

# The Dallas Post

50 Cents

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Vol. 110 No. 42

Dallas, Pennsylvania

October 20 thru October 26, 1999

## Parents, kids get together at recess

By KASIA McDONOUGH  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - Volunteers from the Wycallis Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization put on their best play clothes and shared some old-fashioned fun with students during recess last Thursday.

The adults and children played traditional schoolyard games including jump rope, hopscotch, marbles and four square. "This is the second year we've done this," said Nadine Young, a parent volunteer. "At Westmoreland last year, the kids didn't have a lot of playground equipment and they were playing tag all the time. We wanted to do something a little different to make recess more fun."

Students appreciate the opportunity to try new activities. "Basically, there was nothing to do at recess most of the time and it was really boring," said Kristen O'Brien, a fourth grader at Wycallis Elementary. "I like playing games and stuff so this is fun."

PTO volunteers have been busy making improvements to the new playground space behind the school so children can enjoy more variety at recess. "We painted some hopscotch boards, a snail game area and a marble square and we hope to paint some more

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POST PHOTO/KASIA McDONOUGH

**Matt Yedesko** took a mighty leap on the hopscotch board at Wycallis Elementary during "Recess Day" last week. The school's Parent-Teacher Organization put on the program to bring kids and parents together. The program was so well-received the organization is planning to hold it three more times this school year. When the students at Westmoreland Elementary, there wasn't as much room for fun and games as their is now. Keeping an eye on Matt, from left: Arianne Schott, Mrs. Kim Smith, Andrew McCabe, Ben Lewis, Scott Yedesko and Alexandria Smith.

For the rest of the story and more photos, turn to page 3.

## '98 Census estimates: Little growth in region

Officials question how accurate the figures are

By KASIA McDONOUGH  
Post Staff

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - The number of Back Mountain residents is declining according to United States Census Bureau estimates. But local officials question the accuracy of the figures.

This finding is contrary to the public perception that population is rising in this part of Luzerne County. "I'm surprised to hear the number of people living here has gone down," said Charles Bartlett, Lehman Township Zoning Officer. "It seems to have gone the other way."

New construction belies the decline. "What I see coming into the zoning office most often are permit requests for planned residential communities," said Bartlett. "Recently, I've issued permits for developments on Meeker Road, Loyalville Road and The Pines so it looks like this area is growing."

The Census Bureau produces population estimates for years since the last official census, which was taken in 1990.

These figures are compiled from existing data including birth and death certificates, federal tax returns, medicare enrollment applications and immigration papers. Estimates are used to determine federal funding allocations and to track demographic changes.

Changes in population can have an impact on local government budgets. "The liquid fuels money is tied to population and to the total mileage of roads within the Township," said Henry Zbiek, Jackson Township Secretary.

Jackson Township is the only Back Mountain community to experience significant growth in the 1990's according

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## Frightful fun abounds in Back Mountain

By KEVIN KAZOKAS  
Post Correspondent

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - Fright seekers can find scary surprises at three haunted sites in the Back Mountain this Halloween season. The Haunted Barn in Lehman, the Haunted Forest at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, and the new Haunted Hall at the Harveys Lake Fire Company promise those who attend an unforgettable night of bone-chilling horrors.

The events will run for the next two weekends. Organizers at each venue plan plenty of heart-stopping surprises for their patrons, as well as special programs for young children that are free of gore and violence.

There's cute stuff for the kids. Visitors to the Haunted Hall, a fundraiser for the Harveys Lake fire department, will encounter everything from a crematorium to a clown room during their guided tour. Volunteers worked hard for the past three months planning and constructing elaborate, spine-tingling thrills.

Since the event is at a fire hall, it must be dismantled while it is not in operation, then reassembled. This gives organizers the freedom to make subtle changes from one weekend to the next. "We have to tear down after every weekend," Lucarino said. "You would never know it to go through. You would think it's permanent." The Haunted Hall will be open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights for the next two weekends. Admission is \$3.

Meanwhile, in its 17th year, the Haunted Barn in Lehman offers a night of eerie fright for those who dare attend. "The scariest part of the barn is that it's

*"We didn't make it too bad. If it's kids, we'll tone it down."*

Larry Lucarino  
Harveys Lake Fire Dept.

a self guided tour," said Jonathan Pineno, who coordinates this fund-raiser which benefits the Lehman United Methodist Church Youth Fellowship Program, the Lehman Volunteer Fire Company, the Lake-Lehman chorus, and the Wyoming Valley Children's Aid Fund.

Visitors to the Haunted Barn must find their way through the dark, and will be met with hair-raising surprises along the way. "We have two or three people that roam around with chain saws," Pineno said. "And the fire engine at the end seems to startle people because it's so loud."

While not everything at the Haunted Barn is recommended for the young, children's shows are planned on October 23 and 30 at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., and again on October 31 at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Advance reservations are required for these shows, which will offer refreshments and a short movie. Children must be in the third grade or younger, and must be accompanied by an adult.

The Haunted Barn will be open Thursdays and Sundays from 7 to 10 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 7 to 11 p.m. until Halloween. Discount coupons are



Gravely the Butler is ready to serve at the Lehman Haunted Barn.

available at area retail stores. Admission is \$6.

Students at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus in Lehman are busy preparing for the annual Haunted Forest, which benefits children with cancer at the Hershey Medical Center. Volunteers have spent dozens of hours transforming the forest at Penn State into a forbidding trail of terror.

"We have a great work crew, it's just getting volunteers to come for weekend nights," said Jen Bernick, coordinator of

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## Lake-Lehman candidates stake out positions

By KASIA McDONOUGH  
Post Staff

**LAKE-LEHMAN** - Candidates for the Lake-Lehman school board express varied opinions about the issues facing the district, and how they should be handled.

The Dallas Post asked candidates questions about educational strategy, adequacy of capital improvements, financing proposed construction, millage rates and the performance of the current school board directors. The answers showed a wide range of opinion and understanding.

The district, which has just begun the process of developing a strategic plan in accordance with state Department of Education requirements, received high marks from several candidates regarding its current plan to prepare students for life beyond the classroom. "It appears to me that the district has established an adequate plan to provide students with the tools necessary to succeed after graduation from Lake-Lehman High School," said Angelo DeCesaris, who is seeking a seat on the board as a representative of Region 2, in a written statement. "Administration can only provide a plan, it is up to the students to apply themselves to maximize the benefits from the plan."

DeCesaris said his own children have appreciated and benefitted from the efforts of Lake-Lehman educators. "As a parent of four children, two of whom have graduated, and two still attending Lake-Lehman, as a senior and freshman, I continue to be impressed with the school's

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