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Teaching together pays off

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - What started out of necessity at Lake-Noxen Elementary School has become a major part of the curriculum. Teachers are working together in teams to ensure students a thorough education. Teachers say team-teaching keeps the curriculum fresh and creative for both them and the students.

Dave McLaughlin-Smith, principal, who taught fifth and sixth grade for 13 years at the school, believes team-teaching helps the teacher as much as the student.

"Team-teaching alleviates trying to be an expert in everything. Now teachers could be experts in two areas rather than all of them," he said.

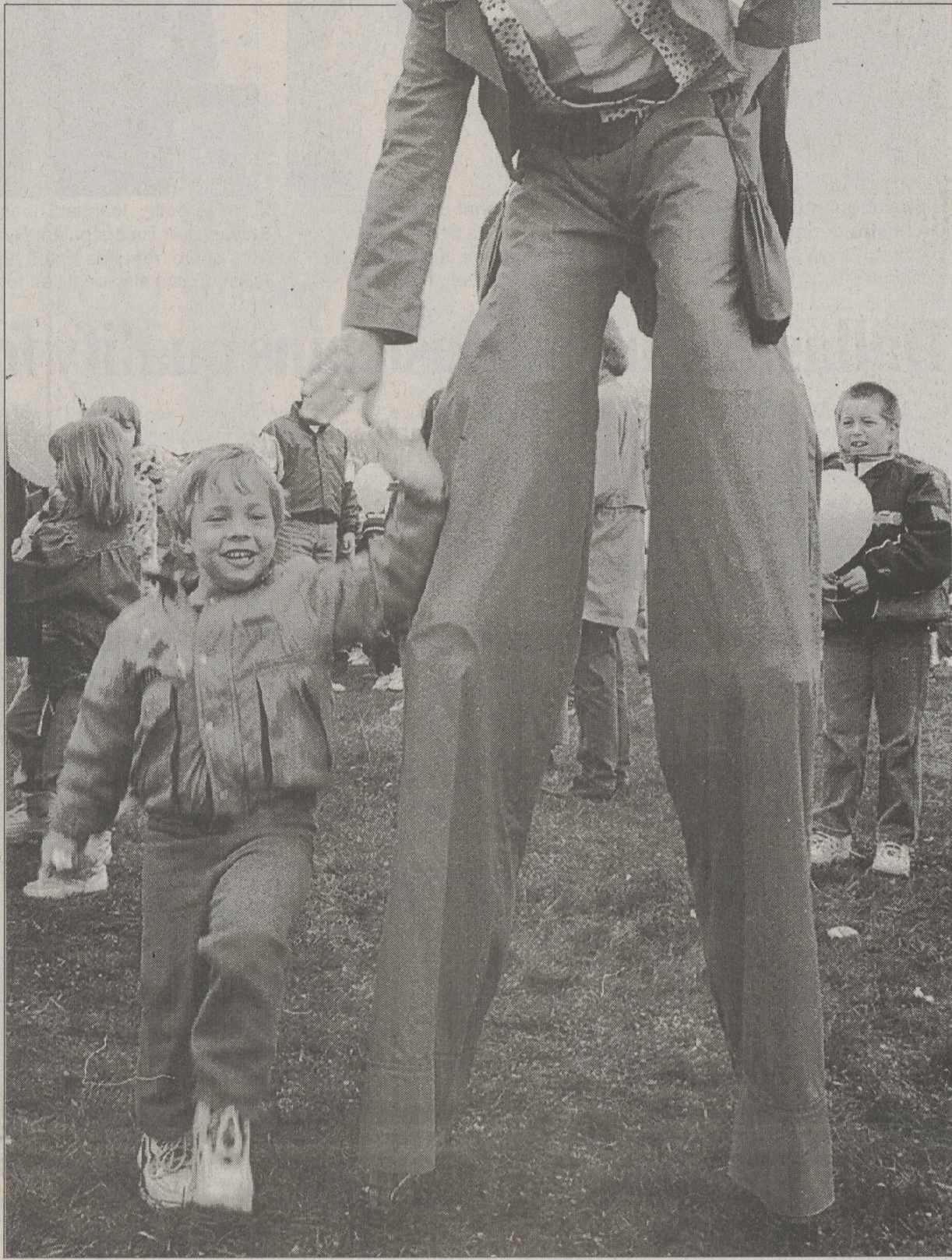
The practice of using two teachers per class started seven years ago when the school had unusually large classes. McLaughlin-Smith said he had 36 students in his homeroom at that time.

"We were trying to figure out how to meet individual needs within such a large group," McLaughlin-Smith explains. Patricia Jachimowicz, Cathy Edwards and McLaughlin-Smith are three of the first to team-teach in the school.

When they noticed their idea worked, they stuck with it. Currently there is only one major team in the school. Twice a day fifth and sixth grade students change between math/science and language arts, where they are taught by two teachers in each subject.

Jachimowicz and Wendy Garrety co-teach language arts.

See LAKE-NOXEN, pg 7



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

"Cosmic Sam" reached down to grasp the hand of Michael Comiskey, Plymouth, at last weekend's Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association and held at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. More photos on page 9.

Griffiths seeks history, family on trip to Wales

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - On a recent trip to Wales, the superintendent of The Dallas School District, indulged his historical curiosity by visiting castles and museums in his ancestral homeland.

Gil Griffiths took his second trip to Wales with his brother-in-law, William Morgan. His first venture there was in 1994. Morgan, who teaches at Shippenburg University, discovered that his forefathers came from Templar, Wales. Griffiths' grandmother, Lilian, came to the United States

in 1918. "My grandfather went there in World War I and brought back a wife," he said.

While Griffiths has not found records of any other direct ancestors, he did discover Griffithstown, a small community on the edge of the Brecon Mountains.

The two set out on a 10-day road trip to experience the rich culture of the present and learn about the country's almost mythological past.

Starting in London, they headed south and then turned northwest along the coast into Wales. "Wales

See GRIFFITHS, pg 5



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

Gil Griffiths, Dallas superintendent, displays some of the brochures he gathered on a recent trip to England and Wales.

Teens press forward with plan to spruce up borough

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - Twelve-year-old Tara Matlock-Puchalsky said people were surprised when she decided she wanted to do something to help her community. "They were surprised about how young I was and what I wanted to do," she said.

Last fall, the Dallas Middle School student started a fundraising campaign to help beautify Main Street in Dallas Borough. "I was in a cultures class and we were talking about community service and how you can get a group together," she explained. "When I was off for Columbus Day I decided to do this."

Since that fall day, 39 of Tara's fellow middle school students have joined the group, which is now called the Dallas Main Street



POST PHOTO/JENNIFER JUDGE

Dallas Main Street Project members gathered for a photo. From left, first row: Caitlin Dukas, David Glicini, Tim Kerestes, Gene Lispi, Kevin Domzalski. Second row: Joelle Dunbar, Tara Puchalsky, Jaime Bozentka, Todd Buckley, Megan Riley. Third row: Pat Harman, Jon Taylor, Elizabeth Eby, April Piazza, Jacqueline Hardwick.

Project. Tara's mother, Beth Ann Puchalsky, helps Tara out, but explains that the kids do all the planning and decision making. "Everybody has a say," Mrs. Puchalsky said. "We take a vote when we make decisions. The kids decide what projects we will do. It's not just about buying benches and flower boxes. It's about the kids taking a positive role in the community and learning to take a leadership role."

Tara explained that the group is "strictly a student group. We wanted adults to supervise our activities, but not to lead the group."

Tara, who seems to be a natural born leader, went before Dallas Borough

See PROJECT, pg 7

Squatters get eviction notices

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - While adjoining property owners to Dallas School District land are fighting to keep three athletic fields from being built, a new survey shows that many of those same property owners have encroached onto the property.

Meanwhile, the lack of fields is beginning to affect youth sports programs in both baseball and soccer.

At the Dallas School Board's regular meeting Monday, Mark Kraynak, superintendent of buildings and grounds, presented the board with a map and color photos indicating all encroachments.

They vary from fences that creep a few feet over the property line to an unlicensed car on blocks, a garden, dumps and a carport. One person's fence overshoots the line by 30 ft.

"These are people who objected to the district using its own property. Evidently they didn't mind using it themselves," said John Litz, board president.

Kraynak said the district sent letters to all property owners who are in violation asking them to remove anything on district property by May 1. He warned the board that this might turn into a legal battle that would cause more delay in building. Ben Jones III, board solicitor, estimates it could take two years to settle the current appeal of zoning approval for the fields, filed by 10 nearby property owners. The suit contends there were several irregularities in the approval process.

"If anyone with encroachments decides to take action, they can hold us," said Gil Griffiths, superintendent.

The board approved the construction of a 6 ft. chain-link fence to surround the area of the pro-

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John Litz
School board president

posed fields. If no legal objection is taken by May 1, the district will remove anything in the way of building the fence, Griffiths said.

Kraynak said the fence will cost \$21,000 to put up, not including what it could cost to remove items left on district property. Removing the obstructions could add to the construction bill.

The delays are affecting other activities in the Back Mountain. The school district has begun to convert the present upper fields at the Little League complex off Church St. into a PIAA certified baseball field for use by the middle school teams. The change could affect this year's baseball, softball and tee-ball seasons.

"They're trying to work around us as best they can," said Jack Wolensky, Dallas athletic director. He expected the conversion would be finished within a week.

The present middle school baseball field will be eliminated by construction of the new Wycallis Elementary School. That work will also displace fields used by Back Mountain Youth Soccer in the fall, and teams above U-9 are scheduled to have to play their games outside the Back Mountain.

In other business, the district is looking into joining a database

See FIELDS, pg 8

No money for police officer who lacks jacket, board says

By JESSICA APPOLO
Post Staff

JACKSON TWP. - Citizens attended Monday night's Jackson Township meeting looking for resolutions to recurring issues, many having to do with the township's police force.

Officer Barry Stubeda and Police Chief Jones petitioned the board of supervisors again to issue a winter jacket to officer Stubeda. Stubeda, a part-time officer for the township, was hired in the fall of 1995. Initially, Stubeda's incomplete uniform was overlooked and since has not been budgeted in the uniform allow-

ance set up each year.

The board members agreed that Stubeda should have a jacket, as they did last month, and would disburse the needed \$270 if and when the money became available. If no money is available, board members agreed to put the request in the September budget plan for 1999.

Mr. Benjamin Barsh Jr., of 1577 Huntsville Road, is concerned that Stubeda will be forced to go through another winter without a proper uniform jacket. He has offered to loan the board the \$270 free of interest so Stubeda can

See JACKET, pg 7

Sweet sounds

Dallas, Lehman send a total of 15 musicians to regional band and orchestra. Pg 2.

Movin' on up

Joyce Tinner takes over head coaching spot for Dallas softball. Pg 11.

INDEX

16 Pages, 2 Sections	
Calendar.....	10
Classified.....	14-15
Crossword.....	10
Editorials.....	4
Obituaries.....	14
School.....	13
Sports.....	11-12

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