



THE DALLAS POST

United We Stand

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50 Cents

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



SCHOOL
Jennifer Feher wins RIF poster contest. Pg 12.



COMMUNITY
Atty. William Anzalone elected president of Law and Library Ass'n. Pg 5.



SPORTS
David Walters named soccer All-American, best in PA. Pg 9.

Firefighters prepare gift for NYC brothers

Fund proceeds, plaque will be delivered soon

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — Local firefighters are showing solidarity with their counterparts in New York City who were devastated by the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

The Back Mountain Firemen's Association (BMFA) recently unveiled a plaque they prepared for the New York City Fire Department. The plaque lists the names and department numbers of the 15 local companies that are members of the association. It also contains a poem entitled "The Final Call," written by Frank Lutinski of Harveys Lake.

"I wrote this poem a few years ago and had it copyrighted in 1995," said Lutinski, vice-president of the Firemen's Association. "I adapted it a little bit for use on this plaque for the New York Fire Department."

The local companies decided in October to start a fund for the New York firefighters. "We have a few thousand dollars in it now," said Jack Dodson, association president. "We'd really like to add to it before the presentation."

The BMFA officers will personally present the fund and the plaque to the New York department in March. They are planning to charter a bus so that other members of the association can travel with them. "We want people to know that 100 percent of the money collected will be given to the NYFD for their benefit," said Dodson, who is the fire chief in Kunkle.

Donations can be sent to Dan Manzoni, BMFA treasurer and fire chief in Jackson Township. Checks can be made out to BMFA, with a notation on the memo line for NYFD, and mailed to RR 2 Box 252 B, Dallas, PA

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Volunteers always welcome

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — The New York tragedy of September 11 didn't help to swell the ranks of volunteers for 15 local fire and ambulance companies. Each and every one of the local members present at a recent plaque unveiling ceremony expressed the need for more volunteers who are willing to work.

"There is always a place for everyone," said Jack Dodson, president of the Back Mountain Firemen's Association. "No matter how young or old or whether male or female, there is a job for them to do."

Fire and ambulance companies always need trained personnel to man the equipment and to answer emergency calls. But, in addition to those well-known duties, they need help with fund-raising and organiza-

See VOLUNTEERS, pg 3



POST PHOTO/TIMOTHY J. RAUB

Dancin' queen

Rachel Buckman, 9, of Shavertown, shows off her authentic Irish garb, which was part of her talent, Irish step dancing, at the Gate of Heaven School Annual Variety Show. Buckman is a member of the Emerald Isle Dancers. More photos on page 4.



S. JOHN WILKINS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Larry Pedersen displays some of the plants he has found in Central America. The chemistry professor spends his summers scouring tropical forests in search of new medicines.

Misericordia prof seeks cures in tropical forests

By MONIQUE SIMPSON
Special to the Post

DALLAS — Movies have always had powerful impacts on viewers.

Some weep sentimental tears and some chuckle uncontrollably, but few travel to tropical jungles to find medical cures upon returning from the cinema.

Professor Larry Pedersen is among the latter.

After watching Sean Connery scour the Brazilian rain forest for a cancer cure in "Medicine Man," the College Misericordia chemistry professor set out to find cures in the Central American forests.

"I said, 'Hey, I want to do that.'"

His first step was building on his botanical knowledge by enrolling in a tropical plant ecology course in Costa Rica. But two weeks before it was scheduled to start, the teacher backed out and the class was canceled.

"I'll teach the course," Pedersen half-jokingly told the

School districts face hike in pension costs

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON
Post Correspondent

BACK MOUNTAIN — First, there was a rash of tax reassessments, causing financial woes for area school districts. Now due to an increase in school employees' pension rates and the downturn in the stock market, districts are facing large and unexpected contributions to the Public School Employees Retirement System Fund for the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts are being asked to pay \$240,000 and \$270,000, respectively, to the retirement fund and may have to scramble to find the funds. Neither district will know the final damage until budget time comes around in the spring.

"It would depend on how fiscally prudent we are and where some of the dollars are coming from to offset this," said Dr.

Gilbert Griffiths, superintendent of Dallas School District.

Last year the employer contribution rate was 1.09 percent; for this fiscal year it is 5.64 percent of the salary budget. According to Kathleen Williams, business manager at Lake-Lehman School District, the district owed \$132,314 for the 2001-2002 fiscal year, with the Commonwealth picking up half that tab at \$66,110. This year, at the higher rate, the Lake-Lehman district will be paying an estimated \$271,450 of \$542,900. "This is an increase of over \$200,000 to the district," Williams said.

The employer contribution rate had been steadily decreasing over the last decade, from a rate of 19.68 percent in 1990, due to the healthy economy and the strength of the stock market. However, with the downturn

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Shopping center getting long-needed facelift

By TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN — Jay Humphrey, owner of Humphrey's Bootery, could not be more pleased with his landlord's progress with renovation efforts at the Back Mountain Shopping Center.

Humphrey's store has been in the shopping center since it opened in 1958, and this is the

first major renovation in that time.

"We are thrilled," said Humphrey. "It will be a big change to drive along the highway and see the new look to the shopping center."

The shopping center's owner Attorney Allan Reishstein, said renovations to the canopy along the front of the shopping center

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Youths found delinquent in thefts

By ANDREW TUTINO
Special to The Dallas Post

JACKSON TWP. — Six juveniles arrested in August were found delinquent Monday for their roles in a burglary and theft ring, police said.

The six juveniles, who are 13 and 14 years old, were involved in approximately 40 thefts, attempted thefts and burglaries in the Sutton Hills section and Meadowcrest development in the township, police said.

Two of the boys were sentenced to probation, the other

four were remanded to the Luzerne County Juvenile Detention Facility, police said. The six were ordered to pay about \$10,000 in restitution by

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