



# THE DALLAS POST

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### SPORTS

Teams tune up for opening day. Pg 11.



### CALENDAR

Julie Heffer's art on display at King's gallery. Pg 10.



### COMMUNITY

Students attend Rotary Leaders Camp. Pg 5.

## Dead birds raise fear virus could hit Back Mountain

County official says several have been found

By ERIN YOUNGMAN Post Staff

As two workers from the Luzerne County Environmental Special Projects Office wrapped up a dead crow in Lehman Township Monday, the resident who found the bird (who declined to give her name)

**If you find a dead bird**  
Call 331-7052 Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Call 826-3066 any other hours

said in the eight years she has lived in her home, she has never found a dead crow there before. Since the discovery of two infected birds in Butler Township earlier in the month, Ron Rugletic, Luzerne County's West Nile Virus Coordinator, said that he's "been inundated" with calls from people in the Back Mountain area who have found dead crows and want to know what they should do with them.

So far the virus, which can be deadly, has been found only in two locations within Luzerne County: Wilkes-Barre City and Butler Township, with new birds being tested every day. According to a Times Leader article published August 14, State Department of Health spokesman Richard McGarvey said 20 out of 67 counties within Pennsylvania reported having the virus.

The Lehman resident found the crow near her Golf Course Road home around 12:30 p.m. Monday and called it in to the West Nile Virus Coordinator. She

See CROW FOUND, pg 8

## Gokay steps into top job at L-LHS

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. — The new principal at Lake-Lehman High School is ready to spark a thirst for knowledge among students, and he has the background to do it.

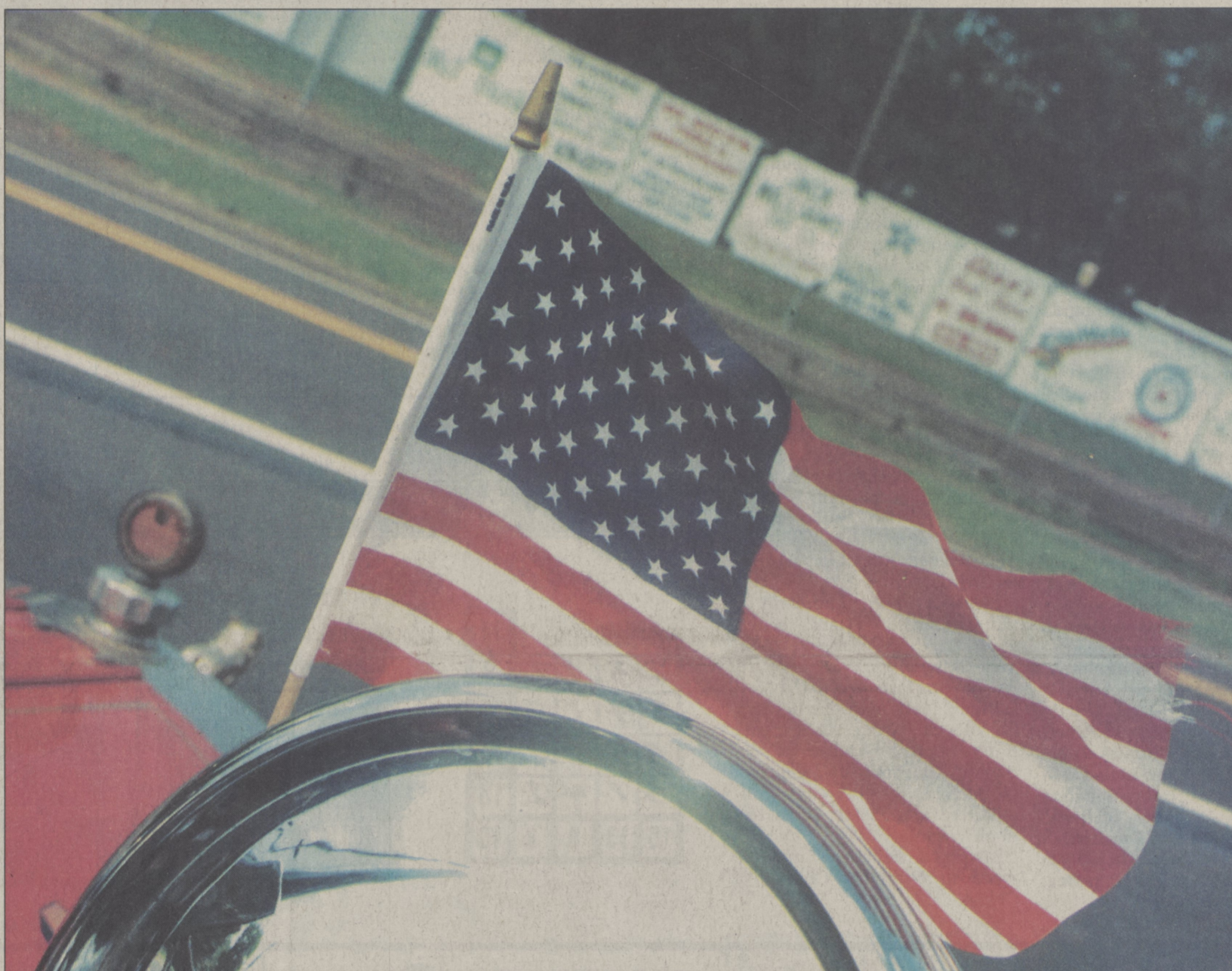
Students and parents, teachers and staff, administrators and perhaps even his predecessor have anxiously awaited the arrival of John Oliver's replacement as the Lake-Lehman High School Principal, since Oliver retired in June after 36 years as an educator.

Superintendent Robert Roberts introduced Michael Gokay at the July school board meeting, and several students and staff have dropped by Junior

See PRINCIPAL, pg 8

The American flag waved proudly from the grill of the 1927 Mack fire truck that is still used by the Dallas Fire & Ambulance Company during a parade celebrating the organization's 75th anniversary.

POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS



## Emergency volunteers celebrate 75th anniversary

By M.B. GILLIGAN Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — Dallas Fire and Ambulance Association celebrated its 75th Anniversary Sunday with a parade followed by an open house at the fire hall.

Twenty-two pieces of apparatus participated in the parade, which proceeded from Offset Paperback's parking lot up Route 415 and onto Church Street. Personnel from 15 different fire and emergency medical service companies from the Back Mountain and Wyoming Valley participated in the parade and the Life Flight helicopter landed in the Dallas Little League field during the afternoon's activities.

"I wanted to give something back to my community."

Tasha Hennings Dallas Junior Firefighter

"We've been planning this for over a year," said Bob Fernandez, chairman of the event. "We've advertised in all of the papers, have signs up in many local businesses and we invited all the local fire departments."

The open house featured several guest speakers, including State Senator Charles D. Lemmond. "Vol-

unteers usually get paid in recognition," said Lemmond as he presented a citation, which stated, in part: "The Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania congratulates Dallas Fire and Ambulance, Inc. as it recommitments itself to the ideals and traditions which have sustained it for seventy-five years; offers best wishes for continued success as it moves toward further thresholds of excellence."

The well-attended open house provided safety information for adults and children. Fingerprinting kits were available for the children who were also treated to rides in the vintage 1927 Mack fire engine, which is still in service. Car owners could have

See DALLAS FIRE & AMBULANCE, pg 4

## Deal hatched in teacher's garage didn't hold together

By KALEN CHURCHER Special to The Dallas Post

With a teachers strike looming, Lake-Lehman School Board member James Mahon thought he had a plan.

Forget the attorneys. Leave egos behind. Go try to talk sense with the teachers over pizza and soda.

So, in a teacher's garage, Mahon, three other board members and three representatives of the teachers union discussed, parried and bargained. Then they came up with something that had eluded attorneys for more than a year of hostile talks.

They had a deal. At least they thought they did.

That was weeks ago.

See DEAL, pg 3

## St. Paul's hosts joint Vacation Bible School

By SANDY PEOPLES Post Correspondent

DALLAS - More than 140 children made a lot of noise as they laughed and played and ran through the hallways of St. Paul's Lutheran Church last week. They were all there for the annual Community Vacation Bible School sponsored by St. Paul's, Shavertown United Methodist Church, Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Trinity Presbyterian Church and Dallas United Methodist Church.

"The Vacation Bible School is a well-established tradition," said Charles Grube, Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, "and we are pleased to have it here this year. We wanted our new building to be a resource for the community, and we are delighted to play host to this event which has been taking place for more than 10 years."

The theme for this year was a continuation of last year's theme, "Jesus to the Rescue, Part 2." Each day the children became eyewitnesses to the many ways our community helps out with our everyday lives and responds in emergency situations. They explored

See VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, pg 15



POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

Rev. Doug Clark from Shavertown United Methodist Church and Hannah Grube tell the children about the Back Mountain Food Pantry and the need to "fill it up."

## Visioning group gets to work

DALLAS - About 70 people turned out August 22 for the second public meeting in the "Our Dallas: Today and Tomorrow" visioning process, and they quickly got down to work in task forces assigned to address each of four topic areas.

The participants were called to their tasks by Michael McDavid, Regional Director for the Penn State Cooperative Extension, who gave a brief overview of results from a survey conducted at the group's first public meeting in May. After the responses from 138 people were combined by like subjects, four major concerns were identified. They are:

- Updating master plans in individual Back Mountain communities and creating a comprehensive regional master plan.
- Revitalizing the traditional down-

See VISIONING, pg 3

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