

The Dallas Post

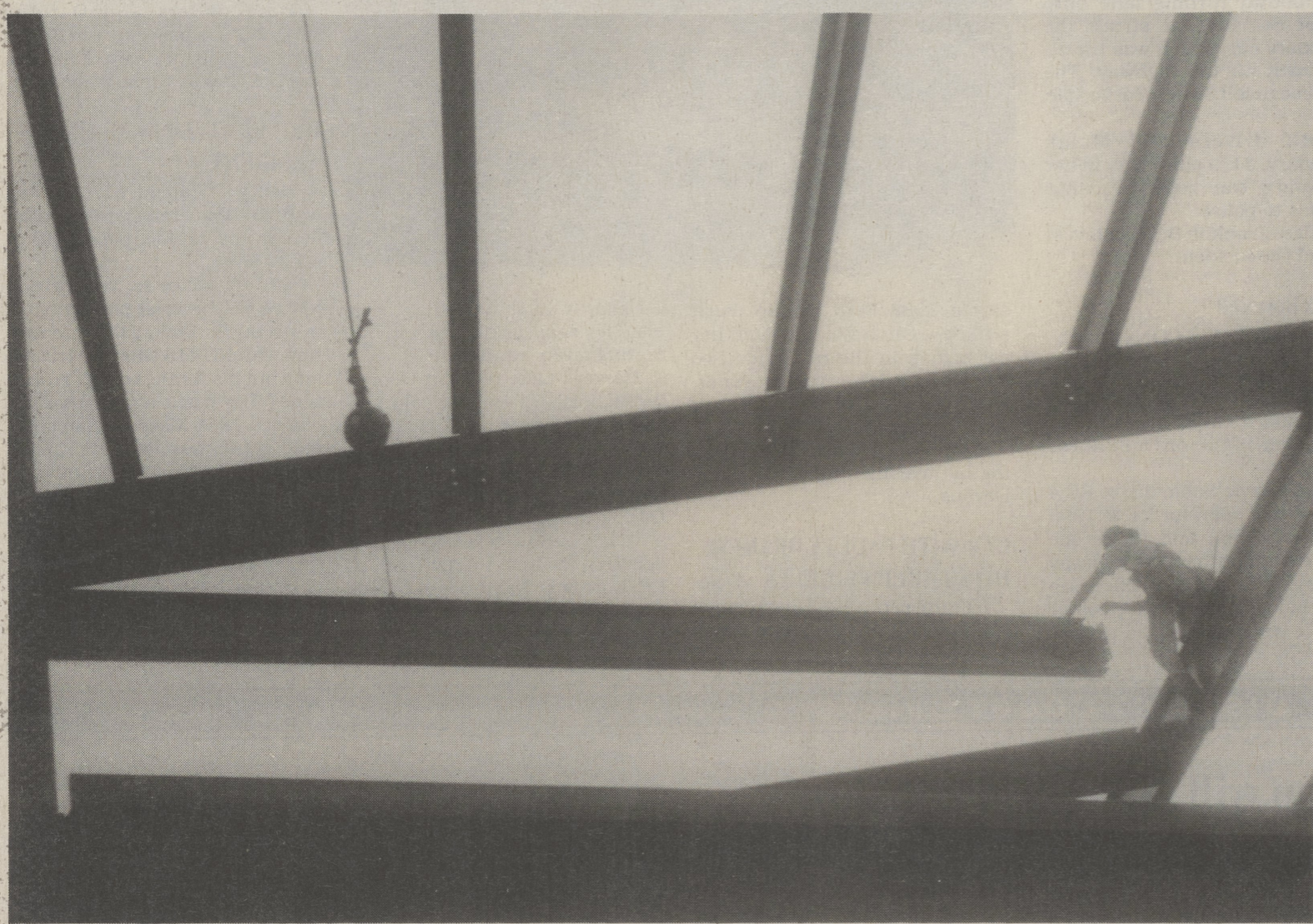
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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

WALKING THE HIGH STEEL

An ironworker helped maneuver a steel beam into place at the new Pendragon Plaza in Trucksville. Construction is progressing

on the first building in the complex. The retail/commercial development is scheduled to open next spring.

Local volunteers work to combat illiteracy

By JACK HILSHER
Post Correspondent

BACK MOUNTAIN - Imagine, if you can, what life would be like if you were unable to read these words. Or a newspaper, or a bus schedule. Pretty bleak, wouldn't you say?

Yet a recent nationwide survey shows that 90 million of America's nearly 200 million adults have trouble with both reading and writing. (An estimated 4 million of Pennsylvania's 9.6 million adults may not even be able to use the phone book!)

Sobering? Staggering? Yes, but while it may be an uphill struggle to change these numbers, an organization is doing its utmost to do just that. It is called the Wyoming Valley Literacy Volunteers.

Here in Luzerne County at least 8 percent of adults are functionally illiterate. They cannot read a want ad or write a check. They cannot read a menu or a recipe. Books? Forget it. Over 50,000 like these unfortunates are currently enrolled in adult literacy programs in this state, and these are only a fraction of the number needing help.

For over a dozen years, the Wyoming Valley program has headquartered in Kingston's Hoyt Library under the direction of Mary Callahan. She says, "Our group is training men and women volunteers how to tutor adults on a one-to-one basis. Anyone who can read and write and who is willing to tutor on a regular basis, only about two hours per week, can be a tutor after completing our training course."

Callahan adds, "There is no charge, only a modest registration fee, everything is on a volunteer basis. However the rewards

one receives for helping others in this way to become more self-reliant far exceed any monetary value.

No special teaching skills are needed, just dedication and perseverance. This program is just different enough from 'Meals on Wheels' or 'Dial-A-Driver' that we think we can attract the additional volunteers we need."

Machell Avenue's Carol King handles WVLV publicity and says, "We have over 50 volunteers from the Back Mountain, both active and inactive. But there is room for

See ILLITERACY, pg 10

Fifth-grade class tests 'hands-on' curriculum

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

LEHMAN - Mrs. Carol Williams's fifth-graders will make it rain in their classroom and blow up their teacher in science class.

Using materials they are familiar with, her students will learn science through a new "hands-on" approach. During the first week of school they made and set up wind flags, a rain gauge and thermometers, and devised experiments to study temperature differences and humidity to begin a unit on the weather.

Rose Knouse, Liz Martin, Sarah Heller, Robyn Maslowski and Kara Makarewicz formed a group and immediately got to work making their wind flag - which they waved around and blew on to test - from a dowel rod and a decora-

tive pennant. Joe Redmond stretched up high to attach his group's wind flag to one of three bird feeders outside the classroom window.

As Mrs. Williams peppered the class with questions about weather, hands popped into the air and students said, "I know! I know!"

You know it's going to rain when you can smell it or when your uncle's old injury aches, one said. Another said puffy, fluffy white clouds mean good weather and sometimes you can see pictures or people's faces in them.

After reading several weather proverbs, they understood that birds often head for their nests before it rains and why "sailors

See HANDS-ON, pg. 8



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Karen Milunic, Colleen Mininger, Scott Lozo, Matt Mahoney and Cody Lamoreaux made wind flags as part of an introduction to weather in their fifth-grade science class at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School last week.

Students return to new math, science classes

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

LEHMAN - Elementary school students will find they can literally get their hands on their science lessons this year.

According to superintendent Dr. William Price, science classes in grades K through six will focus on the practical applications of basic scientific principles using "items the kids are familiar with."

"For example, they might work

with thermometers while exploring freezing, thawing and boiling, or tuning forks, two tin cans and a string to learn about sound frequencies and vibrations," he said. "We want to make science interesting and challenging for both students and teachers. It's a backyard approach which emphasizes creativity, imagination and teacher initiative."

Because elementary classes statewide spend an average of only about 20 minutes per week in

science class, Price said he wants the Lake-Lehman students to spend more time learning its basic principles.

Dr. Walter Placek of Wilkes University developed the study guides with the teachers and will visit classes to monitor both teachers' and students' progress this year. Teaching supplies were purchased through a \$4,000 federal grant, Price said.

High school science students will continue to visit their young

friends at the elementary schools and show them different science experiments in a very successful program begun last year.

The district is also revamping its math curriculum. While algebra is now introduced to eighth and ninth-graders, it will soon be moved down into the fifth grade, where students will begin learning its basics in a pre-algebra course, Price said.

See MATH, SCIENCE., pg 8

Harveys Lake 18654 may move across bridge

Tiny post office's customers raise petition drive to have it stay put

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

HARVEYS LAKE - The Shawanese Post Office may soon have a new home. The post office, which currently sits at the bottom of Old Lake Road, will be making its second move in its 102-year history.

Dale Ferguson, manager of administrative services for this region's post offices, stated, "It's no secret we're looking for some-

"It's like mailing from your kitchen. You know the people."

John Fletcher
Harveys Lake

thing new."

Ferguson says the decision is based on a space deficiency. The Shawanese Post Office has "less than half the space required of an office that size," he said Tuesday.

Originally, a space across from Commonwealth Telephone on the corner of Sunset Terrace and Route 415 was the proposed site for the new building. The property was later proven to be too small.

See 18654, pg 8

Local schools see little change in enrollments

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - With the first week of school under their belts, attendance officers have started crunching numbers for another year.

Initial head counts show enrollments at both Dallas and Lake-Lehman have remained fairly constant for at least the past four years.

Bob Rogers, Lake-Lehman's chairman of pupil personnel services, said the 2,242 total enrollment has decreased by about 16 students over last year.

"We're relatively steady," he said. "Ninth grade is always a big class because we get transfers from the private and parochial schools, but we haven't had any sudden large increases in enrollments since I started doing the attendance records four years ago."

The district doesn't have any new large housing developments, which could cause enrollments to rise drastically, he added.

Of Lake-Lehman's 2,242 students, 680 attend the high school and 354 are in the middle school, Rogers said. Lehman-Jackson Elementary has 673 students, while Lake-Noxen has 413 and Ross Township 122. All sixth-graders attend either Lake-Noxen or Lehman-Jackson.

"The first week it's only a head count because some students are either sick or still on summer vacation."

Susan Farr
Dallas registrar

Registrar Susan Farr at Dallas said the district planned to take an official count Sept. 3. "The first week it's only a head count because some students are either sick or still on summer vacation," she said.

The Westmoreland Elementary School, which added a new fourth grade teacher this year, has approximately 477 students, while the larger Dallas Elementary building has about 674, she said. "We don't go up or down too much from year to year," Farr added.

The middle school has 613 students, while the high school has 750, according to the respective school secretaries.

Keeping an accurate count is only part of the job, Rogers and Farr said.

"My main problem the first week is tracking down the absentees and students who withdrew or

See ENROLLMENTS, pg 9

■ **Sports Preview**
Special 12-page section previews fall high school sports. Inside the B section.

■ **'Fair' weather**
Luzerne County Fair opens a five-day run today. Pg 7.

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