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



SPORTS

Lake-Lehman tops Dallas in junior high action. Pg 9.



SCHOOL

Dallas Elementary students get a taste of women's history. Pg 12.



COMMUNITY

Bank makes donation to food bank. Pg 5.

Bare majority okays \$1.4 million fields renovation

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. — The restoration of the athletic fields at Lake-Lehman High School will go forward at a price of \$1.4 million.

In a special voting meeting, Tuesday evening, the Lake-Lehman School Board cast a majority of five affirmative votes to award Pikes Creek Site Contractors the bid for restoration of the football field and track in the amount of

\$1,371,577. The athletic fields project has been hotly contested by several groups since it was first proposed in Jan 2001 at a budgeted amount of \$3.5 million, but a majority of the school board members found the project to be a worthy endeavor and necessary to the district students.

The project includes the restoration of the football field, new bleachers, electronic scoreboard, and an artificial turf track. The football field will also be

used for soccer and field hockey. The football field is expected to be completed by the last week in August in time for the first home football game, according to Douglas Trumbower, architect for the project. Trumbower said the track would not be ready until November, due to a 28-day waiting period after the application of the track surfacing material.

Calling the actions of the school board in the Ross Elementary School

and the high school construction projects "courageous" and "bold," Robert O. Roberts, district superintendent, said, "I would like to go on record as being wholeheartedly and enthusiastically in support of this project."

Charles Boytin, board president, pointed out that the district was already busing Lake-Lehman students to other school fields for sporting events and the fields were necessary and in the best interest of the students.

Board members Angelo DeCesaris and Joseph Kapitula voted no to the project. Kapitula said he felt it was a bad time to be spending the taxpayers' money on an unnecessary project considering the current state of the economy. "I can not tell the taxpayers we are going to raise their taxes because we have to put some fields in," Kapitula said.

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Former Dallas standout earns spot on Pioneers roster

Rich Butcofski played his first home game Sunday

By TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

It has been a long time since Rich Butcofski has been able to play in front of his true home crowd.

The former Dallas High School and East Stroudsburg University graduate finally got that chance May 4.

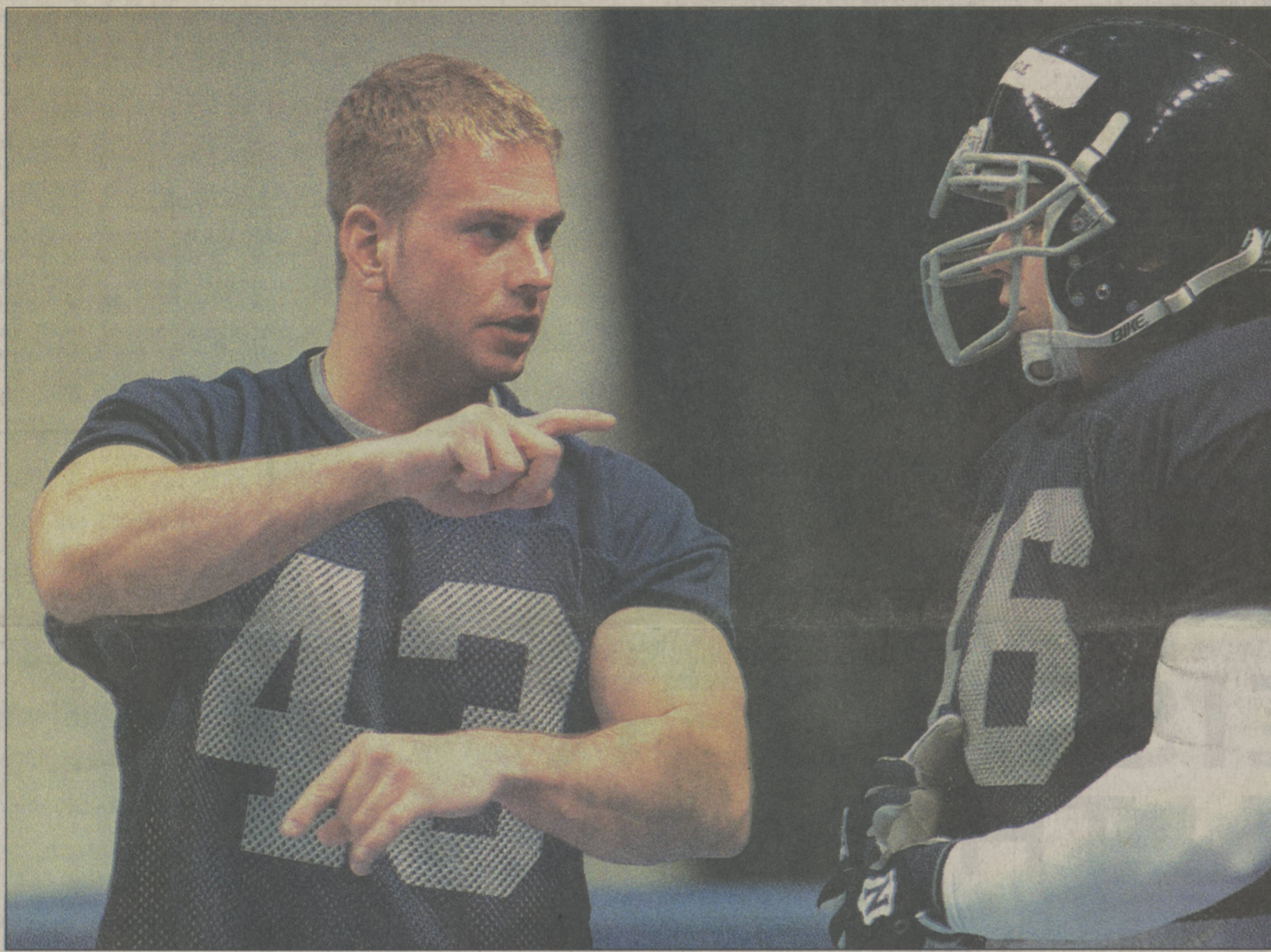
Butcofski, a tight end/defensive end for the Wilkes-Barre Pioneers, took the field in the Wyoming Valley for the first time since his days with the Mountaineers in the Pioneers' 44-26 loss to Roanoke at the First Union Arena — and enjoyed the chance to come back and showcase his talent.

"It felt great being in front of the home crowd again, it really felt great," said Butcofski. "I am just taking it week to week, and hope we can just get a win."

A linebacker/fullback at the start of training camp, Butcofski was called on by the Wilkes-Barre coaching staff to make the conversion to tight end/defensive end, a whole new world for the Back Mountain native.

"I am just trying to do the things they are teaching me," said Butcofski. "It is really different from playing

See BUTCOFSKI, pg 10



FRED ADAMS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Rich Butcofski talked with Kevin Nagle, his former teammate at East Stroudsburg, during a practice session before the season began. At the time they were competing for the same positions with the Wilkes-Barre Pioneers, but Butcofski has since been switched to tight end/defensive end.

Supervisor calling for long-range plan

By TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

Supervisor J. Carl Goodwin thinks Kingston Township, and the entire Back Mountain for that matter, needs to start thinking further into the future.

Recent issues concerning planning, zoning and the township's water supply have led the rookie supervisor to make good on one key aspect of his campaign platform from November.

Goodwin has proposed the formation of a long-range planning commission, which would aid in helping the current planning commission and Board of Supervisors make decisions on development in the township.

"I have had this idea since I was elected in November," said Goodwin. "What has happened with Windsor Farms has only accentuated and extenuated my desire for this. We are not against development in the township. We just want sensible, reasonable development."

Topics such as a water study, stormwater management, population growth, recreation and conservation of green space and the development of the township's limited commercial area, said Goodwin are some of the topics he hopes the commission would discuss. He went on to say that he thinks the group should be given free rein to work on a wide range of issues the township is and can possibly face in the future.

"The last long-range plan for Kingston Township was done in 1974,"

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Questions raised on payments to township secretary, assistant

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON
Post Correspondent

JACKSON TWP. — Questions were raised at the May 6 Jackson Township supervisors meeting, about the \$71,000 paid in salaries and benefits to the township's secretary and assistant secretary this year.

"We are presently reviewing these figures," said Supervisor Al Fox. "They appear over budget. Hopefully, by next meeting we will be able to determine why the figures are so high."

Fox said Henry Zbiek, secretary, had been paid \$30,000 and Joy Bird, assistant secretary, had received \$41,000. It was not clear if the payments were made in 2001 or the most recent 12 month period. Fox said more details would be re-

leased at the next meeting of the supervisors.

The supervisors are in negotiations with the union representing township employees, including the road crew and the clerical staff, on a contract expiring Dec. 2002. Fox said he was not aware of any other local municipal employees being unionized. He also questioned whether the secretary, Henry Zbiek, was entitled to a pension payment according to the present contract.

Fox also alleged a possible violation of the Sunshine Act by the other supervisors, saying he was not informed of two executive meetings held April 9 and May 2. A letter from Jeffery Malak, township solicitor, backed up Fox's claim, stating the April 9 meeting to be in possible violation of the act. Fox said important deci-

sions regarding the union negotiations were made in his absence and in his name and he was frustrated by his inability to act after the fact.

While the matter was tabled until the next township meeting, John J. Wilkes, chairman of the board of supervisors, said he would personally inform Fox of all future meetings and meet to set specific dates after Monday's regular meeting.

The supervisors signed a new three-year contract with the police department authorizing a 5 percent yearly compensation increase.

"Our police department is grossly underpaid," said Wilkes, remarking upon the excellence of the department and the dangerous job the officers are called upon to do. Several residents agreed with Wilkes during citizens' comments.

Presently, Chief Jerry Leedock makes \$18.14 per hour, with Sergeant Scott Davis earning \$12.82 per hour. Any full-time new hires will be paid \$21,000 per year under the new contract.

Adoption of the new contract means rejection of the police services regionalization adopted by some neighboring municipalities.

In an effort to give all residents of Jackson Township the opportunity to participate in the planning process, the board of supervisors and the planning commission have mailed out surveys to learn what residents want from the new comprehensive plan. The last comprehensive plan was adopted in 1979.

Residents are being asked for their

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'Spring Festival' planned Saturday

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

Back Mountain children and their families are invited to a Spring Festival Saturday at College Misericordia.

The event, sponsored by the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association, will begin at 1 p.m. and include plenty of activities and goodies. There is no charge.

"We're going to have games, magic, music with a dee jay, face-painting, prizes and candy," said Maryellen Giannuzzi, chairman of the event. "It will be a celebration of children of the

See FESTIVAL, pg 8



BMT Bloomers help Habitat

The Back Mountain Bloomers Garden Club has teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to provide landscaping for a newly constructed residence on Madison Street in Wilkes-Barre.

Louise Mattas (past president), left, and Iran Fahmy are shown on the site of the project.

The Bloomers have a five-year commitment to work with Habitat to provide plants and shrubs to beautify the properties and to facilitate continuing lawn and gardening education for the new home owners.

POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

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