



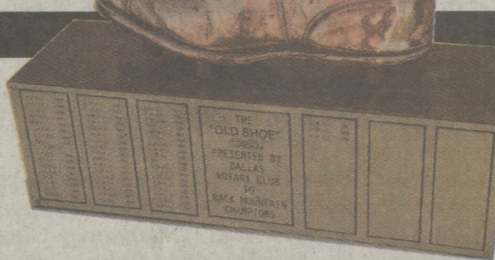
# THE DALLAS POST

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**SPORTS**  
Lake-Lehman advances in soccer districts. Pg 9.



**55TH ANNUAL OLD SHOE GAME IS SATURDAY**



**COMMUNITY**  
'Homespun Holiday' craft show is Sunday. Pg 3.

## Oh my! Close encounters of the bear kind on the rise

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** — With the boom in the bear population, and the recent lack of wild food available, it appears that people, even those that don't live in the country, are getting a crash course in bear etiquette.

"If they can't find something easily accessible, they'll go to the trash can," said Diane Shellenberger, an employee at Back Mountain Feed & Seed. "People will hear this loud noise, like breathing, and they'll look to find they'll be out there helping themselves," she said. Joseph Wenzel, Wildlife Education Supervisor for the Pennsylvania Game

Commission, said over the last five years, the population of both people and bears has grown in the area. "Calls coming in to the game commission about nuisance bears have quadrupled since 1997," he said. "People see them more often because there's more of them," said Wenzel. Nobody at the Game Commission would

give one concise reason for the bear population increase. The Nuisance Black Bear Management Committee, however, cites discontinued deforestation and lower bear mortality rates as two of the reasons for the increase. The Pennsylvania Game Commission said bear abundance and distribution has tripled since 1980. As of 2001, pop-

ulation estimates were approaching 15,500 statewide. "People provide a lot of opportunities for the bears," said Wenzel, such as food from the trash cans and bird feeders. Their out buildings provide shelter. He said bears are living in develop-

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## Ground broken for regional rec park

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**LEHMAN TWP.** — "I'm thrilled to see the progress they've made; last time we were here, there was nothing but a farm field and now they're ready to break ground," said Department of Conservation and Natural Resource (DCNR) Secretary, John Oliver.

With the Dallas Middle School Jazz Band playing, Back Mountain Recreation Inc. (BMR) board members, state, county and local officials, and some parents gathered under a tent to celebrate the ground breaking of the Back Mountain Regional Recreation Complex.

"It sounds exciting," said Trudy Clemson as Dave Sutton, the president of the BMR board, explained what is planned for the 130 acres off Outlet Road.

"If we do nothing else to it, we've taken 130 acres and there will never be a home built on this property, it will be used for nothing but conservation and recreation," said Sutton.

The groundbreaking marks the completion of Phase I, the acquisition of the land, and the beginning of the \$7 million

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POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

## Going whole hog for Halloween

The Dallas Kiwanis Club held its annual Halloween Parade and costume contest Sunday. Hundreds of children attended dressed in all manner of costumes, and winners were chosen in five categories. The Back Mountain Business & Professional Association helped out with judging and a post-parade party for the kids. First place winners in the group category were 4-year-old Jackson and 2-year-old Jaclyn Shaver. More photos on page 4.

## Dallas may run out of rooms

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**DALLAS TWP.** — A few years ago, student enrollment in the Dallas School District was predicted to fall, but in fact, if the numbers continue to rise at the same rate, either the student teacher ratio will have to be compromised, or Dallas may have to build yet again. In contrast, Lake-Lehman's numbers have stayed mostly constant, showing a slight dip since 2000.

According to Gil Griffiths, Dallas Superintendent, the state Department of Education projected that between 2000 and 2006, the district would experience a decrease of 4.2-8.3 percent (or 100-200 students) in enrollment. Actually, between 2000

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POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

Anna Manzoni shows Will Conyngham the photo of her family's first home in the U.S.

## 100+ hear snippets of Back Mountain history

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**DALLAS TWP.** — People totting old family photos, postcards and their interest in the Back Mountain of yesterday gathered last week in the Bevevino Library at College Misericordia for the presentation, "Buried in the Back Mountain: The Graves of Interesting Historical Figures."

About 110 people showed up for the semi-annual meeting of the Back Mountain Historical Association. "I think we've outgrown our accommodations," said Debra Altavilla, who helped coordinate the meeting. "I think this has its own following; they're (attendees) just interested in all of it," said Altavilla.

Part club, part community meeting and open to all, the programs have grown consistently. The October 23 meeting brought in 40 more people than last spring's meeting.

"When you're born and raised in the Back Mountain — fifth

"History occurs everywhere, even in your own backyard."

John Sipper  
Misericordia student volunteer

generation — it's as if you're intertwined with everyone and everything," said Mary Manzoni about why she came to the meeting.

Attorney Stephen Killian's presentation explored the same theme. Through photographs and biographical information, he introduced the audience to some of the pioneering families of the Back Mountain region, many of which still have descendants in the area today. Shaver, Rice, Ide and Major were a few of the names mentioned. Some people in the audience may not have heard of the others, but

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