

Finances

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lieved the amount would be in excess of that amount.

According to treasurer's reports, as of Dec. 1999, the school district showed a surplus of \$3.8 million and ended in June 2000, the end of the fiscal year, with a surplus of \$1.8 million. A December 2000 surplus of \$3.5 million became a \$1.4 million surplus at fiscal year end. This year, as of December 31, 2001, a \$3.4 million surplus shows on the books and a \$1.4 million surplus is expected by June 2002.

Kopcha added that the district has been showing this surplus for five or six years. "We overtax the tax payers by 31 mills. That's why we got that money," she said.

When board member Moderno Rossi objected that the old board had raised taxes and he had not raised taxes in four years, DeCesaris replied, "We are on the board now. We continue to show deficits for budgeting purposes and we continue to make over \$1 million actual." He went on to say it was not a question of raising taxes. "It is a question of overtax. The truth is in the financial reports we get at the end of the year."

Kopcha added, "We've been overtaxed for years and we've been saying it for years. We are not in the business of banking other people's money. We're in here to cover expenses for the next year."

"This is deceit as far as I'm concerned. It's legalized thievery."

Lois Kopcha
Lake-Lehman school director

"This is deceit as far as I'm concerned," she continued. "It's legalized thievery. When you build up over the years, \$5 million to \$6 million, something is wrong."

Williams explained to the board that the numbers were "very rough." She explained, "I back in a number contingencies out of the cash balance of December 31 to come up with this. The teachers contract is still not settled. I feel very, very leery of health insurance payments which could be in excess of \$100,000."

The board is expected to vote to refinance the bond money with no additional funds being borrowed in a meeting on Thursday, January 24, at 5 p.m. at a special voting meeting in the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School music room.

The next regular monthly committee-of-the-whole meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5 at 7 p.m. in the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School music room.

Police station

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"(Paglianite) said he would sell us the property interest-free, but we are just trying to put it in black-and-white in the form of a contract right now."

The need for a larger police station would help the department greatly said Butler, and would give the police the opportunity to grow into a more developed department with the possible addition of more police services.

Right now, Harveys Lake must rely on the state police investi-

gators and other such personnel, but the new police station would allow for the addition of detectives, more room for the present officers and for an increase in the number of full-time officers on duty at a given time. Most of the department is made up of part-time officers.

Boice agreed. "Our goal has always been to make the police department full-time," said Boice. "This is a step in that direction."



PETE G. WILCOX/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Debris was strewn across Carverton Road after a fatal accident Jan. 18. Two men in the car at right were killed. The driver and passenger of the SUV suffered minor injuries.

2 killed in Carverton Road collision

□ *Driver in fatality had suspended license for prior DUI violations*

By **KALEN CHURCHER**
Special to The Dallas Post

KINGSTON TWP. — The driver killed in a near head-on collision January 18 on Carverton Road was operating his vehicle with a DUI-related suspended license, police said.

His 32-year-old passenger — who died as well — also had a suspended license.

Jason Amos, of Monument Avenue in Wyoming and Alan Hadvance, of Pugh Street in Edwarsville, were pronounced dead by Luzerne County Deputy Coroner Dan Hughes shortly after 11 p.m., after what officials

describe as a "violent crash."

"It took Kingston Township — through great efforts — over an hour to extricate the victims due to the compaction of the car on them," said Luzerne County Chief Deputy Coroner Bill Lisman. Volunteer firefighters from Trucksville also assisted.

Amos, 24, was driving a 1985 Dodge Daytona east when the vehicle crossed the center lane, crashing into an oncoming 2001 Chevy Tahoe, said Kingston Township Police Chief James Balavage.

"There's a very gentle bend in the road and the crash occurred between the Candlelight Lounge and the entrance to Sunrise Estates," Balavage said.

According to investigating officers Frank Buckler and Martin Maransky, the crash was considered "wheel to wheel," the

most severe of collisions because of the limited area of impact absorption. Buckler said the front of the Daytona collapsed completely into the men.

Michael and Mary Gallagher, a husband and wife from Shavertown, suffered non-life threatening injuries, police said. The couple was able to get out of their vehicle without assistance. Both were treated at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center and released.

Depositions will be taken from individuals who witnessed Amos driving the vehicle. Buckler said Amos was seen "erratically driving" along the roadway prior to the crash. Investigators are awaiting toxicology results and would not speculate on the cause of the collision.

Hot Dog Bob

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were glad to see he finally found a home.

"My stand is supposed to be something quick to stop at, but with the long lines, people have to wait, and I feel bad. It is good for business though."

Lombardo said he wanted to offer his customers something that no other pharmacy did, and Hot Dog Bob was the perfect fit.

"This is a guy that is just trying to make a buck. He is not getting rich off selling hot dogs," said Lombardo. "I can give him a place to sell his hot dogs, and provide for my customers something that no other pharmacy does."

"I was suspicious at first. It seemed too good to be true."

"Hot Dog Bob" Prescott
about offer to set up his cart in Shavertown

Lombardo admitted the free publicity that comes with Prescott does not hurt either.

Prescott is still far from forgetting about his troubles at Harveys Lake, though. He and his attorney appealed a ruling that would have forced him to pay \$8,000 in fines.

But Prescott is happy for now. "We might file a stay for the cease and desist order, so I can go back out to Harveys Lake," said Prescott. "But with how good business has been (at Cook's) I am not so sure."

And Lombardo is not ready to see him go.

"Customers are saying thank you to me for giving this guy a place to sell his hot dogs," said Lombardo. "Bob knows that he can come and go as he pleases. He sets his own hours, and I don't mind if he sells his hot dogs at midnight if he wanted to."

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