



### American Legion Auxiliary inducts officers

Dallas American Legion Auxiliary Unit 672 recently held installations of officers at the Dallas Legion. A reception followed.  
 In the picture are newly elected officers, from left: Membership Chairman Joan Brzycki, Thelma Barteld, Past President, Irene Martine, Sergeant of Arms; Linda Wolfer, Secretary Treasurer; Kay Smith Second Vice President, Publicity; Barbara Miller, District President; Doreen Henderson, President; Deana Blejwas, First Vice President and Jan Godown, Luzerne, Wyoming County President.

### L-L board turns down requests to attend conferences

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

**LEHMAN TWP.** — The Lake-Lehman School Board took its first step Tuesday night in limiting the number of conferences it will pay for district employees to attend.

Six of nine board members voted against sending Philip Lipski, the district's wrestling coach, to a two-day coaching clinic at Penn State University. Lois Kopcha, Joseph Kapitula, James Mahon, Moderno Rossi, Charles Balavage and Charles Boytin cast the dissenting votes. Michelle Coombs, Angelo DeCe-

saris and Sheila Gionfriddo voted in favor.

Michael Gokay, high school principal, swayed at least two board members to accept requests for seven educational conferences. Prior to Gokay addressing the board, Boytin said the number of symposiums attended by teachers was getting out of hand.

"I'm going to vote no for any of these (conferences) that aren't mandatory," Boytin said.

"I will be too," echoed Kapitula.

Even Lipski's written concession to pay half of the clinic's

\$333 cost didn't persuade enough board members — some of whom said he has enough wrestling expertise to run the clinic himself. Members argued additional costs — including \$130 for a two-day substitute teacher — would not be worth the expenditure.

In the end, approval was granted for attendance at conferences covering topics including special education, teaching gifted children, literacy and bullying. Cost to the district, excluding substitutes, will be about \$420.

During a work session earlier

this month, board members questioned the legitimacy of sending an individual to a conference year after year when the district's budget is so severely strapped.

Lake-Lehman's effort to trim conference costs is being felt by at least one other Luzerne County school district. Randy Tomasacci, Northwest Area School Board president, said earlier this month he wanted to see an end to the reimbursement for lodging, meals and travel.

*This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.*

### Gift in memory of Dr. Baker will aid health care

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

**DALLAS TWP.** — Although College Misericordia had a list of candidates interested in the field of sonography — radiology without radiation — and program criteria developed, it could not turn interest into formal training. Until recently, the \$200,000 in startup costs was too much for the college to shoulder.

But because of memorial donations after the death of a local doctor and some other "outside gifts," including potential federal funding, the 18-month certification program could be ready for fall 2003.

The family of the late Dr. Thomas E. Baker established a sonography fund to help finance the program. Since Baker's death on July 14, the college has received multiple monetary gifts, although college spokesman Jim Roberts declined to say how much.

Dr. David Rimple described his colleague as having an affection for College Misericordia, often taking walks through the campus to relax. Baker and his wife, Jean, also attended church on the campus.

Because he was the first to introduce echocardiography to the area and because of his desire to bring ultrasonography to patients, it seemed logical Baker would help students learn the science, even after his death.

"I think (Baker's) family recognized the synergism between the two," Rimple said Monday.

Baker's daughter, Danielle, said her father believed testing should be as non-invasive as

possible. She learned of her father's interest in sonography at College Misericordia through Rimple and said her family agreed it was "the perfect program." Establishing the fund allowed them "to do something lasting" in honor of Baker.

According to the college, the program — in the making for about 18 months — will include laboratory and clinical education components. Emphasis will be placed on teaching sonography students in areas including professional ethics, sonographic anatomy, ultrasound implementation, patient care and interpretation of sonographic images.

Elaine Halsey, chairwoman of Misericordia's medical imaging department, said there is a national shortage of professionals trained in medical imaging. That scarcity extends to Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, increasing the need for formal training.

Rimple said nothing can substitute for knowledge gained through an academic course. Often, sonography training is conducted through informal program or on-the-job training. To Rimple's knowledge, no program like the Misericordia proposal exists in the area.

"(Sonography) is a tremendously flexible and useful kind of technology," Rimple said. "And that's why it has grown so fast."

"It's a technology that is inexpensive, relatively speaking. ... It does not expose the individual to radiation and it can be done day after day, hour after hour, if the patient's condition changes."

*This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.*

### New drop-off point for BMT food pantry

The Back Mountain Mountain Food Pantry sponsored by the Back Mountain Ministerium is in need of many food items.

The client population grew over the past year creating a larger need than in years past.

Due to the construction at Trucksville United Methodist Church Education Building, it is not possible to accept food items at the Education Building. Food collection points have been established at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Shavertown United Methodist Church. They will deliver the food supplies to the Food Pantry at the former Kingston Township Municipal Building in Trucksville.

Anyone with questions about the Food Pantry may call 696-3897.

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