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



SPORTS

Spring seasons winding down. Pg 11.



SCHOOL

Lake-Lehman student again wins math competition. Pg 15.



COMMUNITY

Fulton Charity Classic raises funds for health. Pg 13.

Local hero welcomed home

Chris Yanik: Son, rother, soldier, hero

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

DALLAS — The world witnessed the dramatic rescue and return of Private First Class Jessica Lynch from capture in Iraq, but what we didn't know at the time, was that one of our own Back Mountain young people was part of the successful mission that brought her home.

Chris Yanik, a Specialist E4 machine gunner with the 75th Army Ranger Regiment, Special Operations Unit, participated in the nighttime raid on a hospital in Iraq where Lynch was being held captive.

"Our commander told us who we were going in for," said Yanik, one of the nine children of Glenn and Marianne Yanik. Yanik smiled as his eyes wandered across the room to where several children of varying ages were standing and talking. "I have four sisters and four brothers, and my first thought was that I would want someone to rescue one of them if they were in trouble, and I know they are happy

to see me come home safely. I was proud to be a part of the rescue and proud to serve my country. Getting her out of there was a real positive turning point for our morale."

The Yaniks wanted to share their joy in their oldest son with everyone they knew. They hastily put together a welcome home and birthday party for Chris May 3 at the Franklin Township Fire Hall. More than 200 family members, friends, neighbors and other guests flooded the hall to welcome home the hero they had worried about for so many weeks. The room was

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Glenn and Marianne Yanik, with Chris and six of their other eight children ranging in ages from 5 to 25. Seated, left: Robbie, Moira, Annie. Standing, left: Frank, Glenn, Chris, Marianne, John, Julie. Joe and Mary Yanik were unavailable for the photo.

POST PHOTO/
SANDY PEOPLES

Mailman has 30-year love affair with job, customers

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS — Dan Jones has been delivering mail on Main Street in Dallas Borough for 30 years. Not an easy feat with the harsh weather, many hills and steps, say co-workers.

But Jones takes it all in stride: "I enjoy it, I like the outdoors and I meet different people every day."

Jones was honored last week with the 30-year service award. Co-workers, many like friends after almost a lifetime of working together, honored him with a luncheon.

Ask some of his customers how they feel about him and they will tell you things like: "He's been our mail carrier as long as I can remember" and, "We just love our mail carrier."

Jones started with the Dallas Borough Post Office in 1973, when uniforms had pony express insignia and instead of canvas mail bags, "mailmen" carried heavy leather satchels. There was also less mail to carry. Since then, the number of routes in the borough has exactly doubled.

He said after 30 years of delivering mail to residents and businesses on Main Street, at area shopping centers and in Old Goss Manor, his relationship with his customers is more than pedestrian.

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POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

After thirty years with the Dallas Post Office, mail carrier Dan Jones' customers have grown quite attached to him. Last week, Polly Bobersky and Carol Sweeney at Fino's Pharmacy showed their affection.

Rev. Michael Bealla comes home for new assignment

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

TRUCKSVILLE — "There's something special about coming home," said Rev. Michael Bealla, the new pastor at Trucksville United Methodist Church.

"It's great to be back where we know so many people. This is a pretty area and life is easier and better when you go to a new church but already know a lot of the people."

Bealla has been in the ministry for more than 27 years, and on March 1, he and his family returned to the Back Mountain. Fifteen of those years were spent in Back Mountain churches, another seven years were spent in other churches in Luzerne and Wyoming counties, and another five years in

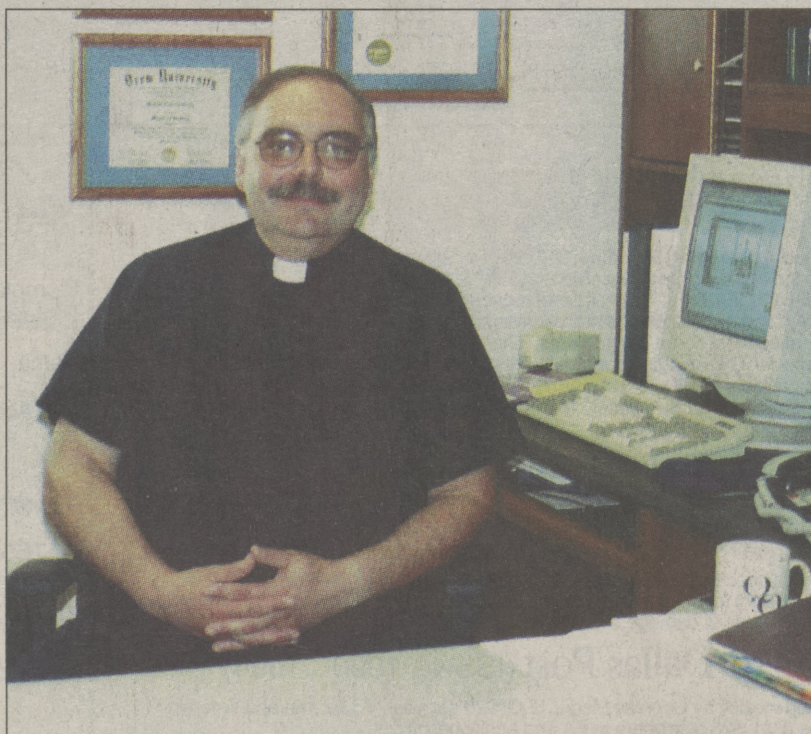
Endwell, New York.

When he was younger, the future minister had his eyes turned heavenward, but for a different reason.

"I wanted to be an astronomer," Bealla said, "so I went to Penn State, Lehman campus, to major in mechanical engineering. I became active in my local church and heard the call to be a pastor as I watched the clergy members I worked with. I too had a deep desire to help people."

Bealla's early interest in engineering has no doubt helped him in his career as a pastor. "I have built something in varying degrees everywhere I have served from small additions to parsonages and sanctuaries," he

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POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

Rev. Michael Bealla in his office at Trucksville United Methodist Church. He served the Dallas United Methodist Church for many years earlier in his career.

Overflow fix will take time, DEP says

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) said a recent complaint about raw sewage spewing out of manholes on the road that circles Harveys Lake is the fourth since 1994.

After a visit to Lakeside Drive to investigate, water quality specialists have determined the complaint to be accurate, putting the Harveys Lake Municipal Authority in violation of clean streams laws.

"If they didn't see it overflowing, they saw the residue which is pretty tell-tale," said Mark

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Kingston Twp. Supervisors

Growth, safety top candidate agenda

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. — Kingston Township has had its share of ups and downs over the last year. It lost three of its five supervisors in spring 2002 and ended the year \$115,000 in the hole — the largest deficit in township history.

The turmoil has sparked interest in elected office, and the names of seven Republicans and one Democrat will appear on the May primary ballot, vying for three supervisor positions and running on platforms of more fiscal responsibility and

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