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

SPORTS

Little League all-star play begins, and girls win twice. Pg 9.



SCHOOL

Students earn Legion awards. Pg 11.



COMMUNITY

Gate of Heaven Holy Communion classes. Pg 5.

Back Mountain towns tackle long-range plans

“Visioning,” survey are tactics to cope with growth

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON and TIMOTHY J. RAUB
The Dallas Post

The beauty of the Back Mountain has enticed people to live here for generations and that is no less true today.

The population in the Back Mountain increased 5.5 percent from 1990 to 2000 according to the U.S. Census. That is a significant amount considering Luzerne County as

a whole lost 2.7 percent of its people and the Commonwealth's citizenry has only grown 3.4 percent.

The pressure of this growing population and increasing development has caused some Back Mountain municipalities to re-evaluate their long range planning goals in an attempt to shape their communities into what they envision they can and should become.

Dallas Borough has embarked upon a community visioning process they call, “Dallas, Today and Tomorrow,” seeking citizens' opinions as well as their involvement. The borough held a public meeting May 29, seeking input from not only borough resi-

dents, but also borough neighbors, on the issues they believe need to be addressed.

“Because Dallas Borough serves as a commercial and cultural center for the entire Back Mountain region, we welcome the involvement of our neighbors in this process,” said Joe Moskovitz, the borough manager.

The public meeting of over 150 people came up with 56 separate issues which the Community Visioning Steering Committee has grouped into four major categories, said Moskovitz. Four task forces of 10 to 25 volunteers will be formed to deal with the following four major areas:

See LONG-RANGE, pg 8

Library Auction this weekend

The 56th annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction begins a four-day run Thursday. The “social event of the year” provides about 25% of the library's annual operating budget.

See the special section inside for all the details.



POST PHOTOS/ELIZABETH ANDERSON

Crime Dog McGruff and the crash dummies, Vince and Larry, advised the local law enforcement officers, Jackson Township Sgt. Scott Davis and Dallas Borough Police Chief John Fowler, to be on the look-out for plenty of happy children at Safe Kids Day, June 22, at the Jackson Township Recreation Park. McGruff goes undercover as Kevin Weber, age 15, in his off hours with backup from Vince (blue jumpsuit) as Eric Leedock, age 12, and Larry (gray jumpsuit) as Kim Nordfors, secretary to Magistrate Tupper.

Parents, kids learn to be safe while having fun

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON
Post Correspondent

JACKSON TWP. — Where can you climb up into the cockpit of a Life-Flight helicopter, be fingerprinted by a Secret Service agent and not go to jail, experience the visual sensations of alcohol and drugs (without a headache) in front of cops without getting busted and just have a great time with the family, sitting on the grass and eating all the hot dogs your belly can hold — all for free?

Safe Kids Day, of course!
The Jackson Township Police Department in association with the Back Mountain Police Association

and the Jackson Township Crime Watch, hosted the First Annual Safe Kids Day at the Jackson Township Recreation Park, June 22.

Several hundred children and their parents attended the daylong event and enjoyed the perfect weather while they learned, the fun way, about staying safe. Petting Nitro, the narcotics dog, registering your bike with the local police department and being strapped to Jackson Township Ambulance's backboard were but a few of the free events to be experienced. Kids took home lots of free stuff and learned plenty in the process.

The Life Flight helicopter made an impressive

landing on the field just yards from the crowd, fascinating children and grownups alike. The rotating blades whooshed hair back from faces and hats from heads as it landed. The crew answered questions from enthralled little boys, and big boys too.

Parents had the opportunity to get digital photos and fingerprints of their children from the four Secret Service agents who came down from Washington, D.C. The prints were made using a high resolution scanner and SentryKids software. Obtaining quality fingerprints from children using ink is ex-

See SAFE KIDS, pg 4

No surprises in final L-L budget

“Only” a 26% increase in health insurance premium

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. — The Lake-Lehman School Board passed the budget for the 2002-2003 school year, May 27, with \$18.7 million (\$18,740,564.09) in expenditures and no tax increase.

Property owners in Luzerne County will continue to pay real estate millage of 221 mills and property owners in the Township

of Noxen in Wyoming county will pay the same 42 mills as last school year.

The budget passed by a 5-2 vote with Angelo DeCesaris and James Mahon voting no. Board members Lois Kopcha and Michelle Coombs were not present.

Kathleen Williams, the district business manager, reported a modest 1.66 percent increase in the 2002-2003 school year budget as compared to the 2001-2002 school year budget.

Both DeCesaris and Mahon questioned the budget process.

“In comparing budget to budget we take our best guess last year and compare it to our best guess this year. I don't know if this solves anything to say that our expenditures have increased 1.66 percent,” said DeCesaris. “I don't think this is an accurate statement. We should be comparing numbers to actual.”

He went on to say, “If we can budget a smaller loss this year than last year without an increase in millage something has got to be wrong in the budget

See LEHMAN, pg 7



Splash!

The water balloon tossed by his partner split open at Timmy Miller caught during the Back Mountain Junior Bowling League's awards banquet. Story on page 10.

Despite \$5 million in bank, Dallas raises taxes 4 percent

By TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — The School Board voted to accept the district's 2002-03 \$22.6 million budget with an 8-mill increase Friday. The rate will now be 198 mills.

District Business Consultant Al Melone Jr. has said the increase comes as a direct result of the rise in health care costs. Personnel benefits are budgeted at \$3.44 million, an increase of more than \$500,000 from the 2001-2002 budget.

A mill is \$1 of every \$1,000 of assessed property value. An average resident of the school district currently

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