



# The Dallas Post

50¢

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

Vol. 108 No. 10

Dallas, Pennsylvania

March 5 thru March 11, 1997

## Four emerge to challenge for school board seats

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - They call themselves "4 for Your Kids," and they think it's time for a change in the makeup of the Dallas school board. Tony Barbose, Frank Natitus, Steve Wengen and Ted Wright are running for seats on the board presently held by Maureen Banks, Joe Kunec, Thom Landon and James Richardson. The men have banded together in hopes of creating a board that exhibits more



STEVE WENGEN



ANTHONY BARBOSE

leadership, decision making ability and open communications with everyone from parents and teachers to administrators and taxpayers. All four say they are not running on a single issue. Each candidate must get at least 10 signatures on a petition that will be turned in to the county election bureau by March 11. Anthony Barbose, Kingston Twp., a 1980 graduate of Dallas High School, started to knock around the idea of running in September. Barbose said he is pressing forward

*"There should be a better sense of community between the board and various groups."*

Frank Natitus  
Trucksville

to assure the students a quality education. He believes the board should be a group closely connected to the public they serve. "The whole realm of things seems to be indecision on the board. There is no voice for the people of the area and the voters aren't being listened to,"

he explained. Barbose said he had a good experience at Dallas and wants to bring a good reputation back to the deserving district.

He is active as a coach in Back Mountain Baseball, Inc. and Dallas Youth Basketball. Barbose has three children currently in the district.

Frank Natitus, Trucksville, said he is also interested in bridging the gap between board members and the public. "There should be a better sense of community between the board and

various groups," he said. "This would bring back confidence in the district."

Natitus said he has been interested in running for the board for many years. "Negative events that plagued us this last year pushed me to do it," he responded when asked why he saw now was a good time.

Steve Wengen, Shavertown, who is a salesman and father of three in the district, thinks the overall image of the school is suffering partly

See SCHOOL BOARD, pg 8



FRANK NATITUS



TED WRIGHT

## Top honor for Dallas senior Jones

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - Tracy Jones, 17, has broken a dry spell at Dallas High School. She was recently chosen as National Merit Scholar finalist, joining an elite group of 7,000 students nationwide.

"We're thrilled. She is an outstanding young lady," said Jack Wolensky, guidance counselor. "It's a good reflection on her, the school and faculty."

To become a finalist a student must first score well on the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) they take their junior year. If the score is high enough both the school and student fill out an extensive application.

Wolensky points out that high PSAT scores are not enough. "She has the ability to score well on standardized tests which is outstanding. It really takes a combination of both co-curricular activities and a good score," he explained. "She's the whole package."

Jones is definitely involved. Aside from working hard in her classes, she takes part in many different activities including the National Honor Society, newspaper club, stage crew and serving as stage manager. Currently she's both managing and acting in "Much Ado About Nothing."

Off campus she takes a class at Penn State Lehman campus and studies art with Sue Hand. Jones said through the study of art she became very interested in architecture, which is what she plans to pursue in college. "I also like trigonometry and designing," she said. For the past two years she has attended the Explorers Program at Quad Three Group in Wilkes-Barre, where she learns

See FINALIST, pg 8



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

## COMIN' THROUGH

Bobby Lenahan ducked under Matt Daube during last weekend's championship game in Grade 5-6 Dallas Youth Basketball. Peter Van Loon chased Lenahan. Stories, more photos on pages 9 and 10.

## Wherever disaster hits, Chris Panko responds

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER  
Post Staff

**CENTERMORELAND** - It's late at night and you have just been flown in to North Carolina after a huge hurricane. You are alone. You walk into a partially roofless school gymnasium with 500 hungry, cold and frightened people inside.

Only a small light from a generator manages to pierce a tiny hole through the all-encompassing blackness. There is at least a foot of water on the roads allowing only a few vehicles through. You are in the middle of a major national disaster. Now, your job is to find food, blankets and cots for everyone.

Could you do it? Would you do it?

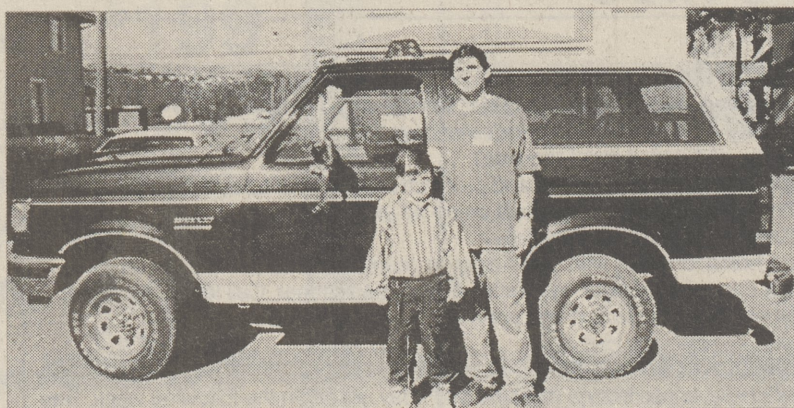
Chris Panko of Centermoreland would, could and did. The American Red Cross Disaster Action Team volunteer of five years was sent to Topsail Island to help during the 1996 attack of Hurricane

Fran. Although overwhelmed at first, Panko, a shelter coordinator, prevailed and helped many people during his three week stay.

"When I got there people were fighting over food. So, I found the most aggressive ones and recruited them to help me," Panko recalled with a laugh. He said a cellular phone was his constant companion for that whole first night and day. "I was on the phone all night trying to find tractor trailers (the only vehicle that could make it with ease through water) and generators for light," he said. Penko even found games for the children and television sets. "It's a nice feeling to know I did a lot of good down there," he said.

As a shelter coordinator, he is the person who organizes efforts to fulfill basic needs. The shelters provide mass feeding to those in need and remain open until everyone has a place to go.

An initial conversation with Panko, who is an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with



Chris Panko, with his son, Chris Jr. A Red Cross disaster team volunteer, Panko also volunteers with a fire and ambulance company.

Donahue/Rural Metro Ambulance in Wilkes-Barre, was cut short because he was called to duty. His job entails rushing to scenes where people are in need for everything from scratches to cardiac arrest. He uses his training as a medic to juggle skill,

quickness and humanity to transport people to help.

Panko said his employer is understanding about his commitment to the Red Cross. "Donahue has been very nice about me leav-

See DISASTER, pg 8

## Dirt roads nick cars, should be paved, 2 say

By JENNIFER JUDGE  
Post Correspondent

**JACKSON TWP.** - Joe Mack Jr. and Al Danka questioned the Jackson Twp. supervisors at their March 3 meeting on plans to pave Mountain Road and Cigarski Road. Currently both roads are unpaved. Mack contended that the township spends more to maintain dirt roads than it would cost to pave the roads.

Residents are upset because the roads are patched with number 57 stone, Mack explained. The coarse texture of the stone causes damage to car paint, he said. Mack pointed out that as the township grows in population, so does traffic on the roads. He said, "Just hope, with additional money coming in, the township will address the roads."

Township supervisor Walter Glogowski said the township has

*"I just hope, with additional money coming in, the township will address the roads."*

Joe Mack Jr.  
Jackson Twp.

24 miles of road, of which half is paved. "It would be our long-range goal to pave all our roads. We are paying for renovation of this building and dirt removal. When the debts are paid, we want to do this."

Glogowski also said that the township has applied for a Community Development Grant to pave Mizdale Road at no cost to the township. If the township re-

See JACKSON TWP., pg 8

## Trucksville woman follows her muse to poetry, mystery

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER  
Post Staff

**TRUCKSVILLE** - Helen A. Cummings has come to a crossroads in her life. After raising a family and working as a journalist for many years, she is embarking on a new chapter in her life devoted to the craft she loves, writing creatively. The Trucksville native runs the gamut, writing poetry, songs, mystery and science fiction.

"My goal is to earn my living as a writer," said Cummings. She wrote her first poem in second grade and has never stopped. "I think poetry was my catharsis for the trials of childhood," said Cummings. Edgar Allan Poe, Robert Frost and Eudora Welty

*"I've always wanted to be a writer, but never dreamed I could make a living doing something I loved."*

Helen Cummings  
Trucksville

were a few authors whose works inspired her while she was growing up in the 1950's Back Mountain.

She primarily wrote poetry until she reached high school. During those years she expanded her poetic lines into lyrics for songs, thinking up melodies in her mind.

See WRITER, pg 2

■ **Blue, Gold and fun** Pack 281 holds Blue and Gold dinner. Pg 3.

■ **Bound for states** A trio of Lake-Lehman wrestlers and Dallas swimmer Matt Schweitzer are going to states. Pg 9.

### INDEX

14 Pages	2 Sections
Calendar.....	14
Classified.....	12-13
Crossword.....	14
Editorials.....	4
Obituaries.....	5
School.....	7, 11
Sports.....	9-10

CALL 675-5211  
FOR HOME DELIVERY,  
NEWS OR ADVERTISING

The Dallas Post  
MAILING LABEL - Please enclose this label with any address changes, and mail to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612-0366