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Tests just a starting point for school hires

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Earlier this month, the Massachusetts Board of Education raised the passing grade for teacher certification exams, and became the 44th state to require pre-certification testing for prospective teachers. Pennsylvania has required testing for a dozen years, although local school officials don't rely heavily on the exams when making hiring decisions.

The cut score or passing score on the Praxis Series Exam (formerly the National Teachers Exam) will soon be raised for Pennsylvania teachers. Some local educators say the test is used to weed out applicants, but no one thinks the exam alone can predict who will be a good teacher.

The Secretary of Education's office stated that scores are already gradually being raised with each test.

Dr. Michael Speziale, assistant superintendent of the Dallas School District, said it is state law that all teachers pass the Praxis Series Exam (PSE) and be certified to be considered for a teaching position. A teacher cannot be certified without passing the PSE.

"Dallas set a threshold of a 3.0 grade point average or higher in an applicant's major and asks for the PSE scores," said Speziale. The scores must meet the state cut score that changes from year to year based on averages. "Pennsylvania scores are much more stringent than other states," he said.

With the PSE, potential teachers must take a test that measures teaching techniques and general knowledge of the history of teaching and of their specialty.

"People who take the test demonstrate, to some extent, their level of general knowledge. It's a good screening process," said

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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Summer fun

Nathan Ayers, seated, and Adam Goeringer, enjoyed some time outdoors during Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Shavertown. Churches throughout the Back Mountain sponsor summer Bible schools and camps. Gate of Heaven photo on page 3.

Apostrophe or not, it's a nice place

In 1949, Harvey's Lake became Harveys Lake by postal service edict

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - Standing in front of the Harveys Lake Borough Municipal Authority is a stickler for grammar could go insane. A sign on the building reads, "Harvey's Lake Borough Municipal Authority" (with apostrophe).

Right next to the building, a very nice sign built on a small hillside reads, "Harveys Lake," spelled without an apostrophe. The main borough building sign also goes apostrophe-less.

So which is it, apostrophe or no apostrophe? Instead of plowing through grammar books and deducing the origins of the two separate factions of spellers, we decided to ask the folks who know.

Down came the stamp on this reporter's notebook. "This is how you spell it," proclaimed Harveys Lake Postmaster Walter Storm. The red capital letters spelled out the lake's name without an apostrophe.

"According to Uncle Sam there is no apostrophe," explained Carlene R. McCaffrey, whose family has lived at the lake for more than 200 years. "The U.S. Postal Service decided there was no apostrophe."

The old posters read, "We Want You," with Uncle Sam's finger pointing straight towards the reader. But apparently he doesn't want our apostrophes.

"No one will go to jail or be fined for using the apostrophe," Harveys Lake historian Charles Petrillo assured this reporter. Petrillo

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At the municipal authority, it's Harveys Lake. Next door, there's no apostrophe.

Vo-Tech students can play on Dallas, Lake-Lehman teams

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - At least 40 people packed into the Dallas School Board meeting room Monday night, filling seats usually left empty. The majority came to express their anger and disappointment over the decision to eliminate sports teams at West Side Vocational Technical School (Vo-Tech).

The decision was made at last month's Vo-Tech board meeting that all students who play sports would play them at the schools in their home districts, not at Vo-Tech. Two students from Dallas

have played on Vo-Tech teams.

Shirl Bellis of Hunlock Creek told the board that being on a sports team gave many kids self-esteem and kept them out of trouble. "My daughter is not the fastest and she's not a starter (on her basketball team). But, that (team) made all the difference in her life because she was a part of something. And it wasn't a gang after school or riding around Public Square. If we took sports away, what would we have? Nothing," she said.

"I feel the students need their sports. I have two sons at West

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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Sold!

Daniel Krause of Harveys Lake found what he was looking for at the Back Mountain library auction last week. More photos on page 5.

Youth shows it's not just a game for Tigers

By JEFF FANECK
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. - Kathy Bednarek likes to golf. In fact, the 16-year-old really loves the often frustrating game and has been golfing for a decade.

Kathy, who lives in Dallas, will be a junior at Bishop O'Reilly High School in Kingston this fall. There she is a member of the Queensmen golf team. Her other hobbies include mountain biking, skating, and just being with her friends.

Kathy clearly remembers the first time she picked up a golf club. "When I was five, I picked up one of my dad's clubs and went out to the backyard and began to hit balls." That was enough to spark her interest in the lifelong game.

Her impressive list of accomplishments began when Kathy was just 10 years old, playing at a tournament for 10 and 11-year-olds in Philadelphia. When she was 10, she won the Maxfli PGA Championship and when she was 11, she finished second in the same tournament.

Kathy joined the Bishop O'Reilly team when she entered high school and now really concentrates on that. Her summers are spent on courses in the area, including Huntsville Golf

Club, Irem Temple Country Club, and Wilkes-Barre Municipal. Playing the different types of courses helps develop all parts of her game.

Kathy is a member at Huntsville and loves the challenges it presents. "Huntsville is my favorite because it is very hard and it is taken care of very well." Her favorite hole on the course is #9, a 454-

able to birdie it," she said. "I've parred it a few times. I like the challenge."

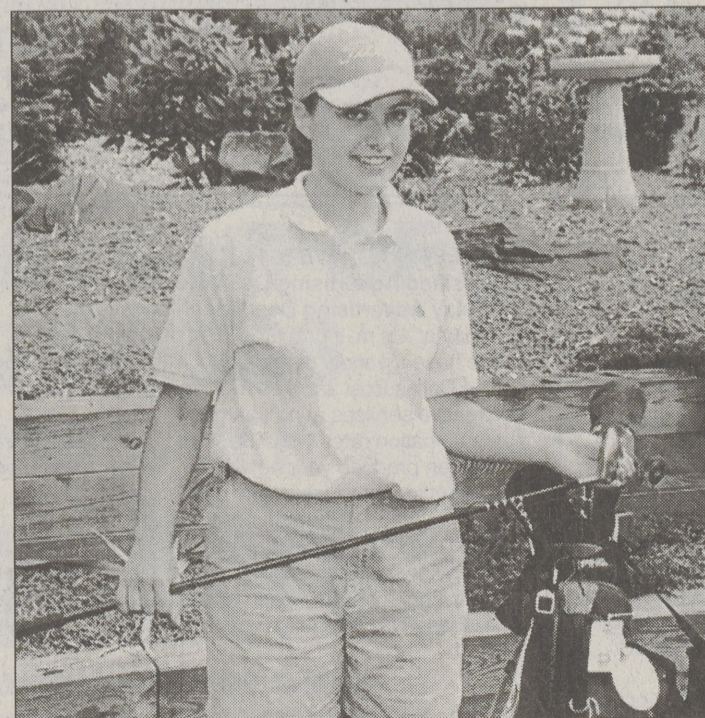
Recently Kathy finished first at a Keystone Public Golf Association's regional tournament at Mill Race in Benton, a week after doing the same at Four Seasons in Exeter. "Hopefully I'll be able to accumulate enough points

to qualify to play in the championship tournament in Harrisburg." Her next chance at improving her standing came Tuesday at Mill Race in Benton, too late to include the results in this edition.

Golf has its ups and downs, and so does Kathy. While she can't think of a single "best moment," the worst one quickly comes to mind. "One time I hit (in a tournament) about five balls into a hazard on one hole and ran out of balls." She had to go back to the clubhouse to buy

more balls, and was disqualified. But she is proud that she kept on playing, and finished the round

See GOLFER, pg 3



Kathy Bednarek holds her favorite club, an Adam's Tight Lies. She plays in youth tournaments around the area.

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