



# The Dallas Post

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

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## Trio inspired by young cancer victim

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - Anthony Carroll of Scranton is only four years old, but he has three new friends and his own running team.

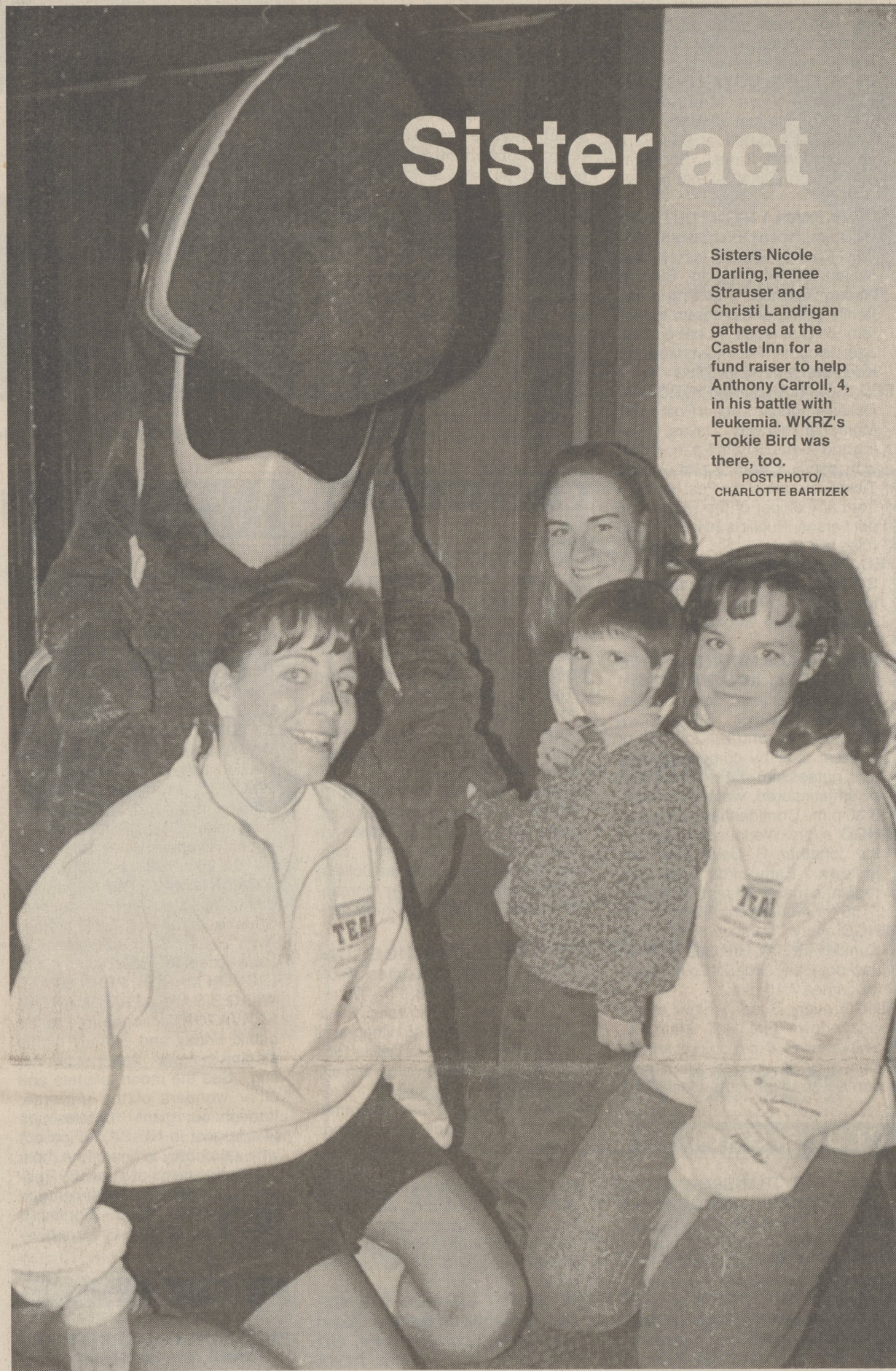
The bright-eyed youngster was diagnosed two years ago with T-cell Leukemia just days before a planned family vacation to Disneyland, thrusting Anthony and his family into a new world filled with indescribable emotion, medical jargon, hospitals, exhaustion and financial stress.

On Jan. 18 a "Winter Break Out Bash" was held at The Castle Inn in Dallas to honor Anthony and benefit the Leukemia Society. Sisters Nicole Darling, Cristi Landrigan and Renee Strauser organized the benefit after learning about Anthony's situation from the Society. More than 75 people braved the cold Saturday night and helped raise approximately \$600 to help the family continue their fight against the disease.

The three sisters also will be running with the Leukemia Society's Team in Training where each will participate in the London Marathon on April 13. Darling, the mother of three and Cristi, the mother of two, recently started jogging and decided to run a marathon.

"We thought it would be great to do a marathon. Cristi mentioned the Team in Training, so we decided to do that. Not only is it good for us, but we will be running for a purpose," said Darling, of Dallas, who will walk the marathon due to a stress fracture in her ankle. The two sisters then asked their youngest sibling Renee to join them and she accepted.

Each sister is required to raise \$3,000 and train for the marathon. The Team in Training gives them training tips, everything from nutrition to what to wear is covered by professional trainers. It



## Sister act

Sisters Nicole Darling, Renee Strauser and Christi Landrigan gathered at the Castle Inn for a fund raiser to help Anthony Carroll, 4, in his battle with leukemia. WKRZ's Tookie Bird was there, too.  
POST PHOTO/ CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## Wycallis recalled as able educator, friend to youth

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - Gerald Wycallis was much more than simply an excellent superintendent of the Dallas school system, friends and colleagues said this week. Reluctant to talk about himself but always ready to help others, he coached children in baseball and basketball, worked on community projects and challenged everyone around him to be their best in all they did.

Wycallis, 51, who lived in Shavertown with his wife, Judith and sons Gerald Jr. and Matthew, died Saturday afternoon at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, just hours after being admitted. He had been undergoing treatment for cancer since last year. His obituary appears on page 12.



GERALD WYCALLIS

Janet Evans first worked with Wycallis in 1974 when he was coordinator of the district's Title I program, which serves children who need extra help in reading and mathematics. She has been secretary to the superintendent since 1991. "I've been right here beside him for five years," she said.

Evans said Wycallis set high goals for himself and the district. "He expected a lot of people who worked for him, but he was fair. He had great loyalty to the district and he expected it from others as well."

Above all, Evans said, Wycallis cared for the students, and worked in their interest. Sometimes that required massaging board members egos, which drew accusations that the superintendent

See WYCALLIS, pg 8

## School board tables new jobs, raises

By JENNIFER JUDGE  
Post Correspondent

**LEHMAN** - At the January meeting of the Lake-Lehman School Board, attempts to restructure the district business office were quickly halted by board member questions and concerns. The proposed changes include three salary increases, two salary reductions for reduced work hours, and the creation of a new position.

Board member David Kaufman felt the board could not act on creating a new position without a salary or a job description. Kathleen Williams, business manager, explained that the new position would cover gaps that exist in the present structure.

A Clerk II position would be responsible for transportation support, federal funds accounting, athletic fund accounting, and activity fund accounting. The base salary would be \$20,000. The motion to create the post was tabled along with several other restructuring attempts.

Among other proposed changes was a motion to promote a present business office Clerk I to Office Manager. This position is currently held by Sharon Yakabovicz. Yakabovicz's present salary is \$23,591. As office manager her salary would be \$28,500.

Debra Havrilla, currently a bookkeeper for food service at a salary of \$12,247 a year was re-

See SCHOOL BOARD, pg 8

## Man charged with assaulting 82-year-old mother

Charges of aggravated and simple assault, disorderly conduct and harassment, endangering another and resisting arrest against Michael James O'Malia, 46, of Overbrook Road in Dallas, will go to trial after he waived his right to a preliminary hearing before District Justice James Tupper.

Dallas Twp. patrolman Alan Pugh was called to the O'Malia residence at about 7 a.m. Nov. 24 for a domestic disturbance. When he arrived, the garage door was raised and the door to the house was off its hinges, lying on the floor. Pugh was accompanied

by officer C. Rauschkolb.

When the officers entered the house, they found Delphia O'Malia, the defendant's 82-year-old mother, lying on the floor. Also present was the defendant's brother, Jerry O'Malia who had come to check on his mother when she didn't make her usual 6 a.m. call to him.

Delphia O'Malia said Michael O'Malia blamed her for calling the police on him after the police dropped him home after he had been arrested for drunk driving. O'Malia's mother said the defendant became enraged and kicked the garage door

from the hinges, kicked a hole in the kitchen wall and then shoved her to the floor.

According to the police report, when she asked her son to call 911 because she was in severe pain he refused, saying he did not want to be taken by the police again. His mother asked for a blanket because she was cold. Michael O'Malia then threw rugs on her and went to bed.

After police were called to the scene, the defendant was taken to the police station and Delphia O'Malia was taken to Wilkes-

See MAN CHARGED, pg 2

## Land Trust will protect 42 acres in Noxen

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER  
Post staff

**NOXEN** - It's an undeniable fact that the Back Mountain is growing fast. Some call it progress, some call it the unnecessary destruction of important and vital land. The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust stands somewhere in the middle.

The organization, an offspring of the now defunct Back Mountain Citizen's Council, supports the preservation of our depleting land for existing and future generations.

In December the Land Trust completed its second conservation easement, when Dr. Doug Ayers of Trucksville donated the development rights to 42 acres of his land in Noxen. The acreage is adjacent to one of the most pristine game lands in the state.

An easement is a gift of development rights from the donor to the Land Trust. In return, the Land Trust protects the land from development forever. This legal document is recorded with the



A dirt road winds through the 42 acres of land in Noxen on which Doug Ayers has granted a conservation easement that will be maintained by the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust.

See LAND TRUST, pg 3

### Would-be candidates can start next month

Those who wish to run for local office will be able to begin the process in mid-February. The first step is to circulate a petition, which can begin on Feb. 18. One must go to the county election bureau's office located in the Luzerne County courthouse to take out a petition. It must be turned into the office by March 11. It takes approximately 10 signatures from registered voters in the Back Mountain municipalities to get a name on a ballot.

Some slots are open in both the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts, as well as local government. There will be four slots open on the Dallas School Board for the new year. In the Lake-Lehman School District, there is one open slot in Region 1, one in Region 2 and two in Region 3.

### Benefit game

Dallas students plan volleyball match in memory of Seth Linsinbigler. Pg 12.

### Top scorer

Dave Milunic leads his division in scoring, but says the team is more important. Pg 9.

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