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June 12 thru June 18, 1996

Tax collectors keep up fight against commission cut

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - The Dallas school district and three of its four tax collectors are waiting for a decision on a lawsuit challenging the school board's action in changing its method of payment for collecting school and per capita taxes.

In the lawsuit, Dallas Borough tax collector Tom Reese, Dallas Township tax collector Len Kozick and Franklin Township tax collector Joy Daubert allege the board acted arbitrarily in changing the collection schedule from a percentage of all monies collected to a flat fee per tax bill collected, according to district solicitor Ben R. Jones, III.

"Between January, 1985, and December, 1993, the district paid each collector 2.5 percent on the first \$200,000 collected, one percent on the next \$1 million and .5 percent on anything above that," Jones said. "In 1992 the district found it was spending nearly one percent, or \$64,750, of the \$6.5 million in real estate and per capita taxes on collection. The commis-

sion was wholly disproportionate to the amount of work involved." According to a survey of 11 adjoining districts and the Pennsylvania Economy League, Dallas spent the highest amount in the area for tax collection, he added.

The district pays for the county to print the tax bills and for the tax collectors' bonding insurance, envelopes and postage, record

"The commission was wholly disproportionate to the amount of work involved."

Ben Jones III
School board solicitor

See TAX COLLECTORS, pg 8

Students may see fall courses soon

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - Senior high students may be able to see their schedules for next year before they leave school June 14.

Principal Frank Galicki and assistant superintendent Dr. Gil Griffiths reported to the board at the committee-of-the-whole meeting that about 80 percent of the schedules are ready in preparation for the first year of intensified scheduling in September.

"We're trying to work something out with the students who chose either too many or too few courses for next year," Griffiths said. "Usually we don't see any individual schedules until early August. But to assure there won't be any problems would be ludicrous."

A series of workshops to help the teachers make the transition to longer classes is also in place and the teachers are signing up for them, Galicki added.

The entire building is being re-organized, with more logical room numbers and classrooms grouped by subject, Galicki said. The computer labs will be upgraded and new curriculum centers equipped with computers will be added.

See COURSES, pg 8



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

GRADUATION HUG

Amy Shoemaker got a big hug from Stephanie Pineno after last week's graduation ceremonies at Lake-Lehman High School. More photos, including the entire class, on pages 6-7.

Second hearing about zoning protest postponed

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP - Complainants say they aren't out to destroy the new zoning ordinance, but the zoning hearing board isn't sure what they want.

Nearly 30 residents turned out June 4 for a hearing challenging the validity of the ordinance, adopted in 1995, and its amendment, passed in March. A second hearing scheduled for June 12 has been postponed until all those involved can agree on a new date.

The main bone of contention is the amendment, which changes minimum lot sizes in the agricultural (A-1) zone from two to three acres; in the residential (R-1) zone from 1.5 to two acres, and in the conservation zone (C-1) from three to four acres. More than 60 percent of the township is zoned agricultural or conservation.

Before the supervisors passed the ordinance last year, several concerned taxpayers had given them a petition containing nearly 300 homeowners' signatures, calling for the larger lot sizes ap-

proved in March. The supervisors said they approved the larger lot sizes because they were concerned the smaller lots could contribute to contamination of people's wells by septic units, as has already happened in the Crown Hill subdivision on Eighth Street.

The 13 complainants are represented by Sweet Valley attorney Mark McNealis. Those owning land zoned A-1 are: Joan and former supervisor Tim Dymond, one acre; Fred Dymond, who has power of attorney for Miriam Dymond, owner of 245 acres; Larry

and Nancy Brace, 150 acres; Joan and Willard Race, Sr., two acres; former township secretary Sandra and Willard Race, Jr., 40 acres; Mary Shively, 46 acres; Walter and Anne Prokopchak, 98 acres. Walter also is co-owner of 20 more acres.

Also, Charles and Ann McAvoy, owners of 170 acres zoned R-1 and one acre zoned A-1. Robert Redmond, who owns 130 acres, is also listed on the complaint, which noted that he is acting as a private

See ZONING, pg 8

Leigh Pawling selected as an artist to watch

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Staff

FRANKLIN TWP. - "People say to me, I can't believe you live in New York. But you know it's quiet there," says Leigh Pawling, sitting on a Giverny bench, a bucolic Back Mountain field surrounding her parents' home where she has come for the summer to maybe hear an inner voice.

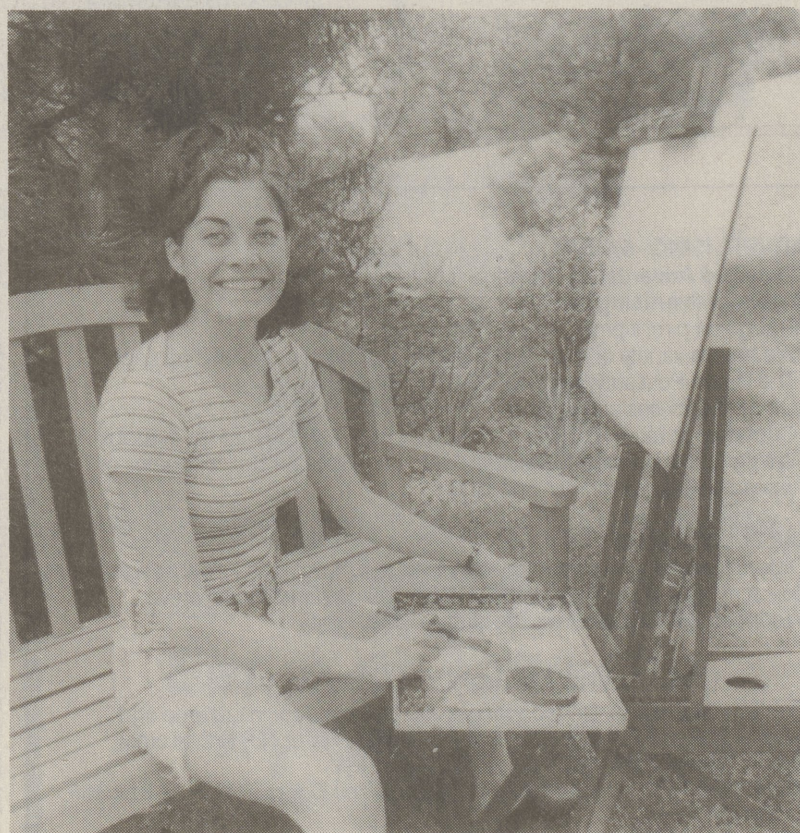
Recently selected as one of four "Emerging Artists" by American Artist magazine, Leigh lives on New York's upper West Side, in a rather large apartment. Her quarters, though, are a postage-sized maid's room that hardly accommodates her and her paintings.

Says Pawling, "I think it was Givenchy who said that it's good to live in a small space because that teaches you to organize your-

self more efficiently." By day she paints and studies at the Art Students League, where for the past four years since leaving Wittenberg University she has studied oil painting, drawing the human figure, and the crafts of the Masters.

The classes are serenely quiet with a variety of people from various backgrounds working at different projects, all at various levels of ability and expertise. Leigh monitors classes and sets up easels for the classes to help defray the cost of classes which she finds reasonable at \$150 each month.

The school since 1875 has accommodated such greats as Georgia O'Keefe, Jackson Pollack, Thomas Hart Benton and Eric Sloane. "You just can't believe how quiet those long morning studio classes



POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Leigh Pawling is home for the summer, having been identified as one of America's top four "Emerging Artists" by American Artist magazine.

See ARTIST, pg 8

For some families, home is classroom

By ANN POEPPERLING
Post Correspondent

LAKE TWP. - Kristine, Matthew, Tim, and Ben Ford's last day of school was Friday, June 7. Like most school children their age, they're looking forward to summer vacation. But unlike most children, their schooling took place in an unusual place — their home.

Kathy Ford, mother of five from Harvey's Lake, wouldn't have it any other way. She has been homeschooling her children for a total of five years and is one of about 50 families in the Back Mountain opting for this personal type of education.

Kristine, age 13, and Matthew, age 12, have just completed seventh grade while Tim, age 8, and Ben, nearly 7, have just finished second grade, all homeschooled

"We weren't unhappy with the education or the teachers in this district."

Kathy Ford
Homeschool parent

by their mother. The youngest, Joshua, age 3, not formally homeschooled yet, manages to keep busy during the school day, according to his mom. "Joshua listens along, looks at books, plays with daddy, or visits Goldie, the grandmotherly type woman that lives down the street," said Kathy.

A typical day at the Ford household starts with breakfast and a few chores, according to Kathy.

See HOMESCHOOL, pg 3



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Auction season begins

The Kickoff Dinner for the 50th annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction was held Monday at Yesterday's restaurant. Connie Scott, who organized the event, introduced Ernie Ashbridge, who is chairman. Waiting to bid on the sampler of items were Liz and John Lloyd.

Flag waving

Dallas Elementary kids knit together their part for nat'l Earth Day flag. Pg 3.

Big guns

Len Kryeski interviews Back Mountain's top baseball talent. Pg 9.

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