



The Dallas Post

50 Cents

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Vol. 109 No. 48

Dallas, Pennsylvania

December 2 thru December 8, 1998

They rise early, rain or shine, to keep track of avian population

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - How many of us could identify a Herring Gull, Sparrow Hawk, Bitted Kingfisher or Pileated Woodpecker as they flew over our heads? Could we distinguish the hoo hoo call of a Screech Owl and Great Horned Owl?

Probably not, but not to worry. Members of the Greater Wyoming

Valley Audubon Society prove that the art of serious bird watching is not dead with its annual Christmas Bird Count.

On Dec. 19 members of the Audubon Society will meet at 5:30 a.m. at the Jersey Shore restaurant in Dallas. Those who shy away from cold, dark mornings can sleep in and meet up with the group at 7:30 a.m. at the PA Game Commission boat lodge at Harveys Lake.

"It's interesting. The people are nice and you get out into the fresh air."

Sandy Goodwin
Beaumont

The national count will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year. The counts provide statistical information concerning which birds are where, if certain populations are on a decline or on the

increase, and different species response to certain conditions. For example, the deadly effect of DDT on hawks was detected through the counts back in the 1950s.

"We send all of our information to the National Audubon Society, which in turn publishes a book of all the counts," explained Ed Johnson, who has been the compiler for the local bird count for 40 years.

American Birds not only records the species found, but the temperature of the day, wind velocity, number of people counting and moving or frozen water.

Back Mountain bird counters

count in a 7 1/2 mile radius of the Huntsville Dam. Among the birds sighted last year were the Northern Harrier, Red-Tailed Hawk, Barred Owl and Downy Woodpecker.

There are approximately 15 members of the group who participate in the count. Five bird counters are from the Back Mountain.

See BIRD COUNT, pg 7



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Sweet sounds

The New Life Drama Troupe will present "I'll Be Home For Christmas," a nostalgic musical comedy about a family and hope in the golden days of radio. The show will take place at Back Mountain

Harvest Assembly of God, Carverton Rd. Dec. 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. each day. Shown above during rehearsal, from left, Darnel Palmer, Denise Warner and Shannon Palmer. More photos on page 13.

Campus recycling program celebrates 10 'green' years

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

LEHMAN - The success of Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus recycling program proves that one person can make a difference. It also shows that if that one person has some help, together they can make a huge difference.

Now in its 10th year, the local recycling program has reached a new record with recyclables up 59 percent over last year. This year also marks the first time on-campus recyclables have exceeded 50 tons, tons of stuff that otherwise would have ended up in a landfill.

It all started with a simple idea thought up by Dr. Tom Winter, a physics professor at the campus. A committee was formed to research what could be recycled, where it could be taken, how it could be collected and who would take it to the recycling centers.

Winter did not want to waste any time getting the school's feet wet. In September of 1988 Penn State launched an all out collection of paper, cans, plastics, newspaper and metals.

"We started out recycling as much as possible. I didn't want to start out small," said Winter, who feared that starting small might be detrimental to the program's growth.

Every Friday from 11 a.m. to around 2 p.m., student volunteers and Winter meet in an unheated garage on campus to sort all of the recyclables. It's not a glamorous job, especially when it comes to sorting the sticky soda



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

Wojciech Maziarz, left, and Helene Solovey gleefully tossed paper into the recycling bin at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, where the recycling program is in its 10th year.

bottles. Between three and 12 students show up every week. Some are there on their own accord and some are there to get extra credit for Brooke Yager's Biology class.

Yet regardless of what brought them to help, they are all learning about recycling and are working towards a solution to overflowing landfills and energy conservation. "It's very important (to recycle),"

said Helene Solovey, who is in the campus Circle K service organization. "A lot of people don't care about the community. They don't

See RECYCLING, pg 7

Program helps farmers preserve, improve land

By MEIRA ZUCKER
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Farmers in the Back Mountain are about to reach the end of their most recent opportunity to get paid to leave their land alone. From now until December 11th, farmers may enroll in a federally-funded program that sets aside farmland in order to create a more healthy environment.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides annual rental payments and assistance to landowners in exchange for long-term conservation practices. The CRP is the federal government's largest environmental improvement program. Contracts last from 10 to 15 years, although provisions exist to release land under certain conditions.

Farmers are encouraged to submit requests to enroll their land in the CRP so that sensitive landscapes, such as wetlands and erosion-sensitive croplands, can be preserved. All land offers are

"The reason we're doing this is to control the storm water in the fields."

John Manzoni
Huntsville

ranked according to an Environmental Benefits Index so that the most vulnerable lands are selected.

According to Pamela Fedak, of the Luzerne County Farm Service Agency, three Luzerne County farmers are among 70 who are already participating in the program. One is John Manzoni, of the Manzoni Brothers Dairy Farm on Follies Road in Huntsville.

"The reason we're doing this is to control the storm water in the fields," says Manzoni. Erosion remains a large problem throughout Luzerne County, and the CRP program is designed to aid in erosion-sensitive croplands, can be preserved. All land offers are

See FARMLAND, pg 7

Local trainer cops top prize in national championship

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Nikki Banfield has realized a dream 15 years in the making. The Dallas dog trainer and future veterinarian is very proud to say that her German Shepherd, Loki, was named top scoring bitch at the Schutzhund III National Championship in Denver.

The Schutzhund originated in Germany as a temperament test for German Shepards. For a dog trainer, placing at the competition is much the same as placing at the Olympics.

"It's nice to know I have a dog that can do the work she was bred to do," said Banfield of her four-year-old dog. She had never en-

See BEST DOG, pg 7



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

Nikki Banfield and Loki, her champion German Shepherd, which won first place in a national championship judging.

Check it out

Back Mountain Business & Professional Ass'n. members offer holiday specials. Pgs 4-5.

Shining bright

Girl Scouts and Daisy Scouts dress up the Dallas Boro tree. Pg 3.

INDEX

18 Pages	2 Sections
Calendar.....	18
Classified.....	16-17
Crossword.....	18
Editorials.....	6
Obituaries.....	16
School.....	14-15
Sports.....	9-10

CALL 675-5211
FOR HOME DELIVERY,
NEWS OR ADVERTISING
E-mail: dalpost@aol.com

The Dallas Post

MAILING LABEL - Please enclose this label with any address changes, and mail to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612-0366