

School board

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because of the board's behavior. "I'm not picking on any one individual. As a unit they are not functioning well," he said. Wengen said recent actions by the board are leading to divisiveness in the community.

Wengen describes himself as non-political and "strictly in it for the kids. I really want to see some things change," he said, when asked why he decided to run for the board. "They need to start making decisions," said the Dallas Youth Basketball and Back Mountain Baseball, Inc. coach.

Ted Wright, Dallas, said the lack of decision on the new school prompted him to run for a seat. "The straw that broke the camel's back was the flip-flop on the location for the new elementary," Wright said. "The board needs to make decisions and stick with them."

He also said there are other issues that prompted him to run,

"I'm not picking on any one individual. As a unit they are not functioning well."

Steve Wengen
Shavertown

such as the intensified schedule. He believes the purpose of the board is to write and carry out policies, be responsible for funding tax structure and find the best available people to work in the district.

Like his three other group members, Wright believes communication with public is important. "Everybody has got to be working on the same page. There has to be an open line of communication with the board," he said. Wright now serves on the Dallas Borough Council.



Tracy Jones, seated center, is flanked by her parents Dale and Carol Jones at the announcement of her selection as a National Merit Finalist. Standing, from left, Frank Galicki, principal; Dr. Gil Griffiths, acting superintendent, and Jack Wolensky, guidance officer.

Finalist

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about engineering and design.

The honor was a complete surprise to Jones. "I had no idea until the beginning of the school year," she said. "I'm proud. Hopefully this will mean money for college." She said Penn State University is her first college choice.

She credits encouragement from her parents, Dale and Carol Jones, and lots of hard work for becoming a finalist. "I like to do well. It just makes things easier," she explained.

Wolensky said final results should be in by April. "All indica-

"I like to do well. It just makes things easier."

Tracy Jones
National Merit Finalist

tions are good. She will probably at least receive some award," he said.

Two other students, Amanda Eisenhart and Allison Piazza, received commendations for academic success from the program.

Disaster

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ing, very sympathetic for the public." He said his wife, Cathy, is also very understanding about his responsibilities. "Although she doesn't always like it, she is very supportive," he said.

One might think with such a demanding job and a family of four Panko couldn't put more on his plate, especially when he's not even getting paid for it. But, Panko is certainly not the type to sit around watching Sportscenter. In addition to the Red Cross he is also a volunteer for Wyoming Valley Multiple Sclerosis and the Valley Santa Program.

His desire to give back to the community may be explained by his own experiences as a receiver of this special humanity. Panko's first experience with the Red Cross came early in his life during an extremely difficult time. In 1972, the same year as the Agnes flood, the Panko family home was destroyed by fire. "The Red Cross was great with us. They put us up in a hotel and helped us find a place to live," he said.

Approximately five years ago Panko made a decision that changed his life. He left his bus driving job that he had since he was 18 years old, became an EMT and started to volunteer with the Red Cross.

He said volunteering has improved him in many ways. "It helps out in other areas of my life. I learn how to manage different situations and deal with different people. I'm definitely more organized and able to keep calm," said Panko.

During the flood of January 1996, when the Susquehanna River mercilessly took the Wyoming Valley hostage, Panko put his skills to use. He and two other volunteers comforted approximately 90 people at the Dallas High School that served as a shelter. When he speaks of this inci-

dent, Panko points out the shortage of volunteers. "There were only three of us. Ideally there should have been enough volunteers to put one at the door, a couple to register people and a couple to perform other duties, he said. "After the Agnes flood people were everywhere and then they slowly drifted away. We need to get more people active," Panko said.

According to Amy L. Miner, Emergency Services Director for the Wyoming Valley Chapter of the Red Cross, Panko is a very reliable volunteer who is always available to help. "Just last week he was called at 2 a.m. to activate volunteers to report in," she explained.

Panko has helped people in both local and national disasters. He is just one of many Red Cross volunteers we tend to overlook until a disaster hits. In a region that has had its share of natural disasters, trained volunteers such as Panko not only provide us with shelter, food and clothing, but also a smile and a sense of hope.

The Red Cross was started in the United States in 1881 by Clara Barton and locally in 1916. In 1994 the Red Cross responded to 68,225 domestic disasters including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and fires.

The Red Cross is always in need of volunteers. Panko stresses the flexibility of classes and meetings. "We are always in need of volunteers. It only takes a couple hours in the evening once a month and possibly day classes on the weekend. Once a year there is a week-long schooling where the national Red Cross comes in with every class it has and offers it for free," he explained.

For more information on donating time or money, call The American Red Cross at 823-7161.

Jackson Twp.

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ceives the grant, the road will be paved in 1998-99.

Glogowski said that decisions on which roads will be paved in the future will be made based on traffic levels. Priority roads include Cigarski and Mountain roads as well as Krasko Road and Pine Tree Road.

Fred Murray again complained about the township's strategies in dealing with contaminated soil removal five years ago. "I've been doing my own investigating and I've found some very interesting things," he said. Murray said the soil removed from Jackson Township was not incinerated, but instead used in an asphalt plant in Texas. Murray questioned why the township spent the money to send the dirt out of town when there was an asphalt company locally. Murray has vowed to continue researching the contaminated soil issue.

Also during the meeting Art Parsons of MMP Inc. made a preliminary presentation to the board on tire recycling. Parsons intends to set up his recycling center in Shickshinny and hopes the township will get involved. Parsons will shred the tires and ship them throughout the United States.

The supervisors accepted the resignations of Joan Conrad from the Planning Commission and Karen Whipple from the Recreation Board. Conrad is resigning

"When the debts are paid, we want to do this."

Walter Glogowski
Township supervisor

due to a move out of the township. Karen Whipple did not give a reason for resignation.

Zoning Officer John Krupa announced that political signs may be posted April 5 and must be removed by June 19. To hang posters, a permit must be obtained. The cost of a permit is \$30, which is refunded if the posters are removed.

Taxpayers Association to meet March 6

The Lake-Lehman School District Taxpayers Association will meet Thurs., March 6, at the Lehman Township Municipal Building. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. All taxpayers of the district are urged to attend.

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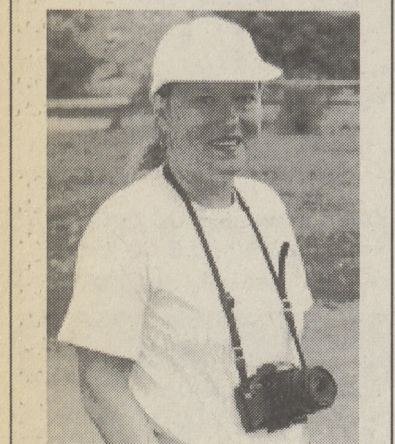
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