

# The Dallas Post


50¢

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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July 5 thru July 11, 1995

Back Mountain Memorial Library  
**Auction**  
 4th ANNUAL  
  
 THURS.-SUNDAY ♦ JULY 6-9 ♦ AT THE LIBRARY  
 Harveys Lake Road, Dallas  
 \$ Antiques \$ Food \$ Children's Auction \$ Booths  
 \$ Odds 'n' Ends \$ New Goods \$ Books, Books, Books

**Auction  
 Action!**

The Library  
 Auction  
 starts July 6.  
 20-page  
 section  
 inside

## Library seeks local funding

*Town, school support nearly lowest in Luzerne County*

By GRACE R. DOVE  
 Post Staff

**BACK MOUNTAIN**—As the only institution to serve all nine area communities, the Back Mountain Memorial Library is possibly the area's greatest cultural and recreational resource.

It also faces perhaps the largest challenge — raising enough money to continue the present level of service, keep materials up to date and expand services.

"Every year library staff members answer hundreds of research questions," said board member Bruce Rosenthal. "The library has a wide selection of periodicals (magazines and newspapers), computer access to information and business directories. It's a safe, culturally enriching environment for children and adults."

The annual auction raises 25 percent of the library's \$232,000 budget, but the institution has received dwindling support from municipalities and schools for several years, he added.

"With the state now using a different formula to aid community libraries, our library lost \$6,000 in state funding last year," Rosenthal said. Last year the Back Mountain Memorial Library received \$38,480 in state aid and \$25,500 from Luzerne County.

According to Rosenthal's figures, the Back Mountain Memorial Library receives the fourth lowest amount of local support in Luzerne County — only 4¢ per book circulated.

*The amount of state aid now depends on local support, and the library doesn't get enough*

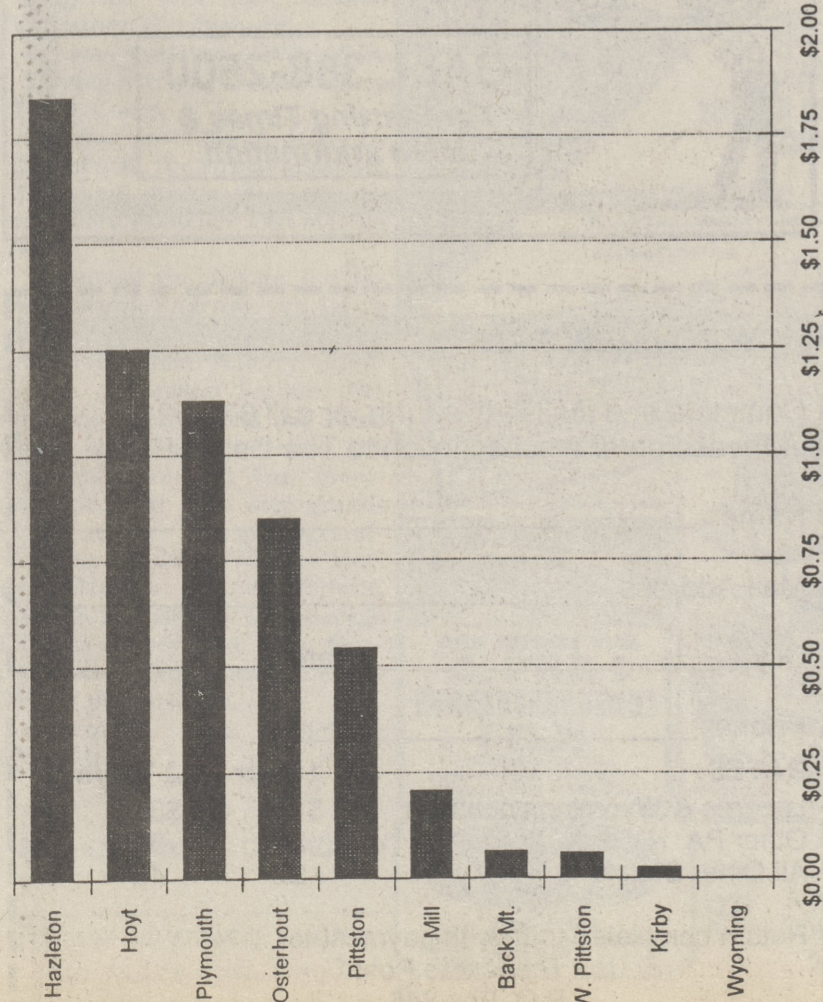
In contrast, the Hazleton Library receives the most local support in the county — approximately \$1.80 per book — and is 90 percent funded by the city.

State funding to local libraries is now based on the amount of support they receive from the municipalities and school districts they serve. Libraries receiving large amounts of local support receive more state aid than those receiving lower amounts, Rosenthal said.

"We're trying to recover the \$6,000 we lost from the state and increase our support base, so we'll be able to increase our state aid level once more," Rosenthal said.

See LIBRARY, pg 8

Luzerne County Libraries - 1993  
 Support per book circulated



Graph by Bruce Rosenthal



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTZEK

## In the swim

Wade Howell made the most of some fine summer weather by working out with his spiffy tube. Mom Barbara Howell kept a close

eye on her son's progress. It may be a couple of more weeks before he can swim on his own. They live at Harveys Lake.

## Family stocks up for 'American dream'

By GRACE R. DOVE  
 Post Staff

**DALLAS TOWNSHIP** — A store which has been a Back Mountain landmark for 85 years has acquired a new identity and become an opportunity for a family to realize its part of the American dream.

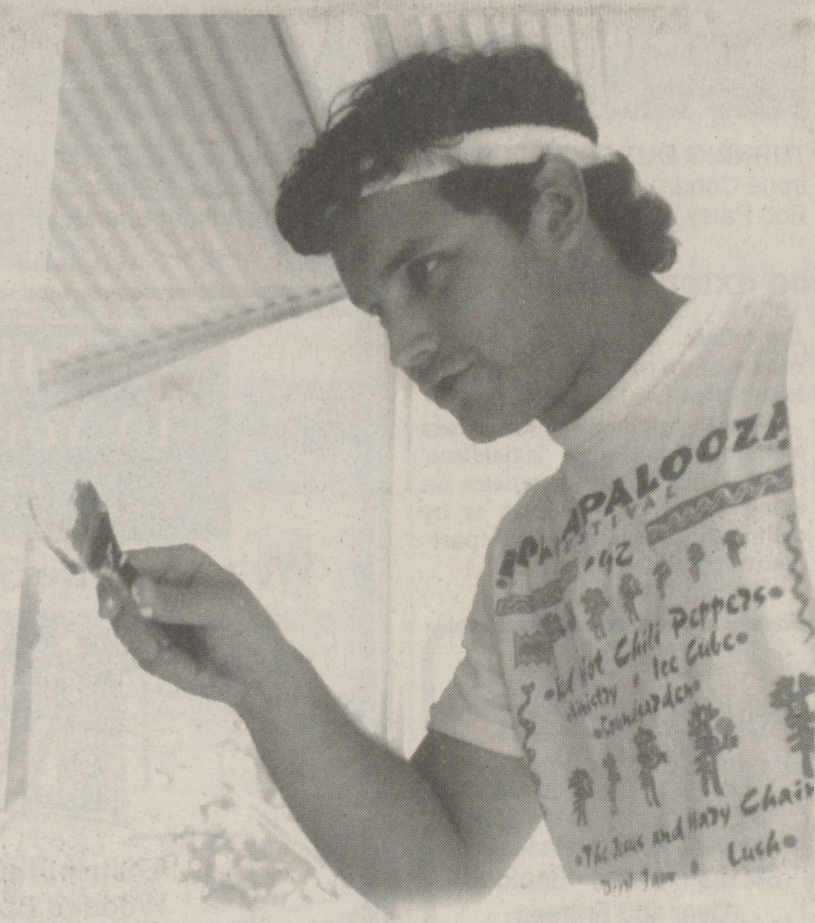
Expected to open by July 12, Brothers' Mercantile is located in the building which once housed Moore's Store at the corner of Lower Demunds and Ransom roads. It has been bought by brothers Michael, Frank and Mark Ondish and their cousin, James Evans, all from Centermoreland.

"We have always wanted to own a small business," said Mark Ondish, who recently graduated from Clarion University with a degree in Environmental Science. "It's our part of the American dream — to work for yourself and be your own boss."

Michael Ondish presently works at Keyco Distributing, while Frank works at Proctor and Gamble and Evans is a bartender.

The men have spent the last month renovating the building inside and out, even changing its color from the familiar deep red to a crisp forest green.

"We had originally planned on painting it red again, but changed our minds at the last minute and



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

**A LITTLE DAB'LL DO** — Mark Ondish touches up part of a front window at the new Brothers' Mercantile, scheduled to open by July 12, in the building which once housed Moore's Store. Ondish and his brothers, Michael and Frank, and cousin, Jim Evans, bought the building a month ago.

*"It's our part of the American dream — to work for yourself and be your own boss."*  
 Mark Ondish  
 Budding entrepreneur

decided to give it a new color along with its new identity," he said.

Ondish emphasized that Brothers' Mercantile will be as close as possible to a traditional old country store — not a modern, sterile convenience store.

"People are getting tired of big supermarket chains developing monopolies," he said. "We'll try to bring back the old days, with the storekeepers who knew all their customers by name and made friendly service and common courtesy their first priorities. We want to sell ourselves as well as our products."

The location is ideal, very close to schools, many homes and a large trailer park. Lots of traffic passes by, Ondish said.

The nearest country store is five miles away in Centermoreland.

Brothers' Mercantile will sell fresh produce, meats and a variety of other goods, all obtained as

See DREAM, pg 8

## Budget takes \$1 M from fund balance

*But Dallas district still has 3 times state-recommended reserve*

By GRACE R. DOVE  
 Post Staff

**DALLAS TOWNSHIP** — The Dallas School District will spend nearly \$1 million of its \$3.7 million fund balance in the 1995-96 school year, according to the budget that passed unanimously June 27.

The operating budget shows an 8 percent increase — to \$17,544,453 — over last year's \$16,238,246 spending plan, according to figures supplied by business manager Charlotte Williams. The tax rate will remain at

158 mills.

The district will start the year with a fund balance of \$3,667,633, a 32 percent increase over last year. It is projected to end with a little over \$2.5 million, about what it began 1994-95 with. The state board of education suggests a 5 percent fund equity, which would be about \$900,000.

A 13.5 percent increase in state income, from \$5,849,128 to \$6,641,192, will be slightly offset by a 13.4 percent decrease in federal funding, from \$200,789 to

See BUDGET, pg 8

■ **Red Sox beat everyone** The Red Sox finish undefeated in Major League Softball. Page 9.

■ **Flying the flag** Jackson Township installs new flag pole. Page 3.

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