

Insurance

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Professional employees may choose either plan and service personnel only have the option of First Priority. She said the district currently has no plans to join the Dallas School District and a number of other districts in a proposed trust created to bring down the rates of all districts involved.

Rose Ragnacci of the Lake-Lehman Education Association did not respond to a request from *The Dallas Post* for comment.

The Dallas School District spends approximately \$1 million for 190 full-time employees and 21 retirees. The district will spend \$831,000 on Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage and \$195,000 for First Priority coverage, not including dental or retirees.

The monthly rate for Blue Cross/Blue Shield without dental is \$448.01 for a family and \$163.62 for a single person. First Priority costs \$386.17 for a family and \$136.89 for single coverage.

What Health Insurance Costs

LAKE-LEHMAN			
First Priority	19 family	10 single	\$111,141 yearly
BC/BS	126 family	34 single	\$978,651 yearly
			Total \$1,089,792

Retirees	16 family	6 single	\$142,766 yearly
			(Included in total above)

Dental/vision included into total—could not break down.
Vision \$11,065
Dental \$164,906 annually

126 families have dental/vision. 78 singles have dental/vision. All HMO's cover prescriptions. Blue Cross does not have a specific prescription plan.

DALLAS			
First Priority	7 single	41 family	\$195,000 yearly w/o dental (Dallas has no vision coverage)
BC/BS	30 single	112 family	\$870,000
			Total \$1,065,000

BC/BS would cost \$448 for family with no dental and \$164 for single with no dental monthly
No specific prescription plan on BC—HMO's have prescription plan.

Harveys Lake

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Road begins, in Lehman Township, the road is called Boyle Road.

"I don't want the problem of changing things over" said Bernard Ferdo.

"It has been called Briarcrest Road for over 70 years," argued Robert Sutherland.

"I can't see why it has to be changed now," said Ada Berdy. Wayne Smith added that he spoke to an attorney who told him that road name changes need to be done in court.

Recent published accounts had suggested that Joseph Boyle, a previous mayor of Harveys Lake, had influenced the decision to rename, but Boyle, supported by several friends and relatives, spoke to discount that accusation. "I had nothing to do with renaming that road," said Boyle.

"I thought that it was an attack on all elected officials."

After a brief break, the council returned with a surprise vote to retain Briarcrest Road as the name. Council members Francis Kopko, William Wilson, George Andrews, Dennis Hogan and Edward Kelly voted to pass the motion. Betty Jane West and council president Martin Noon voted against the measure.

"You're confusing the issue for emergency vehicles," Noon said. "I think the motion is taking us backward."

Ex-mayor Boyle appeared unmoved by the concluding vote on the matter, although several residents of Briarcrest Road expressed their relief at the reinstatement of their road's name. "Thank you very much for keeping it Briarcrest Road," said Sutherland.

Irene Brislin, Lakeside Drive, spoke on the problems she has witnessed regarding overflowing sewer lines. In January, Brislin said, she saw "feminine hygiene products come out" and flow directly toward the lake. "This is totally unacceptable," Brislin argued.

Mayor Boice commented that the problem is being worked on, but it is not yet resolved. Brislin countered that the work may be "pouring good into bad" because the same firm has been working on the sewers since 1993.

In other matters, the council announced the hiring of Kimberly Sims as a crossing guard, and also announced June 6 as the date of the spring cleanup. The next council meeting will be April 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Offset mulls new warehouse, adds printing capacity here

Offset Paperback is not planning to move any of its facilities from the Back Mountain, but is considering an expanded warehouse in the Hanover Industrial Park.

The Luzerne County commissioners have offered a \$200,000 grant to the Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund to be used to extend a railroad spur to the Hanover property. The commissioners also voted to give Offset tax breaks valued at about \$750,000 over nine years if the company builds the distribution facility, which could replace a building in Laffin.

Joseph Makarewicz, Offset executive vice president, said the company had added recently manufacturing capacity at its Dallas printing facility, because an existing client had give it more business. The new building, if built, will be used only for warehousing and distribution, he said.

John Matusek, director of the Luzerne County Community Development Office, said if built, the new facility could add 100 jobs. But Makarewicz said Offset has made no commitment to the project at this time.

By Ronald Bartizek

Low-cost rabies clinic to be held April 19

Valley Cat Rescue, in conjunction with Pittston Animal Hospital, will sponsor a Low-Cost Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs on Sun., April 19 from noon to 4 p.m. The clinic will be held at Balester Optical Company at 388 North River Street in Wilkes-Barre. Plenty of free off-street parking is available.

No appointment is necessary. Rabies shots will cost \$5 per animal, and will be administered by Dr. I.H. Kathio of Pittston Animal Hospital. Only rabies shots will be available, and only for cats and dogs, no other animals will be accepted.

For more information, contact Valley Cat Rescue at 824-4172.

House race

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Georgetown Settlement Foundation and secretary-treasurer of the Osterhout Free Library.

Conyngham places three issues at the top of his list.

He encourages the county commissioners to enlist in the county and state's farmland preservation program.

"The commissioners are meeting to discuss the program's merit. It's a state-funded program in which the development rights of property are purchased. It's a very popular program," he said. "It has saved more than 100,000 acres statewide. Luzerne County is very interested."

Conyngham believes the Luzerne County tax system is inequitable and that reliance on property taxes should be reevaluated.

"Better ways to raise revenues should be found. It should be less measurable on ownership of real estate," he said.

A third issue is his approach to employment. Conyngham said because the district surrounds an old developed area, it makes sense to take a more regional approach to employment, rather than only focusing on the district.

The 117th District encompasses a large area that includes both suburban and rural municipalities. The district forms a huge circle around the Wyoming Valley. It goes from Franklin Township to Salem Township, curves around to Dorrance, Rice, Bear Creek and part of Plains.

"I cannot just ask what I can do for the district, but what I can do for the district and region. It makes sense to bring jobs to a place where industry is already built. Since the district surrounds the Valley, where all the jobs are,

we should concentrate on that area and not disrupt the rural areas," he said. "My intention is to work closely with other state representatives from the region to bring better jobs to the region that would benefit everybody."

Conyngham said he is excited about the possibility of the job, but that it is new territory. "Deciding to do this is like stepping off into the air and hoping there's something there to support me," he said, with a laugh. He said there have been two standard responses to his running for state representative, "Hey, that's great," and "What, are you nuts?"

He knows he needs to get more familiar with the rest of the district. "I'm well-known in the Back Mountain and that's not the case in the rest of the district. I need to become much more familiar with that area."



STATE REP. GEORGE HASAY

Books

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less is more. We want our students interacting, using teamwork and doing hands-on learning. A lot of the texts are general. The staff picks what they want and makes up core units," he said.

The principals agree that there are times in the beginning of the year when there may be a shortage for a week at most. "In the beginning of the year it's possible that orders don't come in right away or there are unexpected increases in enrollment or transfer students," said Bob Roberts, junior high principal.

"The school board passes the budget at the end of June and

"We want our students interacting, using teamwork and doing hands-on learning."

Dave McCaughlin-Smith
Lake-Noxen principal

that's when books can be purchased. If the orders do not get to the manufacturer (on time), the school might not get supplies the first week in August," said Roberts.

"To my knowledge there is no shortage," said Oliver.

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