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Mercy Sisters work, pray for Ireland peace

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - As the Irish people prepare to vote in the Irish Peace Referendum, the Dallas Sisters of Mercy are praying for peace in that country and asking others to do the same.

"Our retired sisters at Mercy Center, as well as all of us scattered far and wide in ministry, are praying that this time we will see peace coming from good will, economic equality, and justice," said Sister Regina Wertz, RSM, Director of Communications for the Dallas Regional area.

Not only are they praying for peace in the region, one of their own members, Sister Carol Rittner, RSM, has taken an active role in working for peace. Since 1990, Rittner has been working for peace in Northern Ireland. In a recent phone interview, she explained how she became involved in the peace process. "In 1990, I was head of the Elie Wiesel Foundation in New York," she said. "We organized a number of different conferences in different places — Europe, Israel, the United States."



SR. CAROL RITNER

The Sisters of Mercy have a special reason to want peace for Ireland. "Our roots are in Dublin," explained Wertz. "We were founded in 1831 and came to this country in 1843. In the early years, many young women and newly professed Sisters of Mercy came to the United States to minister here. Many of the women who entered directly in the United States had emigrated from Ireland. For a Sister of Mercy from the USA to visit the original foundation, the parent house in Dublin, is like a Moslem traveling to Mecca."

Presentation Sister Marie Larkin has been living in the United States and working with the Sisters of Mercy locally for the past seven years. Larkin is originally from Clonmell, County Tipperary in the south of Ireland. "People are hopeful," she said about the pending peace referendum. "I'm feeling that people will vote for it because they feel a need for peace. It would be a shame if people didn't take this opportunity."

A conference organized in Oslo, Nor- See IRELAND, pg 8



Kaytlin Kopen stood with Sen. Charles D. Lemmond Jr. and her artistic salute to the American Flag. She and other students of Sue Hand are exhibiting their paintings and drawings at Lemmond's office in the Dallas Shopping Center through May 29.

Art of the Flag

School taxes going

Dallas mulls near 10% rise

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - After a seven-year streak with no increase in taxes, the Dallas School Board voted to accept a 15 mill increase in a \$19.2 million tentative budget. At Monday's regular meeting, the board voted unanimously to accept the budget with taxes rising from 158 to 173 mills.

"I hope we can find ways of making some adjustments down in the next 30 days," said Ernest Ashbridge, board member.

The public and board have 30 days to review the budget before it is passed in its final form.

Al Melone, acting business manager, said there are three main areas that strain the budget. The additional expenditures are due in large part to the following increases: \$200,000 (20.8 percent) for Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage.

See DALLAS, pg 16

L-L increase is below 5%

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

LEHMAN - Saying they would try their best to avoid cutting the quality of education, members of the Lake-Lehman school board voted 5-2 Monday to accept a tentative budget that contains a 10-mill tax increase for Luzerne County property owners.

The \$17.5 million spending plan would reduce the reserve fund balance to about \$24,000 at the end of the 1998-99 school year, from about \$100,000 now. The state recommends that districts maintain a fund balance of about 5 percent of its budget, which would be nearly \$900,000 in Lehman's case.

Board president Lois Kopcha and Robert Allardyce voted against the measure. Gary Miller, Moderno Rossi, Karen Whipple, Tom Williams and Ed Kern approved the budget. Ron Payne and Rose Howard did not attend the meeting.

See LAKE-LEHMAN, pg 16

Parish shares pride, joy in Crynes's elevation

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN - Although it was Father Peter Crynes who was given the honorable title of Monsignor by Pope John Paul II, he believes the parish as a whole earned the recognition.

Last week Crynes, pastor of St. Therese's Church in Shavertown, received a call from Bishop James C. Timlin informing him that he was among 16 priests

from The Diocese of Scranton who had been honored.

"I was surprised," said Crynes, after hearing the news from Bishop Timlin. "I'm grateful for the acknowledgement of what we're doing as a parish community. I see it as an affirmation of what we do as a parish."

Crynes credits St. Therese's parish with being active in the community and interweaving faith with their lives. "We have 350 people in the parish involved in

at least one ministry," he said. "This parish really tried to respond to stewardship and recognize gifts received, be grateful for them and share with others."

Word spreads fast. As Crynes was getting his picture taken outside of the church rectory, three people driving by stopped to congratulate Crynes. "Hey, Monsignor. Congratulations!" yelled one man.

See CRYNES, pg 3



School board members Frank Natitus, Karen Kyle and Ernest Ashbridge walked with Sterling Lamoreaux, second from right.

Board members walk disputed territory

DALLAS - The Dallas School Board walked the line May 14 between where two proposed athletic fields are planned to be built and adjoining neighbors' back yards.

The board expected to meet with neighbors and their attorneys who have a lawsuit going against the district. Appar-

See WALK, pg 16



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Louis Pugh, second from right, loaded the cigar store Indian statue onto a truck with help from Dallas Twp. police chief Carl Miers, right, Ralph Williams, left, and Kingston Twp. officer Walter Davis.

Indian lost, Indian found

A wooden cigar store Indian statue that was stolen from 90 N. Pioneer Ave., Shavertown, was recovered Monday from the back porch of 21 Robbins Rd., Haddonfield Hills, Dallas Township. The 7' statue, which owner Louis Pugh said weighs several hundred pounds, was taken between midnight Thursday and 6 a.m. Friday. Claire Morris, who lives at 21 Robbins Rd., said she first noticed the statue Saturday and went to the house from which it was stolen to try to contact Pugh. Carl Miers, Dallas Township Police Chief, said he didn't know the statue was missing until he read about it in a Sunday paper. He said no one contacted police to report it had been found.

Pugh had offered a \$250 reward for information leading to recovery, and received a tip about its location Monday afternoon. He called police to help recover the statue, but was told he would have to wait for a search warrant to be obtained. While Pugh, Miers and Kingston Twp. patrolman Walter Davis were waiting outside Morris's home, she returned from shopping and granted permission for the statue's removal. She said tire marks on the lawn were caused by contractors who had recently replaced the roof on the house.

Pugh bought the statue about 10 years ago at an antiques store in Eagle's Mere. He guessed it is about 50 years old, and is worth about \$5,000 in good condition, but it was damaged when taken. He said he will press charges if the persons who took the statue are found. Miers said he will assist Kingston Twp. police in the investigation.

by Ronald Bartizek

Local grads

PSU Wilkes-Barre and College Misericordia graduates from the Back Mountain, pgs 7, 12.

Hooray for L-L

Lehman wins first soccer playoff game. Pg 10

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