisor

Jones will seek county post

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Lake-Lehman school director Joseph "Red" Jones has set his sights on higher office.

The 14-year school board veteran plans to announce Saturday that he will seek the Republican nomination for Luzerne County Commissioner, at a kick-off rally at the Independent Hose Company in Kingston.

"I want to bring the commonsense approach back to county government," he said Monday. "The citizens of the county must choose what they want - the status quo or the future. The status quo isn't acceptable any more."

No stranger to the county's political arena, Jones lost a similar bid in 1991 by only 330 votes. In 1975 he had won the primary and teamed up with Frank Triniowski, only to lose by 142 votes in the November election.

If he wins in November, Jones said he will have to resign his seat on the Lake-Lehman school board. The board would appoint a replacement to finish the remaining two years of his term, he said.

When asked his position on the hotly debated Luzerne County Arena, Jones said, "If it will cost the Luzerne County taxpayers any more money on their property taxes, I'm definitely not for it. I'll support it if it won't cost the tax-

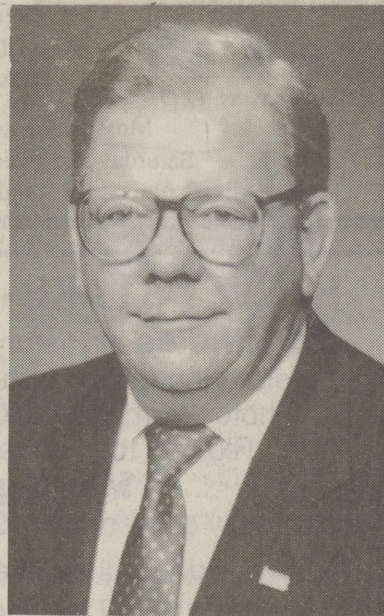
payers more money. An arena has great possibilities for economic development."

He added that he plans to be a full-time commissioner who will remember the needs of all areas of the county.

"I will demand a full-time county government," he said. "It is clear that full-time government is what is needed and what the hard-working citizens of Luzerne County deserve."

Jones has served for the past 14 years on the Lake-Lehman school board and served two terms as its president. He also has rep-

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JOSEPH 'RED' JONES

EPA steps up pace of Lehman cleanup

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

The odd-looking black trailer sitting in the field off Mill Street in Lehman Township isn't someone's future home.

It's the latest step in a federal cleanup of a gasoline spill which has affected nearly 20 wells and a wetland area around Lehman Corners.

Begun in late October after more than seven months of testing, the federally funded cleanup will remove MTBE, an octane-boosting unleaded gasoline additive, from the underground water tapped by many area wells.

The actual cleanup began with a small unit which pumps water from the wetland, filters and aerates it to remove the contaminant, then returns it to the ground.

In December the larger unit set up in a trailer was installed at the site.

According to Environmental Protection Agency site coordinator Richard Fetzer, 600,000 gallons of MTBE-contaminated water has been pumped from the wetland behind the Lehman Sunoco station.

"It's too early yet to tell the effect on people's wells," Fetzer

said. "We'll continue to treat the water and test the more wells for six months, then have a hydrologist study the results and make recommendations. When you're treating ground water like this, you don't see any sudden, dramatic changes. It takes time."

The contamination was first discovered in 1991, when a

See EPA, pg 2

Helping needy kids

Members of the Dallas Kiwanis and friends and staff of McCrory's in Shavertown who organized a drive to provide holiday gifts for area needy children were: front row: Cliff Parker, Marge Marek, Janet Tracy and Dale Swire; back row: George McCutcheon, Robert Dolbear, Joseph Grimes and Leonard D. Harvey.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

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

■ **Be a sweetheart**
Check out the Valentine's Day special offers on page 12.

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