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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## He can see clearly now

Adam Besecker, a fourthgrader at Dallas Elementary School, demonstrated a spiffy set of eyeglass wipers at the school's annual

"Science Expo," which was held last week. Students in all grades displayed their science prowess. More photos on page 7.

## Cold water stymies lake rescuers' best efforts

By KEVIN CURCIO and RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Correspondent

**HARVEYS LAKE** - Ryan Foley and Pete Anzalone, seniors and soccer players at College Misericordia, were deep in preparation for their finals when a distur-

*"We thought we had pulled him out alive."*  
Nancy Johnson  
Harveys Lake Fire and Ambulance

bance that couldn't be ignored beckoned them from their lakeside apartment a little after 9 p.m.

Sunday night. "We heard a sploosh!" said Foley. "We ran to the window and

saw a car in the water. We dialed 911. After calling 911 we ran outside. The car, which was sinking, capsized and popped out of the water. It kind of floated on its side."

The vehicle, like so many be-

See COLD WATER, pg 8

## More respect, more security sought in schools

By KASIA McDONOUGH  
Post Staff

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - A ripple of horror has spread from the foothills of the Rocky Mountains to the Back Mountain leaving students, teachers, administrators and parents here shaken.

Littleton has become another painful reminder to area educators that schools are not immune to violent confrontations. "You have the attitude that something as tragic as that can never happen here, but of course, it can happen anywhere," said Dr. William Price, Lake-Lehman Superintendent of Schools.

Preventing violence as a resolution to conflict is a priority in both districts, but in Lake-Lehman the superintendent believes

*"I think we need to create more positive role models in the schools."*

Dr. William Price  
Lake-Lehman  
Superintendent of Schools

real changes in the way schools operate may be necessary to accomplish that goal. "I think we need to create more positive role models in the schools," said Price. "Authority figures are either viewed negatively or ignored by many students."

The Lake-Lehman Administration is considering changes in its

See SECURITY, pg 8

## Suspended student will be evaluated

By KASIA McDONOUGH  
Post Staff

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - School district officials, preferring to err on the side of caution, have suspended three students who allegedly threatened violence against their peers.

A Lake-Lehman high school student, who had no record of disciplinary problems in the past, stands accused of threatening to detonate a bomb on school property. "Several of our students reported the threats to a faculty member and we notified the police," said John Oliver, principal.

Lehman Township law enforcement officials arrested the youth Saturday and charged him with

making terroristic threats and disorderly conduct. He is currently being detained at the Luzerne County Juvenile Detention Center.

After a hearing Tuesday morning before Judge Mark Ciavarella, the boy was released into the custody of his parents without objection from the school district or prosecutors. He is under house arrest for two weeks, during which time he will be evaluated through a mental health agency, according to Sandra Brulo, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Luzerne County.

The student, who has been suspended from school for 10

See STUDENTS, pg 8

## The 'jury' speaks, and the verdict is guilty as charged

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

**TRUCKSVILLE** - The atmosphere in the courtroom was tense as the "prosecuting attorney" made his case to the "jury." The three "defendants" had been charged with possession of drugs, and now it was time for a verdict. But this time there really was no crime, just a group of Boy Scouts learning firsthand about the American justice system, and in the end everyone went home with mom and dad.

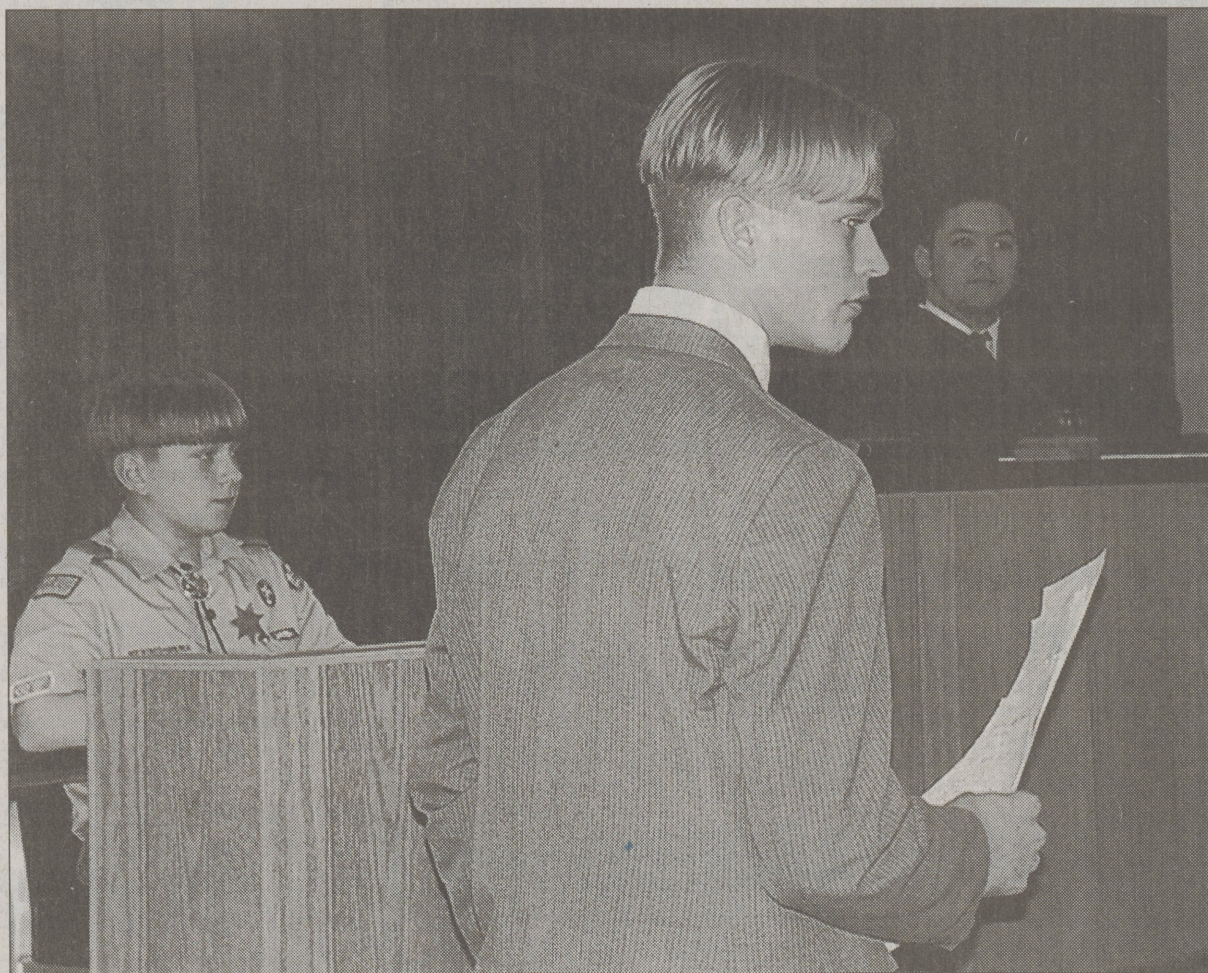
Scouts from Troops 281

*"I'm basically trying to prove reasonable doubt."*

Michael Miller  
"Defense attorney"

and 693 held the mock trial at the Trucksville office of District Justice James Tupper. Tupper helped them prepare for the event, and selected Scouts for roles as defendants, defense attorneys, prosecutors, judge and jury. Some seemed to relish their roles.

Michael Miller was a defense attorney, as he was at last year's trial. "I had so much fun. I have a good strategy planned," he said,



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

**Rick Blaine**, playing a prosecutor, made his case to the jury as he questioned Tommy Van Horn, as a policeman, before "Judge" Eric Pimm.

declining to furnish details because prosecutors Joe Bednash and Andrew Van Loon were listening. "I'm basically trying to prove

reasonable doubt," was about as specific as Miller would get.

For his part, Bednash was confident of a conviction.

"We're going to book 'em," he said.

Tupper said after the trial that the outcome surprised him somewhat. "The defense

*"We're going to book 'em."*

Joe Bednash  
"Prosecutor"

put on a good show," he said. But when the defendants took the stand to testify in their own defense, they hurt their own case. "The jury didn't find them credible," Tupper said.

The defense argument was that the three boys, who had been driving around in a car owned by a brother, didn't notice the drugs on the console. But the prosecution successfully removed any doubt in the jurors' minds, in part by getting one of the boys to admit that he had put on a seat belt, which required that he reach over near the console.

"So, we had a good jury," Tupper said. "I enjoyed it."

So did the Scouts, who started the day with breakfast at Pickett's Charge courtesy of Tupper, then toured the Luzerne County Courthouse before arriving at Tupper's office for a box lunch, then the trial.

*"So, we had a good jury. I enjoyed it."*

James Tupper  
District Justice (a real one)

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