



The Dallas Post

50¢

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

Vol. 107 No. 19

Dallas, Pennsylvania

May 8 thru May 14, 1996

Plan to cut shop, business classes draws fire

Millage hike still pegged at 27 to 28

By ANN POEPPERLING
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. - In another battle of the school budget, the administration has recommended the elimination of an industrial arts teacher, three industrial

arts classes, the business education program, and the drivers' education program.

At a meeting April 30, superintendent of schools Dr. William Price said that he and high school principal John Oliver discussed "realigning the staff due to retirements and sabbaticals for academic purposes with the emphasis on basic skills."

A group of about 60 teachers, students and residents showed up, many to give their support to the industrial arts program, which they felt is in danger of being

"I pay taxes, and I feel shop class is a very important part of school."

Ron Martin
Lake-Lehman graduate

cut altogether.

Dave Hopfer, an industrial arts teacher, debated Price. "I feel there's a possibility I might be losing my job. I'm objecting not

because of purely personal reasons, but also because of educational reasons. These kids in the industrial arts program are successful in the pursuit of careers when they get out of high school."

Ron Martin, a member of the audience, echoed the same feelings: "I graduated from Lake-Lehman in 1987, got my first job in woodworking, and now have had my own business since 1991. I pay taxes, and I feel shop class is a very important part of school. Why don't we look at what the teachers and administration are being paid and if they really care about the

kids, why don't they take a pay cut?"

Price tried to reassure the audience about the possible changes. "We're not going to totally close our shop departments. We're just looking at the numbers of students enrolled and reducing one teacher. We're trying to maximize our dollars and realign the department to be more productive. In fact, we're going to be expanding the graphic arts area."

He continued, "We're not interested in maintaining an industrial arts program

See SHOP CLASSES, pg 12

Vandals hit mailboxes, shoot out windows

By ANN POEPPERLING
Post Correspondent

JACKSON TWP. - Two supervisors found their mailboxes bashed in shortly after last month's meeting.

Mailboxes belonging to board chairman Walter Glogowski, Mountain Rd., and supervisor John Wilkes, Jr., Chase Rd., were damaged soon after the April 1 supervisors' meeting, according to police chief Donald Jones, who added there are no suspects at this time.

Wilkes said he heard his mailbox being hit at night during the weekend following the April 1 supervisors' meeting. Most of the damage was limited to the mailbox post which he repaired. Glogowski's mailbox was damaged more extensively, he said, and both incidents were reported to the police.

See VANDALS, pg 8

Phone co. plans more personnel at ALLTEL site

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

DALLAS - While 180 employees of ALLTEL Information Services will be moving their offices to Wilkes-Barre this fall, others will stay here, and Commonwealth Telephone is planning to expand its employment in the space vacated by ALLTEL.

ALLTEL, which in 1990 acquired the rights to cellular telephone software from C-TEC Corp., the parent of Commonwealth, also provides billing services for those companies. The 60 employees who work in that area will stay in the building, which is owned by Commonwealth and had been leased to ALLTEL, along Route 309 in Dallas Township.

Dave Fritz, ALLTEL account manager, said his company began looking for more space about a year ago. The search began by asking Commonwealth if more of the 40,000 square foot building was available, but Commonwealth, also anticipating expansion, couldn't offer more room at the time. A few months later, Fritz said Commonwealth approached his company and asked it to find a new home.

Carrie Thorpe, manager of communications at Commonwealth, said the company's Internet access arm, EPIX, is expanding rapidly. Begun with eight employees in 1995, the division now employs 32 people, and Thorpe said that number could double over the

See PHONE CO., pg 12



POST PHOTO: CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

RITE OF SPRING

It was a busy weekend for Father Peter Crynes of St. Therese's Church in Shavertown. The church hosted three classes of children who received First Holy Communion May 5. Above, Fr. Crynes coached a trio of communicants before the 9 a.m. service. From left, Sheree Horwath, and twin sisters Casie and Alyse Kuprionas.

Farmland on market for \$2.5 million

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS TOWNSHIP - A large parcel of the former Yalick farm at the intersection of Routes 118 and 415 in Dallas Township is up for sale, with an asking price of \$2.5 million.

Priced at \$54,000 per acre, the land has been listed with Jackson-Cross Company of ONCOR International. It is zoned for highway business (B-3 and B-4), with a small section still designated as agricultural, according to township records. It has a total of 1,700 feet fronting on Routes 415 and 118.

"The buyer can apply to have it zoned all business, which would be considered extending the B-3 and B-4 zones," said zoning officer Len Zoick. "A parcel which has an agricultural zone sandwiched between two other zones is considered spot zoning, which extending the business zones would alleviate."

Allowed in B-3 and B-4 zones without zoning board approval are retail, lodging, food, professional services, entertainment facilities except for drive-in theaters, utili-



This overhead photo from a listing brochure shows the location of 46 acres of the former Yalick farm that are now being sold as prime commercial land.

ties, animal clinics, personal services, machine, welding or car repair shops and many other uses, according to the township zoning code, which was last revised in 1984.

Zoning board approval would

be required for activities such as truck terminals, trailer parks, drive-in theaters, shopping centers and wholesale businesses.

Restrictions include a maxi-

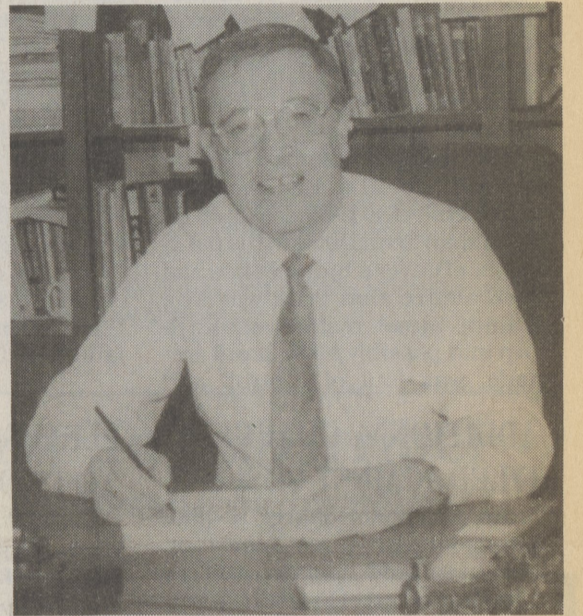
See FARMLAND, pg 12

Church prepares to honor 'Pastor Jim'

By ANN POEPPERLING
Staff Correspondent

SHAVERTOWN - "He's about as close to God as someone can get." That's how Frank Paczewski, chairman of the administrative board at Shavertown United Methodist Church, describes Pastor James A. Wert, who will be retiring after 14 years there July 1.

"Pastor Jim," as he is affectionately called by his parishioners, has been active in United Methodist Church ministry for over 40 years.



Jim Wert will retire July 1 after 14 years as pastor of the Shavertown United Methodist Church.

See PASTOR JIM, pg 16

Students, teachers not sold on new schedule

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - If the students were school board members and had to vote on whether or not to implement intensified scheduling, they'd be deadlocked.

At the school board's regular work session May 6, Jonathan Humphrey and Virginia Sarti, who visited Towanda High School last week, said they approved of the plan, but with reservations.

"Kids don't know what they want to do with the rest of their lives," Humphrey said. "They must have the opportunity to take as many courses as possible so they'll be better prepared."

Sarti said she is concerned with

the teachers receiving enough training to use the 81-minute class period to its fullest. "At first the teachers at Towanda didn't know what to do with the last part of the class and wasted a lot of valuable time," she said.

Toni Gorgone and Jennifer Gramps, who visited Upper Moreland High School, voted against the schedule change.

"We need more time to prepare before starting it," Gramps said.

Gorgone said she is worried that the new schedule will mean the loss of up to 40 hours per year of instructional time in science lab courses.

Sara Hadzor, who also visited

See STUDENTS, pg. 8

Band cleans up

Lake-Lehman's band swept the competition at Dollywood. Pg 8.

Mom's the word

Check out the Mother's Day ads on pages 16 and 17.

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