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# The Dallas Post

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## Lack of rain takes a toll

### Crops wither, fire risk grows

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - Fire chiefs say the woods are so dry that even the dirt can catch on fire. Foliage and underbrush in the woods are desiccated, while flower beds and lawns turned brown and brittle weeks ago.

To date the area has received less than a third of its normal August rainfall and is running well below normal for the spring and summer.

Most Back Mountain communities have banned open burning. Water companies are asking their customers to conserve.

Area farmers are watching their crops and livelihoods wither away. "Unless we get rain, the situ-

See NO RAIN, pg 8



## FUN DAY, SUNDAY

Arts at Hayfield, held last Sunday on the Penn State campus in Lehman, enjoyed its usual fine weather, and those attending had lots of fun. In photo at left, Rebecca Pomerantz, 5, had two big red hearts painted on her cheeks. She's the daughter of Steve and Beth Pomerantz. Below, Sarah Reid, Beaumont, was twirled by Oliver Larnie of Bloomsburg as they demonstrated contra dancing.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



## 'Sisters' stay close over years

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**DALLAS TOWNSHIP** - They call themselves "The Sunflower Sisters," sporting identical sunflower hats, T-shirts and angel pins.

Once next-door neighbors in Shavertown, they have been best friends for more than 70 years and have never had a big argument.

Each summer for the past seven years, sisters Helen Gary Wheeler, Ruby Gary Oberst and Beatrice Gary Tolinski have gotten together with Doris Oberst Roberts and Mildred Oberst Stredler for lunch and "Sisters' Day" at Pickett's Charge, to catch up on the latest events. Doris Roberts, who owns a newspaper in Lake Hopatcong, NJ, takes the scenic route to the Back Mountain, stopping in New Jersey's Neshanic and Phillipsburg, then hopping across the Delaware River and zipping up to White Haven and Kingston to pick up the rest of the gang.

At 73 years young, Doris and Ruby are the kids of the group. "And they act that way too," Beatrice wisecracked. "Ruby and Doris always used to follow us around. Now they can't wait to get going - they're the only two left who still drive."

Helen is the middle child. They

See 'SISTERS', pg 2

## Cyanide downs PG&W worker

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**CEASETOWN** - A cyanide spill at the Ceasetown water filtration plant Monday afternoon sent one worker to the hospital.

According to Juneann Greco, spokesperson for plant owner Pennsylvania Gas and Water (PG&W), Corey Klinefelter came into contact with alkaline cyanide while performing a routine laboratory test for manganese on a water sample. The alkaline cyanide is used to neutralize the manganese, Greco said.

The manganese test is one of a series of water tests required by

the government and done as a matter of routine. Klinefelter had been doing the lab test wearing a fume hood, but accidentally spilled cyanide on his hand.

Klinefelter was taken by the Lehman ambulance to the Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre after becoming lightheaded and confused.

He is in serious condition Tuesday morning, according to a hospital spokesperson.

The Jackson Township ambulance and emergency management coordinator Sam Wilkes were assisted at the scene by the Lehman ambulance.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Field technicians Rich Lewis and Christopher Alstrom of Ecoscience, Inc., finish up an archaeological study of the area around Huntsville Road.

## Archaeologists 'dig' Huntsville Road

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - For the past several weeks a team of archaeologists has been digging up the latest dirt from the Back Mountain. Their most significant find has been acres of poison ivy.

As part of a state-required archaeological study of Huntsville Road by Ecoscience, Inc., field technicians Rich Lewis and Christopher Alstrom dug round holes along the roadside about two feet in diameter every 15 meters for the road's entire length. Such an investigation is required by the state whenever a road is widened or straightened, they said.

"Whenever we find artifacts, we mark the location and go back later and look for more," Lewis said. "We dig all the way down to the sterile subsoil."

"This should be easy digging," Alstrom said at a spot near the

Reservoir Road intersection. "The soil is dry and there aren't any wild grape vines."

Lewis carefully sifted the shovelfuls of dirt which Alstrom unearthed, finding several small pieces of white crockery, pieces of nails, a healthy crop of poison ivy and a dead catbird. The nails and crockery were catalogued and dropped into a plastic bag to go back to the lab for further study. The catbird was left in the weeds.

According to Ecoscience principal investigator JoEllen Burkholder, the main finds have been glass, crockery and several types of nails, which can be dated by their method of manufacture.

"The cut nails are from the late 1800's," she said. "We have found glass dating from the mid-1800's on up to modern times. Some of the oldest pieces are fragments of a good quality of porcelain proba-

See DIG, pg 8

## Theft charge against KT policeman going to trial

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**PITTSSTON** - Kingston Township patrolman Robert Weiss waived his right to a preliminary hearing on charges of theft by unlawful taking August 23 before District Magistrate Fred Pierantoni.

Weiss is accused of taking \$106.90 from a sealed envelope in an locked evidence room in late March and has been suspended with pay from his job. He is free on \$500 bail and must report to the Luzerne County district attorney's office for fingerprinting and to be photographed within 10 days.

The hearing, originally scheduled to be heard by District Magistrate James Tupper, was assigned to Pierantoni by Luzerne County President Judge Toole after Tupper recused himself from it because he knows Weiss. Another magistrate, Andrew Barilla,

also recused himself because he had dealings with Weiss as a police officer.

Scheduled for 2:15 p.m., the hearing was delayed for nearly two hours because District Attorney Peter Paul Olszewski's staff hadn't been notified and didn't send a representative. When Pierantoni called him, Olszewski's staff said they were ready to prosecute the case and sent detective lieutenant Gary Sworen to the hearing.

"I'm very disappointed that this has transpired," said Weiss's attorney, Vincent Cappellini, who unsuccessfully moved to have the case dismissed for lack of prosecution. "We have had to wait here 2 1/2 hours."

He said he advised Weiss to waive his right to a preliminary hearing because "it's a good idea."

Weiss also said he was disappointed in the delay, refusing further comment.

## Drive for fire truck takes to streets

**SHAVERTOWN** - It isn't St. Nicholas Day, but the Shavertown firefighters hope area residents will leave something in their large rubber boots Sept. 1 and 2.

Firefighters holding boots will stand on Route 309 at the Center Street intersection Friday from 4 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., requesting donations from drivers to help pay for Ladder 61,

a new state-of-the-art aerial ladder truck.

Signs reminding motorists of the Boot Day and the need for donations will be posted near the intersection. Firefighters wearing vests will walk through stopped traffic on the highway soliciting donations while the Route 309 light is red. All donations will be appreciated.



## Cops raise funds for ARC

Recently the members of the Back Mountain Police Association presented a check to Linda Ross of the Luzerne County Association of Retarded Citizens from the Back Mountain Police Ham & Egg breakfast.

At the presentation were, from left, John Fowler, Paul Sabol, John Blaski, Linda Ross (LUZARC) and Dave Wier.

### Movie mogul?

Joseph Hudak is heading to Hollywood for a business intership. Page 11.

### Ready to drive

Jeff Farley has his golf game tuned up for the fall season. Page 9.

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