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No tax increase, new teachers in Lehman budget

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

LEHMAN - There will be no tax increase in the Lake-Lehman School District this year. In a 6-3 vote, school board members opted for a zero millage increase on a \$17.1 million budget Thursday. Luzerne County and Wyoming County will again have 221 mills and 42 mills, respectively. There is a \$48,000 fund balance.

Board members Ed Kern, Robert

Allardyce, Lois Kopcha, Kim Howard, Ron Payne and Moderno Rossi voted for the budget, while Karen Whipple, Gary Miller and Tom Williams voted against it.

The latter three and Howard voted for a \$17.5 million budget with a three mill increase. Before voting for a three mill increase, Howard told the small audience that she wanted to maintain a budget with no increase, but felt the district needed the three mills. Later she voted for no millage increase.

To create a budget with a zero millage

increase, \$98,585 worth of equipment and supplies for buildings and grounds and \$35,000 for a new maintenance person were cut. Currently there is only one maintenance man in the district. The board thought adding a person would reduce in the district having to contract out for services.

Within the budget, provisions are made for the hiring of at least seven new teachers, said board president Lois Kopcha. At a yearly salary of \$31,570, there are funds for two teachers at Lake-Noxen

Elementary, two at Lehman-Jackson Elementary, one at Ross Elementary and two special education teachers for the district. Also, there are provisions for one special education aide and a secretary.

The money was set aside after many parents and board members, such as Whipple, brought up the fact that class sizes grew too large after retiring teachers were not replaced.

Kopcha said some parents said they had to get tutors for their children because the larger class sizes were not

conductive to their learning.

Kern said, "With this budget, you get what you need for education. You get the teachers and supplies you need."

Kopcha feels there is still room for more cuts. "I think they could make more cuts," she said after the meeting. "They don't touch sports at all. I think the cleaning (of fields) could be cut in half and we don't need an assistant athletic director. We need to look at how we spend our money."



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Yankees third baseman Eric Koval tagged out the Phillies Jonathon Wood in the second inning of the championship game for the Back Mountain Major League. It

was one of the few bright spots for the Yanks, as the Phils won 8-0 to take their second consecutive championship. Story, more photos on sports page.

Business owners ask boro for parking lot

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

DALLAS BOROUGH - Three borough business owners are concerned about the seven parking spaces the borough will lose when the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) completes work on Main and Church Streets. Bernard and Roberta Walter and Bob Besecker spoke at the regular monthly meeting of the borough council about the changes.

"If Dallas is to have any kind of municipal center, parking needs to be convenient first, safe second, and affordable last," Bernard Walter told council members. Walter and Besecker have asked council to consider building a municipal lot near to the building that formerly housed the Bike Works on Main Street. Walter recently purchased the building and intends to use it for law offices and additional professional space. Besecker owns Besecker Realty, adjacent to Walter's building.

PennDOT has a plan to alleviate traffic problems in the five-street intersection area. Additional turning lanes will be added that will eliminate street parking on Main Street nearest Rt. 415.

Council president William Roberts doesn't feel the borough can afford to build a parking lot. "In my opinion, even if it is \$35,000, it's too much for council to spend on five or six or seven parking spaces," he said. Roberts instead suggested that council look toward developing spaces on Foster Street in an area already owned by the borough. "Foster Street spaces will be available. They could be set aside for public parking."

Foster Street runs between the post office and CVS. Anyone parking there would have to cross Rt. 415 to reach Walter's or Besecker's office.

See PARKING, pg 8

Whirlwind tour of West leaves Judy Brokenshire eager for more

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - As Judy Brokenshire drove into Yellowstone National Park in Montana, the line of cars came to an abrupt halt. She sat in her trusty Ford and wondered, "What's stopping traffic?"

Then she saw it. A buffalo walked right past her open driver's side window. Being an experienced traveler, she reached for her ready-to-shoot camera and documented, although a bit blurry, her close encounter with a 2,000 pound animal.

Later she happened to read the yellow slip of paper the ranger had handed her at the park entrance. It read: "Many visitors have been gored by Buffalo. Do not approach the Buffalo." Well, it approached her. She was just lucky he wasn't camera shy.

This was just one of the many

"Since I've gotten back I have this attitude that I can do anything."

Judy Brokenshire
Harveys Lake

memorable incidents on Mrs. Brokenshire's one woman cross country tour from May 14 to June 5. She put 5,409 miles on her 1994 Ford Taurus and came home with an appreciation for the U.S. countryside and a ton of memories.

The idea for the adventure came about after a broken wrist kept her from a planned trip to Italy. "I always wanted to see all of the national parks, so that's what I did," she said, cheerfully. Her husband, John, a C.P.A. who works for a credit union in Wilkes-Barre, could not take off work.

So, she went by herself.

Last year when she turned 50 years old, Mrs. Brokenshire made a decision to start doing the things she always wanted to do, with or without her husband.

"I was really concerned about this turning 50 thing. I was not happy about it at all. But, I decided that 50 was not going to get me down," she said.

Her first solo adventure was last year when she went whitewater rafting in North Carolina while her husband attended a motorcycle rally.

Her husband is proud of her for taking her fun into her own hands. "I thought it was wonderful (that she went on the trip). It was a good thing for her to do," said Mr. Brokenshire. "She has things she wants to do and I don't have the blocks of time (necessary) to them

See TRAVELER, pg 8



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

Judy Brokenshire stands next to her trusty Ford Taurus that she drove across the country and back. Mrs. Brokenshire made a promise to herself when she turned 50 to start doing the fun things she always wanted to do, even if it meant going by herself.

No resolution yet on road maintenance

By MEIRA ZUCKER
Post Correspondent

HARVEYS LAKE - There doesn't seem to be any question that the roads in Hemlock Gardens need repair, but there's plenty of debate about who should fix them.

Since 1990, residents have complained about deep ruts and uncontrolled runoff. Disagreement centers on who bears responsibility for repair of the roads. The roads are private, and although owned by Ruckno Construction, the developers of the subdivision, only the homeowners use them.

See ROADS, pg 3



Scouts from Troop 281, Dallas United Methodist Church, display some of the items they have collected for the children's auction portion of the annula library auction. From left; Bobby Murphy, Steve Neiman, Jeff Pace, Chris Smith (kneeling), Andy McGee, Casey Zalenski, Jason Jolley, Dave Glicini. Items are still being accepted. Call 675-6415 to make a donation of a new or good used item.

■ Sweet sounds

Piano and organ students of Jean Purcell give recital. Pg 3.

■ Stars are out

Back Mountain baseball and softball all-star teams, and Harveys Lake Little League all-stars. Sports.

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