

School upgrades may cost \$122,500

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - Complying with the federal Americans With Disabilities Act will cost the Dallas School District up to \$122,650.

According to business manager Charlotte Williams, the district must redesign restrooms at all buildings and install paving for wheelchairs, listening devices for the hearing-impaired, TDD's (telecommunications devices for the hearing-impaired), wider doors at the high school and special signs. Estimates prepared by DeHey/McAndrew of Scranton have been given to the school board, which has referred the matter to its property committee.

The most expensive job will be installing paved wheelchair paths at the stadium, middle school and the Westmoreland building, estimated to cost \$65,000.

Redoing the restrooms is estimated to cost up to \$19,200, which includes adding special wide booths and doors and lowering the level of sinks. "We may ask the Little League to retrofit its own rest rooms at the field," Williams said.

Falling prices for TDD's could save the district money; the devices presently cost approximately \$25,000, she said.

Compliance with the law won't be as expensive for Lake-Lehman, which only needs a wheelchair elevator installed at the middle level building, according to business manager Ray Bowersox.

"We had wheelchair-friendly doors, curbs and ramps before I came here in 1977," he said. "There really aren't any major projects left."

Because the high school has had students in wheelchairs and the Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 has held classes for the physically challenged in the Lehman-Jackson school, these two buildings already meet federal standards, Bowersox said.

The Lake-Noxep school, built in the late 1970's, and the Ross Township school, all on one floor, are also in compliance, he added.

Ruth Corcoran Circle to meet April 17

The Ruth Corcoran Circle of the Shavertown United Methodist Church will meet April 17, in the Social Room of the church.

The program will be presented by Mrs. Margaret Johnson of the Trucksville Methodist Church on Native American Life. All ladies are invited. Please bring a sandwich. Beverages will be provided.

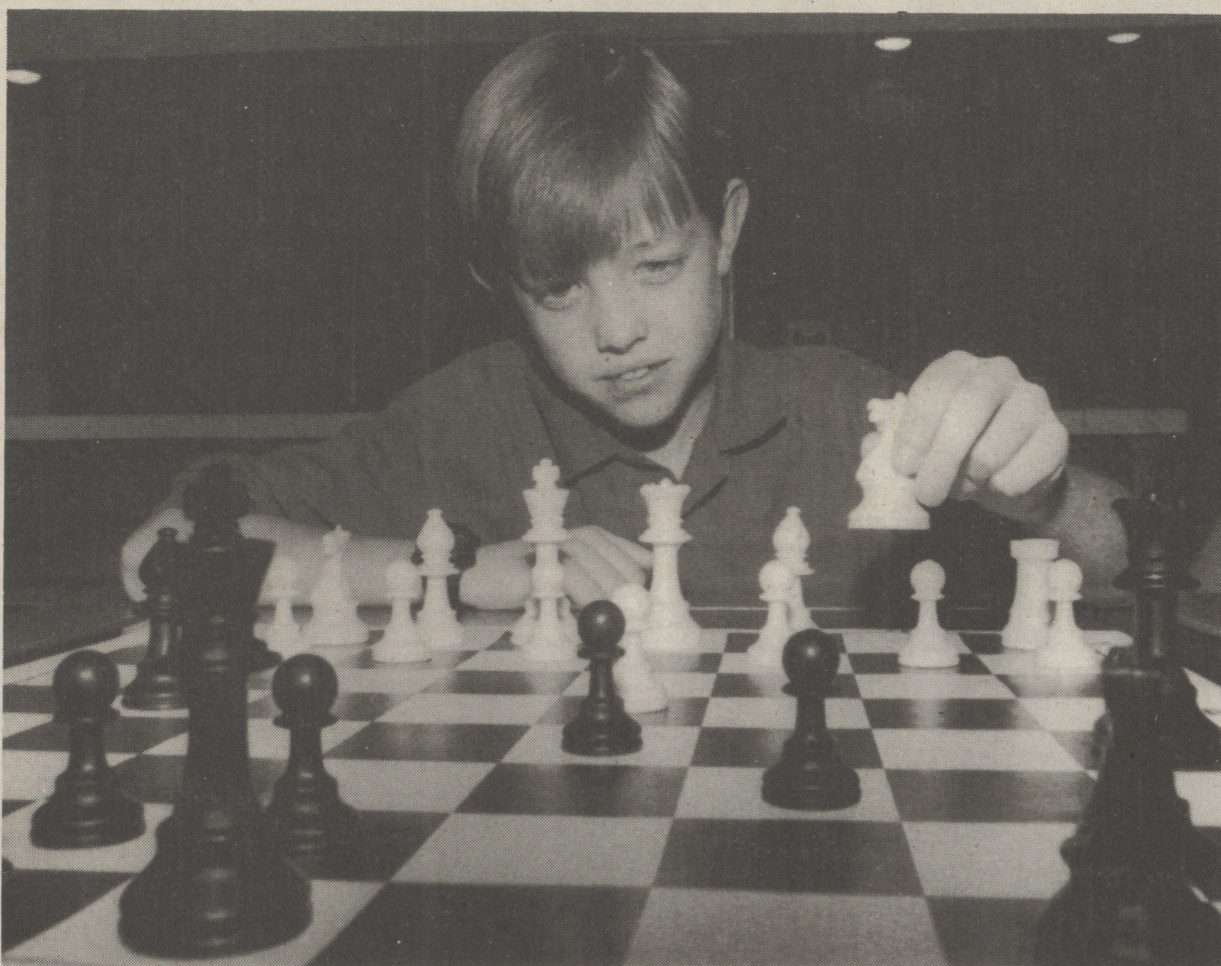
L-L class of 1981 to meet April 13

The Lake-Lehman Class of '81 will meet April 13, at 7 p.m. at Grotto Pizza, Harveys Lake.

Fundraiser tickets will be distributed.

Koslosky

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BRINGING OUT THE HEAVY ARTILLERY - Chess whiz Jordan Koslosky plans his next move with a knight. POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Blight

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fields unless they're treated with the proper fungicide.

"You can't simply cut away the affected part of the plant and stop the spread of the fungus - you must destroy the entire plant, either by burning it or burying it," Gray said. "Pulling out infected plants and sending them out with the garbage to the local dump or municipal mulch pile will only spread the disease."

Local commercial growers say the weather will determine how badly the blight will hit - if it hits at all.

"It might or might not affect us," said Norman Darling, Jr., whose family began farming in Dallas Township in the 1920's. He usually plants between two and three acres each of tomatoes and potatoes.

Within two weeks of infection the plants will literally rot in the fields

"You have to be out in the fields every day checking for signs of insect pests, disease and other problems," he said. "You have to cultivate regularly and irrigate if the weather is dry. You can't just stick some plants in the ground and expect them to grow properly."

He advises home gardeners to check their plants for signs of blight and other problems every day.

Dymond's Farm in Franklin Township, which supplies the family's store in Shavertown and a small "pick your own" business, will probably have about four acres planted with tomatoes this year, according to Tim Dymond.

"We spray for blight even though we've never found any," he said.

"We're very careful - you have to watch for pests, diseases and all sorts of problems. There's much more to raising a crop than just setting plants out in a field."

If I had to choose between planting potatoes and tomatoes in the same garden, I'd stick with

The blight is the same one that caused the Irish potato famine in 1846-47

tomatoes," he said. "There's a strong chance that potato seed pieces could carry the blight fungus, which would develop first on potatoes and spread rapidly to the tomatoes."

Late blight has been found in most seed potato-producing areas of the United States and Canada and can spread easily through contaminated seed potatoes.

New strains have become immune to one of the most popular fungicides and caused approxi-

mately \$4.5 million in crop losses in Erie and Potter counties last year, MacNab said. Other fungicides on the market have halted its progress.

Late blight disease can occur any time during the growing season, especially if the weather is humid or rainy, and can spread very quickly and easily from home gardens to nearby commercial fields, Christ said.

Fungus spores are carried on the wind, spreading to neighboring fields in three to six hours, with the downy white growth and brownish black spots appearing on the plants within a week. The fungus can kill an entire field within two weeks after the first symptoms appear.

There are no fungus-resistant varieties of potatoes or tomatoes on the market, MacNab said.

More information on the disease is available for both home gardeners and commercial growers from Luzerne County extension agent Donna Gray at 825-1701.

Growers or home gardeners who suspect late blight fungus in their crops should immediately contact Dr. Barbara Christ at Penn State's plant pathology department at 814-863-7544 for instructions on where to send plant samples via overnight mail.

And it's something to do right after school. I hope its a trend, certainly its a promising start, but there is no way to judge just yet."

Rhodes has two children who play, Jamie in the 5th grade and Katie in the 3rd and he adds, "We could use some chess-playing adults as instructors. Any Back

Mountain folks who'd like to help can call me at 675-3240."

Chess club membership is a sure way to increase skill, and a social side also exists. Lasting friendships are made there, and the game has never lost a player through lack of interest. And as a way to stimulate jaded brain cells it has no equal!

A chess primer

• Chess is the world's most popular game.

• Chess is not, as many believe, "thousands of years old." Researchers believe it started around 600 A.D.

• Chess was invented in India, where it was inspired by warfare as a "substitute for battle."

• Children who play chess always do better in school!

• Early pieces represented elephants, horses, chariots and foot soldiers, which have become knights, bishops, rooks, pawns and of course a King and Queen.

• From India, chess spread east to China and Japan, then through Persia and the Arab nations, until it finally reached Europe.

• Followers of Mohammed believed chess to be sinful and the Koran had to be reinterpreted to allow them to play.

• Arabs started playing "blind-fold chess" where the player won't watch the board but calls out moves to be played by an assistant. (Today "chess by mail" is commonplace.)

• When chess reached Europe the Church tried to stamp it out.

• A psychological variation of

chess exists as described by the Spaniard Lucena in 1600: "Readers are advised to choose an opponent who has wine and dined heavily. He will thus be easy prey!"

• Chess by electronic means (E-Mail, Internet, etc.) so far is not popular. It is too easy to hook up a chess computer to make all the moves. This takes no thinking, just gall!

• Wilkes-Barre could be one of the few - perhaps the only - communities which has a chess "opening game" named after it. The Wilkes-Barre Chess Club, one of the oldest still active, is known world-wide in chess circles because of the noted "Wilkes-Barre Variation on Two Knights Defense."

• There will be no explanation of that last chess fact.

• One of man's basis jokes is about chess - First player says, "My wife threatens to leave me if I don't give up chess." Second player: "Gee, that's awful." First player: "Yeah, I'll miss her terribly."

by Jack Hilsner

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