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A guard rail pierced the entire length of Robert Brody's car when it crossed Pioneer Ave.



Lucky to be alive after freak accident

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN - Robert B. Brody was possibly the luckiest man in the Back Mountain on Friday, October 2. Around 9:40 p.m. his car hit a guardrail on S. Pioneer Ave., causing the steel

rail to slice right through the middle of his car like a huge knife. The hood of his red 1995 Geo Metro was smashed and ripped back into the windshield and settled in the passenger's seat.

Kingston Township patrolman Martin Maransky, who assisted at the accident, said, "It's amaz-

ing no one got hurt. Luckily, there was no passenger because they would've been killed."

While intent on finding a better song on his car stereo, Brody took his eyes off the unfamiliar road just long enough for his small car to cross the opposite lane and plow into the steel guardrail.

Brody, 26, suffered only a sprained wrist and refused medical treatment at the accident scene. "At the time I had so much adrenaline going I didn't know I was hurt at all," said Brody, who has already bought another car.

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3-6% raises for Dallas school execs

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Dallas School District administrators received a pay increase at Monday's regular school board meeting. The administrators have a three-year contract that runs until 2001 and every year salaries are "readjusted."

The following lists what each administrator was paid last year, what they are paid this year and the percentage change: Frank Galicki, Sr. High principal, \$64,410, \$66,533 (3.3%); Paul Reinert, Sr. High asst. principal, \$56,000, \$58,681 (4.8%); Anthony Martinelli, Middle School principal, \$65,093, \$67,643 (3.9%); Samuel Barbose, Dallas Elementary principal, \$62,811, \$65,304 (4.0%); Kathleen McCarthy, Westmoreland Elementary principal, \$52,890, \$56,262 (6.4%); Mark Kraynack, buildings and grounds supervisor, \$36,778, \$38,630 (5.0%); Jack Wega, computer coordinator, \$58,822, \$61,215 (4.1%); Michael Speziale, asst. superintendent, \$65,000, \$68,572 (5.5%).

The rate for Gil Griffiths, superintendent, was not set because all evaluations hadn't been received. His present salary is \$80,000, and the board will consider an increase separately.

In other business, Mary Gilligan of Dallas asked the board to hire another teacher for the gifted program at Dallas Middle School. She said the program combines seventh and eighth grade students with 22 to 24 students per class and only one teacher.

Sandy Walton of Dallas spoke to the board on a number of issues that she felt the board should

See DALLAS, pg 12



Inside this week

Check out our 8-page Fall Home Improvement section, included in this week's paper.

New feature

If you're like many of us, you wonder what the homes you see advertised for sale are really like. That's why we've started **House for Sale**, an occasional feature that takes readers inside the homes, and tells the stories they and their owners hold. This week on page 7, take a close look at one of the area's grandest old homes, with anecdotes to match. And tell us if you know of an interesting "House for Sale."



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

The Graveside Singers is one of the more entertaining groups in the Lehman Haunted Barn, which is open for the scarin' season.

Haunted Barn is scary, productive fundraiser

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

LEHMAN - Fundraising doesn't come to mind when walking through the narrow, dark and disorienting corridors in the Lehman Haunted Barn. Most of the daring folks are too busy screaming at masked madmen with chainsaws and other surprising ghouls.

But, the Haunted Barn, now in its 16th year, raises approximately \$20,000 for the Lake-Lehman Chorus, Lehman United Methodist Youth Group, Wyoming Valley Children's Aid Fund and the Lehman Volunteer Fire Company.

What started out in one room of the old Lehman United Methodist Church parson's house, has turned into a severely scary event that holds its own in the competitive Halloween market.

The Haunted Barn itself is owned by John Pineno, Lake-Lehman's Chorus coach. He remembers the old days when he would dress up like Dracula and scare thrill seekers from a casket.

"It all started when some kids thought it would be fun to hold a haunted house. The first year we used corn stalks for hallways and paper pallets (donated by Offset Paperback, Inc.) for walls. We started with only four hallways," said Pineno. "Now we've gotten to the point where we can afford more heavy materials and our carpentry skills have gotten better."

This year there is a new corridor to help shield people from the elements. It came in handy during the Barn's opening night last Friday when the rain was pouring down, adding to the creepy surroundings.

Pineno has no problem giving up some storage space and donating his barn for the fundraiser. He and a crew of other volunteers add a little more to the Barn every year and perform annual safety checks to make sure there are no loose boards or other hazards.

"Me and another father used to do all of the wiring with my little 30 amp. circuit breaker. Now we use an electrician and we work off 100 amps," he explained.

The Barn has been completely rewired this year. It's more high tech than you might think a haunted barn would be. A security camera system scans the entire barn, as a safety measure in the case that anyone might need help in the dark. People called "Roamers" wander the dark walkways to make sure everyone is all right and moving forward. The Barn also has a complete sound system which provides all the spooky noises.

Some things, though, are still kept simple. For example, hanging spiders that fling themselves from the ceiling have a little help from someone turning an old pencil sharpener with string tied to it. The arms of a scary scarecrow are raised by a tiny tug of another string.

"We change it every year just enough so those who come every

"It was scary. Especially the part with Jason and his chainsaw."
Elizabeth Proietto, 9
Plymouth

year are not bored. We've added three new effects this year including the guillotine," said Pineno, who credits a large number of people who help the show go on.

"I cannot forget all the help we get here. All the groups get together and work hard," he said. The group of volunteers begin planning and building weeks in advance. "Most of the volunteers have been involved about 10 years."

Even with some of the small tricks out of the bag, the Barn provides a fun and spine chilling

20 minutes with many more surprises.

"It was scary. Especially the part with Jason and his chainsaw," said Elizabeth Proietto, 9, of Plymouth, who came with her friend Whitney Roper.

Whitney said she was not scared and told all of the ghouls where they bought their masks to prove it.

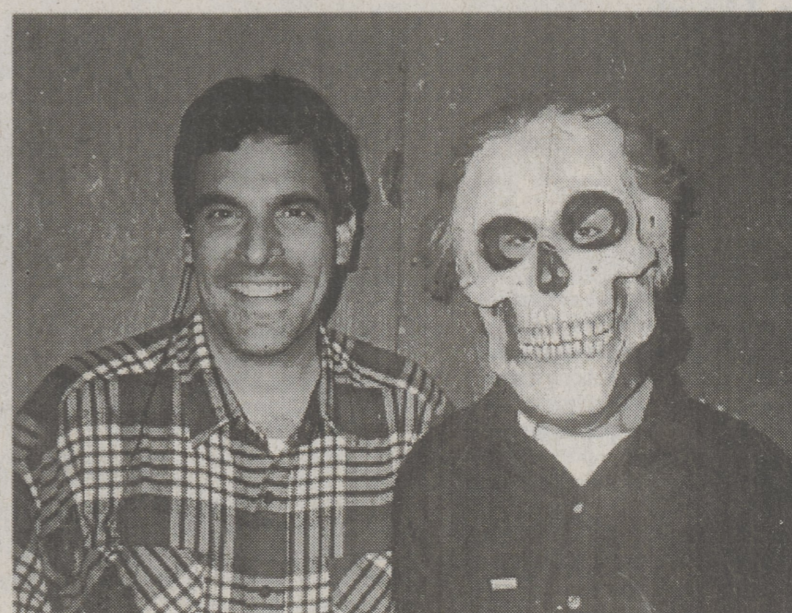
Santina Sperling, 14, of Harveys Lake, came with her friends, Jennifer Jones, 13, of Plains, and Dan Smith, 13, of Dallas.

"I have no fears, but I do scream," boasted Santina while waiting in line to get in the Barn.

Afterwards her tune changed a bit. "It was scary when people chased us. I kept running into walls," said Santina, while laughing. With a smirk on his face, Dan said simply, "It was dangerous."

Abby Heffernan of the Lehman

See BARN, pg 12



John Pineno, proud owner of the Haunted Barn, stops to pose with one of the Barn's friendly ghouls.

Dispatcher falsified time sheets, police say

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - William Anthony Alaimo, the former chief dispatcher for the now defunct Back Mountain Communication Center (BMCC), was arrested Oct. 7 for claiming \$1,258 worth of hours he did not work. Alaimo, 38, of Pittston, is a full-time dispatcher for the county 911 system.

His hearing before District Justice James Tupper is being continued, and Alaimo was released on his own recognizance. He was charged with theft by deception, a first-degree misdemeanor that is punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

In August of 1996, Frank Wagner, BMCC chairman of the board, called Dallas Township patrolman Douglas Higgins to request an investigation because he believed Alaimo was falsifying time sheets. Wagner's duty as chairman is to sign employee checks and review payroll records.

He told Higgins that he would stop in at the center to check if Alaimo was working or not and then check his findings with the payroll records. Wagner said he found payroll records in which Alaimo reported he had worked when Wagner knew he did not.

Higgins reviewed all records, schedules, dispatch logs and took employee statements. After mull-

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