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Gail 'Idd' on CNN and other flood notes

- Lake Silkworth resident Gail Ide, a volunteer at the Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency, was interviewed for several minutes on CNN's 6 p.m. newscast Saturday. She described evacuation and emergency procedures for correspondent Brian Jenkins. Unfortunately, they spelled her name "Idd" in the caption that accompanied the interview.

- The scene at the parking lot of the Red Cross evacuation shelter at the Dallas High School included an RV, an outboard motorboat and two dogs taking their masters for a walk Saturday afternoon.

- A checker at Insalaco's at the Country Club Shopping Center said there was a line of customers at the door when the store opened at 7 a.m. There were

- noticeable bare spots on the shelves in the meat and fresh produce departments by 8:30 a.m., as valley residents flocked to Back Mountain stores because downtown stores were closed.

- One Weather Channel announcer displayed a lack of geography knowledge when he called the Susquehanna at Wilkes-Barre the "Wilkes-Barre River" several times. He also

- mentioned the "Towanda River."

- Evacuees at the Dallas High School called their shelter "The Back Mountain Marriott" because of the great meals served up on short notice by the cafeteria staff.

- Area firefighters pulled marathon 12-hour shifts Friday and Saturday pumping flood

See FLOOD NOTES, pg 7

Super Bowl calls for name change, fans say

As the Super Bowl football game pitting the Pittsburgh Steelers against the Dallas Cowboys draws near, some folks have become uncomfortable with the name "Dallas" on a Pennsylvania town. Hugh Boice, who lives on Country Club Road, says he, his family and his "bar buddies" think their town should become

See NAME CHANGE, pg 10

Evacuees flood Back Mountain

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - Volunteers at the Red Cross evacuation shelter at the Dallas High School turned out early Saturday morning to care for about 150 people displaced by the mandatory evacuation of the Wyoming Valley. Many arrived at the shelter after spending much of the night helping their own family members or friends get away from the rising waters of the Susquehanna.

"It was amazing," said Dallas Township resident Maryann Popielarz, who came with her son, Andy, to work at the shelter. "People of all ages donated food or showed up to help out. They brought toys, towels, personal care items - anything they thought the evacuees could use."

Maryann registered evacuees, while Andy moved cots, brought in food and did whatever needed to be done.

When she and Andy reminded an older woman stepping outside for a walk to button up her coat to protect her from the wind, the woman said, "It's just like southern hospitality back here."

A man who has small children invited families with toddlers to come to his home to play, while a family from the Lake-Lehman area called to offer the use a spare bedroom, Maryann recalled.

Someone else donated decks of playing cards and board games for the kids.

Shavertown resident Kim Bren, also working registration, came out because her mother, Maude McHenry, who works for the Red Cross, had called her and said the agency needed help.

"We have to keep track of people in case their relatives are looking for them and get an accurate count for meals and cots," she said.

The middle school cafeteria served as a staging area for cots and other supplies.

For school board member

See EVACUEES, pg. 7



Maude McHenry, left, in top photo, comforted Kathrine Jenks of Swoyersville, while Nancy Rogers helped tuck her in. Andy Popielarz, near right, plumped the pillow for Annie Tressa of Swoyersville at the Dallas High School emergency site. Far right, Melissa Evans helped Mark Sappach of Swoyersville feel at his temporary home, the Dallas High School evacuation center.

POST PHOTOS/
CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Dallas man kidnapped, beat wife, police say

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Dallas resident William Goldsmith has been charged with multiple counts of reckless endangerment, making terroristic threats, harassment and stalking, disorderly conduct, simple assault, unlawful restraint, false imprisonment and kidnapping after a domestic incident January 20, according to arrest documents on file with District Justice James Tupper.

He was arrested by police from Dallas and Lehman townships after his wife, Michelle, reported he had beaten her, pushed her into a glass door, pointed a loaded gun at her and told her, "You're going to die tonight," tied her hands and tied her to the seat of the car.

He then drove her to the Lehman Township residence of Gary Powell on Troxell Switch Road, where he pounded on the garage door, pointed a gun at the second-story window where Powell's friend was standing and shouted for Powell to come out.

Goldsmith then left the Powell residence and drove his wife home, where he released her.

Goldsmith had been trying to find out where his wife was staying, the documents said.

Two hours later Mrs. Goldsmith reported to police that her husband had said he was returning to the Powell residence with a can of gasoline or kerosene and intended to kill Powell, his wife and himself.

Powell told police Goldsmith called him, saying he would be stalking Powell all night and to have a nice night.

In the course of the investigation, police seized two semi-automatic handguns which were obtained by search warrant and

See KIDNAP, pg 2

Supporters sing Westmoreland's praises

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

TRUCKSVILLE - Westmoreland School parents and teachers rallied last week in an attempt to prevent the closing of their school. Despite threatening skies and thick fog, about 150 parents attended a meeting Jan. 18 at Westmoreland to learn about the district's options and how they will affect the students.

If the district closes Westmoreland, it could build a new school on that site, add to the present Dallas Elementary building to create a large school housing all students in grades K through five or split up the elementary grades, housing the lower grades in the present Dallas Elementary building and two or three grades in a new addition to be built behind the middle school. PTO president Susan

Baiamonte outlined the district's building options, their costs, advantages and disadvantages, followed by reading specialist Rita Mundy, who presented research supporting smaller elementary schools such as Westmoreland.

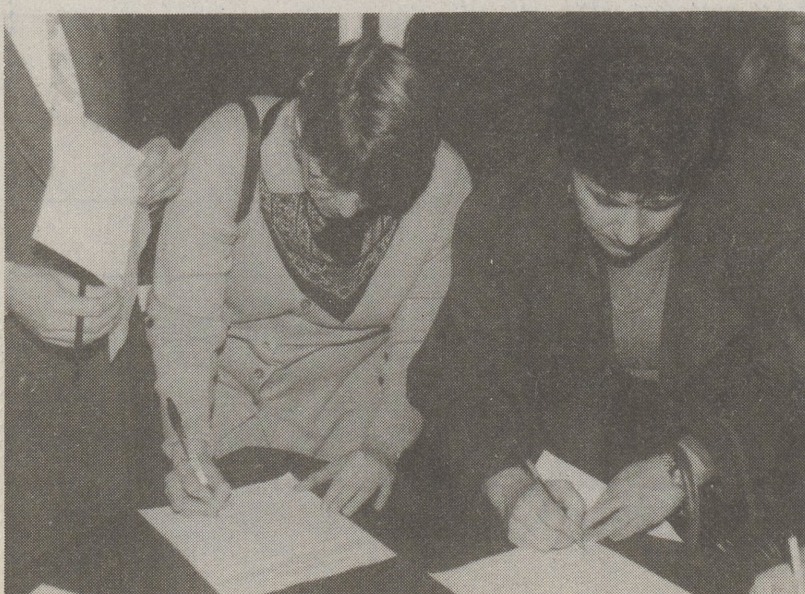
"What kind of a PTO would we have in a huge mega-school with 1,000 children?" Baiamonte asked.

Parents said they were concerned about the increased traffic a new school would bring main campus, where the high school, middle school and Dallas Elementary School are located.

"Go up there at 9 a.m. and see the traffic now," Baiamonte said. "Now add our 450 children to that."

"The pros and cons from the architects were mainly based on maximizing building use and

See WESTMORELAND, pg 8



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Robin Kinley and Maria Yurchision signed petitions at a special PTO meeting Thursday night to keep the Westmoreland Elementary School open.

■ **Hats on!** Second graders at Westmoreland School celebrated "Hat Day". Pg 3.

■ **J.P. Cosgrove** leads the Dallas boys' basketball team by giving it his all. Pg 9.

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