

Russian kids

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snacks and other stuff kids like."

Altogether, the group raised \$450 in cash to purchase items they felt the Russian children would need and like. "It was a pleasure to be a part of this project," Tony said. "These kids are thrilled with whatever you give them because they have nothing. It gives you a good feeling to help."

Other members of the youth group wrote letters and called businesses to get even more items. "Kevin got the idea to write the letters," said his mother, Beverly Cottle. "This project meant a lot to him, and he wanted to get more involved."

"I liked working on it," said young Cottle. "We shopped for three days to get everything we needed. I can't wait until Tuesday so we can see who some of the bags will go to. The other kids and I really wanted to help the Russian kids. It was a great project for our youth group to do."

If there is any doubt that this adoption program fills the need for children to find a loving home, and for families to save a

"We saved one child, but there are hundreds more. They have nothing."

Tony Banta, 13

Big brother to Nina, an adopted Russian child

child they can love, one only needs to listen to the innocent and honest words of Tony Banta. "I was an only child for 11 years before Nina came to live with us. Now it's different. It's not just all me anymore, and sometimes I have to wait in line to get help with my homework. But that's okay. Nina is a great sister and I love her. It's a pleasure to watch her change and grow and get healthier. She was on the verge of starvation when we found her, and look at her now."

World Links also provides infant and toddler adoptions year round. Their telephone number is 570-344-8890. They are located at 425 Spruce Street, Scranton, PA.



Lynn Banta with her daughter Nina. The smiles and hug tell the story.

POST PHOTOS/SANDY PEOPLES

Rec park

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Rosnick said everyone involved tries to be accommodating, but sometimes there just is not enough space.

BMYSA plans to use the new complex to provide a central area for the teams to play

games, Rosnick said. BMYSA plans to still use many of the fields it plays on now for practice once the other fields are completed.

About seven years ago, the Back Mountain Recreation Association (BMRA) approached BMYSA about its needs and growth, Rosnick said. Since then BMYSA has been working with the BMRA.

As the conceptual plan now stands, Rosnick said there may

be possible revisions such as parking and the orientation of the fields. But Rosnick said BMYSA will be patient.

"We're taking land where we can get it."

Dave Rosnick

President, Back Mt. Youth Soccer

As early as this fall, BMYSA plans to begin using the land in Lehman Township where the Back Mountain Sports and Recreation Complex will one day stand. Rosnick said an agreement has been reached with the current owners to allow BMYSA to begin using the land. Rosnick said it may take one to three years to draw the money in to establish the fields, but the kids won't have to wait that long.

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Police

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sented.

The presentation was the first time officials of the two municipalities had seen the report. Joe Maskovitz, Dallas Borough manager, said the township and borough will discuss the findings of the report. "Nothing will be entered into quickly, and of course, the public will have to be heard," he said.

Currently, both municipalities have 24-hour service. Dallas Borough has five full-time and six part-time police officers, while Dallas Township has eight full-time and seven part-time officers.

The proposed staffing for the new department consists of one police chief, three sergeants, nine patrol officers, one detective, and one administrative assistant. Part-time officers were not included in the report, but Duffy stressed the use of part-time officers will be totally up to the municipalities.

In forming a regional police force, each municipality would contribute equipment to start up the new department and each would receive credit for the contributions. The report also states neither the borough's nor the township's current facilities are large enough to house a regional department. Therefore, a new police station would be appropriate and beneficial.

"This is not a stumbling block," said Duffy, "but something to look at."

The officials need to review the materials and need to know

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Joe Maskovitz

Dallas Borough Manager

the specifics on how the numbers in the report were derived, said Maskovitz. The economics of establishing a regional force shows some savings. The projected 2002 budget for the department is \$801,937, with 33.3 percent of the cost covered by Dallas Borough and 66.6 percent from Dallas Township.

According to the projected numbers, Dallas Township would see the greatest saving in the first year, \$32,905 or 5.8 percent. Dallas Borough's first year savings would be \$655 or .25 percent.

"Considering what it will be down the line is important," Duffy said. He said the saving is likely to be seen in long-term results.

It's not just the economics the municipalities' officials are looking for, said Maskovitz, but the professional development of officers and service to the community. Within a regional police force officers will have more opportunities for advancement.

"It will be a very progressive decision if it takes place," Maskovitz said.

Mayor gets locked up for good cause

Dallas Borough Mayor Timothy J. Carroll was charged with aiding and abetting local charity with the expressed intent of helping area residents with Muscular Dystrophy. After being charged, he was locked-up and bail was set.

This was all part of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) annual Wyoming Valley Lock-up which benefits the Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of MDA.

Carroll was picked up at his office, taken to Wilkes-Barre where he stood before a judge and locked up. "Thanks to the great people of the Back Mountain, I was able to produce bail of \$1,025 and released," Carroll said.

The total collected by MDA this year was more than \$100,000.

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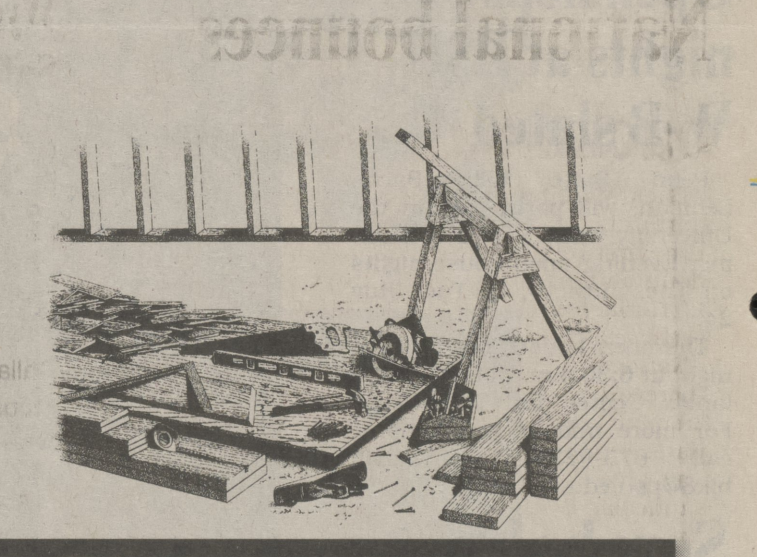


Shultz named Miss Unico 2001

Heather Shultz, daughter of Dave and Donna Shultz, Trucksville, was crowned Miss Unico during the pre-game ceremony of the 50th Annual Unico All-Star Football Game.

In May, the contestants were interviewed at the Woodlands Inn and Resort. For the first time, the contestants did not know who the winner was until it was announced at the game. There were 17 young women selected for the court representing high schools throughout the area.

The winners of the contest received roses, bracelets, and savings bonds. The game was held on June 28 at the Wyoming Valley West High School Stadium. The game ended in a tie 21-21.

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