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The Dallas Post

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

Vol. 106 No. 50

Dallas, Pennsylvania

December 13 thru 19, 1995

HOLIDAY HAPPENING



Kelli Crossin as Mary, and Kevin Gilbertson as Joseph were watched over by angels Beth Ryan, left, and Kathleen Paley,

during the Gate of Heaven School first graders play, last Sunday. More photos on page 8.

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Two soldiers from Lehman now in Bosnia

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP - While Airman Darin Ide will face ethnic hatred in Bosnia, his family will have to deal with the unknown.

"The unknown is the worst part," said his mother, Gail Ide, who is forming a support group for families of service personnel serving in the war-ravaged republic once known as Yugoslavia. "I'm trying to form a network for moral support for families and to share information."

If enough people are interested in forming a support group, Ide has already found a place to meet. After seeing Ide on television, a

"He was supposed to go the minute the peace treaty was initialed."

Gail Ide
Mother of Bosnia soldier

minister from Nanticoke and the Scranton Veterans' Center called her and offered space for meetings.

Ide, an Air Force ground communications specialist, and a fellow Lake-Lehman graduate, army logistics specialist Thomas M.

See BOSNIA, pg 10

Dallas students ace statewide test

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - They're tops and proud of it.

For the past three years, Dallas students have joined their peers across the state in taking the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), a six-hour battery of standardized tests in math and reading.

"They're valuable teaching tools - the scores help us determine which parts of our curriculum are strong and which ones still need improvement," said assistant superintendent Dr. Gilbert Griffiths. "They also help us determine whether or not the curriculum is meeting the state's required

learning outcomes in these areas."

The tests were last administered in March to students in grades five, eight and 11 in the state's 501 public school districts, which are required to participate in them.

Students' scores are compared with schools of similar size, population, wealth and other demographics across the state. Similar schools may not be from the same general area, so that Dallas wouldn't be in a group of similar schools to be compared with Wyoming Area, for example.

"To compare Dallas with other districts in Luzerne County isn't a true apples-to-apples comparison

See TEST, pg 9

Water company seeks 39%-63% rate hikes

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Customers of four small area water companies may ring in the new year with larger water bills.

National Utilities, Inc., owners of the Midway Manor, Oak Hill, Worden Place and Rhodes Terrace water companies, has asked the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for permission to increase its rates by an average of 49 percent effective January 29.

Midway Manor, which serves 575 customers in Kingston Township, and Worden Place, which serves 180 customers at Harveys Lake, will increase their rates by 62.8 percent. A typical customer

now paying a flat rate of \$33.43 every two months will pay \$54.44 under the new rate plan.

Rhodes Terrace customers will see a 48.9 percent increase in their water bills, from a flat rate of \$48.24 every two months to \$71.86. Rhodes Terrace serves 275 customers at Harveys Lake.

Oak Hill's 486 customers in Lehman Township will see a 38.9 percent increase, from an average of \$65.20 every two months to \$90.62. That adds up to \$543.72 per year. Oak Hill is the only area division of National Utilities with water meters.

In contrast, the typical cus-

See RATE HIKE, pg 10

Road repairs shoddy, towns say

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - As National Utilities asks for rate increases of up to 63 percent, two towns in which the company does business fume over its poor repair record.

The company, which owns the Midway Manor, Oak Hill, Worden Place and Rhodes Terrace water companies, has been involved in an ongoing battle with the Lehman Township supervisors over shoddy repairs to cuts it makes to access

broken pipes under paved roads.

It has yet to comply with the township's pave cut ordinance and has left dirt-filled holes in the roads months after it finished repairing pipes, according to supervisor Doug Ide.

The ordinance describes how anyone cutting through the pavement of a township road for any reason must repair their work, specifying the type of fill and asphalt needed.

"National Utilities finally took

See SHODDY REPAIRS, pg 10

Planners nix plan for Rt. 309 craft shop

By ANN POEPPERLING
Post Correspondent

KINGSTON TWP. - Despite snowy weather, a crowd of residents showed up Dec. 5 to oppose the possibility of a craft shop at the corner of Holcomb Rd. and North Memorial Highway (Rt. 309), Shavertown.

Roy W. Evans submitted an application to rezone his property located at 20 N. Memorial Highway from residential (R-1) to Commercial (B-2) in hopes of opening a craft shop.

Barbara Spriggs of 156 Welles St., Forty Fort represented her brother, who couldn't appear because of work.

Residents of Holcomb Road, a narrow road on a steep hill between Memorial Highway and Pioneer Avenue, had a number of reasons why a commercial establishment wouldn't be welcome in their neighborhood.

John L. Joyce, who owns property at 12 Holcomb Rd., adjacent to the Evans property, rents his house and is concerned for his tenant. In a letter to the commis-

PROPERTY OWNER DEFENDS HIS PLAN, PG 10

sioners, he described "lack of a proper buffer zone, increased traffic, bright lights, and the possibility of an unsightly retaining wall."

Joyce also believes that Holcomb Rd. cannot absorb more traffic, adding "anything resulting in increased traffic will result in increased accidents." His letter stated that the intersection is

dangerous and has been the site of many accidents in the past.

Joan Hine, 16 Holcomb Rd., presented a petition with 100 signatures in opposition to the rezoning, as well as 31 signatures of children living in the area. She feels if traffic to the proposed craft shop is rerouted from Pioneer Ave. down Holcomb, the increased activity will be dangerous to children who play in the area and walk Holcomb to and from a bus stop at the corner of Pioneer.

See CRAFT SHOP, pg 10

Snark wins debate, it looks bleak for Santa

By Rudolph 'Red' Nose

(This is the third of a four-part children's story, The Dallas Post's Christmas present to our young readers.)

All of the North Pole turned out for the debate between Santa and Snark. Radio Polaris sent a crew out to broadcast it and even the local television station, SNOW-North Pole had cameras there.

Snark had done a lot of thinking about the debate. He knew he had to score lots of points early to be considered the winner. Santa

was just too popular for Snark to let him off easy. And he knew he had to prime the elves for what was to come.

So Snark had signs put up all around the Halls of Congress, which was the only building large enough to hold such a crowd.

"Vote for Snark - the Low-Fat Candidate!" one sign said. "Rip Claus's Claws out of the office" advised another. And those were the nice ones!

The debate was to be monitored by Felice Navidad, the editor of *The Zero Gazette*, the North

Pole's premier newspaper. But first, each candidate was to make a statement.

Santa was first. "You all know me," he said, smiling. "You know I've put every waking moment since the beginning of time into being a good Santa. I'll trust you to do the right thing."

The elves applauded politely. Then it was Snark's turn.

"You think you're doing well, don't you," Snark began. "Well, I say you're just a bunch of slaves!"

See SNARK, pg 17

Santa Claus is coming to town

BACK MOUNTAIN - Santa Claus will make his annual whirlwind tour through the area this weekend, arriving at several parties on a shiny fire truck to greet good kids of all ages. Firefighters will be on hand to help him distribute presents and refreshments.

Here's his itinerary:

DECEMBER 16

• Trucksville fire hall, noon-2 p.m., hosted by the Trucksville Fire Company.

• Shavertown fire hall, 1-3 p.m., hosted by the Shavertown Fire Company.

• Daddow-Isaacs Post 672 American Legion home, 2 p.m., hosted by members of the Legion and auxiliary, with Santa's transportation provided by the Dallas Fire Company.

DECEMBER 17

• Jackson Township fire hall, 2 p.m., hosted by the Jackson Township Fire Company.

• Franklin Township fire hall, 2 p.m., hosted by the Franklin Township Fire Company.

■ **St. Therese's** in Shavertown holds annual Advent Concert. Photos, pg 3.

■ **Kristy Rice** honored for outstanding artistry. Pg 6.

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