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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Ed and Tammy Lemelin of Shavertown brought the five "older" basset hounds they have adopted to St. Therese's Church for

the annual blessing of the animals. More than 50 pets received blessings from Msgr. Peter Crynes. More photos on page 3.

## Critters come for a little spiritual boost

All creatures great and small, good and not-so-good gathered Saturday morning at St. Therese's Church in Shavertown as part of a "Respect for Life" weekend that included the church's annual blessing of pets and animals. Msgr. Peter Crynes gleefully blessed well over 50 pets in this annual ceremony. Carol & Mike Cooker brought Steeler and Casey for his first blessing. Everyone agreed that Ed and Tammy Lemelin of Shavertown needed many blessings for themselves and the five "older" basset hounds they have adopted. Kelly

and Denise Murphy asked for a special blessing for an 18-year-old cat, "Wheeler," who Denise has had since she was in college. And then there was "Wrinkles," the 4-year-old miniature bull terrier owed by Don Secor from Chase. It seems that after being blessed and featured on the front page of the Dallas Post three years ago, he has this year spent five days in a hospital for surgery, receiving over 50 stitches, after being attacked by another dog. Says Don, his owner, "He really needs it."

## Dallas ponders \$6 million middle school renovations

By KASIA McDONOUGH  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - The Dallas School Board Monday discussed its selection of an architect and/or construction manager to coordinate proposed renovations estimated to cost over \$6 million.

The board will hear presentations from construction management firms at the regular monthly meeting next Monday. "There were some thoughts with the last project (Wycallis Elementary) that maybe we should have had a construction manager on board from the start," said Dr. Gil Griffiths, Superintendent of Schools.

Dallas Middle School improvements, which will include a new roof, removal of asbestos tiles and replacement windows among other upgrades, is expected to cost the district \$6 million. "While the dollars are significant the nature of these projects is different," said Griffiths.

In addition to the middle school renovation, the district is contemplating improvements to the football stadium which will cost approximately \$500,000 and upgrades to the tennis courts which will add another \$100,000 to the construction budget. "If we're looking to have the stadium ready for the fall of next year, demolition has to begin in March of 2000, which impacts on graduation, the track season and possibly the start of football if construction is not completed by the middle of next August," said Griffiths.

The board is required to move forward in a timely manner because of these constraints and those which apply to the middle

*"I think it makes sense to have more of a long range plan that includes regular maintenance on all our buildings."*

Frank Natitus  
School director

school renovations. "The middle school construction would have to be completed over two years because it will require two summers of work," said Griffiths. "That was one issue I had a concern about, making sure we stay on a timeline so we were not torn up for a long period of time."

School board members also voiced concerns about the decision to focus on a few projects of pressing importance without establishing a strategic plan. "Like in 1990, when we spent all that money to build a beautiful new library and home ec center at the high school and then decided to move the ninth graders up there," said Maureen Banks. "If we intended to do that we should have renovated the high school to accommodate them."

A suggestion was made to seek a district-wide feasibility study encompassing each school on the campus and its grounds. "I think it makes sense to have more of a long range plan that includes regular maintenance on all our buildings," said Frank Natitus, school board member. "I don't want to be saying five years from now, 'We should have done this and we should have done that.'"



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

## Lehman 'tops' Dallas

Andrew George of Dallas, left, and Jason Mahle of Lehman put their heads together in last week's game. More photos on page 10.

## Back Mountain loses great friend of youth

By KASIA McDONOUGH  
Post Staff

**LEHMAN** - There is a hole in the heart of the Back Mountain this week, as friends and family cope with the passing of Larry Georgetti.

The long-time Lehman resident is described by those who knew him best as a cherished friend, an admired professional, a trusted mentor, a faithful parishioner and a loving husband and father. "His actions told you what kind of a person he was," said Sunny Cesarini, Director of Religious Education at Gate of Heaven Church.

Georgetti was a lector and Sunday School instructor at the



LARRY GEORGETTI

*"To do what he did for all those years, takes something special and Larry had it."*

Jim Welby  
Co-worker, friend

church. "He was such a neat teacher," said Cesarini. "He had innovative ideas and he was truly dedicated to sharing his knowledge and his faith with the kids."

That commitment to education enabled Georgetti, who graduated from Mansfield University with a degree in special education, to work successfully with some unconventional students. "Larry was a teacher at the State Correctional Institute at Retreat," said Jim Welby, a co-worker and friend

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## Rash of break-ins could be drug related

By KASIA McDONOUGH  
Post Staff

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - A rash of burglaries, which police officials believe are the work of drug users needing cash for the next buy, is shaking the sense of security in quiet Back Mountain communities.

The break-ins have been reported in Harveys Lake, Lake Township, Lehman Township and Dallas Borough. "We had an incident where items were taken from two cars at the same residence," said Chief Jack Fowler, of Dallas Borough. "We have a suspect and some information that indicates

*"I'm scared to death and at the same time I'm angry as hell."*

Kathy Moretti  
Burglary victim, Harveys Lake

this is drug related."

Harveys Lake police are investigating a series of burglaries and other suspicious behavior in that community. "We had two more reports of cars being broken into this week, bringing the number to five in the last three weeks," said Chief Jeff Butler of the Harveys Lake Police Department. "Over the summer, we had some problems with thefts on boats where the perpetrators took stupid stuff like

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## It's no trick: Towns may reschedule Halloween

By KASIA McDONOUGH  
Post Staff

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - Is this a Trick or a Treat?

The time-honored tradition of children parading door-to-door on a dark and chilly Halloween night may soon come to an end in some Back Mountain communities. "What we're trying to do is move this event to a weekend afternoon," said Charles Kane, a member of the Dallas Borough Council.

Council members, who began discussing the changes at their September meeting, believe establishing a fixed date and time for Halloween activities has practical advantages. "It's hard for parents who work all day to come home and get the kids dressed in their costumes and go out trick or treating in the evening. Most families don't get started until 6:30 or 7 p.m. and then we have kids walking the streets until 9 o'clock or later on a school night," said Kane.

In addition to reducing the number of sleepy students, the change is expected to lower the risk of accidents. "What brought this about was the fact that we have seen a large increase in population in the Back Mountain and when you combine that with the fact that families from outside the

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