

# Teachers ink contract with Lake-Lehman

By **KALEN CHURCHER**  
Special to The Dallas Post

**LEHMAN TWP.** — After 21 months of bickering and false hopes, the Lake-Lehman School District and its teachers union appear to have agreed on a contract.

Attorney Bruce Campbell of Pittsburgh, the school district's special counsel, said the union delivered on Friday a signed copy of what appears to be the original contract — drafted by the district — to the superintendent. District officials are reviewing the document to be sure the union did not add or remove any language.

"It appears there is a collective bargaining agreement," Campbell said Monday.

The agreement delivered Friday is the third submitted by the union, Campbell said. Earlier last week, the Lake-Lehman Education Association submitted two altered proposals, Campbell added. The first included changes to the wording of health care issues and buy-back of sick days upon retirement. The second, submitted Thursday, included modifications to only the buy-back portion.

Buy-backs are typically used as an incentive for teachers to not take sick days during the school year.

John Holland, the union's Pennsylvania State Education Association representative, said last week the union refused to

sign the agreement because the district capped the sick-day buy-back at 80 days when it had been 100. However, School Board President Charles Boytin argued the old contract stated that once teachers reach 10 years of service, upon retirement, they can buy back sick days at a rate of \$42 per day — not to exceed \$4,200.

Under the contract terms reached last month, the \$42-per-day rate will increase by \$3 in the contract's first, third and fifth years. The "not to exceed" amount never changed.

Holland could not be reached Monday for comment.

The school district and union have been negotiating since January 2001. Teachers began this

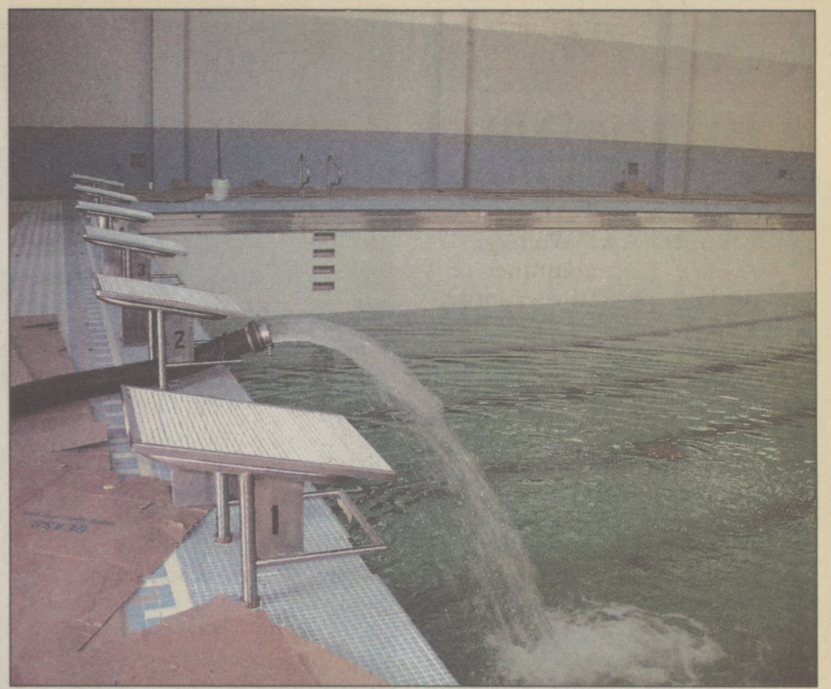
and the last school year working under their old contract terms.

During a recent school board meeting, Boytin said he would look into filing an unfair labor charge with the state Labor Relations Board if the union did not sign the contract it voted to sign on Sept. 12. That issue becomes moot if union officials signed the agreement recommended by a state fact-finder.

Although Boytin was not in favor of the proposed contract, he welcomes an end to the contract talks.

"I never had a problem with giving the teachers (a pay raise)," he said. "My problem was always with health care."

This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.



POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

It will take a few more days to fill the new Dallas pool.

## Pool

(continued from page 1)

a standard fire hose. "We have to stop deliveries when we have a call; we're an all volunteer department and we run ambulance and fire and rescue," said Dodson.

Griffiths said the Kunkle department is not expecting compensation for their time; however, the district has decided to donate a sum of money to go toward an infrared camera.

Dodson said the department has been considering purchasing a thermal imaging camera for several years. Inside smoke-

filled buildings, the "state of the art" equipment would allow the department to pinpoint the exact location of a fire by displaying color coded temperature readings on the camera itself and by transmission to a specially designed television in the fire truck.

The cost of the new technology is expected to be around \$20,000.

"The district isn't paying for all of it, but every little bit we get donated helps," said Dodson.

## Back Mountain Seniors to meet Oct. 17

Back Mountain Seniors will meet at 12 p.m. on Thursday, October 17 in St. Therese's church hall on Pioneer Ave. and Davis St. in Shavertown for a covered dish luncheon to celebrate Halloween.

Members are asked to wear a costume. At 1 p.m. a speaker, Mario Malizziz from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, will speak on home hazards, fire prevention and survival.

A video of a club Halloween party from years ago will also be shown.

Back Mountain Seniors is non-denominational. New members and guests are invited. For information call Lil at 696-1828 or Marie at 696-3095.

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## Volunteers, borough spruce up 'split'

Volunteers from Penn State Master Gardeners recently planted seasonal mums at the 309 and 415 split in Dallas. The mums were funded by Dallas Rotary and Dallas Borough with the labor and planning provided by Master Gardeners. "You don't gotta go to India, just look across the street and you'll find something that needs to be done," said Karolina Cimochowski of the Penn State group about the much needed renovation.

From left: Connie Peters, Lisa Sherin, Mayor Timothy Carroll, Karolina Cimochowski, Ed Kaczmarek, Amy Huntington, Rosalie Feldman, Donna Grey, Genevieve Wroblewski and Mary Ellen O'Brien.

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