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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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Accident claims life of 14-year-old

2 juveniles riding when ATV rams tree

By HEATHER B. JONES
Post Staff

ROSS TWP. - Lake-Lehman Middle School student Leigh Ann Morgan, 14, died Friday after the all-terrain vehicle (ATV) she was riding with an unidentified 11-year-old boy crashed into a tree.

According to the Pennsylvania State Police in Shickshinny, Morgan and the other juvenile were riding a red Yamaha Kodiak 4x4 quad Friday afternoon on private property in Sweet Valley.

The two juveniles were travelling west, towards a wooded area approximately 350 feet from State Route 4024. The juvenile driving the quad lost control before the ATV collided with a tree.

Sweet Valley Ambulance and Medic 12 responded to the scene. The 11-year-old boy was taken by helicopter to Geisinger in Danville with moderate injuries, police said. Morgan was transported by EMS personnel to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital where she was pronounced dead. Luzerne Deputy Coroner Dan Hughes said the cause of death was multiple traumatic injuries.

The quad was severely damaged according to the State Police, and was removed by Maransky Towing, Sweet Valley.

A State Police officer contacted at the Shickshinny barracks refused to supply more information, including whether or not the riders were wearing helmets.

Official urges board to put tax reform on ballot

By HEATHER B. JONES
Post Staff

LEHMAN TWP. - A state official urged Lake-Lehman school board members to put a referendum on Act 50, local tax reform, in front of voters.

School board members and residents learned more about how Act 50 tax reform could affect the district at the July 17 school board meeting.

A presentation by Thomas Armstrong, policy director for the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, explained Act 50 was the solution for citizens concerned about relatively high property taxes and who have a low income.

Taxpayer approval, removal of certain school district nuisance taxes, reducing property taxes, and shifting the school district tax burden are the items which makes Act 50 the solution, said Armstrong.

Act 50 provides taxpayers with tools

See TAX REFORM, pg 8

Showing off at Dallas Fire & Ambulance



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

Lauren Fernandez pretended to steer the 1927 Mack fire truck during a visit to the Dallas Fire and Ambulance open house Sunday. She and many others stopped by to get a close look at the men, women and equipment that protect residents of the community. More photos on page 4.

Event displays equipment, dedication

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - Wide-eyed children of all ages had a chance to play with the big red fire trucks parked outside the firehouse Sunday afternoon.

The events of the day were designed to welcome the public, to promote safety, and to demonstrate the valuable contributions made by the men and women who volunteer their time to provide lifesaving services to our community.

Assistant Fire Chiefs, Ted Wright and Harry Vivian and many of the 40 volunteer firefighters and 15 ambulance crew members were on hand to demonstrate the equipment and talk about fire safety and rescue, especially with their younger visitors. The children were in awe when they were allowed to sit in the drivers' seats of

"But when the alarm sounds, being prepared and able to respond quickly makes it all worthwhile."

Harry Vivian
Assistant Fire Chief

the vehicles and examine the various pieces of gear and equipment. There was a 1927 Mack fire truck, a fire engine, a tanker truck, a rescue engine, and an ambulance for them to jump into and explore. They also saw the hydraulic "jaws of life" on the rescue engine.

Other department volunteers were busy giving free blood pressure check-ups while Patrolman Bren from the

Dallas Township Police Department spent the afternoon finger printing children to provide parents with a permanent record in the event of an emergency.

Wright shared his feelings about what the job of fire safety and rescue mean to him. "My most memorable day was in the mid-1970's when we had a bad fire at the Valley View Trailer Park. We lost three children and their grandmother that day. It was the Miller family." He still remembered their names with obvious feelings of deep sadness.

"Saving the lives of others is what this job is all about," he said. "I recently had the opportunity to visit the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, and attended the annual memorial service for fallen firefighters.

See DALLAS F&A, pg 3

Triathlon hooks volunteers, competitors

20th anniversary event takes place this Sunday

By HEATHER B. JONES
Post Staff

LEHMAN TWP. - In 1982 Wayne Devine and his wife Maureen of Harveys Lake volunteered to be lifeguards for the swim portion of the Wyoming Valley/Back Mountain Triathlon. Twenty years later, Wayne is gearing up to compete in his 18th triathlon.

"Once I saw what was going on, I was hooked," Wayne said as he stretched next to his red Toyota pickup in the parking lot of the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus in Lehman.

The name may have changed over the years to the Wilkes-Barre Triathlon, but Wayne and his fellow athletes will still compete on a grueling course Sunday, August 5. The course consists of a 1.5K (approx. .9 miles) swim, a 40K (24 miles) bike ride and an 11K (7 miles) run.

"We've been here since the beginning of the sport," said Joanne Gensel, race director. "Wilkes-Barre is synonymous with the sport and the community should be proud of our place in the history of Triathlon. In a recent poll published in Triathlete Magazine, professional and age group triathletes voted Wilkes-Barre one of the 10 best triathlons in America."

Wayne has competed against some of the best triathletes in the world at the Wilkes-Barre Triathlon. The race has been an Olympic qualifying event and a part of the Ironman qualifying series a number of years.

Triathletes from all over the world have come to the Wilkes-Barre Triathlon to experience the unique ter-

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POST PHOTO/HEATHER B. JONES

Tom Dougherty handed out the sweet treats during a recent game.

Concession stand is source of sugar, funds

Little League stand broken in to twice in July

By HEATHER B. JONES
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. - There still is a place where kids can play ball and buy Swedish Fish for only a penny, at the Back Mountain Baseball, Inc., fields

and concession stand.

"Parents don't like me sometimes because I have lots of sugar in there," said Tom Dougherty, vice-president of fundraising, as he joked about the dentist bills parents have after baseball season.

Dougherty is not only the direct supplier for the little slugger's sugar supply, the concession stand also offers french fries, pizza and hot dogs. Whenever there's a game, the concession stand is ready to feed the spectators and players.

The stand is staffed with parent volunteers. Each team is given two assign-

ments during the season when five or six parents from the team will be needed to operate the stand, said Dougherty.

But he said volunteers are sometimes tough to find, and usually by the time they've learned where the Baby Bottle Pops and Viper Viles are, their shift is over.

"The stand is our main fundraiser," said Dougherty. The organization also sells candy and raffle tickets, but the stand brings in the most money.

This year has been hard for the con-

See STAND, pg 8

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