

Stand

(continued from page 1)

cession stand due to losing two Saturdays to rain. Back Mountain Baseball also lost concession revenues this year because of the location change of the July 4th fireworks. But the biggest set back was two separate break-ins and robberies.

"In all the years I have been involved, we've never had a problem," said Dougherty.

On the nights of July 4 and July 18, someone broke into the stand and stole a total of \$400. They also vandalized the concession stand, Dougherty said.

Things have changed since the break-in occurred. "We're not keeping any money in there now," Dougherty said, and Back Mountain Baseball is looking into a security system.

Back Mountain Baseball is serious about finding whoever is responsible for the robberies and vandalism. The organization is offering a \$200 reward to anyone who has information which will lead to the arrest of whoever was involved with these crimes.

County Fair premium books available

The Luzerne County Fair Premium Guides are now available through out the region. The premium guide contains the entry blanks for arts and crafts, animals, and all additional contests, also other proceedings that will be held at the fair. Premium Books and entries may be found at the following Back Mountain locations Dallas: Sue Hand's, Back Mountain Library, Luzerne County Fairgrounds, and Hoof and Paw. Harveys Lake: Grotto and Back Mountain Bowl. Entries for the Luzerne County Fair Queen, Princess, and Costume Parade may be obtained by going to the Luzerne County Fairgrounds or calling 675-1617.

Lake Twp. recycling

The voluntary recycling drop off center for Lake Township will be accepting items on the second Sat. of each month. The next opening is Aug. 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at the township building on Rt. 29. The following items may be dropped off: Aluminum & bi-metal cans, clear, brown, & green glass, plastic #1 & #2 only. No motor oil containers or scrap aluminum can be accepted. No newspaper this month. Do not drop items off before the center opens.

Donnelly attending Governor's School

Dallas resident and Bishop O'Reilly High School Senior, Colin Donnelly, son of Tom and Nancy Donnelly is one of 80 students throughout Pennsylvania who have been selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Governor's School for Information Technology, held July 1 through Aug. 4 on the campus of Drexel University.



Training for the Wilkes-Barre Triathlon is a year round activity for Len Romanowski, Dallas, and Wayne Devine, Harveys Lake.

Triathlon

(continued from page 1)

rain the Back Mountain has to offer, with demanding, hilly bike and run courses. The swim, which takes place at Harveys Lake, the largest natural lake in Pennsylvania, also is a draw.

Wayne trains year round running and swimming. "In May the intensity level picks up, because you have something to shoot for," he said. When the weather breaks in the spring, he hits the road on his bike to begin his serious triathlon training.

"Putting it all together," Wayne said is the challenging part of competing in a three-event sport.

He competes not against his fellow athletes but against the clock, he explained. Wayne said he competes because he doesn't want to be a "45-year-old, 300 pound man with no hair." Competing gives him something to work towards in keeping himself in shape. He also wants to try to better his time from the last year.

The bike ride is Wayne's favorite event; he said it's the least painful of the three. "When you start to run, the first mile, your legs feel like concrete blocks are attached," he said.

But it's all worth the effort. "I enjoy everything, especially the camaraderie and training with others," he said.

Devine enjoys training with Len Romanowski of Dallas. Wayne and Len met through triathlon competition. This year

"When any of it becomes a chore, I'll quit."

Len Romanowski
Dallas triathlete

will be Len's 10th Wilkes-Barre Triathlon.

"I admired the people who did it and it's a good physical challenge," are the reasons Len said he got involved in the triathlon.

Twice a day, the two men meet to prepare for the triathlon. They meet early in the morning to swim and after work to run or bike. Having very understanding and supportive families makes the amount of training needed possible, Len said.

"Nutrition makes the difference between the guy who runs and the guy who runs injury free," said Len. The nutritional side to racing is a very important aspect to Len. He said showing up on race day in good overall condition and injury free depends a lot on how an athlete cares for their body.

As Wayne and Len stretch on the lawn preparing to tackle the running course of the triathlon, it's clear why they do it. They have fun and enjoy staying physically fit. "When any of it becomes a chore, I'll quit," said Len with a laugh.

2002 crop year noninsured assistance program

Application closing dates for the Crop Year 2002 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) have been determined. For crop year 2002, the application closing date will be September 1, 2002, or later for most crops. The 2002 spring forage seeding closing date is March 15, 2002. Producers with noninsurable crops should contact the Luzerne County office at 911 West main Street, Plymouth, at 779-0732 to obtain application-closing dates for other crops. Producers may also visit FSA on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Tax reform

(continued from page 1)

to control the growth of school property taxes and to enhance local control of a school district's tax system. The law authorizes school boards to levy an earned income/net profits tax of up to 1.5 percent in exchange for the elimination of occupational privilege, per capita and other taxes as well as reducing residential property taxes.

Lake-Lehman School District formed a commission in April to study Act 50 and to make a recommendation to the school board. "There will be a formal written recommendation to the board," said Joetta Hartman, a commission member. She did not say when the recommendation will be made.

"It not a lowering, it's a tax shifting," Armstrong stressed to the audience.

He cited a number of taxpayer protections during his presentation. One protection is the back end referendum which voters approve to increase property tax rates if local tax revenue increases at a rate equal to or greater than the statewide average weekly wage, which has lately been about 3 percent, Armstrong said. He also cited a local taxpayers' bill of rights, in which local governments are required to give local taxpayers easy to understand information concerning their rights.

"Consider putting it on the ballot," Armstrong strongly suggested to the school board, "because what the taxpayers vote

"It not a lowering, it's a tax shifting."

Thomas Armstrong
PA Dept. of Revenue

usually stays." Since the inception of Act 50 in 1998, five school districts in the state have placed the tax reform item on the ballot.

Two districts voted against changing the tax structure. Hazleton Area School District was one of the three districts which enacted Act 50.

Kathy Manyko, Hazleton Area School District supervisor of internal audit, said under Act 50 the district did away with a nuisance tax of \$10 and an occupational privilege tax of \$10. However, she said, some municipalities chose to levy the occupational tax at \$10 for public works because the municipalities had previously received \$5 from the tax through the school district.

Hazleton Area lost about \$3.5 million in property tax during the first year under Act 50, Manyko said, but the loss was made up through the rise in earned income tax.

"The people who benefited the most were the elderly people on fixed incomes," Manyko said.

The biggest problem she said Hazleton Area faced in reforming the tax system was timing. Taxes under the old system were in by the end of January, Manyko said. With the earned

income tax being paid over 12 months, the district had to wait for the funds to trickle in. Manyko said it did not hurt the district because it was prepared for the change.

The public complaints, Manyko said, were about publicity. She said there were a number of poorly attended public meetings. "People just don't care about it at the time."

Another problem, which the Lake-Lehman Act 50 Commission has been concerned about is the lack of homestead exemptions which are filled for in the district.

A homestead is defined as an owner-occupied residential property including the land, residence and other structures on the land. Taxpayers who qualify for a homestead receive an exemption on their school taxes. In 2000, the Hazleton Area exemption was \$262 and for 2001 it is \$228.

As of March 1999, only 4,000 homestead exemptions, for fiscal year 2000, were filed in Hazleton. Following the November, 1999 election when Act 50 was accepted, another 12,500 homestead exemptions, for fiscal year 2001, were filed. The school board opened a window to let in people who qualified in 2001 to also qualify for 2000, Manyko said.

Thomas Armstrong suggested a website, <http://cax.aers.psu.edu/taxreform>, for anyone interested in learning more about Act 50.

How local tax reform might work

	Nuisance Taxes	Property Taxes	Earned Income Tax
Senior Citizen Couple			
Pension & SSI = \$20,000 per year Home value = \$75,000			
Status Quo	\$0	\$723	\$0
Tax Reform	\$0	\$318	\$0
Net savings from Tax Reform: \$405 (56% Tax cut)			
Lower Middle Class Family			
One wage earner = \$20,000 per year Home value = \$65,000			
Status Quo	\$260	\$627	\$100
Tax Reform	\$0	\$222	\$300
Net savings from Tax Reform: \$465 (47% Tax cut)			
Middle Class Family			
One wage earner = \$50,000 Home value = \$85,000			
Status Quo	\$260	\$820	\$250
Tax Reform	\$0	\$410	\$750
Net savings from Tax Reform: \$465 (47% Tax cut)			
Upper Middle Class Family			
Two wage earners = \$150,000 Home value = \$200,000			
Status Quo	\$560	\$1,930	\$750
Tax Reform	\$0	\$1,525	\$2,250
Net loss from Tax reform: \$575 (18% Tax increase)			

The Beaumont Inn
Our fine chefs at the Beaumont Inn will entice your palate with such delicacies as Pheasant Napoleon, Rack of Lamb and Veal Chop. The Inn also features the finest cuts of veal and beef in the area. Superbly prepared seafood items such as Tuna Roulade, Chilean Sea Bass, Salmon Medallions Mushroom Duxelle, Potato Encrusted Red Snapper and Lobster Tail.

Our Executive Chef Artie Colella Has Prepared Dinner Features As Well As Classical Favorites Adding His Unique Style And Culinary Flare To His Creations. The Weekend Features Are:

Dinner Features:
Cajun Rock Fish
Filet Napoleon
Raspberry Duck

If Leisurely Sunday Mornings Are More Ideal, Dine At The Inn For Breakfast Featuring Eggs Benedict, Crepes, Monte Cristo Sandwiches, Belgian Waffles And Traditional Breakfast Items.
Sunday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **Brunch**

Sunday Dinner Features:
Prime Rib w/ Garlic Au Jus \$18
Red Snapper with Tomato
Buerre Blanc \$17
Chicken Elizabeth \$16
Sunday Features Will Include A Cup Of Soup du Jour And A House Salad With Your Choice Of Dressings.

Dinner Hours:
Sun. 3 p.m.-8 p.m. • Mon.-Thurs. 5 p.m.-9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 5 p.m.-10 p.m.
Route 309 • 3 Miles North Of Dallas
675-7100 Reservations Suggested

MEDICATION QUESTION ANSWERED BY PHONE

X-RAY AFTER BASEBALL PRACTICE

SAME-DAY APPOINTMENT

MAMMOGRAM AFTER WORK

NUTRITION COUNSELING AFTER OFFICE VISIT

Our doctors go out of their way so you don't have to.

We understand families and their busy schedules. That's why, at our offices, we offer same-day appointments and evening hours. We also offer services you don't usually find in your doctor's office—services like laboratory, X-ray, nutrition counseling and on-site patient education programs. We even have a nurse on call 24 hours a day to answer medical questions. Our commitment to serve you better is just one more way our doctors are making a difference in your life. Call us for your next appointment.

We accept most major health insurances, including:
Access Care II
Advantra
Blue Cross/Blue Shield
Devon Health Services
Gateway Health Plan
Geisinger Health Plan
HealthAmerica
HealthAssurance
Medicare
Tricare (Prime and Extra)

Geisinger
Medical Group
Central Wilkes-Barre
Dallas
Kingston
Moosic
Pittston
Wyoming

Discover the difference.

To schedule an appointment, call us at 1-800-275-6401 or visit us at www.geisinger.org.