

Angie Nice makes her stage debut .. on MTV. Page 4



# THE POST

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

## One-room schoolhouse days recalled

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

**JACKSON TWP.** — More than 40 Back Mountain natives recently gathered at the homestead of Helen Franklin on Jackson Church Road for a most unusual reunion. Many decades ago, they each attended one of three one-room schoolhouses at Ceasetown, Oakdale and Rome in the Back Mountain.

Some of Franklin's guests hadn't seen one another for 50 years or more. They came to reminisce, get reacquainted and bring some other family members and friends to share in the festivities.

"The day of the reunion was

such a happy day," said Franklin. "I prayed for nice weather so we could have an old-fashioned picnic outside. We hung patriotic decorations, flags and yellow ribbons here on the farm where I was born and raised and walked the country lane to school. My niece, Sandy Morris, helped me write letters and make phone calls to get the word out about this special event."

As the crowd gathered, stories of days gone by were shared. If their memories were old television programs, they might resemble reruns of The Waltons or Little House on the Prairie. The real props from their own school days were similar to the make-believe sets on those shows.

*"I think the teachers were very brave."*

Helen Franklin  
Jackson Township

"There was one large room with a high ceiling," said Franklin. "And no one-room schoolhouse would be complete without an old school house bell, buckets for carrying water, a large clay jug with a push button spout for storing the water, long crudely made benches and desks, a pot belly coal or wood-burning stove, kerosene lanterns, large windows to let in the light, and a nearby outhouse."

The actors on both programs played roles that the reunion guests had really lived — children in grades one through eight with a teacher who was used to a hard life. Teachers back then had to manage several children of many ages in a one-room building, by today's standards, ill-equipped for the task.

"I think the teachers were very brave," Franklin said.

The Back Mountain landscape is now almost void of these early halls of learning. "The Ceasetown School, located on Route 29, is now a residence," said Franklin. "The Oakdale School was torn

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Helen Franklin, center, held up the bell from the one-room school her mother taught in. She is flanked by Wilson Cease and Dorothy Gmiter, who attended the Ceasetown School.

## Elevated boathouse roofs okayed

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**HARVEYS LAKE** — A ruling by the Harveys Lake Zoning Board Tuesday night means the owners of two boathouses will be allowed to raise their rooflines above ordinance allowable limits. Easier maintenance and aesthetics were among the reasons cited for the variances.

John and Mary Metz, at pole 102, and Richard Haas and Lynn Banta, at pole 13, were granted the variances.

The variance granted for an addition to the Metzses' boathouse will allow an octagon-shaped roof to be 17 feet above the dock at its tallest point. This is the second variance granted to the couple for the structure. The earlier variance, granted in February of 2001, allowed the roofline to go from 12 to 14 feet.

John Halbing, the contractor for the project, testified

See BOATHOUSE, pg 3

## State, township haggle over runoff

By CAMILLE FIOTI  
Post Correspondent

**DALLAS TWP.** Excessive water runoff was once again the complaint heard at Tuesday night's Board of Supervisors' meeting.

Elizabeth Hannigan of Overbrook Road requested help from the township to clean and maintain a storm pipe that continues to become blocked from gravel and debris that flows from Woodside Drive, which is perpendicular to state-owned Overbrook Road.

The pipe runs across Overbrook and exits onto Hannigan's property. Because of the blockage, excess water overflows from the street and onto Hannigan's side yard.

Hannigan said she recently paid over \$400 to have sev-

See RUNOFF, pg 2



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTZEK

## Flea market find

David Blejwas of Lehman checked out the tie-dyed t-shirts at last weekend's Dallas United Methodist Church rummage sale. More photos from the Dallas and Carverton rummage sales on page 8.

## Dallas church to open rec building with concert

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

**DALLAS TWP.** — At first glance, the new building at Fellowship Evangelical Free Church looks like a building that might be used for any kind of activity. However, if you spend any time at all with Pastor Mark DeSilva and his staff, you will soon learn that "it isn't just a building, it's a mission. It isn't just bricks and mortar, it's a light that we hope will draw people closer to God. It's not a monument, it's a living, breathing place for people to meet and do the Lord's work."

"We want this building to minister to the spiritual and wholesome recreational needs of the youth and adults in our congregation and the community," said DeSilva in an interview just days before the scheduled dedication of the new facility on October 17. "When I arrived here 14 months ago, it was already under construc-

tion. The dream of it really began about four years ago. We wanted to build a Christ-centered, family based place for the people of Wyoming Valley to use and enjoy."

The building houses a 5,000 square foot gymnasium and an additional 5,000 square feet for the kitchen and activity rooms. "If we had to pay for it all in cash, it would have cost about \$1.5 million to build," said DeSilva. "But we got it down to \$800,000 in actual costs because many of the faithful in our ministry donated materials and their labor and sweat to make it happen."

Now that it's nearly finished, church leaders are eagerly planning how to use it fully.

"It will take us years to learn the full potential of this building," said Kyle Earhart, associate pastor of the church. "My area of responsibility is with the youth of the church, and I

See FELLOWSHIP, pg 7

## Queen of Homecoming

Whitney Adams reacted with mock surprise when she was selected as the 2003 Dallas High School Homecoming Queen. The selection was made Saturday night at the homecoming dance, and recreated Monday at the postponed homecoming football game.

More photos on page 5.

POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS



## Rec park to get a new field

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**LEHMAN TWP.** — Back Mountain children may be a step closer to playing on a new, higher quality soccer field. Back Mountain Recreation, the group turning 130 acres in Lehman Township into a large-scale recreation area, has selected a contractor to build its first field.

If all goes as planned, excavation could begin this month and the field could be completed in the spring, said the organization's executive director, Brian Grove.

J&H Construction of Wilkes-Barre was selected out of 10 companies for the \$360,000 portion of the multi-million dollar project. The company was the lowest bidder.

If construction is completed by spring, the field will be ready for the 2005 soccer season. The complex will be home to the Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association (BMSYA), which is already using unfinished space at the site off of Outlet Road for practices and games.

According to Grove, the group

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