

# The holiday shopping starts at Penn State Sunday

By M.B. GILLIGAN  
Post Correspondent

**LEHMAN TWP.** — If you'd like to get some holiday shopping done early, the 14th annual Homespun Holiday Show is the place for you.

Sponsored by The Arts at Hayfield, the show will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, November 3 at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus in Lehman. The show, which features handcrafted items such as wreaths, dolls, jewelry and clothing, will be held in the Athletics and Recreation Building and the Student Commons.

Karen Brace and Donna Gizenski are co-chairpersons for this year's event. "We used the Hayfield House for the first three years," said crafter Sharon Ormando, who was instrumental in getting the holiday show started. "Barbara Lemmond, who was on the Arts at Hayfield committee, helped. We wanted to get a nice show going in the area. We had so many crafters interested that we moved it to the gymnasium when that was built. Now it has spread into some other areas and there is a very long waiting list for additional spaces."

Another long-time Holiday Show crafter, Bernadine Vojtko of Wyoming, is very excited about the November 3 event. "The Arts at Hayfield is extremely supportive of local talent and there is a long commitment on their part to support the arts in



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

Sharon Schultz of Shavertown displays some of her many beautiful baskets, sleighs and other hand-woven crafts.

the Back Mountain and throughout the area. The organization is a boost to art organizations in the area with contributions to things like the Poetry Festival at Penn State, the Shakespeare Theatre at College Misericordia, WVIA radio and many other things."

Vojtko sets up her booth to look like a separate little shop. She brings in tables, shelves and displays on which to hang her many wares. She will have baskets with dried and silk flowers, wreaths, pottery and holiday items like angels and snow-

men. She will fill every available space with her specialty items.

"I make sure that everything I make is good enough for my own home. I always feel honored that people want to buy the things that I've made," said Vojtko. Her parents, Michael and Bernadine Borinski, in addition to her husband and two children, help with setting up the area. "It's really a family affair."

Handmade baskets and pottery can be found at Sharon Schultz's booth. Schultz won best of show for baskets at this year's Luzerne County Fair with

a large Amish tote. "It's a fun time. The people are very nice to deal with and everyone is eager to help you," said Schultz. "It is really one of the shows that you want to be involved with."

Refreshments will be available in the new Cafe Commons and the Penn State bookstore will also be open. Santa has scheduled a surprise visit between noon and 2 p.m. and a tour of Hayfield House is scheduled for 1 p.m. A \$1 donation is requested for adults.

"We need to make it clear to people that their donation goes to support The Arts at Hayfield and not Penn State," said Janis Winter, president of the organization. One of the focuses of the group is to sponsor arts programs on campus that are open to the public. The Arts at Hayfield also sponsors a one-year Penn State scholarship to a deserving student with an interest in the arts. In addition, they have provided donations on a one-time basis for needs of local art and theater programs.

"We branched out about six years ago to include arts outside of the Back Mountain. We are looking for things to support but we also need something from those groups even if it is in the way of membership," said Winter.

Individual annual dues are \$10 and \$15 for a family. You can obtain a membership form at the Homespun Holiday Show or by calling 675-9232.

## Rec park

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Phase II portion of the three phase project.

According to Sutton, the two parcels of land cost just under \$750,000, all of which came from state grants and private donors.

The board now turns its attention to Phase II, the construction of the outdoor aspects of the project. They include six soccer fields, five baseball fields, trails, picnic areas, pavilions, an outdoor ice skating rink, a sledding hill, multi-purpose fields, skateboarding area, rustic walking areas and more.

The board recently received an additional \$100,000 DCNR grant to go toward the construction. BMR currently has \$250,000 of the needed \$7 million for Phase II of the project.

Sutton said the soccer fields will be built first and construction is planned to begin in the spring.

The Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association (BMSYA), which is already using space at the complex site, has no fields of its own and has had to use space at places such as Penn State in Lehman, College Misericordia, Kingston Township and others. Adrian Merroli, representing BMSYA at the event, said with participation in the league growing steadily, the need for their own fields peaked last year.

Jack Snyder, president of Back Mountain Baseball, said his group doesn't have the same immediate need as BMSYA. His league uses ball fields that belong to the Dallas School District and in addition, he said

"A very impressive accomplishment given the size of the plans."

John Oliver, Secretary  
Department of Conservation  
and Natural Resources

participation in his league has leveled off.

"In the beginning we preferred to stay where we're at, but we're going out there now and we're pleased about the progress they're making," said Snyder.

Both groups have said they will maintain the fields once they are constructed.

In addition to creating space for organized athletics, Sutton talked about the importance of the two multi-purpose fields reserved for children to use as they decide.

"Let them go out and have some fun and let them play what they want to play," said Sutton.

Oliver said the money for the project came from two popular and competitive grants, a Growing Greener grant and Keystone fund grant. He also said part of the reason BMR received the grants hinged on the cooperation promised by the Back Mountain municipalities in the ongoing management of the facility.

"A very impressive accomplishment given the size of the plans. Ten municipalities have come together. It's a rare accomplishment," said Oliver.

## Dallas

(continued from page 1)

and this year, the district's enrollment has increased by 4 percent (or 96 students), mainly in Kindergarten through seventh grade.

"We are basically out of room space," said Griffiths.

Although enrollment has grown modestly for the past three years, increasing from 2,403 students in the year 2000 to 2,499 students this year, and is still less than it was five and seven years ago, if numbers continue to grow, the district won't have the space to create more classrooms.

"The numbers used to balance out, we used to see a normal balancing act. Normally we get an influx of 12 to 13 students and the same amount would leave," said Griffiths. But this year that didn't happen.

Bob Roberts, Lake-Lehman Superintendent, said consistency has been their experience at the Lake-Lehman district. "We fluctuate very little, we're pretty steady for the last few years," he said.

Lake-Lehman's numbers are not growing or changing dramatically, but they do show an overall small decline at the elementary level as well as in overall enrollment. Elementary school enrollment has dropped

2.8 percent (or 33 students) since 1997, since 2000, 3.6 percent (or 42 students) and 7 percent (or 86) since 1993. While their overall enrollment has declined by 1.1 percent (or 25) since 2000 and 2.1 percent (or 48 students) since 1997.

"That is in tune with the national trend, the same thing is happening all over. In the early '90s elementary schools experienced growth and now it's just the opposite, elementary schools are experiencing a little bit of a drop-off," said Roberts.

"This year we have 53 sections of elementary. If we drop 10 kids, it's not noticeable," said Bob Rogers who is in charge of attendance at Lake-Lehman.

Dallas is considering hiring the Pennsylvania Economy League (PEL) to get more accurate projections for future enrollment. To come up with enrollment projections, the Department of Education looks at live birth rates. If the district decides it is willing to spend a possible \$10,000 to \$15,000, PEL will look at other determining factors in future enrollment as well.

"They will come and go through records, county, actual building projections for housing developments," said Griffiths.

"We are basically out of room space."  
Gil Griffiths  
Dallas Superintendent

"There's a need, the situation being we don't want to be caught flat footed again. We don't want to get caught anticipating 10 to 12 students and get 30 showing up," said Griffiths.

Numbers at Dallas are still below where they were in the 1990s and late 1980s. According to Griffiths, with the opening of Wycallis Elementary in the fall of 1999, the amount of space available to them increased. The current space issue comes from a change in philosophy about what is an acceptable student teacher ratio.

"It's very important for us to keep class size down in those grades (K-3). We've tried to keep grades 1, 2, 3 at 21, 22 per room when 26 or 27 used to be allowed," said Griffiths.

The elementary level is the

main concern. This year, a ninth third grade class and teacher was added, leaving no spare room in the elementary schools.

If numbers are projected to continue growing, Griffiths said there are several options the district is mulling over.

"We could look at how we have our grades structured. Several districts have done a pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade in a separate location," said Griffiths.

Griffiths said raising class size is a short-term solution, but that there are open spaces for building on the campus that haven't been touched yet. A pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and possibly first grade center on the 1 1/2 acre property that the old Dallas Township school is on is another possibility, said Griffiths.

The District is expected to receive the PEL proposal within the next two weeks at which point the school board will have to vote on whether or not to go ahead with it.



POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

Breaking ground. From Back Mountain Baseball: Ryan Naugle, 11; Tom Smith, 11. From Back Mountain Softball: 11; Stephanie Pace, 14; Brittney Allen, 13; Kasey Corbit 13; John Oliver, Secretary of DCNR; Dave Sutton, Back Mountain Rec. President.

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