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Chase inmates skip during furloughs

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

JACKSON TOWNSHIP - Carl Wells recently became the third convicted murderer to turn a weekend furlough from the State Correctional Institute at Dallas into a pass to freedom.

Wells never returned from a weekend furlough to visit his family in Philadelphia August 23, 1994. He was serving a 7 1/2 to 20 year sentence for murder.

Three other inmates on furlough or work release have gone AWOL from SCID, according to Pennsylvania Crimestoppers and prison officials.

Since March, the three convicted murderers have been featured as the Pennsylvania Crimestoppers' fugitives of the week.

One has been on the run since 1982, while another has been out since 1973. A fourth inmate who didn't make fugitive of the week has been free since 1972.

"You can't tell in advance who will walk away and who won't."

Tom Figmick
Ass't prison superintendent

Joseph Coleman, serving time for attempted murder, theft and robbery, has been on the lam from a furlough since February 16, 1982. Jose Ortiz Callaso, serving eight to 20 years for murder, also skipped out from a furlough No-

vember 21, 1973.

The prison's record is held by an inmate whom prison officials simply referred to as "VanHouten," who walked away from a flood cleanup detail in Edwardsville in July, 1972.

"You can't tell in advance who will walk away and who won't," said assistant prison superintendent Tom Figmick. "Wells had gone on four previous furloughs and had returned without a problem. We were getting ready to transfer him to a community treatment program."

Inmates qualify for furloughs when they complete at least half of their sentence and don't break any rules of conduct for the previous nine months in prison, ac-

ording to department of corrections press secretary Ben Livingston.

The district attorney, the victims and the sentencing judge also have input into granting inmates' furlough requests, he added.

Inmates must give prison officials the name of someone who will be responsible for them while

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Taxes same in Dallas budget

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - The school board unanimously adopted a preliminary \$20,223,538 budget with no millage increase for the fifth consecutive year at a special meeting May 25.

Increased ten percent, or \$1,863,409, over last year, the budget holds the line on the 150-mill property tax.

One mill generates \$45,000 and the district has 9,625 taxable properties, according to finance manager Charlotte Williams. Based on an average assessed valuation of \$5,000, property owners will pay approximately \$750 in school taxes.

The beginning fund balance has increased \$899,816, or 32.5 percent, to \$3,667,633, or six percent of the total budget, Williams said.

Local income has increased \$209,318, or 2.2 percent, to \$9,684,713, while state income has increased \$792,064, or 13.5 percent, to \$6,641,192, according to the business manager's figures.

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POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Saluting veterans

Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Adjutant Thomas Reese, facing camera, saluted along with Boy Scout Eric Kowalek, left, and Cub Scout Josh Halbing at the annual Memorial Day service in Dallas Monday. At right, back to camera is Legion Post Commander John Charney. More photos on page 10.

Town meeting will tackle drugs, gangs

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - They wear identical bandannas tied to their belts and are constantly together, hanging out at the park after school and the bowling alley on weekends. Occasionally they pull pranks or get into scuffles with other teens.

Are they gangs or just groups of close friends? How can parents and the community tell the difference?

A six-man panel will address these and other concerns at an open town meeting on gangs and drugs at the Dallas Middle School June 2 at 6:30 p.m.

The first session will deal with

"We want to alert parents to what we feel is an emerging problem in the area."

James Balavage
Kingston Twp. police chief

gangs, which panel members will discuss, then take questions from the audience.

A brief break will be followed by a discussion about drugs, and a second question and answer session.

See GANGS, pg 2

Lehman budget passes on 2nd try

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

LEHMAN - The Lake-Lehman school board reconvened its budget meeting May 25 and passed the same \$16,393,607 tentative budget it had voted down May 22.

Dr. John Presper, Patricia Gold, Allen Moss and Edwin Kern voted against the tentative spending plan, while Joseph "Red" Jones provided the winning margin. He had been absent for the May 22 meeting. Elizabeth Siehler, Karen Whipple, Thomas Williams and Jeff Fritzen joined Jones in favor of adoption.

The budget proposes a seven-mill property tax increase, raising Luzerne County residents' property taxes to 197 mills and Wyoming County residents' taxes to 97 mills.

Luzerne County residents with properties assessed at an average of \$5,000 will pay \$985 in school taxes, while Wyoming County residents will pay \$485.

The millage rate differs between counties because Wyoming County properties were reevaluated several years ago.

Each mill generates \$31,000, according to financial manager Ray Bowersox.

"I'm not comfortable with a seven-mill increase," Gold said. "The figures don't justify it."

Kern said he was "in shock"

after finding out the administrators' salaries. "Last year the board's majority gave the administrators and teachers what they wanted," he said.

Moss said he voted his conscience. "It's now time to pay the fiddler," he said. "We're trying to inspire the administrators to work with us to keep costs down. The teachers' contract has become a millstone around our taxpayers' necks."

Presper objected to the budget because it increased teachers' salaries by 3.7 percent this year, while the area's two largest employers had increased their employees' pay by only two percent.

The district expects to end this year in the black with a fund balance of \$239,573, which it hadn't counted on, but plans to spend the entire amount in the 1995-96 school year, Bowersox said.

Local revenues have increased \$504,885, or 6.7 percent, to \$8,006,063, and state revenues are up \$565,039, or 7.8 percent, to \$7,771,711.

But federal funding has decreased by \$123,895, or 30 percent, to \$276,260, and other funding sources are down \$50,000, or 33 percent, according to Bowersox's figures.

Local revenues make up 48.8

See LEHMAN, pg 16



Still sleek

Tom Stella, Mountaintop, front seat, and Rich Stella, Carverton, back, tried out this classic Pierce Arrow runabout at last weekend's Antique and Classic Boat Show at Harveys Lake. The fourth annual event was held at the Grotto Marina.

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - Mayor Rick Boice says he'll tell borough police to get tough on anyone attending amphitheater concerts or related businesses who violates borough ordinances.

"I have no intention of putting up with any excessive noise after 11 p.m. or any other violations," he said at the regular May 23 council meeting. "As for fining offenders, we'll go for the maximum."

Boice said he is reviewing all borough ordinances which might pertain to the amphitheater or its related businesses and has changed the placement of the police during concerts.

Borough police officers will not be allowed to work in the amphitheater parking lot.

"The police will be out on the streets protecting the public," Boice said. "They will try to keep the crowds off the streets so people don't cut through residents' yards or relieve themselves on front lawns. We will also encourage people to park in the lot rather than on the streets."

The heavy metal groups Black Sabbath and Motor Head will perform July 1, Boice noted.

"When I saw his concert schedule I thought he was going back to the same type of entertainment as he had his first year here," he said. "Now I'm reading about Black Sabbath and Motor Head."

In other business, Ruth Eaton asked Boice how he plans to handle an incident in which a borough police officer allegedly pulled a gun on another officer.

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■ **She's a star** 19-month-old Nadine Sellani will be featured in the Children's Miracle telethon this weekend. Page 3.

■ **Stats** are only part of Carrie Llewellyn's soccer story. Page 11.

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