

## Tax reform

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tion and Homestead provisions until November 15, after the election, the committee should be formed next year. He added that once the act is passed it must stay active for three years before it can be voted on again.

Karen Whipple, board member, said she only voted down the committee for fear it might get on the ballot. "I could've gone ahead with the committee, but I am skeptical about anything going on the ballot," she said.

"I wasn't convinced we knew where we were going with it. I think we should have experienced people on the committee. I don't know how anyone could advise us. No one seems to know where to get information."

Jeff Pauley, taxpayer association president, said the board's move was expected. "I think it's a feasible bill. It could definitely work to benefit Lake-Lehman, especially low-income and the elderly," said Pauley. "People (legis-

*"They don't like it so they won't do it. I think it's important for the public to know about tax reform."*

**Donna Chamberlain**  
Lake-Lehman Taxpayers Ass'n.

lators) say they don't like it. What would they change? They had 20 years to work on it."

Pauley said the association will continue to encourage the board to research the act and let people know they are currently eligible for the Homestead Exemption Act through the county assessor's office.

"Maybe if we get them to study it they'll be more interested in two years," said Pauley.

## Internet

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ies' ideas," says Martha Butler, Library Director. The state is attempting to promote internet access, and the Back Mountain Memorial Library hopes to encourage both use and responsibility.

"We instituted this policy because we believed it was in the best interest of the patrons and the library," says Butler.

"We don't use any type of filtering," says Butler. "We feel it is the responsibility of the user. We try to be as uncensored as possible." Butler adds that no filtering software would be infallible, and many users are adept at evading the software's restrictions.

Four computers are located near the circulation desk of the library. Only one currently provides internet access. One maintains a listing, called LE PAC, of the holdings of the 10 Luzerne County libraries. The other two have CD-ROMs with information, such as World Book Encyclopedia and Infotrac, a magazine article reference. After the library's automation project is completed this spring, Butler hopes to add internet access to one more computer.

Butler is excited by the internet access at the library. "It opens up a whole world of resources."

Kim Clark, 13, a Tunkhannock Area Middle School student, visited the library to research a term paper on school violence. "We usually can't get on it at school," says Clark. "We don't have one at home."

Although Clark was wearing a Korn t-shirt imprinted with the text of the First Amendment on her back, she seemed unbothered by the library's requirement that her mother stay beside her as she surfed the internet.

Her mother, Teri Clark, comments, "Here I have to watch them, but I'm not worried about it." She worked on her own paperwork as she sat beside Kim.

An average of three or four people sign in each day to use the internet computer, and each patron is required to sign the release and responsibility form. "We've had no complaints and no problems so far," reports Butler.

The Hoyt Library in Kingston follows a different route in providing access. There, four computers

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**Martha Butler**  
Library director

in the adult area and one in the children's area are connected to the internet. Each computer runs two software programs, Fortress and CyberPatrol, to screen access to potentially offensive web sites, says Reference Librarian Diane Rebar.

In addition, children under 18 years old must have their parent or legal guardian sign an agreement card. Parents do not, however, need to accompany their children during use of the machines.

At the Osterhout Library, four computers are linked to the internet, and as at the other libraries, students 18 and under are required to have a parent or guardian sign a release form and a policy with rules and regulations. At the Osterhout Library, however, no filtering software is used, according to John Roberts, Reference Librarian. "The parent signs a disclaimer," says Roberts, informing them of the potential content of the internet.

Internet access is not available in the Children's Room of the Back Mountain Memorial Library. Five computers are located there, and all have CD-ROM drives and access to a printer. "The children have enjoyed them very much," says Marilyn Rudolph, Children's Librarian. "The little ones use them after story hour." Other fans include homeschoolers and students visiting the library after school and on weekends.

The most popular use of the Children's Room computers is to read through CD-ROMs, such as Dinosaur Hunter and Cartopedia. Back Mountain students are fans of Encyclopedia of Nature and Big Anthony's Mixed-Up Magic CD-ROMs. "After use, they go off looking for books," says Rudolph. "I think it's going to be wonderful for non-fiction."

## Donna Shepherd is Miss USA entrant

Donna Shepherd, daughter of Mrs. Janice Lombard and David Shepherd of Dallas, is an entrant in the 2000 Miss Pennsylvania USA Pageant, to be held March 6-7 at the Palace Inn in Monroeville. The state pageant will select the Pennsylvania representative to the Miss USA Pageant, which will be nationally televised in 2000. Miss Shepherd is a graduate of Crestwood High School and King's College. Her sponsors include An Affair to Remember Inc., Trucksville, Dr. Robert E. Ottaviani, Dr. Jan A. Olinginski, Dr. John D. Dougherty and Dr. Leslie A. Tarazano.



## Recycling

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grant for new equipment. In the Valentine's Day issue, KnightLife devoted three stories to recycling, including survey results. The articles discussed Wolfe's program, the Lake Township Recycling Center and the benefits of composting. They entered the group, individual and cartoon categories. The awards will be announced in April.

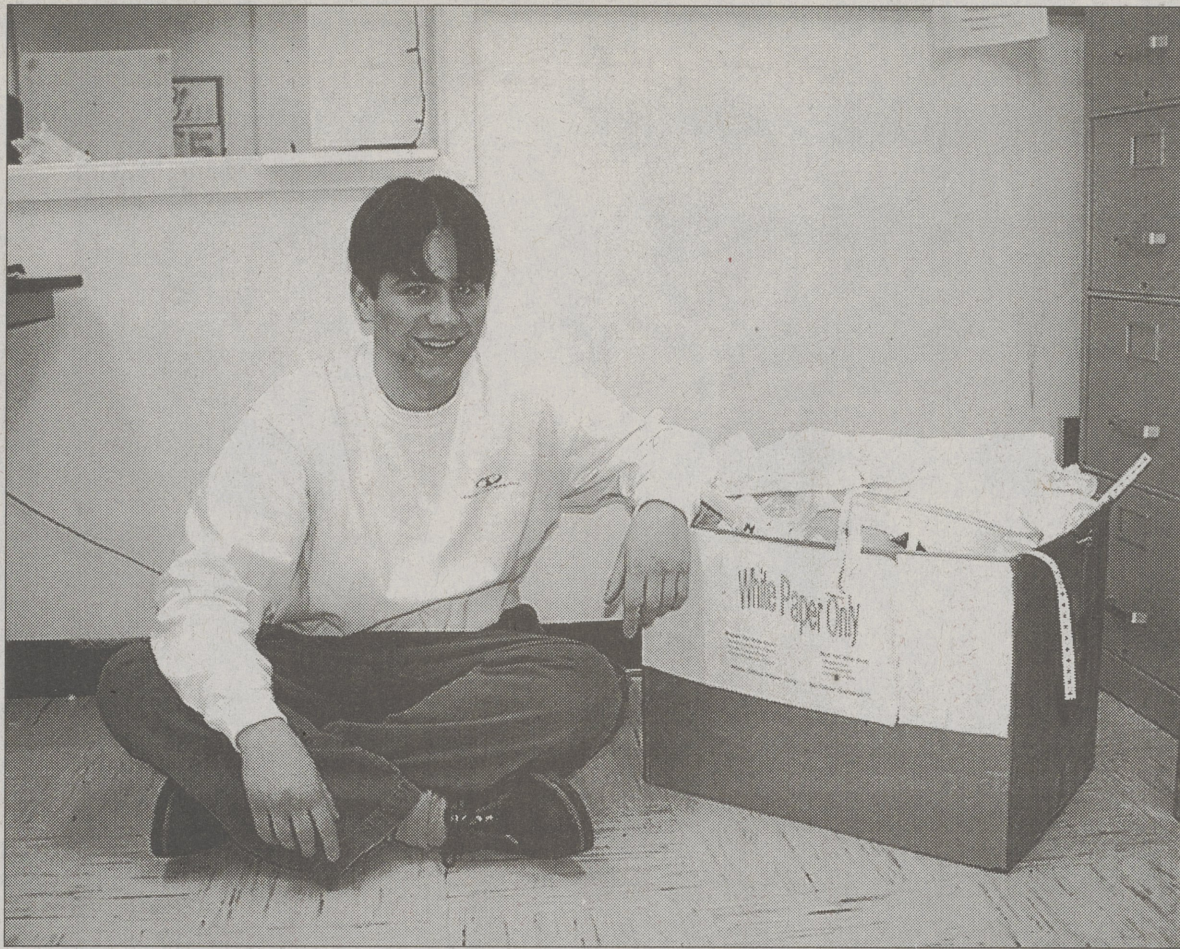
Wolfe spent hours researching recycling on the Internet and called around to centers to find out who would take what and how much it would cost. He learned that it costs to recycle just about everything except aluminum cans.

He did find Solomon Industries in Wilkes-Barre which agreed to take the school's white paper at no cost. Currently only white paper is being recycled. Wolfe and a handful of Key Club members collected and designated boxes for the paper and distributed them to the main office, every classroom and near trash cans throughout the school.

Each Friday Wolfe and other Key Club volunteers borrow a truck and take pounds and pounds of paper to be recycled and eventually reused.

He hopes to expand the program to newspaper and plastic bottles. Recently the school obtained a sports drink machine that produces more plastic-filled trash cans.

"I hope to expand recycling and do it without costing a lot of money. I haven't cost the school anything so far," said Wolfe. He approached the school board at its February meeting last week to inform them of his project and ask for their support. "They could get involved and spend a little money because this is saving



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

Ben Wolfe sat by one of the recycling boxes he set out at Lake-Lehman High School

them money," explained Wolfe.

Board member Lois Kopcha sees Wolfe's program as an excellent one. "I commend Ben Wolfe. He has a great point. This trash is filling up our landfills," said Kopcha. The board has not yet discussed monetary supporting the program.

Wolfe is excited by the progress made in a short period of time. "This is a start. I really hope the underclassmen get involved and carry it on with the teachers," he said.

The 18 year old has learned from this experience, not only how to organize and delegate to people, but that he can help

change the community for the better. Also, he added with a laugh, "I learned that you need an aerated area when spray painting." Wolfe and his friends spray painted green recycling symbols on all of the cardboard boxes used to collect white paper.

All of this work is in addition to his required senior project, which is creating an outdoor natural classroom, including a garden, in one of the courtyards between halls of classrooms.

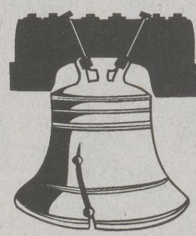
He says it is just in his nature to always do something. "I find myself doing these things instead of homework.

In some ways I think (these projects) teach you more because it's a hands-on, real learning experience," explained Wolfe, who feels guilty if he watches television for too long. "I just have to always be doing something."

Wolfe credits his fellow Key Clubbers for their hard work and the support of Sandra Weyman, English teacher and KnightLife advisor, and Carrie Phelps, the Key Club advisor.

Weyman describes Wolfe as a great kid who is totally involved. "This would be a great senior project in itself. It's a big project and he just wanted to do it," she said.

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