



The Dallas Post

50¢

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

Vol. 108 No. 46

Dallas, Pennsylvania

November 12 thru November 18, 1997

United Water customers want pressure up before prices

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Steve Kopcho believes if United Water of Pennsylvania wants to increase his rates, it should be required to at least provide adequate water pressure.

Kopcho, who lives on Westminster Dr. in Dallas, has filed a formal complaint with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC). In the complaint, Kopcho says he has experienced low and inadequate water pressure for the entire four years he has lived on the street and does

not think United Water should be granted the 15.6 percent rate increase it seeks.

"I've complained to United Water. Their response is that nothing can be done. They told me if I wanted better water pressure that I should buy a pump. The pump costs \$500," said Kopcho, who requests in his complaint that United Water install a pump and decrease his water rates.

In a written response to Kopcho, Kirby N. Pack, United Water manager in Dallas, explained that United Water provided adequate pressure as required by the PUC. "The PUC requires, in most in-

They told me if I wanted better water pressure that I should buy a pump. The pump costs \$500."

Steve Kopcho
Westminster Drive

stances, that we maintain pressure at the distribution main in the range of 25 psi to 125 psi, excepting that it may range down to 20 psi and up to 150 psi dependent on certain operating conditions,"

Pack stated in the letter.

United Water determined the water pressure at Kopcho's home was between 24 psi and 30 psi during a check in May. In his letter, Pack states, "I have noted from reviewing your charts that actual usage in your home has little impact on the available pressure...The pressures recorded...are within PUC guidelines, however, if you desire higher pressure you might consider installing a small hydro-pneumatic system in your home."

In an interview Monday with *The Dallas Post*, Pack said the PUC looks down on water companies buying individual

pumps for customers. "The PUC wouldn't support us spending \$500 on a pump just for Kopcho. Every rate payer in Dallas has to share that cost. Why should someone on Rt. 309 pay for something on Westminster?" asked Pack.

The proposed rate increase would add approximately \$30 to \$45 per year to customers' bills, which currently average \$290 a year.

Kopcho wants United Water to provide him with better service before they raise rates. Eighteen other United Water cus-

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Drug policy protesters silent, plan passes 9-0

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Although it was rumored a large group of parents would show up to voice their opinions against two new anti-drug policies, the Dallas School Board meeting was quiet Monday night.

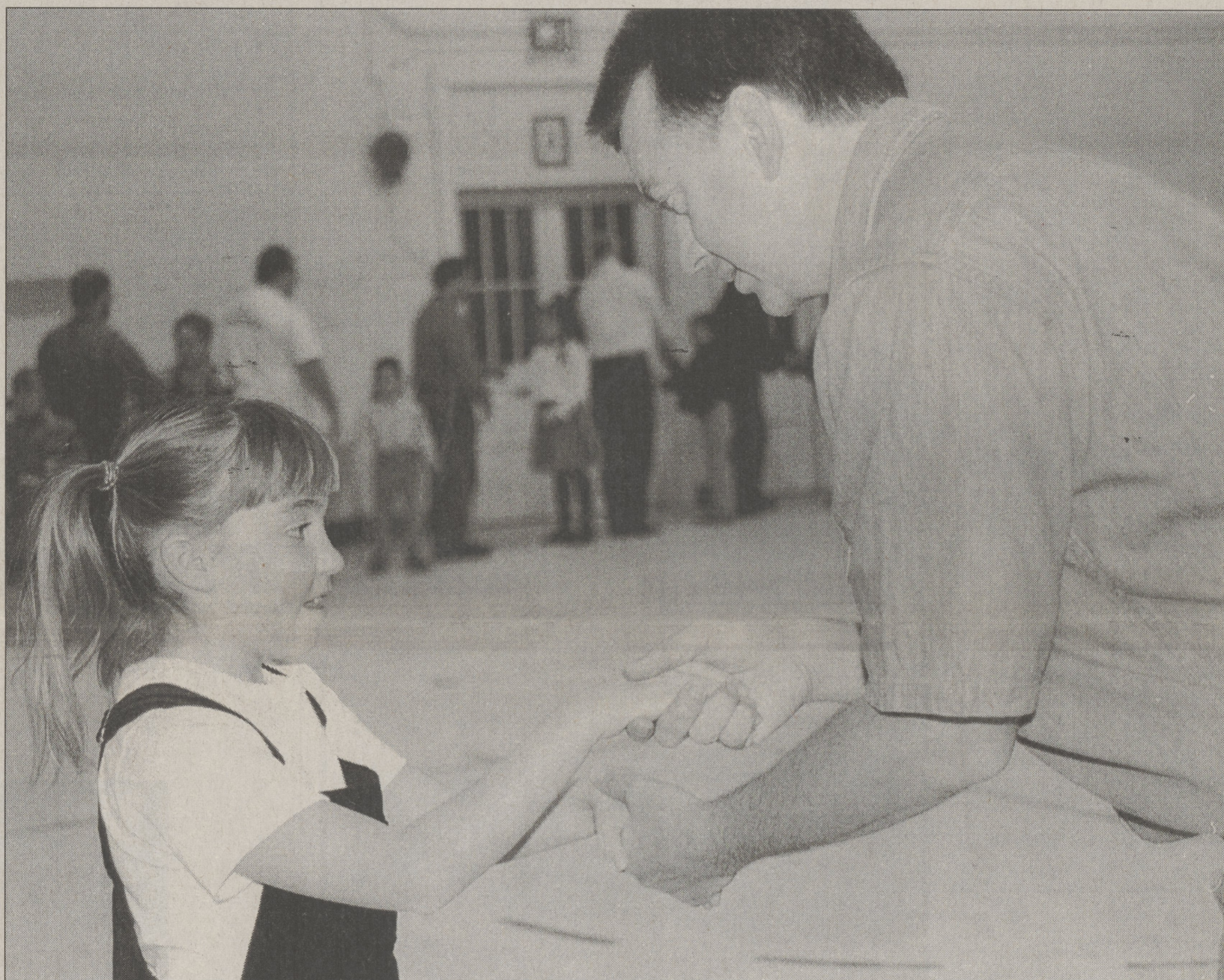
Both policies passed unanimously. Dogs will be used to randomly check lockers, cars, classrooms and storage areas for illegal substances in both the high school and middle school. Also, all PIAA athletes from grade seven to 12 must submit to a mandatory random drug test in order to play organized sports.

Tom Dombroski of Trucksville told the board they were going overboard by testing the athletes. "What led to the overkill? Why don't we start out small?" he asked the board. Dombroski also asked if there was a constitutional question to these policies.

Ernest Ashbridge, board president, said the district is well within its rights to have both the canines and drug testing.

Karen Kyle, who was recently voted onto the school board, lauded the board's efforts to maintain secure and safe schools. "I also thought the security cam-

See DRUG POLICY, pg 8



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Do-si-do with dad

Bethany Sidorek showed her dad, Len, the fine points of square dancing during the annual Back Mountain Girl Scout dance event last week, held at the old Dallas Twp. school. More photos on page 8.

Food bank serves the truly needy

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - The Back Mountain Food Bank is busy collecting food to help families get through the tough winter months. The food bank is set up as an emergency service for families in need to fall back on.

Run through the Trucksville United Methodist Church for the past 18 years, the food bank collects food all year round. Kathy Barlow, church secretary, said winter is usually the time people need the most help. "Generally, I think it's because heating bills go up. It's very steady in the winter," she said.

Barlow said the food bank is always in need of canned meat. Cereals, pasta, soup and drink mix also are good items to donate, she said.

Families may receive food only once every three months because of the amount of supplies. "It's set up for emergency help. Some people only use it once and others are there every three months," said Barlow. The food bank provides families with enough food to last a week.

People need the extra help for a variety of reasons. "Everyone thinks the Back Mountain is well-

See FOOD BANK, pg 8

Hoping for the sweet smell of success

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - Walking into the Rigez home is like walking into an olfactory paradise. The scents of lavender and rose petal dance in the air. Faint whiffs of peppermint and tangerine remind you that you haven't eaten since breakfast. But, it is not because of a delectable dessert or freshly cut flowers, as it may seem. It's because of soap.

Dan Rigez makes handmade soap. Stacks of varied soaps sit in rows on an antique stove in the corner of his family room, ready for customers. There are glycerine soaps with jewel colored flecks, round soaps made of cocoa butter with peppermint scent and rectangular bars made of goats' milk and honey with calendular petals and lavender.

Rigez sells his soaps under the name, Country Meadows Soaps and Sundries. His slogan is, "Yesterday's Solutions for Today's Skin." Rigez and Helen, his wife, believe strongly in using natural materials to make their products.

"Corporate soaps are designed to get the dirt away, but they also take the natural oils away," said Rigez, who started

See SOAP, pg 5

"Making the soaps is an extension of his cooking...He is an innovator."

Helen Rigez
Harveys Lake



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

Dan Rigez, of Harveys Lake, slices a fresh bar of his homemade soap. Rigez and his wife, Helen, make soaps using natural oils and aromas, sold under the name Country Meadows Soaps and Sundries.

Bands turn in big shows at competition championship

By MICHAEL TWICHELL
Post Correspondent

MOOSIC - The Lake-Lehman and Dallas high school marching bands ended their competition seasons on a high note in Sunday's Tournament of Bands (T.O.B.) Atlantic Coast Championships held at Lackawanna County Stadium.

The Lake-Lehman band finished second in Group II with an overall score of 97.9. The band also finished third in percussion and won top awards for best music, best auxiliary (color guard), and best woodwinds, with junior Allison Piatt winning best drum major.

"In my opinion, this is the best performance we've ever done at A.C.C.'s," said band director Edward A. Richards. "And the fact that we earned our highest score ever reflects that."

Dallas capped their 1997 competition season with a stellar performance in the Group I finals. Dallas finished in seventh place overall with a score of 90.65. The band also finished seventh in auxiliary, fifth in percussion, and fourth in woodwinds. "I'm very happy for the kids," said band director Jerry Baldauff. "Everyone worked very hard for this."

Senior Jason Vodzak brought

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"In my opinion, this is the best performance we've ever done at A.C.C.'s."

Edward Richards
Lake-Lehman band director



POST PHOTO/MIKE TWICHELL

Allison Piatt, Lake-Lehman drum major, won first place in the Atlantic Coast Championships, held last weekend at Lackawanna County Stadium.

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