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Officials: Middle school's a firetrap

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

LAKE-LEHMAN - Visitors who crowded into a stuffy modular classroom before touring the Middle Level Building were presented a grim picture of decaying school that has become a potential fire trap, has unsafe water running through corroding pipes and poor ventilation leading to substandard air quality.

"If any of you have children who are about to enter the middle level you would be justifiably concerned about the condition of these facilities."

Douglas Trumbower
Lake-Lehman architect

Convinced at the onset that his words would fall on deaf ears, the district architect, Douglas Trumbower led the group in a discussion about state and federal regulations which govern the structural condition of educational facilities. "I'm sure about 80 percent of you will leave here saying 'this is a bunch of bologna' but the world we live in requires us to live by these rules and regulations," said Trumbower.

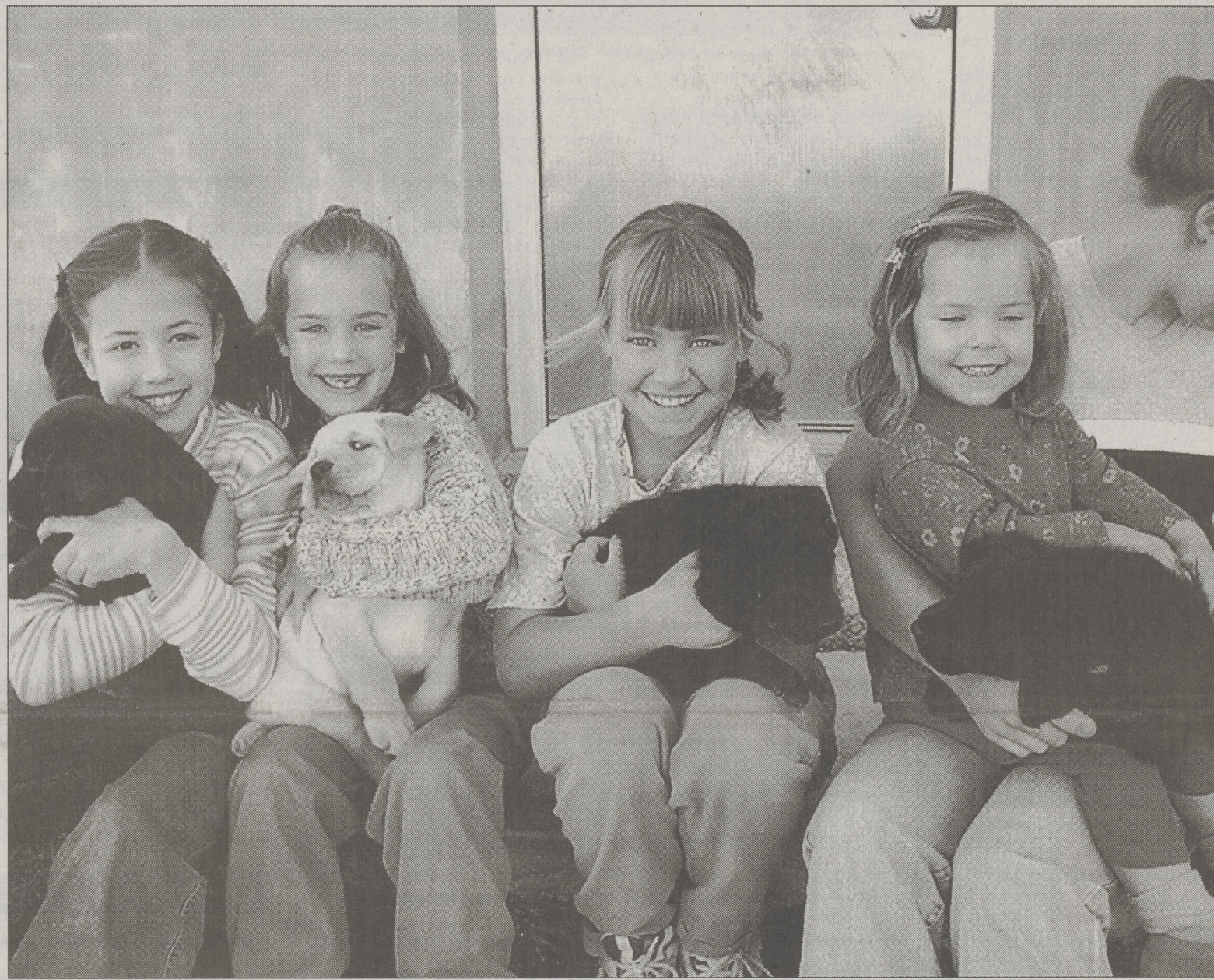
A feasibility study conducted by the Quad III Group, an engi-

See MIDDLE SCHOOL, pg 8

Puppy love

They're cute and cuddly, and the puppies are pretty nice too. From left, Kylie Donelly, Anna Haas, Emily Haas and Abigail Haas held four of a litter of 10 labrador retrievers owned by Deb Miller of Trucksville. The litter included seven black pups, two chocolate and one yellow. Sorry, only one black female was left when this issue went to press.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Candidates invite more input from citizens

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

LAKE-LEHMAN - Sometimes it's as simple as a handshake. That was the message delivered by Lake-Lehman School Board hopefuls last week.

The candidates expressed a commitment to common courtesy and seemed united by the feeling that the current board has allowed animosity among members to distort the vision of what needs to be accomplished. "I think there is a lack of respect displayed at school board meetings. It's okay to disagree, that's healthy, but we need to be able to work cooperatively to improve our schools," said Region 1 candidate Michelle Coombs.

Several of the candidates suggested the board should extend the same courtesy to audience members who convene for monthly meetings, saying everyone would benefit from increased community involvement in district activities. "We have to be open-minded. There are a lot of good ideas out there that don't get heard," said Angelo DeCesaris, a Region 2 candidate.

Lois Kopcha, an incumbent in Region 1 and Jeffrey Pauley, also a Region 1 candidate, were not present at the "Meet the Candidates Night" sponsored by the Lehman-Jackson PTO. Joseph Kapitula, who is the lone candidate for the one seat available in Region 3, also did not attend the forum.

None of the candidates who were present are members of the Lake-Lehman Taxpayer's Association but all expressed a willing-

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Late to the ice, teen is cutting a striking figure

When Kirby Richards skated on wood, Tara Lipinski was an opponent

By MEIRA ZUCKER
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - It's never too late to try something new. Just ask Kirby Richards.

This Dallas High School sophomore was not fazed by the popular image of preadolescent ice skaters, practicing their childhoods away in the quest for an elusive Olympic medal. Supported by her parents and coach, she has already begun her climb in the ice skating community, despite having only begun skating 11 months ago.

Kirby won two silver medals at the Keystone Games in Mechanicsburg in February. As a result, she has been invited to the State Games of America, in St. Louis, in August.

When Kirby was two years old her mother, Linda, took her roller skating at Rollaway. Her skates were stuffed with toilet paper to bulk up her tiny feet. By the time Kirby was three, however, she was flying around the rink by herself.

Kirby initially became a competitive roller skater. She placed first at the Junior Olympics, and then sixth at Standard Nationals, another competition.

One of her competitors was Tara Lipinski, who later turned to Olympic ice skating. Kirby subsequently began gymnastics, and is currently a cheerleader at Dallas High School.

But something was missing. Kirby longed for individual com-

"It's worth it. You come home with a medal."

Kirby Richards
Dallas figure skater

petition. She saw an advertisement for skating clinics at The Ice Box, and after one visit, was hooked. She begged her parents for private lessons.

"She had a very natural ability on the ice," says her coach, Wendi Kelley. "Everything clicked." Kelley, a coach for 19 years, believes that Kirby's skill and discipline result from her years of roller skating.

After just five months of practice, Kirby entered the Chesapeake Open in Baltimore. There, she won a silver medal. Skaters are grouped by both age and ability in skating competitions.

Classmates complain that Kirby is unavailable for other projects, because so much of her time is spent skating, but they have been very supportive. Kirby practices three days a week, and in the weeks before an event, may go every day. "She gives up a lot for this," says Kelley.

The Richards family recently returned from Buffalo, where Kirby competed in the Niagara Invitational. She earned three second places, after skating against skaters from Canada, North Carolina, and New York State.



Kirby Richards was captured in action on the ice at the Chesapeake Open in Baltimore.

"It's worth it," says Kirby. "You come home with a medal." The Richards family makes vacations out of each event. They spend free time sightseeing, and enjoy the time traveling together. "It's prob-

ably our only quality time," says her mother, Linda, with a hearty laugh.

At the State Games of America,

See SKATER, pg 8

Cooper appointed Mayor

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

DALLAS - A new mayor has been named to fill the spot left vacant by the death of Paul LaBar.

Following a moment of silence in honor of the former leader, borough council members accepted the nomination of Donald S. Cooper Jr. for mayor. The 61-year-old, who works full time as a sales representative at a medical supplies company, was promptly sworn into the new post upon his resignation from council.

The new mayor moved to Dallas with his wife, the former Yoko Nishi, in 1977. Their son, Daniel, who teaches in the Philadelphia School District, is a graduate of

"I just hope to keep the train on track because right now we're running pretty good."

Donald Cooper
Mayor, Dallas Borough

Dallas High School.

Cooper credits his son's participation on area sports teams with inspiring him to become an active member of the community. "My interest in local government grew out of my association with Little League and wrestling," he

See MAYOR, pg 2

Madeline

pays a visit to the Back Mountain Library. Pg 3.

Even-steven

For the second time this season, the Dallas and Lehman girls soccer teams played to a scoreless tie. Sports page.

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