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New, familiar faces will be on May ballot

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

WILKES-BARRE - For the first time in several election cycles, contests for public office will be contested in many Back Mountain communities.

Nominating petitions for the May 16 primary were turned into the Luzerne County Bureau of Elections March 6. They included challenges in both school districts, Harveys Lake, Dallas Township,

Dallas Borough, Jackson Township and Franklin Township.

Incumbent Dallas school board members Ernest Ashbridge, Jr., and John George are being challenged by John P. Litz, Thomas W. Russ and Reese E. Finn. All but Finn have filed on both the Democratic and Republican slates; Finn has filed as a Republican. Dallas school directors are elected at large.

In Lake-Lehman's Region I, incumbents Edwin H. Kern, III,

Register to vote by April 17, pg 12

and Elizabeth Sichler will face Lois Kopcho, a member of the Lake-Lehman Taxpayers' Association.

In Region II, incumbent Thomas E. Williams will face Rosemary Howard and Dr. Martin McMahon, who was forced to give up his seat after the 1993 election because he had moved from the

region which had elected him.

In Region III, incumbent Karen Whipple, appointed to finish McMahon's term, will face Michael Warner and David R. Kaufman.

All Lake-Lehman candidates have cross-filed.

Five Democrats and four Republicans are seeking three seats

on the Harveys Lake Borough Council, with incumbent Democrats Martin Noon and Joseph Miscavage facing Isla Spock, Lynn Coury and Elizabeth West. Republican contenders are Sharon Britt, Thomas J. Callahan, Ruth Eaton and Christopher Hinton.

In Dallas Township, Republican incumbent Frank Wagner will face Democrat Marjory Gorko for supervisor, while in Franklin Township, Republican Timothy Dymond will square off with Michael Prokopchak for the Republican nomination for supervisor. Running against them on the Democratic ticket will be Martin W. Murray.

These nominating petitions have been filed:

DALLAS TOWNSHIP Supervisor (6 year term) (1 seat)
* Frank Wagner (R)
Marjory R. Gorko (D)

See BALLOT, pg 12

Board upholds smoking policy

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - Unless negotiations between the Dallas school board and the Dallas Education Association change the district's smoking policy, teachers who continue to violate it by smoking on school property could be dismissed for insubordination.

According to association president William Wagner, the teachers are trying to negotiate the section on discipline with the school board.

"The present policy allows teachers to smoke only in designated areas until August 31," Wagner said at the regular March 13 school board meeting.

"After that date, teachers caught smoking on school grounds will receive a verbal warning for the first offense and may be required to pay a fine to the district magistrate. After the second offense, violators will receive a written warning. A third

See SMOKING, pg 2



PHOTO BY DAVE KOZEMCHAK

Oh, no..Go get 'em!

Lake-Lehman wrestling coaches Tom Williams, left, and Phil Lipski presented a study in contrasts at last week's state wrestling championship meet in Hershey. The Black Knights sent five grapplers to states, but only Tim Sayre came away with a medal, placing fourth at 135 pounds. Story, more photos on sports pages.

Child molester pleads guilty

Werts will serve 5 or more years

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

WILKES-BARRE - Dean Lee Werts didn't want anyone to see his face after pleading guilty to multiple sex charges against minors Tuesday.

Hiding behind other people as he left the courtroom, Werts suddenly sprinted through the third-floor hall of the Luzerne County courthouse and nearly stumbled while running down the stairway in an attempt to elude three newspaper photographers and two television cameramen.

"You're ignorant," his mother snarled at a reporter.

Werts, a former Dallas school bus driver, admitted "taking sexual liberties" with two boys, ages

11 and 12, and pled guilty to charges of indecent assault, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, endangering the welfare of children and corruption of minors before Luzerne County judge Edward Brominski.

He faces at least five years in prison and will be sentenced May 17 at 10 a.m. He will report to the Luzerne County Prison March 16 at 9 a.m. where he will stay until his sentencing.

Werts had served five days in prison after his arrest in November, 1994, until his parents put up their Franklin Township home for his bail. He has been free since then.

See MOLESTER, pg 3

Court dismisses suit by former employee

Borough spends \$29,000+ to prevail

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - The borough has won a lawsuit charging wrongful discharge of a former employee, but at a cost of more than \$29,000 in legal fees.

A lawsuit filed August 26, 1993 in federal court by a former Harveys Lake Borough zoning officer Dan Samson claimed he was wrongfully discharged without a proper hearing. Samson's attorney said he was told the case was dismissed last week.

According to documents filed in federal court in Scranton, Samson was appointed zoning officer at the council's reorganization meeting in January, 1993, as he had been for the previous four years.

He was terminated February 15, 1993, without notice or an opportunity for a hearing, according to the documents.

The building code which Harveys Lake uses says that the building official "shall not be removed from office except for cause" and after a hearing to give specific reasons for his firing.

Samson requested reinstatement, back pay, attorney's fees and damages on two counts of at least \$50,000 each.

Samson said he has worked occasional seasonal jobs since his dismissal.

Samson was represented by attorney Michael Melnick, while the borough was represented by attorney Ralph Kates, who has

See SUIT, pg 12

Eight-year-old is big time model

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN - Craig Thomas has a fun job. As a professional model, he gets paid to demonstrate toys and ham it up in front of a camera.

The eight-year-old Shavertown resident became hooked on modeling when he was 3-1/2, according to his mother, Cindy.

"We had received a flyer in the mail from National Talent Associ-

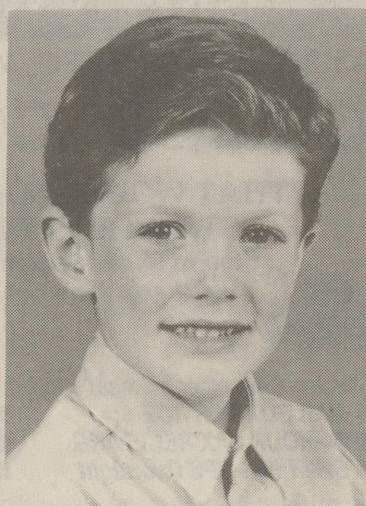
ates when Craig was two and we lived in New Jersey," she said. "The second time we sent a set of photos back to them, he was accepted. He had his first job the day after we signed him up with NTA."

Craig has done it all and he loves it all - posing for still photos in store sales catalogues, filming TV commercials and doing hand modeling, in which only his hands moving different X-Men figurines were filmed.

"The hand makeup felt kind of slimy at first, until it soaked in," he said. "I had to watch myself - you can't have any cuts on your hands when you're doing that kind of work."

His face has appeared in *Parents' Magazine* and on the cover of one of the books in *The Sweet Valley Kids* adventure series. Craig has also filmed commercials for Rookie League sportswear and did

See MODEL, pg. 2



CRAIG THOMAS

Girl Scout Week

Leaders gain as much as girls in Scouting

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - When Debbie Dinger was first asked to be a Girl Scout leader, she never thought she'd be teaching young women to cook a meal in a cardboard box.

Cook in a box?
"Lining a heavy cardboard box with aluminum foil transforms it into an efficient oven, which can cook an entire meal using charcoal briquettes," Debbie said. "You can do everything - right down to the cake for dessert."

There's a special way to calculate how many briquettes are needed to bake a cake for 45 minutes at 350°, but Debbie says that's a Girl Scout secret.

Debbie Dinger is one of the Back Mountain's 262 unsung heroes, adult Girl Scout volunteers who work with 47 troops

"The girls' enthusiasm makes it worthwhile. They love to have fun and enjoy friendships."
Debbie Dinger
Leader, Cadette Troop 709

serving 548 area girls. Troop leaders like Debbie, Sandra Dobrowski and LouAnn Alters have watched their daughters and their friends grow up in scouting.

Debbie became hooked as a leader after attending a leaders' training meeting with a friend, Lehman Township resident Charlene Cook.

"Charlene asked me if I'd like to have fun working with kids," she said. "That was all it took. Working with young people is my strong

point."
For five years Debbie was leader of Brownie Troop 640, then went to Cadette Troop 709. Camping, touring the airport and learning how to cook a meal in strange containers - her girls have done it all.

So has Debbie, who worked for 11 years as a troop leader, mall show director, cookie chairman, day camp director and co-chairman of Neighborhood 24.

Her daughters, Jennifer and Christine, are Scouts.

"The girls' enthusiasm makes it worthwhile," she said. "They love to have fun and enjoy friendships. Their Scouting memories and relationships will last a lifetime."

Like Debbie, LouAnn Alters, the leader of Cadette Troop 262, became hooked on Girl Scouting when her daughter, Diane, was in her second year of Brownies and

the troop needed a leader 11 years ago.

Diane is now a Senior Scout, while her younger sister, Michelle, is a year behind her.

"I've seen them grow from little girls into young women," Alters said.

"Scouting is a great opportunity for girls - it helps them express themselves by doing positive things that they might not be able to do outside of the troop."

Scouting is much different from when LouAnn began as a Brownie leader. The Daisy troops hadn't been organized yet and Brownies didn't earn "Try-It" patches and other badges. The issues which interest the girls have also changed - today's young women visit nursing home residents and volunteer in soup kitchens for service projects.

See GIRL SCOUTS, pg 12

■ **Rural only.** Franklin Township is considering a new zoning ordinance which encourages a "rural lifestyle." Page 3.

■ **Two-sport star.** Therese Paxton made a quick switch from the court to the diamond. Page 8.

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