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## Faith-based initiative draws praise, and some skepticism

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - Dan Miller, pastor of the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly Church, is optimistic about the potential for good in President Bush's initiative to use federal tax dollars to fund private social programs, including those run by religious groups.

"Somehow through the passage of

time we have abdicated the welfare system of this country to the government," Pastor Miller said. "This may be an opportunity to bring some of it back to the churches where it can be managed better. We know the needs of the people in our area, and we can put controls in to be accountable."

Removing regulatory barriers and helping religious and community groups compete for billions of dollars in

public funds seems to be a high priority for the new President. Bush wants churches and charities to be the new first line of defense against poverty, addiction and homelessness. The new White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives will report directly to him.

"This is one of the most important initiatives that my administration will implement," Bush said. "There are deep

needs and real suffering in the shadow of America's affluence. We are called by conscience to respond. I've seen how effective and committed these programs are at saving and changing lives."

Offsetting the potential for good, some observers fear the separation of church and state will become blurred. The President's stated objective, however, seems to be the desire to remove discrimination against groups simply

because they are affiliated with a church. Bush has said he is aware of the constitutional issues. The plan won't fund religious activities, but will help with social services provided by a church, such as after-school programs, drug treatment counseling, meal assistance, shelter, and other programs to help solve social problems. In other

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## Concert aids twin boys with cystic fibrosis

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

**IDETOWN** - Friendship and a desire to help others in need will be the hallmarks of a special concert to be held Saturday at the Idetown Fire Hall.

Stan Marchak, a young man from Hudson, plays in a band called "This Is This." He's been busy for months organizing a benefit concert with all proceeds going to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation on behalf of Zachary and Kaleb Taylor. The twin boys from Harveys Lake are now 7 years old.

**Benefit concert for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**  
Saturday,  
Feb. 17 • 7 p.m.  
Idetown Fire Hall  
Donation \$10



KALEB TAYLOR

They were born with cystic fibrosis, a congenital disease which affects children, and is characterized by a malfunctioning of the pancreas and frequent respiratory infections.

"Christie Taylor, the boys' mother, is a friend of the family," said Marchak. "I've been trying to put this benefit concert together for quite a while, and it's finally happening. I want to raise some money to send to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to fund research that may someday help Zachary and Kaleb and other children with this disease lead a normal life."

The boys' mother is appreciative of Marchak's efforts.

"It took me by surprise," said Christie Taylor. "It's really nice of Stan and his

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## Snow fun

Although February snow storms caused havoc for most drivers and created a lot of back-breaking work it was the best snow of the year for building snowmen. The children enjoyed the day off of school which was evident by the numerous snowmen that appeared throughout the Back Mountain. A.J. Limongelli constructed this one.



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

## The work's never done

Amelia Krajewski polished some silverware in preparation for a chicken dinner and bake sale held Saturday at the Loydville United Methodist Church. She and other volunteers put on the feed that included roasted chicken and homemade pies. Just as a man will, Chester Krajewski looked on. More photos on page 8.

## Lehman students take off in math, science

By M. B. GILLIGAN  
Post Staff

**LEHMAN** - Eight students from Lake-Lehman High School's Junior Engineering Technology Society (JETS) have reason to celebrate. They earned first place among Division 5 schools from Pennsylvania competing in Tests of Engineering Aptitude in Math and Science called TEAMS 2000. This interscholastic competition encourages cooperation and group effort, cooperative learning strategy, higher order thinking and academic rigor.

"There is no way to really study for this competition," said Mrs. Christine Kopcho who has been the JETS advisor at Lake-Lehman since the 1970's. "I talk to some of our teachers and we pick students who are very strong in math and science, are very quick thinkers and who can quickly synthesize information from math and the sciences."

The team consisted of six seniors and two juniors. "Each year the team sets up a strategy," said Sarah Davis who also participated last year when the team took third place in regional competition.

The test contains 10 pre-announced problem areas and the students can choose which one they can want to concentrate on. "I worked on a problem concerning glass furnace design," said Ashley Yanchik, a junior who en-



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

The Lake-Lehman High School JETS team is pictured above, in front from left: Janel Janiczek, Nick Leonard, Ashley Yanchik, Sarah Davis, and Natalie Shiskowski. In rear, Mrs. Christine Kopcho, moderator, Michael Niezgoda, Josh Gregg, and Cliff Culver.

joys horseback riding, snowboarding and is a member of the Environmental Club. "It was difficult but I'd like to do it again next year," she added.

The problems cover a wide range of engineering applications and knowing the problem area doesn't give the an-

swer. "My topic was 'the French Fry Problem,'" said Mike Niezgoda, a senior who will attend Penn State main campus this fall as an Engineering major. "I had to work on the entire

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## Middle school renovations to take 'til 2003

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

**DALLAS** - Renovations to the middle school building will begin in July and be completed in April, 2003, according to a schedule presented to the school board Monday night.

The board also was presented with an updated rendering of the front elevation of the building. Originally built in 1969, the building will undergo \$18.1 in additions and renovations.

Paul S. Degillio, Project Manager from Foreman Burkavage Architects and Engineers, and Walter J. Tack, Pre-Construction Manager, Reynolds Construction Management gave their reports to the board on the progress of the undertaking. "The project will entail several phases of construction going on simultaneously," said Tack, "but we will ensure that we keep all classes in operation."

A swimming pool and five new classrooms will be added. Renovations include floor to ceiling work throughout the entire existing building as well as a new heating plant, all new wiring and plumbing, a new roof, new furniture and cabinets, and new kitchen equipment.

The construction cost is estimated to be \$14.4 million and the remaining \$3.7 million will cover "soft cost" items such as furniture, architectural fees, permits, financing costs, and asbestos

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