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Survey begins push for regional recreation center



By MEIRA ZUCKER
Post Correspondent

BACK MOUNTAIN - This week, residents of the Back Mountain will receive questionnaires from a new organization, The Back Mountain Recreational Center Ad Hoc Committee. The responses are sought in order to assess whether there is interest in building a comprehensive recreational facility in the region.

Dr. Gil Griffiths, Superintendent of the Dallas School District, says on behalf of the entire committee that he hopes people return their surveys. "At this point, we're surveying to find actual needs," says Griffiths. "Our first goal is getting the survey out," says Kathleen Savage, in charge of committee publicity. In addition to being mailed, copies of the questionnaire will be sent home with elementary and middle school students in the two school districts. Twenty people — business persons, parents, educators — serve

"We're at a point now where this is going to go forward."

Dr. Gil Griffiths
Chairman, BMT Recreation Committee

on the committee. They represent 10 municipalities, generally bounded by Sweet Valley, Harveys Lake, Eighth Street and the rock cut, and the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts. The group first met in May. Other members include Gary Baker, in

charge of government, politics, and grants; Joan Makowski, in charge of planning; and Will Conyngham, in charge of property. The mailing itself represented a collection of gifts and donated time. An anonymous benefactor

gave the funds for printing and mailing. The Dallas Swim Parents and swimmers spent five nights folding surveys and addressing envelopes. Mail Boxes, Etc. donated the box to receive mailed responses. Students from Dallas Elementary School decorated drop-off boxes with depictions of different sports and athletes. Fourteen Back Mountain businesses have volunteered spots for drop-boxes. Funding, of course, presents both a challenge and an opportu-

nity. "Ten municipalities can apply as a block for recreation grants," reports Griffiths, "Kingston did it 20 years ago." The committee has started the process of developing the application for a tax-free designation so that people are able to donate money, says Griffiths. The state will help with the planning process, he adds. The potential uses for the proposed multi-purpose facility are

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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Fair weather friends

Colin Breazeale and Shane Snyder of Shavertown took aim Saturday at a game at the Luzerne County Fair. Fairgoers enjoyed

sunny skies and mild temperatures during the five-day run last week. For more photos, please turn to page 7.

PSU Wilkes-Barre gears up for high-tech future

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

LEHMAN - Heading into its 30th year at the Lehman campus, Penn State continues to improve what it can offer the students. Dr. Mary Hines, executive director, said she is excited about new programs aimed to offer more to the student. Penn State has received a \$350,000 per year grant from the federal Department of Education.

The five-year grant, called "Improving and Strengthening Higher Education Institutions," will help the university focus more on general education, curriculum development for information science and technology, and increased student support in writing and mathematics. Penn State is exploring the possibility of offering information science and technology tracks. "This is the response of the Penn State system to the need for a highly

"It's an exciting time for us, we're really moving along."

Dr. Mary Hines
CEO, Penn State Wilkes-Barre

trained work force," said Hines. Also, the university has launched a facility master planning process, in which staff from Lehman and University Park cam-

pus will look at the facilities to see if they are adequate for the current enrollment. Hines said enrollment has increased slightly over the past two years. Approximately 830 students will attend Penn State in Lehman this year. Hines wants the community to know that they have Penn State in their own back yard. "We have your size. A small campus at a medium cost and a large

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Land Trust to celebrate opening of new office

By MEIRA ZUCKER
Post Correspondent

TRUCKSVILLE - After years of operating out of a small home office, the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust is throwing an open house at their new Trucksville headquarters Saturday, Sept. 19 from 2-5 p.m. Ice cream and cake will be served, and gifts, including a walking stick hand-carved by Marshall Rumbaugh, will be raffled off. "We're now in a business location and it's easier for people to come in," says Linda Thoma, administrator and the sole paid employee of the organization. She is eager to show off the new office and its donated computers and furniture. The BMRLT is there to

serve the community, and this office makes that goal much easier, she said. Ellen Alaimo serves as President of the BMRLT board. "I remember a time when towns were towns," says Alaimo. The urban sprawl of poorly-planned development contributes to the decay of downtowns, she believes. As businesses and homes randomly spread throughout the region, downtowns, and the need to go downtown, are diminished. Dr. Doug Ayers, Vice-President of the BMRLT board, says "we're getting inundated with easements." Putting a land-use easement onto a piece of property, says Alaimo, is similar to having a

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POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Linda Thoma, executive director of the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust, posed proudly in front of the organization's new office in Trucksville, which gets three marked parking spots, too.

Boosters want band treated like sports

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

LEHMAN - Chuck Boice, president of the Lake-Lehman Band Sponsors, questions why the band is not treated to the same financial freedom as the football team. If the band travels more than 50 miles, it must cover the transportation cost of the entire trip. "But, what I don't understand is why it is okay to travel 90 miles to attend a football game. I don't think it is fair that when we want to go to competitions outside the area we have to pay, yet when we travel with the football team we don't," Boice told the school board last Thursday. Boice said the Lake-Lehman Band Sponsors spent \$3,500 on transportation costs last year. "This year I was advised that we cannot go over \$2,500 because we are having problems raising

funds." He said Lake-Lehman must travel outside the area because many local bands are not large enough to compete against. Last year the sponsors raised money that was spent on instructors, new music and rental instruments, in addition to transportation. Boice said only three competitions would be out of the 50 mile radius this year. John Oliver, Lake-Lehman High School principal, said he thinks the band needs and deserves more support. Dr. William Price, superintendent, said the board would look into it. In other business, the board hired new teachers. Jeff Hynick of Harveys Lake, elementary physical education teacher, \$29,070; Jill Broadnax of Newtown Square, special education, \$29,070; and Catherine Becker of

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SAT scores, drug tests bring smiles at Dallas

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - "I'll match the top kids with anybody's," Jack Wolensky told the school board Monday. His confidence comes from the fact that Dallas Senior High is ranked number two in the county for SAT scores. The Hazleton School District holds the top spot. Dallas's average score of 1034 is above both the national and state averages of 1017 and 992, respectively. Wolensky, a guidance counselor and the athletic director, commended the students, faculty and parents for the results. Aileah Kvashay earned a 1480 on the test, making her a National Merit Scholar candidate. In other business, Patrick Patte and Rocco Yanora will serve as volunteer assistant football

coaches for the senior high. The board accepted the resignation of Karen Wall as field hockey assistant in charge. Joyce Tinner was hired for the position at a salary of \$1,728 and Kelly Killeen as an assistant at \$1,447. Seventeen athletes passed the first round of random drug testing with flying colors. Dr. Gil Griffiths, superintendent, was proud to report that all drug tests came out negative. Also, Mark Kraynack, superintendent of buildings and grounds, sent out letters to all activity directors concerning the recent string of school alarm trips. Everyone from the driver's education teacher to the band has accidentally tripped the alarms and it's costing money. In August and the first weeks of

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Art for the kids

Kristy Rice aims to teach art by showing how it's done, and she's done a lot. Pg 3.

Good week

for Back Mountain teams. Lake-Lehman football, Dallas soccer photos in sports.

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