

Girl Scouts make new friends at week-long camp

By HEATHER B. JONES
Post Staff

CARVERTON - Girls from the Back Mountain learned what the lyrics, "Make new friends but keep the old, because one is silver and the other's gold," really mean at Camp Mocaqua.

For one week, from June 18 to 22, girls from kindergarten to high school from all over the Back Mountain gathered at Frances Slocum State Park to participate in the Penns Woods Girl Scout Council's Service Unit 119 Day Camp.

"The camp is about good times, learning and being with friends," said Debbie Serfass, camp organizer. The slogan for the camp she said, is, "It's a safe place to do what your mom won't let you do at home."

For over 15 years, girls have been enjoying the day camp hosted by the Girl Scouts. The girls enjoy paddle boating, singing songs, making crafts, but most of all building friendships.

Making new friends was second year camper Ashleigh Napierkowski's favorite part of camp. Ashleigh also liked the time spent on the paddle boats.

Ask the Rainbows, as the one group of girls called themselves, what they learned at camp and they have a list of things. "Be nice to one another" topped the list along with being responsible, considerate, and friendly.

Another important lesson the girls learned was to help improve the environment. Each girl planted one tree in Frances Slocum as a way of giving back to the park.

"They have lots of fun activities," said camper Dana Martin. Black raspberry ice cream topped Dana's week at camp.

"Crafts are neat, swimings fun, the ice cream was good, and the songs are cool," was Alli Smith's take on camp. Organizing a week-long day camp for over 120 girls is no easy task. Serfass said a lot of help comes from the seventh grade girls who are program aides and the eight grade girls who are camp counsellors.

"Seeing the girls have a good time," Serfass said, is what makes all the work well worth it. She loves to hear the girls say they wished it could last all summer long.



The Rainbows, first row from left: Amanda Tomaselli, Dana Martin, and Paige Williams. Second row: Kaitlyn Monahan, Ally Considine, Amanda Thompson, Hilary Hoover, and Alli Smith. Third row: Jenny Boland.



Adding their own artistic flair, Stevie Koiske and Jacqueline Deluca decorate sun visors at the Girl Scout day camp.



Aarika Whittle shows off her dream bugs which are said to bring good dreams.

School tax

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pansion project, said Albert B. Melone, school district business consultant. Initially the district estimated the project bond at \$10 million, but once bids were accepted for the project the bond was decreased to \$7,325,000.

Also due to the decrease in the bond, a \$38,709 decrease in the estimated local source revenue was reported from what was projected in the tentative budget. Melone said with the decrease in project cost, there was also a decrease in the amount of the project the state will back.

Overall, revenues for the 2001-2002 school year are projected at \$20,633,029, a 9 percent increase over last year's budget.

"This millage is all about the renovation to the middle school," said Melone. He said the 16 mill increase was a revised number from when the bids came in and what was required by the new bond estimate. Millage was separated from expenditures, Melone said. The district's fund balance for July 1 is estimated to be over \$5 million. "That \$5

million is something the district has used over the years. It helps maintain operation expenditures," Melone said. The fund balance does make over \$300,000 a year in interest and currently, Melone said, is at a low 4 percent variable interest rate.

In other news:

The Dallas School Board said farewell to one of its own. Board member Karen Kyle is moving to Minnesota with her family this summer. The June 26 meeting was her last school board meeting.

"Take advantage of everything this district has to offer," were Kyle's words of advice as she said good-bye.

Kyle's seat will be filled by primary election winner David James Usavage, Trucksville. During the primary election Usavage stated his goals as a school board member would be providing a safe school environment, additional sources of revenue for the district, and quality education for students.

Retired teacher celebrates 90th

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - Surrounded by more than two dozen family members and friends, Erma Kelchner recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

During the celebration, held at the Mercy Center, Kelchner was presented with a birthday cake, numerous cards and flowers, and family members led the singing of Happy Birthday in her honor.

She was born in Pleasant Valley and raised in Shickshinny. Her father, Austen, was self-employed as a farmer. Her mother, Esther, was a homemaker. Her parents and two sisters, Mildred and Thelma, are deceased.

Her parents recognized the value of an education and wanted only the best for their daughters. It was rare in those days, but Kelchner not only finished high school, she graduated from Bloomsburg University as well. She later received a degree in library science from Clarion University. She taught in elementary schools in Hummels Wharf and Shickshinny and was a library teacher at Northwest Area High School until she retired in 1966 and moved to



Erma Kelchner with her 90th birthday cake.

Dallas.

"Staying in touch with family and friends has been her joy and her hobby for many years," said her niece, Lorraine Richards. "She likes to write letters, send birthday cards, and keep scrapbooks of newspaper articles written about people she knows and loves."

Many of her family members and friends returned that kindness by sending their best wishes on her special day.

God and Family medal to Johnson

Bradley Johnson, a Cub Scout from pack 155 in Trucksville, was recently awarded the God and Family medal. This medal, which is part of the God and Country program, can be worn throughout his scouting life. A service of recognition was held at his home church, Trinity Presbyterian in Dallas. Bradley is in the fourth grade at Wycallis Elementary School.



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