

# 2002 - A review in words and photos (continued from page 1)

The Lake-Lehman School District declined an opportunity to become an approved provider of tutoring, citing concerns that the \$500 vouchers provided to families to pay for services might not be collected.

**February 21** — Rev. Andrew Pillarella and his wife, Edith, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. The Pillarellas came to the Back Mountain in 1962 when he was asked to organize a new Presbyterian church, now Trinity Presbyterian.

The Jackson Township Planning Commission honored long-time members William Conyngham and Beatrice Ray. Ray joined the commission in 1973, and Conyngham came on board in 1975.

Kingston Township supervisors voted 4-1 to pass an ordinance that would waive building fees for churches in the township.

**February 28** — Police made 10 arrests and expected more in a rash of daylight burglaries. As many as 60 burglaries throughout the area may be connected.

The Lake-Lehman Band Boosters were making progress in their efforts to convince the school board that part-time directors were needed for the Indoor Colorguard and Indoor Percussion groups. But the band director position remained open after Edward Richards stepped down.

A Penn State Wilkes-Barre student was killed when his car left Old Route 115 near the campus and struck a tree.

**March 7** — Bernard Banks Jr. was to be honored with the Distinguished Citizen Award at the 19th annual Friends of Scouting dinner. Banks has been involved with Boy Scouts since he joined as a youth in 1946, and has served as president of the local Scout board twice.

Scott Davis was promoted to sergeant of the Jackson Township Police Department. The new position replaces the former assistant police chief slot.

After much discussion, the Lake-Lehman School Board voted to authorize the district architect to proceed with drawings and specifications for reconstruction of athletic fields, reconstruction of bleachers and construction of a new pressbox, fieldhouse and access road.

**March 14** — A team of five Dallas High School seniors placed third in the state in the LifeSmarts competition, which tests students' ability to deal with an array of consumer awareness questions.

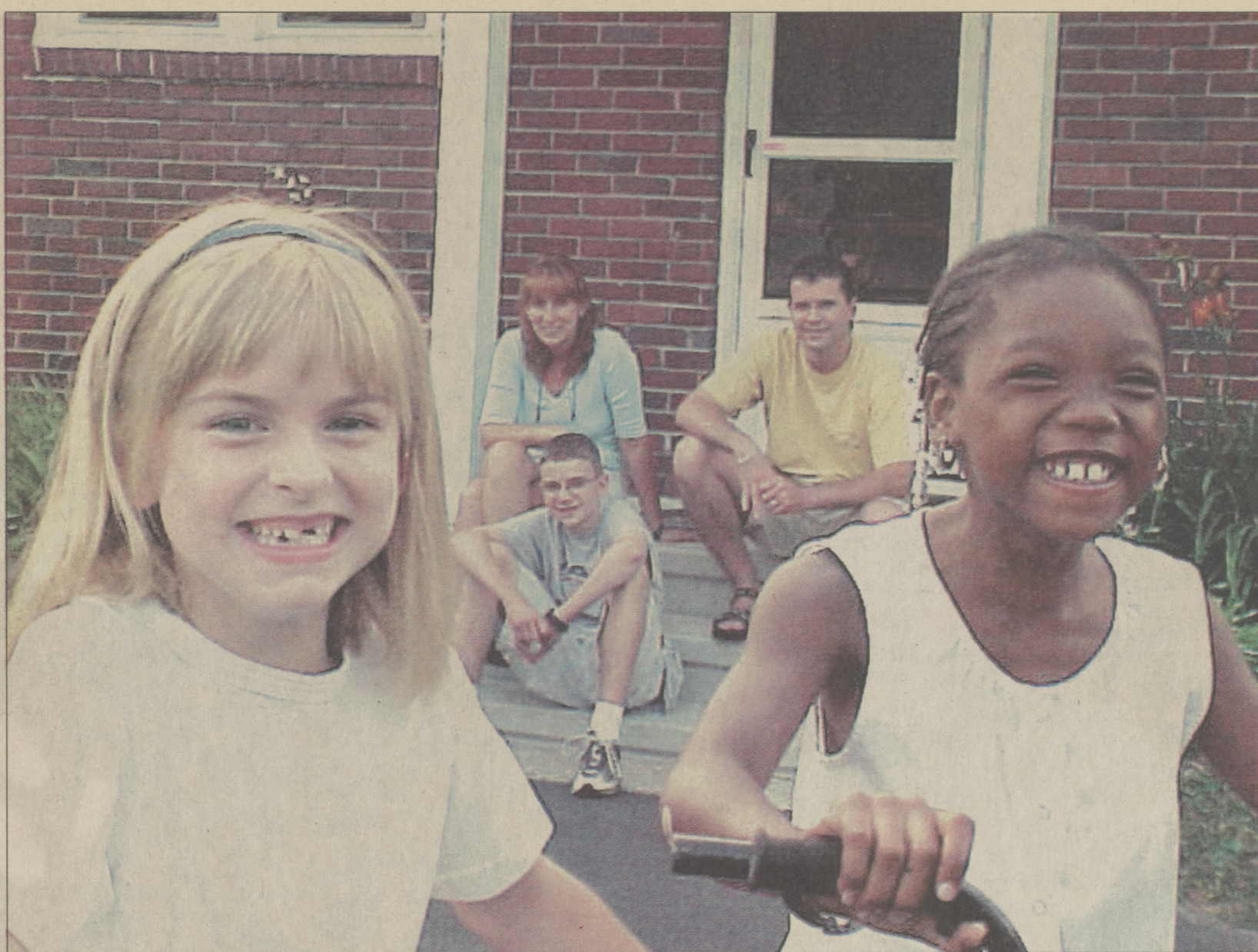
Peter Yurchison, 17, earned his private pilot license. The Dallas High School junior now had his sights set on earning his instrument rating, allowing him to fly in fog and other difficult weather conditions.

Bill Gilbertson's 1978 Chevy Impala was no match for a large tree that fell on it during an overnight wind storm.

**March 21** — Lake-Lehman teachers picketed before a school board meeting to protest the lack of a new salary contract. Negotiations have been going on for 15 months.

Kingston Township mourned the passing within a week of two long-time supervisors. Herbert Hill had served for 27 consecutive years, and William Tippett for 16.

Twelve Gate of Heaven School



July 18 - Jenna Moskaluk and Dezhannae Gillett rode bikes at the Moskaluk home while Dezhannae spent a few weeks in the Back Mountain courtesy of the Fresh Air Fund.

students went to the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition, and every one of them came back with a first prize, earning the school an award as the small school with the highest percentage of first place winners.

**March 28** — The Dallas Rotary Club celebrated its 75th year of service with a gala Charter Night dinner. In addition to its local charitable work, the local club is the originator of the Rotary International Youth Exchange Program, started by Dr. Les Jordan.

Two men from Lackawanna County led local police on an eight-hour chase through the Back Mountain before being caught. They were spotted leaving Lehman Power Equipment early in the morning and shortly after Lehman Township officer Damian Hoover gave chase, crashed their vehicle. The men then fled on foot, eventually being run down in Kingston Township.

**April 4** — Kingston Township supervisors pledged to take "curative action" in the appointment of two replacements to the board, which was left with less than a majority of members after two supervisors died and another resigned. John Versari and Cornelius Allen were appointed to the board March 22 at a meeting in which no discussion took place. Supervisor Paul Sabol said that he, Supervisor J. Carl Goodwin and Solicitor Benjamin Jones III had met prior to that meeting to make the selections, which appeared to violate state law.

Eric Danko, a student at Dallas Middle School, was preparing to compete in the state level of the National Geography Bee. He was the only student from this

area to qualify.

The Lake-Lehman School Board voted to hire a second full-time music teacher, who would also be director for the marching band.

**April 11** — Developers asked for a change in zoning on 34 acres along Rt. 309 in Dallas Township, proposing to build townhouses on some of it, with the possibility of commercial development as well.

Dallas school officials looked forward to the completion of the first phase of the middle school construction project. Once finished, the front administration areas and second-floor classrooms will be available for occupancy.

**April 18** — John Halbing said he was "blindsided" by criticism of his plan to develop 44 home sites off Manor Drive in Kingston Township. The board of supervisors recommended denial of his application for Windsor Farms, citing concerns about the water supply and emergency access.

The Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board appointed a fact-finder to help settle the contract dispute between the Lake-Lehman School Board and the teachers' union.

Spiraling health insurance costs led the list of items that put the preliminary Lake-Lehman budget \$1 million in the hole. The other big item was a hike in the district's contribution to the teachers' pension fund.

**April 25** — Cheryl Oster was named the top adult learner in the College Misericordia Expressway Registered Nursing program. She became pregnant after registering, but still managed to make it to every class and earn a 4.0 grade point average while holding down a full-time job.

Chester Kunigonis held out hope that Dallas Borough would not abandon Italian Road, which runs right by his home on Reservoir Road. Italian Road had been closed since a flood in 1972 washed out a bridge connecting it to Fern Ridge Road in Lehman Township.

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church was finalizing plans for the 50th annual Antique Show and Sale.

**May 2** — The Pump and Pantry convenience store and gas station in Dallas closed its doors, the second gas station to do so in recent weeks. Scott Quigg, president of the chain, blamed the entrance of the Sheetz chain into the area. The Sunoco station in the center of Dallas closed a few weeks ago.

Shavertown United Methodist Church is dedicating a new organ, replacing one that expired. After hearing the sounds from a loaner last Easter, the congregation decided to replace the old one, not repair it, said organist Deb Kelleher.

Chris Yankovich was appointed to fill out the roster of the Kingston Township Board of Supervisors. Yankovich listed land development and water supplies as important issues.

**May 9** — Rich Butcofski, a graduate of Dallas High School, earned a place on the roster of the new Wilkes-Barre Pioneers arena football team.

By a bare majority vote, the Lake-Lehman School Board okayed the restoration and construction project on athletic fields to move ahead.

Jackson Township supervisors were reviewing payment of about \$71,000 in salary and benefits to the township's secretary and assistant secretary last year.

**May 16** — The assistant township manager for Kingston Township filed a complaint against the supervisors alleging she was a victim of gender discrimination. Kathleen Sebastian contended she was passed over for the manager's job because of

unlawful concerns related to her gender.

Back Mountain highways got a little safer for emergency vehicles with the installation of an emergency traffic signal system, which allows drivers of police cars, fire trucks and ambulances to control signals as they approach.

Kingston Township supervisors voted to waive the requirement for fire hydrants in two proposed subdivisions. Supervisor J. Carl Goodwin and many township residents opposed the waivers.

**May 23** — Angelo Georgetti, a Lake-Lehman junior, responded to personal tragedy by helping others. His senior project is a golf tournament that will raise funds to purchase an automated external defibrillator for the Lehman Ambulance Company.

The Lake-Lehman School District planned to buy a 27.5-acre property behind the high school. It will be used for practice athletic fields and to accommodate future growth.

Katelynn Peters, an eighth grader at Dallas Middle School, won first place in a competition sponsored by Writing! magazine. "The judge told me that her entry was head and shoulders over all the other essays," said Lisa Niewinski, Katelynn's English teacher.

**May 30** — State officials announced steps to make Route 118 safer, including the installation of reflectors and "road snaps," which alert drivers they have drifted out of their lane.

Kingston Township supervisors voted unanimously to reject the preliminary subdivision plan for Windsor Farms, off Manor Drive, citing concerns about water supplies and emergency access.

The state-appointed fact finder will deliver his recommendation to the school board and teacher's union, and the two sides will have 10 days in which to respond. The old contract expired in August, 2001.

**June 6** — More than 100 Back Mountain residents turned out for the first public meeting of the "Our Dallas - Today and Tomorrow" visioning project. They shared ideas for improving life in the region, dealing with subjects such as traffic, development and the business community.

Round-the-clock activity at American Asphalt was blamed on the state's aggressive timetable for completion of repairs to Mundy Street in Wilkes-Barre, for which the company has the contract.

School taxes in the Dallas district will go up 8 mills, the third consecutive increase, if the preliminary budget passes as it stands.

John and Carol Oliver, who met 36 years ago as new teachers at Lake-Lehman High School, retired together.

Ground was broken for the expansion of the education building at Trucksville United Methodist Church. Donations to the project reached \$1.7 million.

**June 13** — John Yamrick, a Lake-Lehman junior, won first place in the junior division of the 54th Luzerne County Council of Teachers of Mathematics contest. The victory includes a full scholarship to Wilkes University.

Responding to rejection of his development plan, John Halbing said he would buy the Sunrise

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## Box wins modeling title

Adrienne Michelle Box of Shavertown, recently won the title of "Miss Petite Star", in the "Stars On The Rise" competition at the Chateau Resort in Tannersville. She won this title in the 7-9 year-old modeling division, placing first in the formal wear, sportswear and novelty/costume categories, and third place in the swimwear category.

Adrienne is a fourth grade student at Dallas Elementary School and studies modeling under Donna John.

She is the daughter of Jeff and Maire Box of Shavertown, Kingston Township and has a brother, Christopher. Adrienne is the granddaughter of Hillar and Hella Anton of Houston, Texas, and Kenneth and Jean Box of Honesdale.



## Lake Township recycling

The voluntary recycling drop-off center for Lake Township will be accepting items on the second Saturday of each month, the next opening will be Jan. 11 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the township building on Rt. 29. The following items may be dropped off: aluminum and bi-metal cans, clear, brown and green glass, plastic #1 and #2 only. No motor oil containers or scrap aluminum can be accepted, this month newspaper will be collected at the same time. Pack papers tight in paper bags with the glossy inserts removed. The center asks that persons do not drop off items before it opens.

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