



THE DALLAS POST

Vol. 114 No. 6

50 Cents

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS



SPORTS

Mountaineers take two from Black Knights. Pg 9.



SCHOOL

Wycallis students meet reading challenge. Pg 12.



THE WINNERS ARE

See page 3 for the results of Pizza Wars.



POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

Bob Jones, who owns the Sunoco gas station on Route 118 in Lehman, stood with the security camera he purchased when he found out the Lehman Township police department would probably be cut.

Shift in police coverage brings concerns

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

LEHMAN TWP. — The state police started covering Lehman Township five nights a week since February 1. One business owner in the area says two robberies in the last six months have him concerned that the state police won't be able to offer the same level of service as the local department.

"Some days we could respond and it could take two minutes. Another day it could take 30 minutes."

Trooper Tom Kelly
Community Relations Officer, State Police Troop P, Wyoming

Due to what they say are budget constraints, the Lehman Township Board of Supervisors cut the police department back

by one full-time position. Starting January 1, the police department began using state police coverage two nights a week. The

coverage is expected to stay at five nights a week, indefinitely.

"We got robbed twice in two weeks; we're very concerned, very concerned," said Bob Jones, the owner of the Sunoco gas station on Route 118, about the cutbacks. He said he is worried about how safe his business is.

See LEHMAN POLICE, pg 8

Family-owned businesses help other families in need

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

Local businesses have stepped up to support one of the region's oldest service organizations.

"When the Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley (SAWW) put out the call for donations, many of the family-owned businesses in the Back Mountain responded with generosity and enthusiasm," said Catherine Gourley, publicity chairperson for their Mardi Gras benefit dinner dance and silent auction.

This is the first time this event has been held, and the association hopes to raise awareness of the work it does and also raise \$10,000 to support its programs, Gourley said.

To date, the merchants of the Back Mountain have donated more than \$6,000 in gifts to the silent auction portion of the evening. Donors include Valentine's Jewelry, the Blue Hydrangea Gift Shoppe, Outrageous, Hillside Farms Dairy, Back Mountain Feed and Seed, Rave's Garden Center, Thomas Market, Humphrey's Shoe Store and Children's Apparel, Hoss's Garden Hut, Cook's Pharmacy, Salon Nouveau, and Sew Fine Fabrics and Draperies. In keeping with the spirit of family, most of the items are family oriented such as a vacation, a travel case, toys, games, furniture,

Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley
Mardi Gras Benefit Dinner Dance and Silent Auction
Sat., March 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Waterfront Banquet Center
River St., Plains.
\$50 per person
Reservations by Feb. 21
Call 823-5144, ext. 320

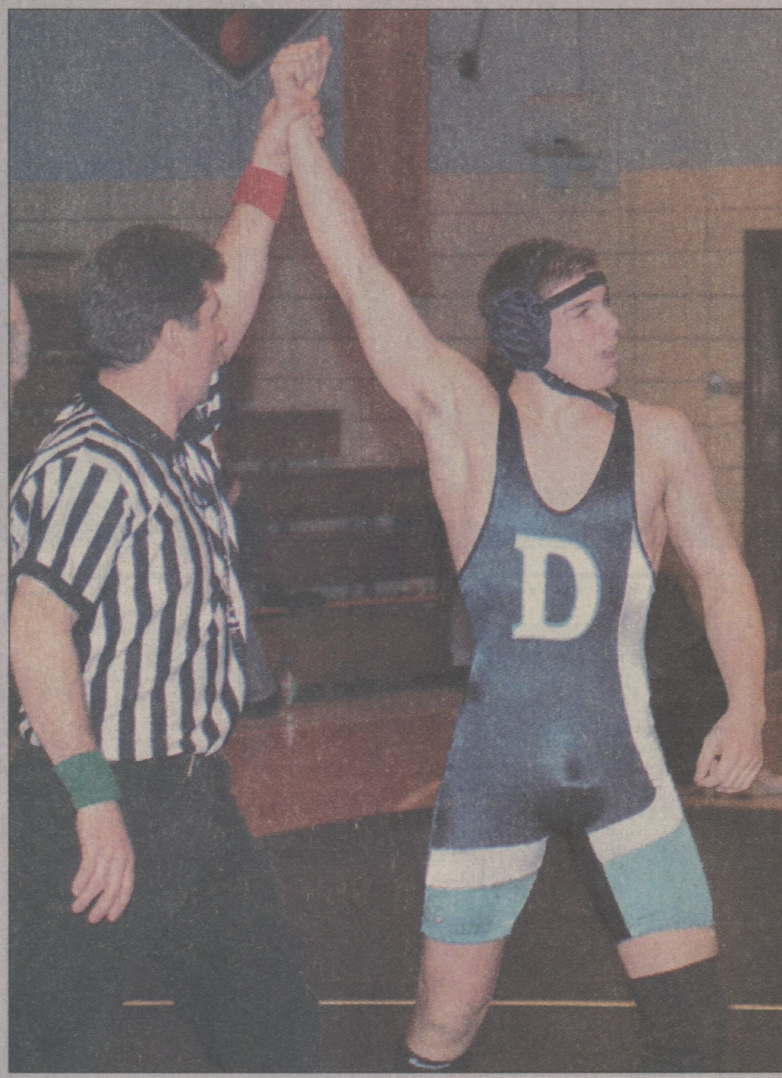
an ice cream party, an Adirondack throw, garden tools, and gift certificates.

"As a member of the Junior League, I was a volunteer at Family Services years ago," said Elva Valentine of Valentine's Jewelry in Dallas. "I'm happy to be involved once again to help with their important work."

The Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley, a non-profit organization, has responded to the needs of families in Luzerne and Wyoming counties since its founding in 1896. Through the leadership of its current Executive Director, Dr. Dennis Gourley of Dallas, the association provides free primary information and referral resource assistance through their 24 hour Help Line, and have answered more than 1.4 million calls during the last 30 years.

The Help Line provides access to community social services

See FAMILY SERVICE, pg 3



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Century mark

Referee Dwight Barbacci raised Perry Coolbaugh's arm in victory Saturday. It was Coolbaugh's 100th win as a member of the Dallas High School team; he is the first to reach the milestone in the history of the program. Additional photo on sports page.

More openness in elementary school planning called for

Dallas considers 'realignment' of Wycallis, Dallas El

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS — Possible realignment of the grade schools in the Dallas School District was the concern of several parents at Monday night's school board meeting. One parent said confirmation of a task force looking into the possibility left him wondering if changes were already decided.

Demetrius Fannick, parent of a child who attends Wycallis Elementary, said rumors about

the possible rearrangement of what grades are taught in which buildings have been circulating, possibly since Wycallis was built. "Now it actually seems like if there's a task force, this is something that is seriously being considered," he said.

Fannick asked about the status of the reorganization, if it was to the point of voting on, or if it is still being considered. "We're concerned and don't know who to address," said Fannick.

"The parent advisory board has not made their report to the board so we're in limbo as much as you," responded Ernest Ashbridge, board president.

Gilbert Griffiths, Superintendent

See ELEMENTARIES, pg 3

More Harveys Lake cops found to lack credentials

Staff reports

HARVEYS LAKE — Borough officials are sorting out the impact of Sunday's disclosure that three former part-time police officers were not certified to work in the borough.

The three were state-trained and once certified as police officers in other municipalities, Mayor Richard Boice said, but not certified as Harveys Lake officers.

Boice said he didn't think any arrests or criminal proceedings would be endangered by the discovery, but needs to check with county prosecutors to be sure. He didn't minimize the importance of local certification, though, saying the matter "is very important, without a doubt."

According to Pennsylvania law, a police officer must become recertified every time he takes a job with a new department — a matter of the officer mailing a form to the state's Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission.

The commission's 15-person staff keeps track of all of the commonwealth's police officers from their Hershey office, making sure each officer is properly certified and up to date on CPR, first aid and other training. The initial training sessions, which take 14 to 16 weeks to complete, are free. Each department sets its own policy on whether the officer is paid for his time.

When first taking the training, the officer completes a form that includes his or her Social Security number.

See HL COPS, pg 8

Driver in fatal crash fined \$114

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. — A red light violation was recently filed against Steven Kopic in the December 6 accident that left one person dead and another hospitalized for over a month.

According District Justice James Tupper, Kopic pled guilty and paid a fine of \$114 on January 27.

Edward Kupstas, 81, of Dallas, was killed when Kopic, 45, ran the red light at the intersection of Route 309 and West Franklin St. striking the vehicle carrying Kupstas and his wife Lillian. Edward Kupstas was pronounced dead at the scene by the county coroner. Lillian Kupstas was flown to Community Medical Center, Scranton, where, according to her family, she was hospitalized for nearly a month. She was released from the John Heinz Institute in Wilkes-Barre last week.

James Balavage, police chief for Kingston Township, said the red light violation was filed following investigations conducted by both the state police and Luzerne County District Attorney.

See FATAL CRASH, pg 3

INDEX

16 Pages, 2 Sections

- Calendar.....16
- Classified.....13-15
- Crossword.....10
- Editorials.....6
- Obituaries.....2
- School.....12
- Sports.....9-11

CALL 675-5211
FOR HOME DELIVERY,
NEWS OR ADVERTISING
E-mail: dallaspost@leader.net

The Dallas Post
Please enclose this label with any address changes,
and mail to The Dallas Post P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612-0366