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Dallas tax hike a possibility

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - The Dallas School Board took a first look at the 1998-1999 proposed budget at Monday's regular meeting, and they saw a shortfall of \$1.7 million that could result in the first tax increase since 1991.

Al Melone, acting business manager, presented a \$19.2 million budget that spends \$1.7 million more than last year. The board will decide how to make up for \$1.7 million increased expenses

May 18 at 6 p.m. when they vote on the tentative budget.

Gil Griffiths, superintendent, said the board must decide whether it will raise taxes, use a \$500,000 fund balance to offset the expenditures or absorb the shortfall altogether.

The additional spending is due in large part to increases of \$200,000 (20.8 percent) for Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage, \$372,729 (2.5-3.5 percent) for salaries and \$80,000 (2 percent) for special education.

The 1997-1998 budget was

\$20.9 million, which included a one-time allowance of \$2 million for renovations to Dallas Elementary School. Griffiths said that \$2 million was put into a separate building fund this year, technically making last year's budget \$18.9 million.

Board president John Litz said the Dallas School District has accomplished a "rather remarkable achievement considering the economy (in having no tax increase in seven years)."

The tax millage has been 158 since 1991.

Field settlement may be near

In other business, the board will walk around the district's property line May 14 at 6 p.m. with adjoining property owners of the three proposed athletic fields.

Atty. Bruce Phillips, who is a resident of Orchard View Terrace, is representing a group of neighbors opposed to the fields' setbacks and who believe Dallas Township did not follow proper procedure to inform neighbors of the school's plans.

"Communication is a wonderful thing. I hope it's close to a resolution."

Atty. Bruce Phillips
Dallas Twp.

"This lawsuit came about because the neighbors were not notified. The light bulb should have gone on in

someone's head when no one showed up to the zoning meeting," said Phillips. "There should have been more communication early on. But, things have been progressing quite well. Communication is a wonderful thing. I hope it's close to a resolution."

Also, Atty. Ben Jones III was reappointed as district solicitor for the next year at a salary of \$2,300 per month.



Ms. Clean

Ellen Boyer, left, and Joanne Rakowski, both teachers at Dallas, held their favorite household cleaners at the Lake-Lehman Middle Level Science Fair last week. But



Tina Lumbis's project found they lagged behind Sund and Earth, the winner in her comparison. More photos on page 3.

Back Mountain helps 'Y'

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Many familiar Back Mountain faces are spearheading the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA's first major capital campaign in 65 years. The Y's Investment Campaign plans to raise \$5.3 million for renovations and an endowment fund.



FRANK M. HENRY

Frank M. Henry of Dallas is general campaign chairman. "After two years of careful planning we are putting forward a plan of efficient renovation, vital improvement, financial stability and historic preservation of the Wilkes-Barre Y," said Henry.

George B. Sordoni of Dallas, whose grandfather's company built the YMCA building in 1933, is campaign vice-chairman.

Renovations that will cost \$3.3 million will include a new access tower on the Franklin St. side of the building in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Also planned are an

See YMCA, pg 8

Dawe is science gold medalist

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

LEHMAN - At 12-years-old, John Dawe was already dissecting his IBM computer and mastering the mechanics of what many people consider a mysterious machine.

All his hours of tinkering have paid off big for both Dawe, now 16, and Lake-Lehman High School, where he is a junior. Dawe won first place for his entry, "Surfing the Net," at the PA State Science Olympiad held at Juniata College on April 24.

This was the first time Lake-

Lehman made it to the state competition and the first time Dawe ever took part in the Olympiad, which the school has participated in the last four years.

"It was a complete shock that we won. Since it was a new event, we had no idea how it was being scored or what other schools were doing," said Dawe, after quickly helping a Dallas Post correspondent find a particular website.

Dawe and students from the 34 other participating high schools were given 50 minutes to find the answers to 20 questions on the web and verify

their location. One of the questions asked the name of the first monkey in orbit. "We used different strategies (to better my chances of winning)," he said.

Dawe specializes in building web pages. He recently created his own site that works as an access to multiple search engines.

When he first discovered the Internet, web page designing programs were not that helpful. So, Dawe knew if he wanted to build a website, he would have to learn the some-

See SCIENCE, pg 8



John Dawe held up the Gold Medal he won at the PA Science Olympiad, for his demonstration, "Surfing the Net."

Lemmond will be Penn State commencement speaker

State Senator Charles D. Lemmond, Jr. will be the guest speaker at Penn State Wilkes-Barre commencement exercises on Sat., May 16.



STATE SEN. CHARLES D. LEMMOND JR.

A resident of Dallas, Sen. Lemmond is serving his third term represent-

ing the 20th Senatorial District in the Pennsylvania Senate.

This includes Pike, Wyoming, Wayne and Susquehanna counties and parts of Luzerne and Monroe Counties.

Sen. Lemmond serves as chairman of the Senate State Government Committee, vice chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and a member of the Senate

See LEMMOND, pg 8

Zoning board runs down office request

The Dallas Township Zoning Board voted 3-0 to deny an application to place an insurance office in a home on E. Center Hill Rd. Eva Ryan, who lives next door to the white ranch house, said she presented a petition with 87 signatures asking that the request be denied.

"It took a long time. It's a lot of ground to cover," to get the signatures, she said.

Ryan doesn't want to see commercial uses creep into the neighborhood. "It's all residential, and we'd like to see it stay that way."

Leonard Kozick, township secretary, said a written decision will be completed in a week to 10 days. The applicant, Edward Hartman, has 30 days after the written decision is handed down to appeal if he chooses to do so.



POST PHOTO/IRON BARTIZEK

Making room for the new

Bobby Montross worked at tearing down the former Elston & Gould building along Rt. 309 in Dallas last week. The property has been purchased by Rick Angelicola of Kingston Twp., who plans to develop retail stores or offices on the property.

INDEX

14 Pages, 2 Sections
Calendar.....14
Classified.....12-13
Crossword.....14
Editorials.....4
Obituaries.....12
School.....11
Sports.....9-10

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