

## Band

(continued from page 1)

Lake-Lehman employees, thereby circumventing the district's liability issue and allowing practices. The band sponsors suggested the board assume only a small portion of the salary, with the band sponsors responsible for the remainder. Several band members read letters to the board pleading their case and defending Richards' position.

"No one doubts Mr. Richards' dedication or the amount of time he puts in," said Charles Boytin, president of the school board. "The timing of his resignation," so to speak, to Mr. Oliver, was certainly not appropriate. It leaves us right in the middle."

In order for the board to consider the request to employ Indoor Guard and Percussion coaches, the Lake-Lehman Education Association would have to establish these positions, negotiate a contract and the position would have to be posted for 10 school days.

"We're really stuck between a rock and a hard place," Boytin added. "We just can't turn a school activity over to a volunteer person and avoid a tremendous liability to the district."

The board continued discussion on the topic after the band members and sponsors left the meeting.

Band sponsors fund a large part of the band's financial needs. "It's dedication," said Boytin. "They've always adopted the attitude that says, 'We'll take care of ourselves.'" Boytin added the band sponsors have come to the board for money only once, concerning a significant transportation cutback.

"If any organization is having trouble financially, why can't they come to us?" asked Angelo DeCesaris, board member. "The amount of money this school district has made over the years, I'm embarrassed."

An animated discussion be-

*"We just can't turn a school activity over to a volunteer person and avoid a tremendous liability to the district."*

Charles Boytin  
School board president

tween board members ensued on the financial support given sports versus other activities, such as the band, but with no real resolution to the dilemma. The matter was held over until the January work session for review.

In other business, an action recommending that Douglas Trumbower and Associates prepare drawings and specifications for renovations to the Edward H. Edwards Memorial Stadium for 8 percent of the construction costs was tabled. This would include the athletic field, track, bleachers and artificial turf, but not a field house.

"There's needs and there's wants," said board member Lois Kopcha, about the artificial turf. "We are in a recession. What in the world are you people thinking about?" Kopcha continued saying the state and the school will have to come up with the money to cover this high, and in her opinion, unnecessary expense. "I think it's throwing money away," she added. She further warned about recent teachers' pension losses and the inevitable raising of taxes in the near future to cover expenses such as these.

Charles Balavage, first vice president, said he too was initially against the artificial turf because of the expense, but thinks the safety factors make it a good investment.

Angelo DeCesaris, board mem-



Lake-Lehman Concert Band members and band sponsors ask school board for help.

POST PHOTO/ELIZABETH ANDERSON

*"... we need to address the situation of the athletic facility. I just want to know what money we have."*

Angelo DeCesaris  
School director

ber, said he is concerned about where the money is coming from. "I have been talking about that since October." He questioned seeming discrepancies in the business manager's Dec. 18 available funds estimate showing \$1.9 million available for the athletic facility. "I had thought in a previous mention it was \$3 million. I would like to have the opportunity to discuss the matter with the business manager at a meeting," he said. The business manager was not present.

"I fully recognize that we need to address the situation of the

athletic facility," DeCesaris added. "I just want to know what money we have."

Boytin, the school board president, said he had put the stadium renovation item on the agenda so that construction could be possible by summer. The board agreed to discuss the matter further in the January work session and Trumbower said he would do a workup of the athletic field.

Trumbower also reported the Ross Elementary School project is near completion but may not be finished by the end of the year due to the delayed arrival of playground equipment.

The board agreed to throw out a copier proposal from Golden Business Machines and authorized the business manager to develop specifications and solicit competitive bids for lease or purchase of copiers for the district.

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 8, 2002 at 7 p.m. in the music room of the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School because of the holiday.

## County targets

(continued from page 1)

a fact the solicitor for the assessors office claimed to be unaware of, Savage said.

Charles Boytin, school board president, questioned this seeming discrimination of the school board, requesting Savage send a letter to the assessors office asking "why were we sent this letter about joining them in fighting this and putting up our money to do it when they didn't send it to the local townships?"

"I know they are singling us out because our millage is the highest," added Boytin. "We

*"I know they are singling us out because our millage is the highest."*

Peter Savage  
Lake-Lehman Solicitor

have the most to gain or lose."

In speaking with local municipal solicitors, Savage found while many had heard nothing

of the proposal, most of the townships felt they could not afford the costs. "One of the best comments came from the Lehman Township supervisors last night when they said this was kind of a finger in the dike attempt when the real issue should be reassessment on a county-wide basis," said Savage.

In a related matter, the board tabled the action to refund an overpayment of taxes of over

\$12,000 to Richard Maslow, due to a reduced property assessment, until the next meeting as Savage said it was unclear if the refund should go to Richard Maslow or Stephen and Jennifer Holtzman, who appear to have bought the Lehman property near the reservoir. Savage said higher legal documents were not available to him at the time he inquired and he will follow up on the matter.

## Conservation Corps offers pay, training for local youth

The Pennsylvania Conservation Corps (PCC) is looking for local young people who want to earn money while serving their community and learning new skills. Workers are needed for a PCC project sponsored by Exeter Borough. No experience is needed.

PCC corpsmembers, who are young men and women between the ages of 18 and 25, complete a variety of projects of public benefit. Members working on the Exeter Borough project will assist in the renovation of the borough's new town hall.

Corps members are offered a one-year term of service, and may be extended for up to two additional six-month terms. They earn \$5.15 an hour to start, and \$5.67 an hour after six months on the job. Corpsmembers who successfully complete a year of service earn a \$1,000 cash bonus and may qualify for an education award

up to \$4,275. Corpsmembers get on-the-job training in power-tool safety and operations and many other skills. They are also offered out-service training, which may include vocational-technical courses, college classes, field trips, and - when needed - the chance to earn an equivalent high school diploma. Corpsmembers receive their regular wages while they attend approved training.

Transportation may also be available to corpsmembers to and from the job site.

Individuals interested in learning more about the opportunities available through the PCC can visit the CareerLink Centers in Pittston or Wilkes-Barre.

They may also contact crewleader Jim Roslevich at 602-7341 or Exeter Borough Secretary Debra Serbin at 654-6816.

## McGrady named deputy superintendent

Superintendent Thomas Lavan announces James J. McGrady as Deputy Superintendent for Facility Management at SCI-Dallas.

Deputy McGrady's responsibilities include overseeing the security, maintenance, and fire & safety aspects of the institution's daily operation.

Deputy McGrady began his corrections career in 1982 as a correctional officer at SCI-Dallas. He was promoted to sergeant in 1986, and in 1988 was promoted to lieutenant. In 1992, he was promoted to captain and served as shift com-

mander. Deputy McGrady transferred to SCI-Mahony in 1993 as intelligence captain and held that position until being promoted to major in 1997.

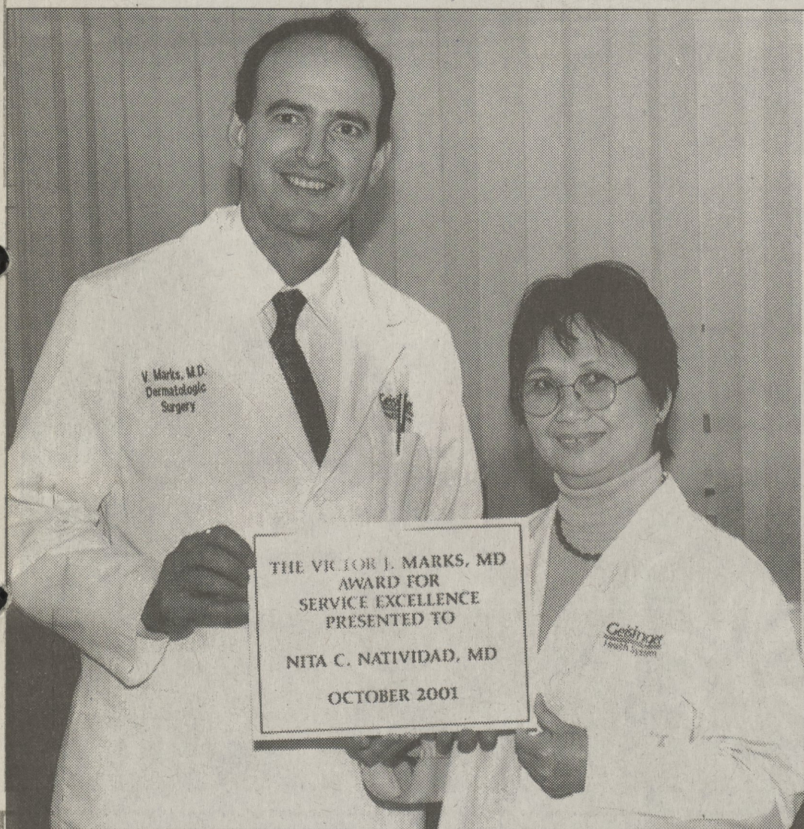
McGrady has been a member of numerous policy development committees through his career. Deputy McGrady received commendations in 1991 for work in emergency preparedness, policy and procedure development. He was selected as SCI-Mahony's Employee of the Year in 1996 and was the recipient of the Department of Corrections Outstanding Performance Award in 1997.

## Chesapeake Bay program seeks applications

The Luzerne Conservation District is accepting farmer applications for the Chesapeake Bay Cost Share Program. Through the Bay Program funding is available to farmers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to help implement Best Management Practices (BMP's). The Bay Program will cost share 80% of the cost to install BMP's up to \$30,000. For more information about the program or to apply contact the Luzerne Conservation District at 674-7991.

## Stream signage grants available

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission received a Growing Greener grant from the Department of Environmental Protection. This grant will be used to identify streams by placing signs on both sides of stream crossings. Those who qualify for this grant include non-profit organizations and municipalities. For more info or to apply contact Heath Hines at 674-7991.

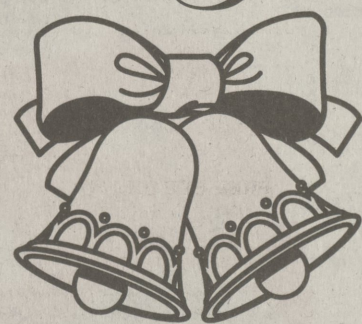


### Natividad earns Service Excellence Award

Nita Natividad, MD, radiation oncologist and chairperson of the cancer committee at the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Cancer Center at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, was recently presented the Victor J. Marks, MD, Award for Service Excellence. Natividad was one of three physicians in the Geisinger Health System so honored for attaining the highest patient satisfaction scores in the three parts of Geisinger's clinical enterprise-Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Geisinger Medical Center, and the Community Practice network.

Victor J. Marks, MD, presented Nita Natividad, MD, Trucksville, the Service Excellence Award.

## Season's Greetings



Looking for a great gift idea?  
Our new class starts January 20, 2002

**PROFESSIONAL TUTORING CENTER**  
**343-2014**

Serving the Back Mountain

### THE JEWELRY DOCTOR

Located in the center of Dallas at 26 Lake St.

**Have Your Holiday Jewelry altered before your New Year's Eve night out!**

Authorized Black Hills Gold Dealer.  
Buying and Selling Gold and Diamonds  
Watch Bands & Batteries  
Specializing in Repairing Jewelry On Site

\* Gift Certificates Available\*



\* Layaway for Christmas\*

675-6129 James Barlow, Owner and Operator



## Season's Greetings

from  
**PIZZA PERFECT**

16 Carverton Road  
Trucksville • 696-2100



## Dallas Little People™

Day Care Inc.

Christmas is the celebration of a child's birth.

We hope your children enjoy a joyous season, filled with toys, treats and laughter!

**675-1717 or 675-6557**



201 Memorial Highway  
Dallas, PA 18612  
674-7822

## Baubles JEWELRY, ETC.

Open Daily till Christmas  
8-5 Christmas Eve  
Happy Holidays

14k Gold, Sterling Silver  
Genuine Stone, Diamond  
and Opal Jewelry

**Q:** Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week?  
**A:** Only in The Dallas Post  
Call 675-5211 to subscribe