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Oak Hill water co. ires customers, town

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP - It leaks. They patch it.

It leaks again. They patch it again. It leaks again.

Residents of Lehman Township's Oak Hill section have had to deal with a water company described by one homeowner as "run like a bunch of gypsies" for several years.

Neighbors say the water company, National Utilities, Inc., hasn't fixed a

leak first reported before Thanksgiving, has torn up the shoulders of two roads while replacing water mains and hasn't repaired them properly.

One resident has seen her front yard torn up to fix leaks 30 times in the past 10 years.

Two homeowners have become so disgusted that they have drilled wells, while others have quit paying their water bills.

Lehman Township supervisor Doug Ide describes the repair work on the shoulders of Park and Oak Drive as "a disaster."

"My nine-year-old son could have done a better job."

Joseph Pagoda
Oak Hill resident

"When National Utilities replaced several water mains, they didn't fill the trenches back in properly," he said. "It looks like they just shovelled the dirt that they had dug out back in. They should have backfilled the trenches with several layers of compacted modified sand

and gravel."

Approximately 300 feet of road shoulder must be redone, he said.

The company also cut into the pavement in several places and covered it with cold patch asphalt, which has noticeably sunk below the level of the pavement, Ide said.

"They should dig the cold patch up and redo it properly with regular asphalt," he said. "The asphalt plant has been open for a week."

Park Drive resident Joseph Pagoda plans to file a formal complaint against

National Utilities with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

The road shoulders are so muddy and rutted that neighbors are concerned their rural route carrier won't be able to get to their mailboxes alongside the road.

"They didn't fill in their trenches properly," Pagoda said. "My nine-year-old son could have done a better job."

He said he reported a leak on Vine Street in November, which still hasn't been fixed. Water from the leak contin-

See WATER, pg 14

Area schools await lunch plan changes

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - For nearly half a century, the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program has meant at least one nutritious meal a day for many school children from low-income families.

If the federal government replaces it with state block grants for nutrition, it faces either major changes or outright elimination.

As part of the Republican "Contract with America," the House of Representatives passed the Personal Responsibility Act March 24, a welfare overhaul plan designed to save \$66 billion over the next five years.

The act combines the school nutrition programs into a single program, in which the federal government would give money to the states, who would design their own block grants to consolidate more than 40 separate programs covering school nutrition, family nutrition (Women, Infants and Children or WIC), food stamps, cash welfare benefits, medical services and child care.

The Personal Responsibility Act will now go before the Senate for approval.

"The federal government is basically giving the money to the states to divide up into two block grants," said Lake-Lehman food service director Joyce Coolbaugh. "We don't know yet whether we'll gain or lose money."

Lake-Lehman operates its own food service, with each of the district's five schools preparing student meals in its own kitchen.

The menu is the same for all schools. Of the district's 2,242 students, 36 percent or 807 students are eligible for free or reduced-rate lunches. Of the 807 eligible students, 510 actually make use of the free and reduced lunch program.

The district serves 1,400 lunches each day. The Lake-Noxen and Ross Township schools qualify for the government designation of "distressed" because at least 40 percent of their students qualify for subsidized lunches, Coolbaugh said.

The situation is different in Dallas, where 267, or 11.5 percent, of the district's 2,329 students qualify for subsidized lunches, according to food services director Jacqueline Neare.

"In some cases, these lunches are probably the only decent meal the children will have all day that we know of."

Joyce Coolbaugh
Lake-Lehman food service director

See LUNCH PLAN, pg 14



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

GENTLEMAN, START YOUR ENGINE - Ed Kubasti demonstrates how to start the 4.2 horsepower motor of his bright yellow SNJAT-6 Texan model airplane, a replica of a World War II trainer complete with pilot in the cockpit, which took him an entire winter to build from scratch.

Model aces will put on show

By JACK HILSHER
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - Want a chance to indulge your favorite flying fantasy? The one where you piloted a B-17 bomber through heavy flak over Dresden? Or perhaps the dogfight when your P-38 downed a German Ace in his Messerschmidt?

If so then you'd better get to the West Side Mall on Saturday, April 1. There the Wyoming Valley Radio Control Club will have models of all your favorite planes on display to help propel your fantasies along. The club members will also answer all your questions about model airplane building and flying.

Club president Ed Kubasti of Lincoln Road in Fernbrook has arranged for a monster

display of models made and flown by club members. Another model plane group, the "Black Sheep Squadron" will also be on hand.

Kubasti, who has been flying since his early teens, says, "This year's display will be our best ever. We'll be showing planes from World War I up to the Persian Gulf War. Just to mention a few, I'll have my B-17 bomber, Tom Lowrie his Sopwith, which has a 10-foot wing span, Tom Parick his P-38 and Larry Wright his A-4 Skyhawk."

In addition, John Rynkiewicz's show team, the "Expos" will show how to build and fly models. The club's secretary will also be there to field questions about dues (\$4.00 per month) and meetings (3rd Tuesday each

See ACES, pg 2

2 withdraw from Harveys Lake ballot

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

WILKES-BARRE - In the latest round of pre-primary election moves, two Back Mountain candidates have withdrawn their nominating petitions and a Kingston Township supervisor has decided not to run for office.

Republican Sharon Britt and Democrat Lynn Cury, candidates for the Harveys Lake Borough council, have withdrawn their nominating petitions, according to the Luzerne County Bureau of Elections.

Seats on council held by Martin Noon, Joseph Miscavage, Thomas Kehler and David Abod must be filled.

Neither Kehler nor Abod filed nominating petitions for the May primary. There are now four Democrats and three Republicans in the running.

In Kingston Township, seats on the board of supervisors held by Republicans Daniel Wisnieski, Herbert Hill and William Tippett must be filled. Wisnieski, a supervisor for the past 20 years, said he doesn't plan to run again, while Hill and Tippett have filed nominating petitions.

"If no one runs for the seat, they'll probably have to appoint someone," Wisnieski said, adding that he would refuse an appointment to fill his old seat if it was offered to him.

Wisnieski refused to give any reasons for not running for office again, but said he is proud that Kingston Township is in good enough financial condition to abolish the property tax, keep the road equipment up to date and hire an extra patrolman.

Orloski's plan moving ahead

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS BOROUGH - The Back Mountain will soon be the home of the country's first combination gas station, car wash, convenience store and bank.

According to owner Edward F. Orloski, site preparation and construction will begin at the future business near the Route 309/415 intersection by mid-April, now that Dallas Bor-

Artist's drawing of new facility, pg 3

Native daughter's art adorns children's book

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS BOROUGH - Although she now lives in San Francisco, Dallas native Elizabeth Scott's artistic gift and whimsical sense of humor have returned home to the Back Mountain in a unique way.

Scott illustrated *Edgar's Wild Day*, recently donated to the children's room of the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

The daughter of Dr. Durelle Scott of Dallas and Jeanie Howard of Kingston, Beth has been drawing and painting since she was a child, studying with Marilyn Hoffman in Wilkes-Barre and Sue Hand in Dallas. When she went to Syracuse University in 1987, it didn't take her long to switch her major from French to art, Dr. Scott said.

While at Syracuse, Beth took advantage of the university's ex-

change program with the University of London, where she studied for a semester in 1990.

"My little angel came back very Bohemian," Dr. Scott chuckled. "When I met her at the airport, there she was in her flowered skirt, sitting on her duffel bag."

Beth works mainly in watercolors and acrylics, but her specialty is illustration. Five years ago she did a two-person show in San Francisco, Dr. Scott said.

For his 50th birthday Beth painted him a beautiful still life with flowers, which is proudly displayed with several other examples of her work in a gallery in the Scott home.

She also loves kids, her father recalled.

"Beth taught at day care centers and tutored young kids at the YMCA while she was in school,"

See ART, pg 14



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

PROUD FAMILY - Dallas residents Durelle and Connie Scott and children's librarian Marilyn Rudolph show off *Edgar's Wild Day*, which Durelle Scott's daughter, Elizabeth Scott, illustrated.

Off to gay Paree

A group of Lake-Lehman students and teacher will spend 10 days touring Europe. Page 3.

Smash, jump

Dallas and Lehman prep for tennis, track season. Page 3.

INDEX

14 Pages 1 Section

Calendar.....	11
Classified.....	12-13
Crossword.....	11
Editorials.....	4
Obituaries.....	12
School.....	7
Sports.....	9, 10

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