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



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Gymnasts bring home medals. Pg 9.



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Back Mountain Food Pantry expands board of directors. Pg 4.

On brink of war, some still seek peace

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

Peace on earth made a shaky, youthful start last Sunday night in the Back Mountain. A Sunday evening candlelight service held by the confirmation class of St. Therese's Church, Shavertown attracted more than 100 participants and their families. As they struggled to keep candles lit, the children were asked to pray for people they didn't know who might be affected by a war in the Middle East.

An ecumenical youth peace service is planned for Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m. at the Shavertown United Methodist Church, Pioneer Avenue.

Interviews at the Daddow-Issacs American Legion Post 672 in Dallas turned up other views.

Volunteer firefighter and EMT Cathy Moore of Dallas isn't so sure peace is the answer. Deeply affected by the events of 9/11, she was in complete agreement with President Bush after his speech Tuesday night. "If we do nothing we'll have more of September 11," she said. "He's not going to stop, so let's hope for minimal loss and accomplish the job."

Jim Yascur, a Coast Guard veteran from Huntsville, completely supports the President too. "In boot camp you learn about germ and poison gas warfare and have to wear masks. People don't realize there are no antidotes for some of these things."

See WAR, pg 5



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Diane Fraim, right, lit her mother Amanda's candle at a service Sunday night at St. Therese's Church. Many Back Mountain residents have been opponents of war with Iraq. Others support the President's action.

Employees charge ENCON ducking severance

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS — Workers at soon-to-close Energy Converters, (ENCON) say the company hasn't made good on promises — depriving several out of their severance pay. The former controller for the company is considering a lawsuit to recover what he says he is owed.

Employees say contradicting past precedent and verbal understandings, the company stopped providing severance for those who found work in recent months.

After the December 15 announcement that layoffs were anticipated to begin in two months, the company was hit with an unusually high number of orders and layoffs did not materialize. As a result, several long-time employees who had volunteered to be let go, and had found other work, lost thousands of dollars in severance pay.

According to Bernie Lambert, Mark Love, Ken Socash, the former controller and other current and former employees, ENCON management told employees in a meeting December 15 that the plant was closing in March, with layoffs scheduled to begin February 15. The employees said they were urged to start looking for work and charge they were misled about severance availability. (Under the ENCON Severance Pay Plan, severance is equal to one base week of pay, plus one prorated week for each year of service.)

In other layoffs over the last year, those who volunteered to be laid off received severance pay. Employees say based on the experience of those previous employees and coupled with statements made by management during

See ENCON, pg 8

Effort made to replace empty gas station with roundabout

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS — An effort is underway to acquire the closed Sunoco gas station in the center of Dallas Borough.

Community leaders think putting a roundabout traffic pattern in its place may be the answer to the traffic woes dividing Dallas Borough's downtown. But, some say, more research is needed.

"I am definitely for it," said Kathy

Kupstas, Dallas Borough Council President. "We're really constrained. It would definitely be an answer to the clog of traffic."

Many think it could be an attractive answer to the troubled area at the heart of downtown Dallas, where five roads intersect and traffic backups are common. However, there are concerns about whether the roundabout will address all the issues Dallas is grappling with.

The idea for the roundabout came

from Chuck Mattei, District Engineer for the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Mattei suggested the idea as an ideal way to solve the traffic issues at the intersection, noting that it would slow traffic, and at the same time keep it constantly moving. He also said PennDOT was actively looking for a place to put a roundabout in the northeastern Pennsylvania region.

Joe Moskovitz, Dallas Borough Manager, said PennDOT has since pro-

duced a preliminary engineering draft for the idea. He said Mattei has "unofficially" given the time line of two years to implement the project, if approved.

"Where we left it is to take it back to the engineers (at PennDOT) to see where the most effective positioning is," said Moskovitz.

The acquisition of the Sunoco station is essential to provide enough room for a roundabout in the intersection. Ac-

See ROUNDABOUT, pg 5

Harveys Lake residents turn out for chief

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — About 30 people showed up at Tuesday night's borough council meeting, many to request Jeff Butler be reinstated as police chief.

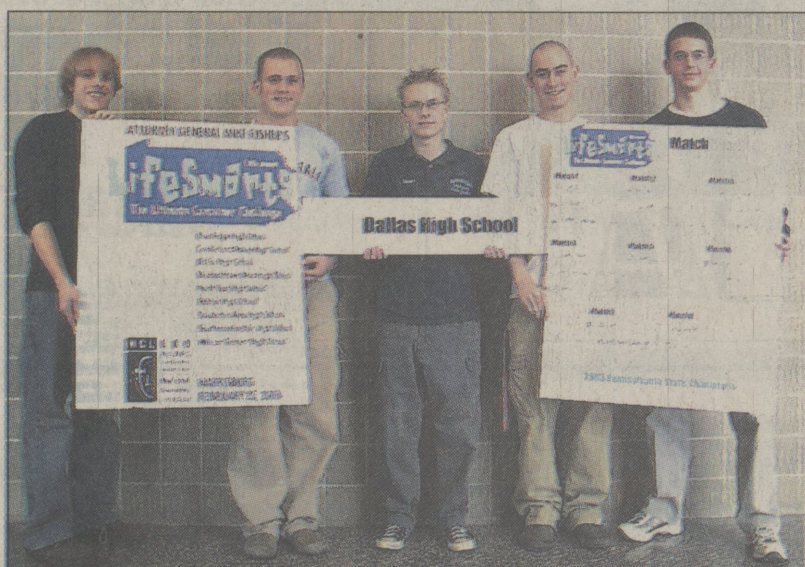
Mayor Richard Boice said "The police department is doing very well under the current circumstances," and he reported former chief Butler is currently the "officer in charge."

Butler resigned last month amid a controversy regarding his mishandling of administrative duties that left several officers uncertified.

After the floor was opened to comments from the public, a barrage of statements in favor of Butler and his reinstatement were made.

"Making a mistake does not make a person bad, nor does it make him stupid. Please reconsider reinstating Jeff Butler

See CHIEF, pg 8



POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

The Dallas LifeSmarts team. From left: John Beberus, Dan Smith, Steve Losh, Robert Murphy and Michael Yenason.

Common sense wins out

Dallas LifeSmarts team headed to nationals

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS — Five seniors from Dallas High School will represent the region and the state when they compete in the national LifeSmarts competition in

April. They're not worried, though, they're just enjoying the ride.

Last year, the Dallas team placed third in the state competition that tests consumer knowledge. This year's team won states and is going to Florida April 26-29 to compete against some 40 other teams from across the country.

See LIFESMARTS, pg 7

Zone change paves way for adult community

By SCOTT VINNACOMBE II
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. — Despite protests against it, the township supervisors voted 2-1 Monday night to allow rezoning of an approximately 40-acre site along Route 415 so it could be used for senior citizen housing.

Richard Angelicola intends to purchase the property and construct a facility with up to 125 independent living units, walking trails, a swimming pool, tennis courts and a 30-bed assisted living facility. Fourteen acres are wetlands, and would be left open.

The board voted to allow the change from A-1, Agricultural, to R-3, Multifamily Residential, arguing that an alternative, single-family homes, would put a greater strain on resources.

Chairman David Sutton said he believed the facility was something the area really needed and that any zoning hearing usually brings

out the people who are against whatever development has been proposed. He also said the only way all of the township residents' concerns could be completely guaranteed would be for someone to "buy up all the land around them and keep it completely clear."

A large number of township residents attended the zoning hearing that took place prior to the supervisors meeting to state their opinions on the complex and most were against it. They cited as reasons a loss of privacy, danger to water wells, traffic and the destruction of environmental scenery and wildlife habitat.

Angelicola and his attorney said they intend to preserve the wildlife areas for walking tours and bird-watching clubs and have no desire to see any destruction of the natural habitats.

Construction is likely to begin around July 1 if An-

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