

2001 in review (continued from page 1)

LEHMAN - Eight Lake-Lehman High School students earned first place in state competition for math, science and engineering. "It was difficult, but I'd like to do it again next year," said Ashley Yanchik, a junior.

February 21: DALLAS - Gate of Heaven Church parishioners returned from a mission trip to impoverished Haiti with a new appreciation for life. The visit included two doctors, John Tomedi and Kurt Moody, who were in great demand.

DALLAS - The Back Mountain Memorial Library counted 13,487 active borrowers, including 931 new names in the past year.

JACKSON TWP. - A state grant will help the township fight fires. "This equipment will really help us in fighting brush fires," said Butch Manzoni, president of the fire department.

February 28: KINGSTON TWP. - Following the lead of the planning commission, the board of supervisors denied an application to build a cellular phone tower near the Woodridge development. Board members said that Nextel Partners had "failed to present clear and unambiguous evidence in support of its application."

DALLAS - His memory jogged by an article in The Dallas Post, Dave Davis, who lived in the Back Mountain area until his senior year at Lake-Lehman High School, recalled his involvement with Little League in its early years. Davis has been a professional bowler since 1963.

NOXEN - The "All-Aboard Committee" for restoration of the old railroad depot asked for suggestions and cooperation. The effort was sparked by an \$18,000 donation from the North Branch Land Trust.

SPORTS - Lake-Lehman won the district wrestling championship, edging Meyers 174-166.5.

March 7: LEHMAN - Theta Land Corp. is trying to sell 1,700 acres of land in the township. The acreage was once part of the watershed owned by Pennsylvania Gas & Water Co., and in-



April 11: Bob Johnson, left, and Keith Murray tightened a bolt on apparatus at the Irem Shrine Circus, which is held every spring.

cludes some with ties to the region's earliest settlers.

SHAVERTOWN - Debra Ketchner, 12, knew what to do with her long blond hair; she donated most of it to "Locks of Love," an organization that donates wigs to children who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment.

DALLAS - Laura Vodzak, a junior at Dallas High School, won best of show at the 20th annual Suzanne Maria Rossetti Memorial Juried Art Show, hosted by Sue and Joe Hand.

March 14: HARVEYS LAKE - Taft's Market, a fixture in the Sandy Beach section, was up for sale. Taft and Peg Truska had operated the old-fashioned local store for 34 years.

LEHMAN - High school seniors Kieran Lucarino and Arlette Kline decided to do something useful with their required senior project. They organized a food drive for the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre, collecting more than 300 cans and boxes of food.

SPORTS - Lewis Spurlin was named the Dallas High School Soccer Player of the Year. A \$500 college scholarship came with the award.

March 21: DALLAS - Robert Jolley became chief of police in Dallas Township, replacing Carl Miers, who retired. Jolley is a 25-year veteran of police work

who has been a member of the township department for 14 years.

DALLAS - Gate of Heaven School students walked off with first place awards and two finished second at the regional meet of the PA Junior Academy of Science. First place winners advance to the state level.

DALLAS - Amanda Nichols, an eighth grader at Dallas Middle School, won first place in a national writing competition, and will see her short story published in Writing! magazine.

March 28: CENTERMORELAND - Pastor Larry Michael Rush of the Centermoreland United Methodist Church looked a little different at Sunday services. He followed through on a promise to the youth group to dye his hair blue and orange if they met a goal of \$1,500 in fund raising to fight hunger and poverty.

DALLAS - Grace Martin, a retired 30-year teacher at Harveys Lake, celebrated her 90th birthday.

DALLAS - Clarence Michael announced another run for the Controller's office of Luzerne County. "It's a new century. We need to get our house in order," he said.

April 4: SHAVERTOWN - Four members of Cadette Troop 665 received the prestigious Silver

Award. Katie Blanchard, Christine Muscavage, Stephanie Miller and Megan Riley reached the highest level in Cadette Girl Scouting.

DALLAS - Karen Martin was on a quest to revive the Dallas Rotary Club. A member for only two years, she was elected president, carrying on a tradition of her father-in-law, Spencer Martin.

SPORTS - Three Back Mountain student-athletes were named Most Valuable Players at Wyoming Seminary - Lloyd Droppers and Katie Delaney in basketball and Tricia Rado in swimming.

April 11: DALLAS - Emily Prater, one of three musically-talented siblings, was preparing for her piano debut at Carnegie Hall. Emily, 7, was the youngest in a group of 30 musicians to take part in a performance competition.

REGION - Local Shriners pitched in to help set up for the annual visit of the Shrine Circus. "I don't think I've ever seen a full circus," said Keith Murray, who has been helping out for 20 years.

DALLAS - The school board voted to buy new playground equipment for Dallas Elementary School at a cost of \$62,330. The old wooden playground will be taken down.

April 18: KINGSTON TWP. - Township officials were moving to demolish a dilapidated trailer home at 81 Rice St., owned by William Heck.

LEHMAN - "Space grass" was planted in front of the Nittany Lion statue on the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus. The sprouts grew from seeds taken aboard a space shuttle flight by Professor Jim Pawelczyk in 1998.

REGION - Five local dancers will have roles in the Ballet Northeast production of "Giselle." They were: Leah Musto and Leigh Kosloski of Harveys Lake; Kaitlyn Moody of Dallas; Stephanie Davidowitz of Trucksville, and Jillian Nataupsky of Shavertown.

April 25: DALLAS - Professor

Robert Stetten was preparing for signing sessions with his new book, "Calling the Piper's Tune." The retired psychology teacher described the work as a historical novel, set in an 1875 coal mining community.

LEHMAN - Lake-Lehman seniors displayed their talent in the high school's first Senior Showcase of Completion Projects. The projects are a graduation requirement. Aerial Frost and Patricia Kipp's project was



May 2: This one didn't get away. Rich Perrin jokingly showed off a tiny bass he snagged at Frances Slocum State Park.

to make silk-screened t-shirts for the United Way. "We've finished 1,000 already but they need 500 more," Patricia said.

SPORTS - Erin Edwards, of Shavertown, competed on the Penn State University ski team at the Collegiate Ski Olympics in Idaho. She was named all-conference the past three years.

May 2: HARVEYS LAKE - An afternoon fire destroyed the home of Michael and Janet Ostrowski at 112 Lakeside Drive. Flames were spotted by a neighbor, Andrew Kuchta, but by the time firefighters could get there the house was a total loss.

REGION - The Back Mountain Bloomers were all geared up to present the ninth annual Northeast Pennsylvania Flower Show, the second-largest flower show in the state.

May 9: DALLAS - Five Dallas High School students were one of the teams participating in a state program that tries to build understanding of the Susquehanna River watershed. John Gilligan, Adam Morgan, Dave Shell, Megan Riley and Corey Phillips presented a program about political and legal uses of the river. "Life revolves around the watershed," Morgan said. "We just don't realize it."

DALLAS - For a week, Trinity Presbyterian Church was home for 30 recipients of aid from V.I.S.I.O.N. Parishioners prepared and served meals to their guests, who also received assistance in developing life skills.

SPORTS - Lake-Lehman girls

soccer team trounced Hanover 10-0, led by Lisa Wasser's two goals and two assists.

May 16: LEHMAN - School board president Angelo DeCesaris cast one of three votes against the new Lake-Lehman budget, saying he felt revenues were understated. He was joined in opposition by Joseph Kapitula and Lois Kopcha. The budget passed 6-3.

TRUCKSVILLE - 5-year-old Corey Jay Stegman was using his bike riding skills to raise money to fight leukemia. His grandfather, John Brady, died from the disease.

KINGSTON TWP. - People who live on or near lower Harris Hill Road are concerned about the condition of their streets. They say Pennsylvania-American Water Co. did work in the area, but did not repave the roads.

May 23: REGION - Lake-Lehman students repeated as top school in the state National History Day competition. Four students - Sarah Davis, Stef Bendik, Jared Salla and Leigh Dodson - will advance to go on to national competition, along with two Dallas High students, Ellen Kim and Raegan Guelich.

DALLAS - On Mother's Day, four generations gathered at the Messick home. Helen Messick, 76, was visited by her five great-grandchildren and the generations in between.

SPORTS - The girls soccer season came to an end for Dallas and Lake-Lehman. The Lady Mountaineers lost their only



May 9: Singing angels at St. Therese's first holy communion. From left; Peyton Roberts, Laur Strzeletz and Megan Bloom.

game of the season to Wyoming Valley West in a game that went four overtimes and was decided by a shootout. Lehman beat Delaware Valley 4-0 to make the playoffs, but lost 5-4 to Coughlin.

May 30: DALLAS - The Back Mountain Friendship Quilters finished a handmade quilt to be auctioned off at this year's library auction. The group spent countless hours sewing the treasure. "Quilting is time consuming," said JoAnne Kytte, Harveys Lake.

DALLAS - The youth group of the Dallas United Methodist

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History teacher really gets into his subject

By TIMOTHY RAUB
Post Staff

KINGSTON - As a teenager, Ryan Lindbuchler found looking at headstones of Civil War veterans to be an interesting hobby.

Now, after 15 years, almost 200 cemeteries, 9,000 headstones and countless hours of research, Lindbuchler's labor of love is finally paying off.

Lindbuchler's book "Gone But Not Forgotten: Civil War Veterans of Northeastern Pennsylvania," gives one of the most comprehensive lists of area Civil War veterans and their burial sites this area has seen.

"This all started when I was 15 years old," said Lindbuchler. "When I was 13, I got into Civil War reenacting, and began to research my unit, the 81st Pennsylvania."

Lindbuchler, a history teacher at Lake-Lehman High School, found a cemetery in White Haven that contained the bodies of many Civil War veterans from his unit, and the task began. But as he quickly pointed out, there were many more companies represented in the cemetery, and Lindbuchler's interest and research area broadened. Lindbuchler soon found that many veterans could be found buried in local cemeteries, and his findings began to grow, but not always with the greatest of ease.

"It was a frustrating task at times for me to find the right people," Lindbuchler said. "A lot of information located in county records was incomplete, and many men did not receive government headstones, which would have pointed out that they were Civil War veterans."

Lindbuchler's research took a temporary hiatus right after college, when the Bishop Hoban and King's College graduate served a four-year term in the navy. But upon returning home, Lindbuchler once again found himself walking through cemeteries to continue his research.

Lindbuchler was able to develop his research while studying the war during three different scholarship opportunities at the Civil War Institute of Gettysburg College, where he studied the war under many of the nation's top experts.

"I hope that through this book, people will be able to see the sacrifices of generations past."

Ryan Lindbuchler
Author of Civil War book

Upon researching many of the men, Lindbuchler came across some soldiers whose lives had quite a story to tell. While researching the background on one man buried in the Wilkes-Barre City Cemetery, Lindbuchler found that the soldier was a member of the famed all-black 54th Massachusetts Infantry, which was featured in the movie Glory.

"I was really intrigued in what I found on that particular soldier," said Lindbuchler. He is buried in the Wilkes-Barre City Cemetery, where many black Civil War veterans from the Wyoming Valley are buried.

Another cemetery that caught Lindbuchler's eye was located on Center Hill Road in Dallas. Many veterans are buried there, but as Lindbuchler pointed out, years of neglect have begun to take their toll on the headstones.

"I hope that my book will make people want to take a walk through some of these cemeteries, and gain some respect for what our ancestors fought for back then," Lindbuchler said. "This is a very patriotic time in America, and I hope that it will cause some people to want to help out and clean up some of these cemeteries. It is a shame what has happened to a lot of the headstones of these great men."

The only frustrating aspect of Lindbuchler's work has been that he is not able to share his experiences with his students at Lake-Lehman.

"I teach American history, but the students learn about the Civil War in eighth grade," said Lindbuchler. "But at least I can teach them through my experiences how to do the research for a history term paper."

Lindbuchler's book, which started as merely a list of buried Civil War veterans, has grown to



POST PHOTO/TIMOTHY RAUB

Ryan Lindbuchler posed in Civil War dress.

include the biographies of 38 men of prominence, including five Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from the area, a veteran that witnessed the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln and served as a juror in a Molly Maguire trial and many other life experiences of some of the men who fought in America's bloodiest war.

There are also many pictures from the cemeteries Lindbuchler visited, and regimental sketches of local regiments, which show the group's battle history, the number of local grave sites and the various company nicknames applied to the company.

"I hope that through this book, people will be able to see the sacrifices of generations past," said Lindbuchler. "If my book changes one person's outlook on the Civil War, and our local veterans, then I will feel like I made a difference."

The book can be purchased for \$39.95 (plus tax and shipping) from the Luzerne County Historical Society, located on 49 South Franklin St. in Wilkes-Barre, or from 1 to 3 p.m. on January 5 at Barnes and Noble bookstore in Wilkes-Barre Twp., where Lindbuchler will be signing copies.

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