

THE DALLAS POST

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50 Cents

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



SPORTS

Cup presentation today. Pg 9.



SCHOOL

L-J students earn royal treatment. Pg 11.



COMMUNITY

Boat show this weekend at Harveys Lake. Pg 16.



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Swingin' in the rain. Dallas Color Guard members Christie Williams, left, and Meredith Davis led the band at Monday's Memorial Day parade in Dallas. Rain didn't stop spectators and participants from taking the time to honor America's war dead. More photos on page 6.

Rains don't stop Memorial Day parade in Dallas

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS — The steady rain didn't dampen anyone's spirits during Monday morning's Memorial Day parade. Many spectators said a heightened sense of patriotism was responsible for the large turnout despite the less than favorable conditions.

"I'm surprised by all the people here," said first-time parade-goer Michelle Clate.

Sally Mock, who has been attending the parade for years, said the number of people present was more than she ever expected. "Actually, this is probably bigger than last year's," she said.

As parade participants — from

"People are starting to realize more and more what freedom is all about."

Jack Dodson
Chief, Kunkle Fire Department

Cub Scouts to the Dallas Marching Band — readied themselves for the annual march down Memorial Highway, many discussed the nature of this year's participation.

"I think ever since 9/11, there's more support — more people are coming out," said Jack Dodson, Chief of the Kunkle Fire Department.

"I think the support for the U.S. military is growing incredibly. People are starting to realize

more and more what freedom is all about," he said.

Bill Kupstas, American Legion Commander at the Daddow-Isaacs Post 672, which sponsors the parade, said a little after 8 a.m. he called Dallas High School intending to cancel the marching band, due to the inclement weather. But, "they were already on their way," he said.

"The young people are more involved now," said Tom Reese,

American Legion Adjutant.

"There's a lot more media attention given to the military. My wife's a teacher and (she said) even the kids are talking about it (the military) more than usual," said Kupstas.

Cub Scouts from around the Back Mountain seemed particularly unaffected by the rain as they waited for their turn to march. One parent jokingly said that the scouts favorite part of the parade just may end up to be splashing in the puddles.

"This is the first time they've been in a parade. For an 8-year-old, that's a pretty big deal," said Robin Evans of Pack 281, scout Tyler Evan's mom.

See PARADE, pg 6

Lake-Lehman budget projects income declines

By TARA BENNINGER
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. — As usual the May Lake-Lehman School Board meeting began with the pledge and a moment of silence. But that silence did not last long, as the board dove into several topics.

The board rejected the proposed tentative budget for 2003-04. Board members Angelo DeCesaris, Lois Kopcha and James Mahon voted against the

budget, while the other four members present voted for it. A majority vote of five was needed to pass it.

Donna Chamberlain, asked directors that voted against the budget to explain their reasoning. DeCesaris said he had difficulty passing a budget running at a deficit, which Kopcha agreed with. Mahon said that he was not confident that the budget was actually going to be bal-

See BUDGET, pg 8

Rezoning vote to be appealed

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

LEHMAN TWP. — A Lehman resident has appealed the rezoning of a 40-acre parcel of land at Route 415 and 42nd Street, slated to be senior citizen housing.

February, the Lehman Township Board of Supervisors voted 2-1 to change the property from A-1, agricultural to R-3,

multi-family residential. Some of the land is in Dallas Township, where the township zoning officer reports no application for a zoning change to the portion of property there.

Richard Angelicola intends to construct a facility with up to 125 independent living units, walking trails, a swimming pool,

See APPEAL, pg 3



Dallas Rotary awards book scholarships

Every year since the early 1960s, the Rotary Club of Dallas has awarded book scholarships to deserving students in the Back Mountain area who will be attending college in the fall. On May 22 seniors from Dallas and Lake-Lehman high schools received \$500 book scholarships at the Rotary's annual book scholarship night. Pictured from left are: Eric Martin, president of the Rotary Club of Dallas; Austin Williams, Lake-Lehman, will attend Franklin and Marshall and major in biology and pre-health sciences; Jonathan Morgan, Dallas, will attend Wilkes University and major in the pharmacy program; Tabitha Sprau, Lake-Lehman, will attend Lafayette and major in engineering; Paul Rodda, co-chairman of the Book Scholarship Program. A fourth recipient, Gabrielle Huh from Dallas, was unavailable for the event. She will attend NYU and major in business.

Loss of grant tied to increase in crime at Meadowcrest

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP — An hour-long standoff May 25 between Back Mountain police officers and suspects in an attempted robbery ended with three people arrested at a troubled Meadowcrest development home. Evidence pointing to ongoing criminal activity was found later at the premises.

Kingston Township Chief of Police James Balavage said since a federal grant supporting additional policing of the area was cut in December, criminal activity at the development has risen.

The Federal Housing Drug Elimination Program grant provided approximately \$30,000 annually to the Kingston Township Police Department. Admin-

"When we had the community policing program for five years, we were making quite a large impact."

James Balavage
Kingston Township Police Chief

istered through the Luzerne County Housing Authority, the money provided 60 additional hours a month of concentrated patrols in Meadowcrest and the surrounding areas.

"When we had the community policing program for five years,

See CRIME, pg 3

Vote counts still not final

Some races are within a handful of votes

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN — Official counts for area primaries are not likely to be available until next week, leaving some Back Mountain nominations for the November general election unsettled.

Leonard Piazza, Luzerne County Deputy Director of Voter Services, said numbers for closely contested races in Kingston Township, and Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts are still unavailable. Initial unofficial numbers put some candidates within three votes of each other.

The official counting process, which normally lasts about a day, started Friday, May 23. Piazza said due to a large number of write-in votes throughout the county, counting has been ongoing since.

"We're in the process of counting them up now. Numbers being published in newspapers are fairly unreliable — officially we don't have the numbers," said Piazza.

Piazza said it is not uncommon for candidates to run orchestrated write-in campaigns to gain nominations.

In Kingston Township, seven

candidates are running for three supervisor seats. All candidates with the exception of Christopher Concert are Republicans. Unofficial numbers put third place Chris Yankovich at 414 votes, three votes ahead of Sean McAndrew, with 411. (Jeff Box and Dave Jenkins claimed the most votes.)

In the Dallas School Board race for five open seats, Dennis Gochoel and 32-year board veteran Ernest Ashbridge Jr. are separated by just five votes,

See VOTE, pg 8

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The Dallas Post

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The Post will close early

The office of The Dallas Post will close at 2 p.m. Friday, May 30, so that the staff can set up the Back Mountain Cup presentation.

The event takes place at Pavilion 2, Frances Slocum State Park, from 4-7 p.m., with a trophy presentation at 5:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to celebrate the accomplishments of Dallas and Lake-Lehman student-athletes throughout the past school year. A cook-out will be held throughout the afternoon.