



United We Stand

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# THE DALLAS POST

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



### SPORTS

Mountaineers rumble over Nanticoke. Pg 9.



### PHOTO ALBUM

40th Luzerne County Fair draws big crowds. Pg 4.



### COMMUNITY

Kingston Twp. High School Class of '42 reunites. Pg 5.

## Teachers set to okay contract

Board endorses pact it once rejected

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON  
Post Correspondent

**LEHMAN TWP.** — It's all over but the paperwork, according to exuberant members of the Lake-Lehman teachers' negotiating team.

After nearly two years of negotiations, the Lake-Lehman School Board voted 5-4 Tuesday night to accept the recommendations of the May 28, 2002 state fact-finder's report and ratify a collective bargaining agreement between the district and the Lake-Lehman Education Association.

The teachers' union will meet Thursday to make their vote official, at which time the attorneys will draw up the legal contract and the deal will be sealed. "We were a little punch drunk by the time it finally happened," said a happy and relieved Dan Williams, president of the Lake-Lehman Education Association. The teachers have voted twice to accept the fact finder's report, while the board previously voted against it.

Salary and health care were the two biggest obstacles in the negotiations. The five-year contract, running from September 1, 2001 through September 1, 2006, will give the teachers a 3.4 percent per year salary increase.

Calling the new high school athletic facilities the "Coliseum of Lake-Lehman," board member Lois Kopcha explained her position in voting for the agreement and where she felt money in the district should be spent. "It certainly shows where our priorities lie. It is in sports," Kopcha said to much audience applause. "Sports spotlight only certain children. It certainly is not for all the kids. And that's why I have no compunction at all in giving the teachers this raise."

In addition to Kopcha, board members Angelo DeCesaris, Michelle

See CONTRACT, pg 8



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

## A cloud of dust

Lauren Lipski gave the ball a mighty whack in the field hockey game between Lake-Lehman and Dallas Monday. The Black Knights took home a 4-0 shutout victory, putting Lehman at 2-0 in the race to win the Back Mountain Cup, a new award that starts this year. See sports pages for more photos and story.

## 9/11+1 Attacks spurred local changes in security, schools

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

Talk to members of the community about how things have changed since 9/11/01 and it readily becomes apparent how much those events have woven their way into the daily lives of people in the Back Mountain.

"The most enduring effect is in terms of security," said Bob Roberts, Superintendent of Lake Lehman School District about changes that have taken place on his campus. "When people used to walk around the school we'd figure they were parents. Now when someone's walking around the school, people are looking at you like who are you?"

Kingston Township Chief of Police James Balavage echoed similar sentiments about changes in security.

"After 9/11 we set up a bulletin board full of information from the federal government and state police telling us to be more vigilant," he said.

He said officers were told to look a little closer at their surroundings, especially when calls involved people of Arabic descent. Balavage said that a compact disc his department re-

See 9/11 CHANGES, pg 8

## Near ground zero, memories linger

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

For most of us, the images of 9/11/01 eventually faded. As the media attention turned to other stories, people removed from New York, Shanksville, and Washington D.C. were granted some mental distance, some time off here and there from those events. But not a day that passes that Dave Townsend does not live with September 11.

"It took a while for me to get better. I have to walk by it to get to work so I'm reminded of it every day," said the 1995 graduate of Dallas High School.

Townsend was at work on the floor of the floor of the American Stock Exchange when he heard and felt the impact of the first tower being hit. He saw the second plane strike while standing on the street with co-workers.

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## Dallas board not happy, but relieved that project back on track

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**DALLAS TWP.** — After withholding payment last month on the Dallas Middle School construction project, the Dallas School Board authorized payment to the project's construction management company, Monday.

Board members voted to pay a total of approximately \$67,000 in invoice

amounts to Reynolds Construction Management for the months of May, July and August, stating they believed the project was back on schedule.

The board also authorized approximately \$42,000 to be paid to Foreman Burkavage Architects, whose payment had been withheld for June, July and August.

"At this point, with exception to the

pool and auditorium seating, we're relieved," said Dallas Superintendent Gil Griffiths.

The late pool completion date was the most difficult for the district to work around. Originally scheduled to be completed by June 26, the district had already hired life guards, planned curriculum, and hired instructors. To avoid children getting behind in their curriculum,

the district rented pool space at College Misericordia. Griffiths said the cost of the rental, lifeguards and transportation to and from the pool will be billed to the contractors.

Since August's board meeting, the expected completion date has changed from September 26 to October 4. Project Man-

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## Crow found in Lehman couldn't be tested for virus

The crow found at a home on Golf Course Road in Lehman Township was determined unfit for testing.

Workers from the Luzerne County Environmental Special Projects office picked up the bird on August 26. The carcass arrived at the Health Department lab in Harrisburg on Aug. 27. The lab report filed the same day stated the bird's "tissue wasn't suitable for testing."

Ron Rugletic, Luzerne County's West Nile Virus Coordinator said Tuesday that the Health Department's results probably means the bird was dead too long.

Testing for the virus can be done on a bird that has been stored on ice and is less than 48 hours old.

Test results from Harrisburg are usually filed within 7-10 days of collection. However, according to Rugletic, results have been slow to come back due to the high number of birds that have gone in for testing in the last month.

Anyone finding a dead bird, particularly a crow, may report it by calling 331-7052 Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or 826-3066 any other time.



POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

Joe Moskovitz, Dallas Borough Manager, pointed to the intersection that is a center of concern as the borough attempts to develop a "village" shopping district. With him were Bill Fontana, Executive Director of Downtown Pennsylvania, and Angela Callie, from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Rural Development office.

## Borough on mission to create 'downtown village'

It will help if neighboring communities support concept

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**DALLAS BOROUGH**— Is Dallas Borough the heart of the Back Mountain? As the borough attempts to create a "Downtown Village," it would be easier if it could get other Back Mountain municipalities to say so.

"Most long-term residents understand that we are the commercial, economic and educational center of the Back Mountain," said Borough Manager Joe Moskovitz.

To help qualify for state revitalization programs and grants for its downtown revitalization goals, the Dallas Downtown Village project would benefit from other municipalities formally recognizing it as a primary economic and commercial center of the region. There are 2,557 residents in Dallas but approximately 30,000 within the 10 municipalities that make up the Back Mountain.

According to Moskovitz, he, the Dallas Borough Council, and the majority of the people involved in the "Our Dallas:

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