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L-L borrows \$10 million, will keep \$4 million in the bank

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

LAKE-LEHMAN - At a special meeting held September 21, the Lake-Lehman School Board approved a motion giving the district authorization to borrow \$10 million through PNC Bank.

The money will be used to finance the expansion and renovation of Ross Elementary School and for the construction of a new middle school wing to be added to the high school. "The Ross project is moving forward on schedule and the

middle school construction is about six months behind that," said Dr. William Price, Superintendent.

The \$10 million loan, which must be re-paid in three years, has an interest rate of 4.40%. "The loan is called a note because of the short term (of the financing)," said Kathleen Williams, business manager. "It is really very similar to a bond issue in that the same state regulations apply."

One of the Department of Education rules governing school district debts requires Lake-Lehman to proceed with

"We are relying on the money we do have in the fund balance to earn interest."

Kathleen Williams
Business manager

planned construction in a timely manner. "Basically, the state regulations require a good faith effort to move ahead with these projects," said Price. "We can't

just borrow the money and invest it indefinitely."

The district is permitted to invest the funds for a short period and administrators plan to use the money earned from those investments to pay the interest due on the \$10 million note. Interest payments will be made bi-annually in \$220,000 increments.

This method of borrowing the funds needed to finance building projects over a short term is designed to give Lake-Lehman flexibility to refinance at a time when the market is more favorable for

long-term repayment. "Any time after 12 months we can convert this general obligation to a bond issue," said Williams.

A positive report on the status of Lake-Lehman's finances was submitted by Standard & Poor's which conducted a check of the district credit worthiness. "They issued the district a credit rating of FP-1, which is the highest possible rating, indicating they believed the district demonstrated a very strong or strong capacity to pay the (\$10 million) princi-

See LAKE-LEHMAN, pg 3

Helping parents to protect kids

Seminar to address
'Sex, Kids & the Internet'

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

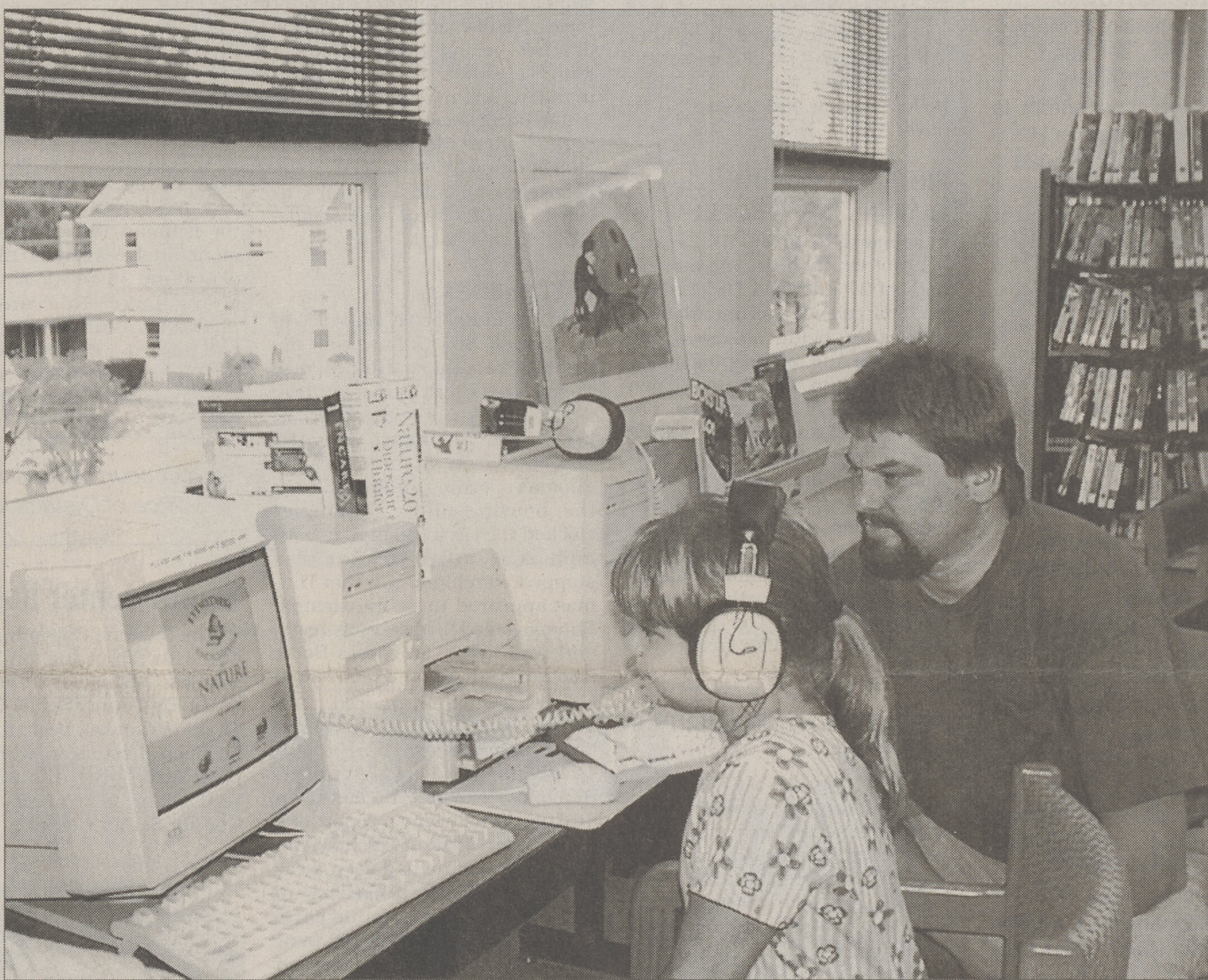
BACK MOUNTAIN - Atty. Bernard Walter has seen children as young as 12 or 13 years old sleeping on street corners. The image of them in their flimsy cardboard shelters, strung out on drugs, begging for food, has stuck with him.

Walter carried the pictures of those unsmiling faces in his mind, when as a District Attorney in San Francisco he prosecuted the pimps who preyed upon their desperation.

It is for those youngsters, who were ordinary kids before their innocence was stolen, that he is working to limit the pervasive presence of graphic and sexually explicit material on the Internet. "As a D.A., I specialized in prosecuting sex offenders so I dealt with runaway kids and pimps and all of those things," said Walter. "It was during that time I became aware of how much the media can influence young people."

Despite his experience and his conviction that pornographic images should not be accessible to children, Walter has not become an ultra-conservative advocating the abolition of the world wide web and all its cyberspace cousins. "My approach to this problem is pragmatic. I'm not a redneck. I don't think we should dress up in white sheets and string up pornographers on the street corner," he said. "I do think people need to be alerted to the fact that sex and money are very powerful human drives and when the two are wed a situation ripe with danger is created."

As part of his effort to raise public awareness of the predators lurking



POST PHOTO/KASIA McDONOUGH

Matt Harshin watched as his daughter, Lauren, 8, looked up an encyclopedia page at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. The library requires that parents accompany young children who use the Internet.

"I think its important that parents stop relying on computers as high tech babysitters."

Sgt. Michael Moravec
Kingston Twp. police dept.

beyond the click of a mouse, Walter has coordinated an informational session entitled "Sex, Kids, & the Internet" to be held on Thursday, October 7 at the PP&L Conference Center beginning at 7 p.m. "We wanted to bring together a panel of experts for an open discussion about the dark side of the Internet," said Walter.

Some of the well publicized and shadowy aspects of the Internet include sites displaying violent or pornographic mate-

rial and chat rooms where the unsuspecting may fall prey to predators. A 14-year-old Kingston Township girl was recently lured to a local hotel by a Massachusetts man who had disguised his true age and motives over the course of his three-year on-line relationship with the youngster.

Police officials involved in bringing that case to justice have advice for adults who don't want their own children to end up in

a similar predicament. "I think its important that parents stop relying on computers as high tech babysitters," said Sgt. Michael Moravec, of the Kingston Township Police Department. "They need to know who their child is talking to either through a history list or by supervising their time on the Internet."

Direct parental supervision is the most effective method of preventing a child from gaining access to objectionable material but children frequently have opportunities explore the Internet on their own. "The computer does not belong in the bed-

See INTERNET, pg 8

Township moving to control phone towers

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. - Supervisors are taking steps to regulate cellular telephone antennas and towers in the township.

At a special meeting Sept. 22, supervisors reviewed a draft ordinance that would be the first in the Back Mountain to specifically address communication towers and antennas. The action comes two months after a county judge said the supervisors "committed an error of law" when they declared that a proposed 150-foot tower was a "semipublic" use.

Judge Thomas F. Burke also suggested that the supervisors' interpretation of zoning codes would have allowed construction of a tower anywhere in the township.

The proposed ordinance would make attaching antennas to existing buildings a permitted use. Jeff Box, township manager, said the hope is that companies will want to "take the easier path" of locating small antennas on buildings over the more involved process that would be required to build a large tower.

While the township is trying to control the towers, which are proliferating at a rapid pace nationwide, there are limits to its ability to do so. "The Telecommunications Act (the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996) says local zoning is there, but in fact it's not," Box said. While they can put some restrictions on them, municipalities cannot exclude communications towers, or discriminate between companies.

Much of the proposed ordinance deals with the physical layout of a tower site. For example, adequate "fall zones" must surround a tower, a fence must enclose the tower site, and landscaping must hide the fencing and any buildings. The appearance of the tower itself is not addressed, except to note that towers should

See TOWERS, pg 8

Prison break hearing reveals gross negligence all around

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

JACKSON TOWNSHIP - As many questions as answers came out of the Department of Corrections' recent public hearing into the circumstances surrounding the escape of two inmates from the State Correctional Institution at Dallas (SCID).

The testimony offered did little to reassure Pat Rusiloski, who heads the Citizens Advisory Committee. "I can't believe it — nothing works," she said. "The siren isn't working, the fence is falling down and it seems a number of the security guards didn't do their jobs."

A report issued by Martin Horn, Secretary of Corrections, indicated the ongoing investigation has yielded crucial information about

the SCID's security protocol. Fact finders discovered the two escapees dangled from razor wire atop the perimeter fencing, unnoticed by the roving patrols which passed them repeatedly.

Corrections officers conducting a bed check reported prisoners Yang and McCloskey were in their bunks although the two had already slipped through an opening created by cutting through a metal bar on the window of their cell. The bars had apparently not been checked for signs of damage in months.

"Installing new bars is one of Superintendent Varner's top priorities," said Ken Burnett, Public Information Officer at SCID. "It's a matter of figuring out what kind of metal to use and deciding if the

See PRISON, pg 3



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Celebrating history

Patti and Alex Almond bought copies of a book about Misericordia's history written and signed by Dr. Agnes Cardoni, left, and Dr. Regina Kelly, RSM. Story, more photos on page 3.

■ **Mounts romp**
Dallas crushed Hanover
47-0 Saturday, Pg 9.

■ **Knights win**
in meeting of field hockey
squads, Lehman came
out on top by a single
goal, Pg 9.

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