

Rainforest

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ment teacher, the students elected to take on the project.

By selling environmental t-shirts, the students raise funds for the Earth Foundation to purchase acres of Noel Kempf Mercado National Park in Bolivia. For every 10 t-shirts they sell, an acre of rainforest will be bought and preserved. So far the school has saved three acres of rainforest from irreparable destruction.

The students have many different motivations for their efforts. "I think it's important to save the rainforest so that we can keep all the animals safe and free," said Amy Puffenberger, 10.

Joe Barry, 13, said he is concerned with the imminent loss of important medicines and plants. According to the Earth Foundation, pharmacologists have identified more than 2,000 tropical plants with cancer-fighting properties.

"Also, candy and gum come from the forests. People will regret it," Barry added with a smile. He refers to the many common ingredients that grow within rainforest, such as a variety of nuts, cocoa, rubber and dammar, which makes lacquer and varnish.

The term "rainforest" was created by a German botanist in 1898 to describe the constantly damp conditions in which the forests grow. Rainforests grow in areas with an annual rainfall of more than 80 inches.

Tropical rainforests once covered 20 percent of the Earth's surface, today they cover only approximately seven percent.

Carl Bartizek, 7, believes there are many benefits to saving the land, including its ecological benefit. "It's important to save the trees so there will be lots of oxygen," he said.



Showing off some of the environmental t-shirts for sale at Gate of Heaven, seated, from left, Beth Ryan, Kevin Gilbertson and Carl Bartizek. Standing, Rebecca Hizny, Tim Persico, Joe Barry and Amy Puffenberger.

POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

"The kids are understanding it better," Bruns said. "They are getting a lot out of this educationally." She came upon the Adopt-An-Acre program while looking through Earth Day material.

"This program involves so many aspects," said Bruns, who is also a certified environmental education specialist.

Adopt-An-Acre takes students on a video trip to Bolivia so they can see what they are working to save and why. Also, the program teaches geography and provides good financial reasons for renewable resources, said Bruns. Students learn about the culture of the indigenous people of Bolivia and the reasons for many farmer's clear-cutting.

"They say knowledge is power. The more knowledge, the less rainforest destroyed."

Tim Persico, 13
Gate of Heaven School

"They care more for their families. They don't know what they're doing," explained Tim Persico, 13, of the farmers. "It's the industries, not the people."

Bruno said this is a historic event. "It's an international movement to save the forests for a country that can't for themselves," she said. Last year the school

employed a more "low key" fundraiser for the rainforests, but still managed to save two acres of land.

When asked why she chose the rainforest over other environmental causes, Bruns said, "The rainforest is currently the most fragile and is the most to lose in an extremely short period of time." She is confident that the rainforests can be saved and challenges other schools to participate in Adopt-An-Acre.

"They say knowledge is power. The more knowledge, the less rainforest destroyed," stated Persico.

For more information on the Earth Foundation, call 713-686-9453.

Forum

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seemed to keep popping up was the question of whether or not a feasibility study was necessary to establish the current state of the middle school. Payne was adamant the study was not necessary and that if it were to be done, the board should keep a close eye on the company chosen for the job. Rhodes, who is the incumbent for Region 2, believes the study is necessary to figure out exactly what needs to be done with school. Rhodes said the district would receive state reimbursement for the study.

Many people felt "Meet the Candidates" helped them to understand the candidates' intentions. "They answered a lot of different questions and it was helpful," said Marcia Fostock. Her daughter, Heather agreed. "This was very helpful and well organized. The candidates got their points across," she said.

McMahon thought the candidates were straightforward with their intentions. "They spoke their views," he said. "These things help a lot."

Elections take place May 20.

Franklin Ambulance Assoc. to meet May 7

The annual meeting of the Franklin Northmoreland Township Ambulance Association will be held Wed., May 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Franklin Township Fire Hall in Orange.

Chestnut Grove to meet May 4

The Chestnut Grove Cemetery Association of Loyalville will meet at 2:30 p.m. on Sun., May 4 in the Loyalville United Methodist Church Hall. All lot owners and interested persons are welcome.

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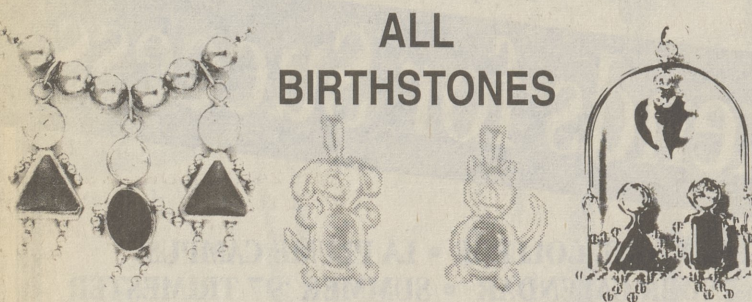
<p>Session #1 - June 2-6 "Plan Your Own Party" Children to plan & have a party, from designing invitations to baking to decorating to actually having a party.</p>	<p>Session #5 - July 7-11 "American Girl" girls only 6-9 yrs. Experience history in a fun way by reading, play acting, cooking, & crafts through one of the "American Girls".</p>
<p>Session #2 - June 9-13 "Becoming A Scientist" Explore & have fun with science through different projects & experiments.</p>	<p>Session #6 - July 14-18 "American Girl" Same as Session #5.</p>
<p>Session #3 - June 16-20 "Nature & Things" Children to explore nature from bugs to frogs, create bottle gardens to sand art.</p>	<p>Session #7 - July 21-25 "Carnival Time" Children will create their own carnival acts, games, clown acts, stage their own show.</p>
<p>Session #4 - June 23-27 "Bears, Bears & More Bears" From facts to fantasy! Have fun with teddy bears to polar bears.</p>	<p>Session #8 - August 3-8 "Gym Time" For all your future Olympians! Variety of indoor & outdoor sports activities & games.</p>
<p>Session #9 - August 11-15 "Arts & Crafts" Potpourri of fun through a variety of arts & crafts</p>	

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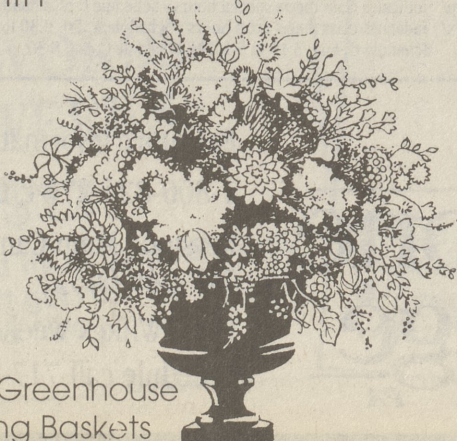
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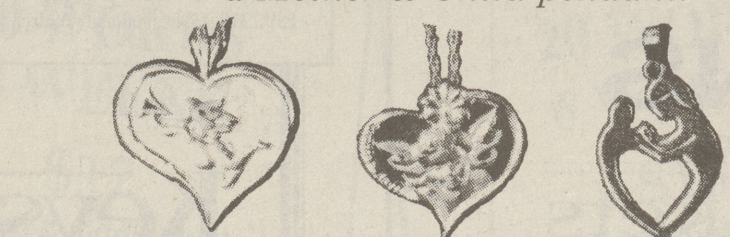
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