



Bring in the clowns

In top photo, sad clowns wait for the answer to life. From left: Skylar Braun, Nicole Madden, Jacqueline Evans, Chelsea McHale and Sarah Marianacci. For Skylar Braun, dance was one answer, right photo.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Market on the Pond' booths available

The Auxiliary of the Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas, announces that booths are available for the annual "Market on the Pond" flea market scheduled for June 17, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. The date is subject to change. The 8' x 12' spaces are \$15 each and a reservation form is available by calling the Volunteer Department at 675-600, ext. 138.

Alma DeRojas performs with Susquehanna U. choir

Soprano Alma DeRojas of Dallas, is a member of the Susquehanna University Choir, which just completed its annual spring tour. The choir performed 11 concerts on its tour this spring at venues in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Vermont, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

The Susquehanna University Choir is composed of highly select choral musicians and performs

both religious and secular choral repertoire. The 55-member group presents concerts on campus and locally as well as the annual concert tour. The choir has performed internationally in such places as the Salzburg Cathedral

in Austria and Notre Dame de Paris in France.

A sophomore english major at Susquehanna University and 1998 graduate of Bishop O'Reilly High School, DeRojas is the daughter of Juan and Alma DeRojas.



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L-L budget

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was voted down 5-4. Prior to that vote, Robert Allardyce moved that taxes be cut 10 mills, and Lois Kopcha seconded the motion, but it gained no more support. Allardyce walked out immediately after voting in favor of tabling the budget.

DeCesaris was the most vocal of the budget's opponents. "I'm not for a millage increase. I'm not for a millage decrease," he said. "I want a proper budget." He cited policy 603, which states that any surplus in the budget must be applied against taxes to be raised locally for subsequent budgets. "We don't intend to do that," said Gary Miller, board president. DeCesaris responded, "Do you expect the board to vote on a policy violation?" Board member Ed Kern cited past practice as a reason the board should vote on the budget as read.

DeCesaris said the budget should be driven by the curriculum, not by millage figures. "We do not have the space, we do not have the manpower," said Superintendent of Schools William Price. Price described how several programs were created using "government funds, and by sheer pennies." "I'd like to see a 3-4 mil increase each year," Price said. "If I were a parent I would not be concerned about (paying for) education."

DeCesaris' questions focused

"I'm not for a millage increase. I'm not for a millage decrease. I want a proper budget."

Angelo DeCesaris
School board member

on very technical matters, such as the exact value of a mil and the values of delinquent taxes. According to information given by business manager Kathleen Williams, 11 percent of real estate taxes go uncollected. Allardyce brought up the issue of 75 untaxed residences, and claimed little has been done to send assessors to value them.

According to the tentative budget, local sources of revenue will be \$9,429,915, state sources contribute \$7,947,408 and federal sources are \$321,014 for total revenues of \$17,698,337. The total expenditures for regular, special, vocational and other instruction is \$10,804,390. Total expenditures and other financing uses matched revenues.

"I would like to think we should have a meeting to review some items," said DeCesaris. The Board has until June 30 to pass a final budget.

Resigns

(continued from page 1)

members were highly critical of Price at that time, while others supported him equally strongly. The issue came to a head when the board voted 6-3 to approve a five-year contract with a first-year salary of \$77,613. Robert Allardyce and Lois Kopcha, who sit on the present board, voted against the agreement. Kopcha, who was president of the school board at the time, said she would have supported a three-year contract.

Smatko cited for valor

Superintendent Ben Varner announced that Corrections Officer Brian Smatko was presented the Department of Corrections Medal of Valor at the Employee Recognition Ceremony on May 10. He will be awarded this medal for helping to save the life of a small child and assisting her family in a medical emergency after an automobile accident. Smatko graduated from John S. Fine High School in Nanticoke and joined the U.S. Marine Corp. After he became a corporal, he was honorable discharged.

He began his corrections career in 1992, and in 1999, he became the AFSCME Union President. Smatko lives in Wanamie.

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