

Soap

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making soap eight years ago. "Glycerine is a by-product of soap. For me it doesn't pay to take it away. I use glycerine and a variety of oils."

Some oils include almond, olive, oak moss, vanilla, chocolate and patchouli. All of the oils are food grade, said Rigez. "When you are environmentally conscious (and use natural items) you can pronounce all the ingredients."

With bottles and bottles of oils, scents and flavors filling the cupboards around him, he experiments and creates new aromas. His passion for his craft is obvious as he excitedly passes rich scents under a visitor's nose.

At first glance he looks more like a man preparing a great meal than one making soaps, and the comparison is appropriate. A big pot sits on the stovetop with about six rectangular molds made out of cut drainpipe jutting up. After mixing and melting his ingredients, he pours them into a mold. When the whole foot of soap is solid, he takes it out of the mold and cuts it into smaller bars.

Rigez is right at home experimenting with scents and flavors in the kitchen. He was a chef for 30 years and owned the restaurant, Daniel's, in Scranton.

He is originally from Argentina and moved to the United States in 1976. He and Helen, who is originally from Long Island, met on a blind date and married in 1989. They moved to Harveys Lake from



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

Helen and Dan Rigez clown around with their soap, trying to illustrate that the all-natural ingredients are good enough to eat.

Scranton one year ago. Their three children, Adrienne, 15, Brian and Paul, both 10, attend Lake-Lehman schools and are involved in band. Helen works as a nurse at the VA Hospital in Wilkes-Barre.

Helen stands right beside Rigez and supports him every step of the way. "She's my mentor," said Rigez, shooting a smile toward his wife. He started making soaps the year they got married after watching her father use the left over lard from his own restaurant.

"Making the soaps is an extension of his cooking," said Helen. "He is always involved with herbs

and flavoring. It's not that anyone couldn't do it. They just wouldn't do it with the enthusiasm and interest that is in Dan. He is an innovator."

Rigez is constantly learning and expanding. He listens to his children and his customers to understand what people like. Recently he started making lip balm, tar soaps for dandruff and a soap for hunters that kills the human scent. He is also learning about aromatherapy.

The Rigez's will show their wares at the Lake-Lehman Craft Show Nov. 22. Soaps can be ordered by calling 639-5377.

Chat with school principal Nov. 13

Parents of Westmoreland Elementary School students are invited to the kick off session of Chat With the Principal on Thurs., Nov. 13 from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. in the cafeteria of the school. A monthly Chat with the Principal is being initiated to provide parents with the opportunity to share their ideas and concerns about school programs and policies. Parents may use the school playground for parking.

DM student council holds first dance

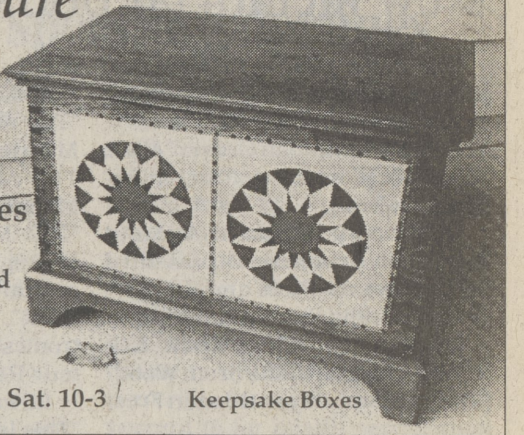
Recently the Dallas Middle School student council held its first school wide dance of the year. The dance proceeds will be donated to Matthew Rondina's family to help defray his medical expenses. Matt is a seventh grade student at the middle school. He and his parents attended the dance and were warmly welcomed by everyone. Banners of support and encouragement decorated the entrance. Over a \$1,000 was raised by the Dallas Middle School students for this worthy cause.

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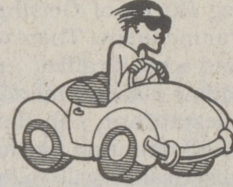
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