

# THE DALLAS POST

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



### SPORTS

Junior High wrestling tournament at Lehman. Pg 9.



### SCHOOL

Dallas High names Students of the Quarter. Pg 11.



### COMMUNITY

Dallas Fire & Ambulance installs officers. Pg 5.

## Business leaders fear impact of job losses

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**BACK MOUNTAIN** — Local business leaders are concerned that decreases in employment will hurt the stores, restaurants and shops that serve the Back Mountain.

In the last three years alone several hundred jobs have either been eliminated or moved out of the region, with the latest blow the announced closing of Energy Converters (Encon) in Dallas next month.

With Encon closing in March, Epix Internet Services and Commonwealth Telephone having moved out in 2000, some Back Mountain business owners say the changing number of companies in the area has them worried about the long-term health of the region.

Remaining large businesses say they are stable, but a series of realignments and layoffs have removed hundreds of jobs from the Back Mountain.

Lynn Banta, current president of the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association and owner of the Twin Stacks Center, says while the

See BUSINESS, pg 7

## Peruginos have spent seven decades together

By M.B. GILLIGAN  
Post Correspondent

**DALLAS TWP.** — A local couple's marriage has bridged the Atlantic, and the decades.

Mr. and Mrs. John Perugino, of Overbrook Estates in Dallas, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on February 11.

The couple met in Calabria, Italy as young teenagers. "I was walking back to the town from the country and he and his brother were walking behind me on the road," said Victoria Perugino. "I stopped to let the funeral procession of a rich man go by and he caught up to me. I heard that after that he was looking for me all the time."

Indeed, he was and after a few years of just watching for each other around their town, John Perugino went to visit

See PERUGINOS, pg 3

## L-L will shun gas station that pays no taxes

By KALEN CHURCHER  
For The Dallas Post

**LEHMAN TWP.** — Members of the Lake-Lehman School Board agreed Tuesday night to have the district stop patronizing the Sunoco gas station on state Route 118 because it does not pay taxes to the School District.

"They're making a profit off of the business and we're paying for it," said member Chuck Boytin.

According to Times Leader records, the gas station's assessment dropped from \$8,900 to \$1 in 1996 due to an underground storage tank leak in the early 1990s. At that assessment, the business pays 31 cents per year in

See LAKE-LEHMAN, pg 3



POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

## Down the tube

Max Strasser, 17, spent a good part of President's Day tubing with friends at the Kingston Township Recreation Park. They said their only disappointment was that the snow didn't arrive on a school day. More storm photos on page 4.

## Wycallis school featured in architecture mag

By M.B. GILLIGAN  
Post Correspondent

The Gerald J. Wycallis Elementary School has been included in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) recently published book, "Education Facilities."

The award-winning building was designed by Quad Three Group, Inc. of Wilkes-Barre. "It is a real thrill to have been recognized on this high level," said Leo Karasinski, of Dallas, who was the Quad Three partner in charge of design for Wycallis. "We are with an elite group with this school. I know that not a lot of schools in the country get this level of recognition."

The Wycallis Elementary School, which opened in 1999, was built as a K-5 school to replace the aging Westmoreland Elementary School in Kingston Township. The planners sought input from many avenues in the design phase, including teachers and administrators.

Throughout the process, designer's were encouraged to create a building with the children in mind.

"I gave my employees a \$5 budget to

See WYCALLIS, pg 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF QUAD THREE GROUP INC.

Designers used a Lincoln Log theme for the cafeteria wall in the Wycallis Elementary School.

## Yamrick is Merit finalist

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK  
Post Correspondent

**LEHMAN TWP.** — Nature, or nurture? John Yamrick's astounding academic successes might have been the result of unconventional childhood experiences. Or maybe he's just a gifted student.

The Lake-Lehman High School senior, at 17, is a National Merit Scholarship finalist. Based on his junior year scores of 79 (verbal), 75 (math), and 72 (written) on the PSATs, he, along with 15,000 other finalists (less than 1 percent of the seniors who took the PSAT), will compete for cash scholarships, and some 8,000 will win. His combined SAT scores are 1510 and his math score was a perfect 800. Not bad for a young man who spent five critical years of his school life in Russia.

"Russia only hurt my English skills," said Yamrick, who still struggles to get "up to speed." The family spent the years in which John attended fifth through ninth grade in Russia as missionaries. But while his English suffered, he figures the Russian educational system's math program helped propel him to greater achievement. He studied algebra and geometry in fifth grade, biology in sixth, physics in seventh, and in eighth grade Russian children take chemistry.

"I think because I struggled with the Russian language so much, math became the one thing I could do well," John said. "I also tried to read any English books I could get my hands on. There weren't too many. It was a unique experience."

See SCHOLAR, pg 3



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

John Yamrick, a Lake-Lehman High School senior, is a National Merit Scholarship finalist.

## Dallas El would be K-3 under plan, 4-5 at Wycallis

Recommendation will be made March 3

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** — A task force looking into realignment plans for the Dallas elementary schools will recommend an arrangement that would make the neighborhood school concept a thing of the past in the district.

Instead, all of the district's kindergarten through third grade students would go to the present Dallas Elementary building, and all fourth and fifth graders would attend Wycallis, a building designed just five years ago to replace the former Westmoreland Elementary School in Trucksville.

Prompted by what the district says is increased enrollment, upcoming mandates, and parent interest, the district put together a task force composed of parents, teachers and members of the community to look into changing the configuration of what grades are in which schools. The group, which has been meeting since October, will present its recommendation at the March 3 meeting of the school board.

Jane Ketchner, a parent on the task force, said participants were almost evenly split on the realignment question, saying "there are teachers and parents that are against it, there are also teachers that are very happy about it."

Ketchner said the consensus was reached through discussion rather than by a vote. "We didn't actually vote, I don't think it would have made much of a difference, but I think it would have been close," she said.

See SCHOOLS, pg 8

### INDEX

16 Pages, 2 Sections

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

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