



# THE DALLAS POST

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



**SPORTS**

Dallas, Lake-Lehman meet on the mat. Pg. 9.



**SCHOOL**

Burczyk gets principal's parking space. Pg 11.



**COMMUNITY**

Ministerium plans unity service. Pg 5.

## Back Mountain can play its own small part in saving the Chesapeake

BY TIMOTHY J. RAUB  
Post Staff

**PLYMOUTH TWP.** — The Chesapeake Bay may be hundreds of miles away, and out of the minds of many Back Mountain residents.

But to the Luzerne Conservation District, the Back Mountain's creeks serve an important role in the cleanliness of the bay.

"We live downstream," said Todd

Rush, Luzerne Conservation District Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Management Technician. "All of the water that travels through the Back Mountain runs from the streams to the Susquehanna River and finally to the Chesapeake Bay."

Rush and his co-workers at the conservation district work daily with Back Mountain watershed groups and farmers to make sure the water quality is up to par, and harmful nutrients don't find their way into the water systems in the

area.

Nutrients from animal waste and soil erosion and rain water runoff are the top forms of non-point pollution in the Back Mountain. Non-point pollution travels from the source, in this case from the farm animals, soil nutrients from erosion and rain water runoff, through the ground and into the water system.

"We try to educate farmers, and teach them how to keep their animals away

from creeks and streams," said Rush.

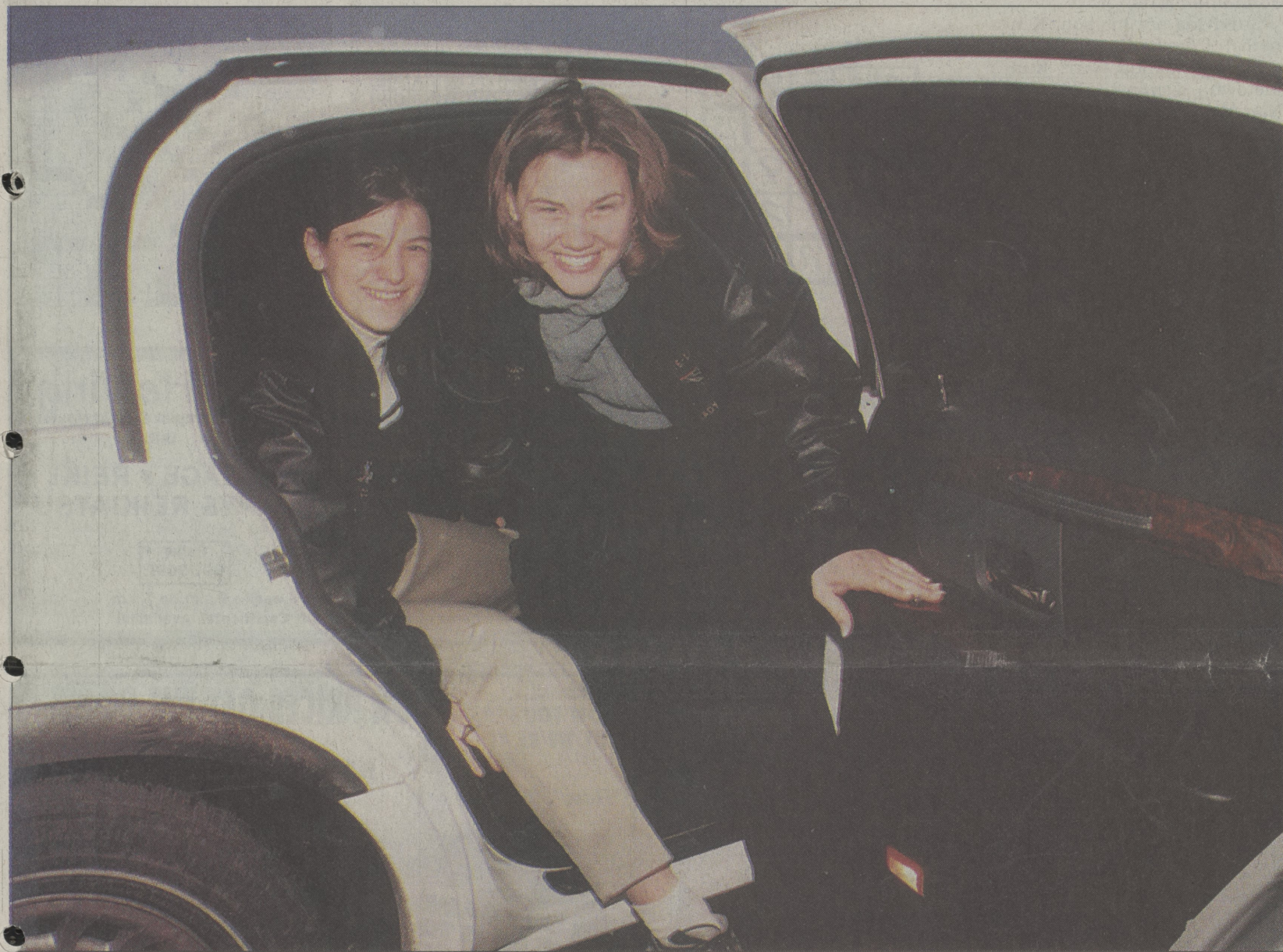
The conservation district works with funding from the State Department of Environmental Protect, and uses grant money to aid farmers in making their pastures environmentally friendly. The program funds up to 80 percent of the cost to improve the fields, while the farmer is responsible for the other 20 percent.

One of the easiest ways for farmers to prevent pollution of creeks and streams

is to build a fence around them. That way, animals can not walk into the waterways and eat the grass, which contributes to the erosion of the soil around the waterways.

Another way is to have the farmers create barnyards with a concrete curbing outside of barns, which keeps animal waste farther from the waterway, and contained to a particular area.

See CHESAPEAKE, pg 7



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

### Royal treatment

Lake-Lehman senior basketball players Kari Maskalis and Danielle Kern exit their limousine prior to their "Senior Night" game on February 4. The booster club honored senior players and their parents. More photos on sports page.

### Westmoreland school building can be used as offices, zoners say

Variance given with use restrictions - no phone tower

BY TIMOTHY J. RAUB  
Post Staff

**KINGSTON TWP.** — The Kingston Township Zoning Board voted unanimously Monday to approve a variance allowing a Dallas advertising agency to develop the former Westmoreland Elementary School for professional and business use.

Scott Ciravolo, owner of Tree Design Studios, a full-service advertising agency in Dallas, is working out the sale arrangements for the property, at 106 S. Lehigh St., Trucksville, with the Dallas School District. He asked the board for a variance to use approximately one-third of the usable space and lease the remaining space for professional and business offices.

"I plan to remodel the school into professional offices," said Ciravolo. "If granted, I would lease the remaining space to tenants."

The property will remain zoned R1 single family residential use, which is for a single family structure, public and pri-

*"The whole reason I am interested in this property is its location. It's quiet, and I would keep it quiet."*

Scott Ciravolo  
Potential buyer of former Westmoreland School

vate schools, churches and synagogues, etc.

Ciravolo said his company would occupy approximately 8,000 square feet of the total 20,000 square feet of usable space, and lease the rest to tenants. A large gymnasium, located on the second floor of the property, would remain a gymnasium for tenant use.

"There will be no restaurants or anything like that, just similar businesses (to the advertising agency)," said Ciravolo.

The board set forth four stipulations for the variance:

- Two modular buildings must be removed from the property.
- A signed agreement of sale be submitted to the board.
- No outside storage facilities

See WESTMORELAND, pg 8

### District preps for legal battle with losing electrical contractor

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON  
Post Correspondent

**LEHMAN** — The Lake-Lehman School District has won round one of a suit filed by Cavanaugh Electrical Contracting, Inc., the second lowest bidder for the electrical contract on the senior high school addition and alterations project.

But the district is gearing up for a tough battle.

Judge Michael Conahan ruled against an immediate temporary injunction that would have stopped work on the new

school construction, delaying the progress of the project as much as 60 to 90 days, but granted a hearing on the matter. The judge has asked all parties to the suit to supply documents, after which he will make a ruling on the temporary injunction. But for now, work on the construction site will go on as before.

In a special meeting for general purposes, the Lake-Lehman School Board voted to retain the services of Attorney Joseph G. Albert of Forty Fort to serve as co-counsel with board solicitor Peter Sav-

age in the suit called by Donald Marx and Cavanaugh Electrical Contracting, Inc. against the school district and Main Electrical Supply and Contracting, Inc., the lowest bidder on the project.

Savage told board members he needed assistance as "there were a number of things that had to be done in very short order" on the case, including, among several other filings and petitions, a response to a petition for a temporary injunction to halt the construction project. Albert, who has worked with Savage pre-

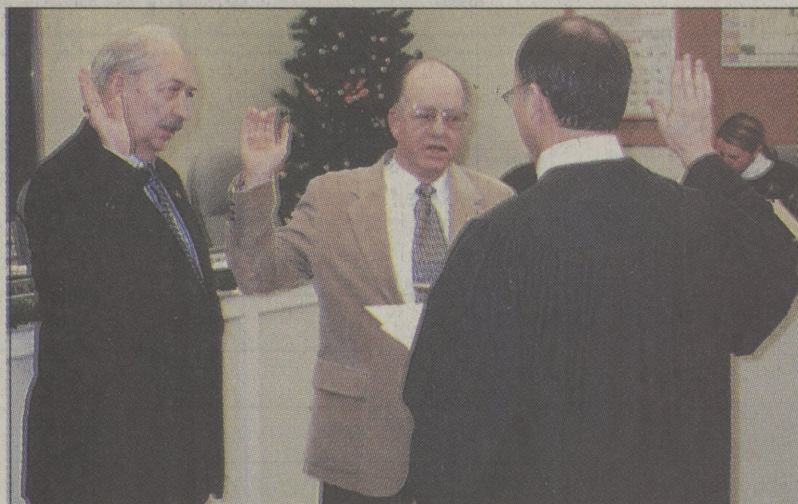
viously, lives in the Lake-Lehman district and was the first Assistant District Attorney for several years.

"It's a situation where you've got a 30-man construction specialist law firm sending out their number one partner from Philadelphia, with an associate and with a local legal counsel," explained Savage. "They are Philadelphia lawyers. They are sharp guys, these guys," he said of the attorneys for the plaintiff.

See LEGAL BATTLE, pg 3

### Black Knights cheerleaders to perform at Pro Bowl

Two Lake-Lehman Senior High School cheerleaders will perform at the Pro Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii on Saturday and can be seen on WNEP Channel 16 at 4:30 p.m. Co-captains Courtney Coletti and Shelly Wentzel can be seen at the pre-game and half-time shows. The seniors qualified for the event last year at a competition in Washington, D.C. Cheerleader Kim Hartman qualified also, but was unable to attend.



### KT supervisors sworn in

Incumbent Supervisor Paul Sabol was sworn in for a new four-year term, at a recent Kingston Township Board of Supervisors reorganization meeting. Mr. J. Carl Goodwin was sworn in for his first four year term. District Magistrate James Tupper administered the Oath of Office.

Paul Sabol was elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2002. J. Carl Goodwin was elected Vice Chairman. From left: J. Carl Goodwin, Paul Sabol and Magistrate Tupper.

### Township gains ally in tire fight

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON  
Post Correspondent

**JACKSON TWP.** — The Jackson Township Board of Supervisors has picked up an ally in its battle against waste tires in the township.

The board received a copy of a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) from State Representative Phyllis Mundy, 120th District, and read portions of it at Monday night's meeting.

Two tire dumps were reported to the DEP in October 2001, one, on Chase Road, numbering at least 2,000 tires and the other on Follies Road, over 8,000. Portions of the letter were read at the supervisors meeting this week, in which Mundy said, "I agree with the township that these tire piles represent real environmental and health concerns. They are indeed located near residential properties and are a breeding ground for mosquitoes which can

carry and spread the West Nile Virus."

Mundy questioned why the DEP has not "utilized its enforcement powers under the Solid Waste Management Act to require the permits are obtained and the tires are removed." She asked that the DEP "use every power at its disposal under the Solid Waste Management Act and any other pertinent statute to see that these matters are all resolved."

There has been no further response from the DEP. Board members and residents expressed concern over nearby cases of the West Nile Virus in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

In a related waste tire problem, Jeffrey Malak, solicitor, reported Judge Peter Paul Olszewski ruled in favor of the township in the case of Raymond Malak. The matter is currently going to Commonwealth Court

See JACKSON, pg 8

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