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Spurred by 911, rural route addresses are being updated

By KASIA MCDONOUGH
Post Staff

LEHMAN - Back Mountain businesses will soon find it necessary to change company stationary, and local school children will have new addresses to memorize.

The changes are the result of a new policy which will eliminate the use of post office box numbers and rural route designations throughout the area.

Lehman Township has begun the process of assigning numbers to all properties within the community. Supervisors gathered March 15 to discuss details of the plan, which is designed to ease confusion for emergency services personnel.

Currently, rescue crews spend valuable time looking for properties which have rural route or post office box numbers. "Many residents have these numbers posted on a mail box which may be a mile or more from the home or busi-

"That's great! We'll help them as much as we can."

Charles Innamorati
Dallas Post Office

ness," said Robert Walsh, Sweet Valley Fire Chief.

The property numbering project is near completion in Sweet Valley and the fire chief is pleased with the progress so

far. "We have had complete cooperation from the local postal service, which gave us preliminary authorization and we have been working with the people over at 911 to get this done as soon as possible," said Walsh.

The Lehman Municipal Authority expects the addressing to begin there in mid-summer. The process uses global positioning satellite (GPS) technology to measure distances along township roads. As the GPS equipped van travels along

the road, an address is assigned every 52.8 feet.

Initially, the property numbering is done without regard for homes or businesses along the road. "The addressing is done to portions of the existing roadway to accommodate future development. If a new structure is built, we do not have to go through the process of assigning a new property number since one already exist

See ADDRESSES, pg 8

Snow falls, plows roll, boxes fall

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - As he was shoveling out his driveway after the last big snowstorm, Walter Cepukaitis heard the rumble of a state plow truck coming down Lakeside Drive. Then he saw his mailbox listing to one side, after being smacked by snow flying off the plow.

"That fellow was going at least 50," Cepukaitis said. "If my driveway was clear, I would have followed the bird."

Cepukaitis attended the March 16 meeting of the borough council to complain about the beating his mailbox had taken. While they were sympathetic, council members didn't have much solace to offer.

Mayor Richard Boice said he had taken a ride around the lake the day after the storm, and saw the damage. "They just took out mailbox after mailbox," he said. "They probably didn't even notice it."

"It's usually the ones that are right up close to the guard rail," Boice said, explaining that home owners must put the boxes where postal workers can reach them from their cars.

Cepukaitis says he knows the plow was racing down his stretch of Lakeside Drive — one of the few places where the road is straight for any length — because "snow was pasted on the poles, 12, 14 feet high."

There's not much chance anyone will pay to replace the damaged mailboxes. Boice said he had never heard of anyone being reimbursed by the state, although he said the borough "will replace it if we

See MAILBOXES, pg 8



Walter Cepukaitis held his mailbox from falling. He says the box was knocked over by snow flying off a speeding state plow truck during a storm March 14. Several mailboxes along Lakeside Drive at Harveys Lake were damaged the next day. But the state says boxes in the right-of-way aren't its responsibility.

POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Area native wins \$10,000 art teaching fellowship

Lynne Horoschak honored for work with special-needs kids

By KASIA MCDONOUGH
Post Staff

TRUCKSVILLE - Growing up in the Back Mountain, Lynne Horoschak hoped her love of art would lead to a fulfilling career but never imagined she would be honored as an outstanding art educator.

The daughter of Dr. and Mrs. L.E. Jordan of Trucksville, Lynne began drawing at an early age. "She always liked to draw and paint," said Mrs. Jordan.

Lynne credits Marilyn Hoffman, a former art teacher at Coughlin High School, with inspiring her. "Mrs. Hoffman was a friend of the family who loved art. Her influence was very important because we did not have an arts program at my school," said Horoschak.

After graduating from Westmoreland High School in 1961, Lynne traveled to Holland as an exchange student. She attended art school while abroad and returned home determined to pursue a career as a fashion illustrator.

"Marilyn Hoffman came to our house to see the paintings Lynne completed while in Holland," recalls Mrs. Jordan. "She said 'you better send that girl to art

See TEACHER, pg 8

Parallel lives bring science 'expos' to area schools

By JULIE DEE IMEL
Abington Journal Editor

WAVERLY - A good way to plant the love of science in little ones early in life is to let them dig in the dirt - literally.

That's according to sisters Debra Serfass, PhD., a mom and adjunct faculty member at Wilkes University who teaches clinical microbiology to nursing students and biology labs to science majors and non-majors, and Nancy Levinson, who worked as a full-time medical technologist before she became a full-time mom.

The sisters spent a great deal of time outdoors on family camping and hiking trips as children, and that's where they were first introduced to the world of science - a world they fell in love with. They also fondly remember conducting experiments in science class, enjoying science workshops with the Girl Scouts, and participating in science fairs.

Serfass flashed back to sixth grade when she built an incubator, with help from her father, and hatched chickens for her science fair project.

Her sister remembered, too. "You had to open the eggs at each stage and put them in formaldehyde," Levinson said. "I couldn't eat eggs for the longest time after that," she said, laughing. Her sister with a strong stomach didn't share in her queasiness. After all, it was just part of her project.



Debra Serfass, left, and Nancy Levinson are sisters who have worked to bring science fairs into elementary schools.

POST PHOTO/JULIE DEE IMEL

In the spirit of such memories, Serfass decided to bring more science into her children's lives by organizing a voluntary science expo at Dallas Elementary three years ago through the school's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), and with the help of her friend, Kathy Swepton. This year, her sister is following in her footsteps by chairing the first annual science expo at Waverly Elementary School.

Levinson hopes Waverly students enjoy their fair as much as Dallas students have benefited from theirs. Before the expo is even finished for the night, Serfass said, "I hear 'I want to do this again next year. I already know what my project is going to be.'"

And that kind of enthusiasm was precisely the reason for starting the expo. "It's important kids are aware that science is all around them every day," said Serfass.

About 50 children in Dallas signed up the first year. And, like mold spores on an old loaf of bread, the fair's popularity spread and grew each year. Last year, more than 100 projects were displayed.

"The kids are very proud," Serfass said. "They stand next to their projects and answer questions from people walking by."

See SCIENCE, pg 2

Hanford Eckman, ENCON founder, dies

Hanford Eckman, who founded Energy Converters Inc. (ENCON) in Dallas, died Monday at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Born in Buffalo, Eckman came to the Back Mountain as chief engineer for Thermo-Tek Corp. in Trucksville. He was promoted to general manager of the facility, which was located in the building that is now Rider's World. He continued as general manager of the Climate Control Division of the Singer Com-



HANFORD ECKMAN

See ECKMAN, pg 2

■ Girl Power

on display at gathering of Girl Scouts and those interested in becoming Scouts. Pg 2.

■ MVP's

Three Back Mountain student-athletes honored at Sem. Pg 9.

INDEX

14 Pages	2 Sections
Calendar.....	14
Classified.....	12-13
Crossword.....	14
Editorials.....	4
Obituaries.....	12
School.....	10-11
Sports.....	9

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