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POST PHOTO M.B. GILLIGAN

Lake-Lehman coach Jean Lipski with high school students, from left: Dave Walters, Jared Janicifek, Natalie Shiskowski and, in rear, John Mishanski.

Hed: Taft's Store harks back to an earlier era

Family owners put market up for sale after 34 years

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

HARVEYS LAKE - It was a fun-filled ritual for many families in decades gone by. On warm, summer Sunday afternoons, parents would gather up the kids and head northwest out of the city to have a picnic and swim at Sandy Beach or Old Sandy Bottom Beach at Harveys Lake. For about a dollar a carload or less, you could enjoy a day of fun in the sun, and sometimes you even got to stay for a movie at the drive-in.

Prior to a "Studebaker" being in every garage, there was a railroad with tracks out to Harveys Lake. Upon arrival, one could take a steamboat across the lake. There was also a time when you could jump on a bus, which had hourly service around the lake on weekends.

A trip to the one of the beaches at the lake wouldn't be complete without a trip across the street, to what is now Taft's Market, to get a soda and some ice cream. Before Taft and Peg Truska bought the store, it was owned by the Rood and Purcell families.

The Truskas have owned the market for more than 34 plus. "The building is at least 100 years old," said Mrs. Truska as she took down an old faded and crumbling postcard that was tacked to the wall.

The postcard shows a one-story building with a large front porch. There is a horse and buggy outside, a hitching post and a large tree near the road. "The original property line was where the middle of the paved road is today," she said. "And somewhere in time, a second story, containing a two bedroom apartment, was added above the store."

The Truskas are thinking about retiring. They want to sell the store, but they plan to build their retirement home on some land they own at the

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Teen Olympians excel at science

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN - Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus was the setting for the Northeast Region Science Olympiad held on March 8. Sixty-five teams from high schools and middle schools competed in 33 different events throughout the day. Teams came from as far away as Weatherly and Stroudsburg and as close as Dallas and Lake-Lehman.

"We were asked to host the event for the Northeast Region eight or nine years ago," said Dr. Dudley Snyder, regional director of the Olympiad at Penn State. "Before that time, the Eastern Region met in Philadelphia. We started with about 40 teams the first year."

The Science Olympiad tests students' skills in a variety of ways. "Some of the events are written, some involve construction," explained Dr.

Snyder.

Most of the testing is performed on site with a time limit, although some, like Mission Possible, require the student to bring a model with them. In this case the students built airplanes and then timed flights were held in the Penn State gymnasium. Dave Walters and Cliff Culver of Lake-Lehman High School medaled in the event last year with a flight time of about 20 seconds. Last-minute problems with their

plane left them out of the standings this year.

Another interesting test of teamwork is the "Write It Do It" event. Melissa Evans and Sara Swepston of Dallas Middle School won the second place medal this year. The first team member allowed into the room found a rabbit in a basket and had 25 minutes to write the directions to build it. Then,

See SCIENCE, pg 8

J&J Deli aims to satisfy hunger, wallet

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - When you order a hoagie at J&J Deli and Catering, you don't have to ask for an extra portion of anything because all of their hoagies are already "overstuffed." You get a generous 16-inch sandwich big enough to share, if you want to, or you can order your own eight-inch hoagie made just the way you like it.

"My parents, Janice Wertman and the late James Wertman, established the business in 1984," said John Wertman, second generation owner and manager. "For 17 years, our goal has been to provide the finest quality and quantity of food at a fair price. I have worked here since high school and learned that valuable lesson from my parents."

If you haven't stopped by J&J Deli and Catering lately, you are in for a big surprise. John and his wife, Heather, remodeled the dining area in the fall of 2000. It is now one large open space for casual dining, and they are able to welcome groups of up to 50 people. They are prepared to host birthday parties or other special events in the restaurant, and offer discounts to students



POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

John and Heather Wertman welcome customers to J & J Deli

from College Misericordia and Penn State.

"Call us anytime. We will be happy to fax our menu to you so you can place your order before you arrive," said John. "Then your meal will be ready to enjoy here or to carry home to enjoy at your convenience. We have hot and cold subs, bar-b-ques, salads, hot and cold sandwiches,

wings, real Philly cheesesteak subs, soups, and other specialty items from our grill and fryers."

John Wertman believes in serving value as well as good food at lunch. "Our daily luncheon specials are still under \$5 because we believe that people should be able to have a good

See J & J DELI, pg 5

Lake-Lehman seniors feed the homeless

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN - Instead of writing a term paper or doing research for their senior project, Kieran Lucarino and Arlette Kline decided to provide the leadership to do something that would make a difference and change lives. They conducted a community service project that would contribute to helping with a basic human need.

The two Lake-Lehman seniors organized a food drive to provide valuable supplies for St. Vincent dePaul Kitchen on East Jackson Street in Wilkes-Barre. The kitchen is open seven days a week to feed many homeless

people. It offers one major meal every day, and gives recipients a sandwich and fruit to take with them to eat later in the evening.

The girls enlisted the help of classmates at Lake-Lehman High School, Lehman-Jackson Elementary School and the middle school. From January 26 through February 9 they collected more than 300 cans and boxes of non-perishable food to be used in the kitchen to help provide meals for those less fortunate.

Since a little incentive can go a long way, a bagel party was bestowed upon the home-

See HOMELESS, pg 3

Lehman Post Office says thanks

Customer Appreciation Day will be held at the Lehman Post Office on Thursday, March 15. Postmaster Carol Snyder, would like to thank all cus-

tomers for their loyal patronage and friendship.

Please come in and enjoy some light refreshments.

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