



Homecoming at Lake-Lehman. Page 4



# THE POST

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

Timothy Lawlor, left, and Frank Galicki load some of the hundreds of donated books that were sent to the Our Lady of Fatima Rehab in Monrovia, Liberia.

POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN



## Book donations heading to Liberia

By M.B. GILLIGAN  
Post Correspondent

The recently filled cargo container heading to Liberia carried an even more precious treasure than usual. Packaged in with the canned foods, bags of rice, children's Christmas presents and hand-me-down clothing were thousands of school books.

"I am really thrilled to be able to do-

nate the books to someone who can use them," said Kathleen McCarthy, Principal of Wycallis Elementary School in Dallas. "We sent about five cartons of books that we no longer use." The books included elementary science, math, English and spelling texts.

Eileen Rockensies, Shavertown, organizes the bi-yearly sea canister shipment to Our Lady of Fatima Rehab in Monrovia, Liberia run by Sister M. Sponsa

Beltran. The 78-year-old Sister Sponsa graduated from College Misericordia and relies heavily on local connections like Rockensies and parishioners of St. Therese's Church in Shavertown to continue her humanitarian aid in war-torn Liberia.

The Rehab has developed to the point that a Kindergarten through 12th grade

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## Pups ease kids into reading

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — A unique program that pairs pets with at-risk children got off to a paws-itive start October 10 at Dallas Elementary School.

As children filed into the gymnasium and caught sight of their soon-to-be furry friends, the premise of the program became instantly clear.

"Oh he's so cute," and "look at that one!" said the kids as they positioned themselves as near as possible to the puppies.

The new Puppy Pals reading program for Dallas Elementary students in remedial reading classes capitalizes on the age-old truism that children love puppies. The result, said Betsy Jerome, Dallas Elementary Guidance Counselor, is that the children relax, have fun and without even realizing it, improve their reading skills.

"It's encouraging them to read. If they're embarrassed to read to their classroom, they'll read to the dogs," said Sandra Ford, a program volunteer.

The program, created in 1999 by the Utah organization Intermountain Therapy Dogs, has been found to be so successful, similar programs are being implemented around the country. The Dallas Elementary program is the first of its type in this area.

Before breaking into small reading groups, Beth Maffei, Humane Educator with the Luzerne County SPCA, talked



POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

Michael Harrison, left, and Jordan Nichol, second graders at Dallas Elementary, shared a book with a "Puppy Pal."

*"If they're embarrassed to read to their classroom, they'll read to the dogs."*

Sandra Ford  
Puppy Pals volunteer

with the children about boundaries with the dogs and how to respect animals in general.

Maffei said afterward that although relatively new, children in similar reading programs have seen dramatic results. "Some students stopped stuttering, they relaxed more and were absent and tardy less. Their social skills improved and they were more likely to

turn in their homework," she said.

Maffei and the SPCA are trying to find four schools in Luzerne County interested in doing a pilot program similar to Dallas's, but on a weekly basis. Currently Dallas has plans to do the program four times a year.

Jerome said Dallas is considering the weekly pilot program, but wanted to see how the first session went before

deciding.

After the trial run, Jerome had positive things to say. With the exception of some fine tuning, she said, "I think it went really well. The kids really seemed to enjoy it."

She said there is no additional cost to the district to run the program. Sixty children in kindergarten to third grade took part and a host of volunteers from the SPCA and the community, including parents and the district's reading specialist, worked to make the day a success.

For more information, go to [www.therapyanimals.org](http://www.therapyanimals.org)

## Group to provide insurance for docks

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — The organization created over 70 years ago to look after summer homes in the winter, will be doing so again starting January 1.

Mark Sobeck, President of the Harveys Lake Protective Association, said the group has decided to start offering dock insurance to its members. He said the coverage is badly needed to protect dock and boat-house owners from ice damage, since local insurance companies currently don't offer it.

According to Sobeck, Harveys Lake is one of the only lakes in the region that has an ordinance allowing docks and boathouses to be built on piles driven into the floor of the lake. Sobeck said the result, however, is that when spring comes, and the lake begins to thaw, ice chunks the size of "aircraft carriers" can wipe out those supports like toothpicks.

"Every year someone gets hit," said Sobeck. "You never know whose turn it is to get hit. It all depends on which way the wind blows."

"I've seen docks completely crushed, sidewalls and all." He said the result is that everyone who owns a dock or boathouse is nervous until the last of the ice melts in the

See DOCKS, pg 3

## Spooks among the library shelves

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

DALLAS — It may not take a village to mount a new fundraiser for a community institution, but it does take a lot of help.

"You don't want one guy to get attacked by a gorilla and another guy never to even see a gorilla — so you need enough volunteers."

Such is the planning that goes into creating a haunted house from the ground up, or in this case, the basement up, explained Dave Neiman, a volunteer helping to create the first Back Mountain Haunted Library.

Neiman, a self-described Halloween fanatic, admits, "when you have two hearses and no funeral home, you know you have a problem."

Neiman's ghoulish fanaticism will serve him well as one of the many volunteers who have taken on the cause of turning the library's basement and property into a

### Local Halloween attractions benefit charities. Page 8

thrillseeker's delight, all in the name of charity. All proceeds will go directly to the library's budget.

Nadine Young, chairperson of the library board's fundraising and development committee, said recent state cuts in funding has meant a \$50,000 loss for the library, an amount that nearly eats up the \$70,000 to \$80,000 made at July's annual library auction.

She said in addition to that loss, the library is down about \$20,000 more because other expected funding has not come through. At a time when things don't seem to be able to get any worse, costly repairs to the building's chimney are also needed.

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POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

Many volunteers have come together to make the new Haunted Library a success. From left, front row: Boy Scouts Jason Young, Ryan Williams and Michael Ketchmer. Back row: Senior Girl Scout Heather Mines, Rachael Gallup, Senior Girl Scout Kelly Williams, Stevie Neiman, Dave Neiman.

### A note to Post subscribers

While distribution of The Post with the Sunday Times Leader has been generally successful, there have been some snags. Delivery on Sunday began October 5, and we have heard from some of you that either you received no newspaper at all, or your copy of the Times Leader did not include The Post. We will rectify the errors, and hope you'll be patient as we work to do so.

Some subscribers may also have inadvertently received bills by mail. Those were sent in error and can be ignored. If you had a valid Post subscription, but did not subscribe to the Sunday Times Leader, you will receive both for the cost of a Post subscription. Subscribers to both newspapers will see the balance of their Post payment moved to their Times Leader account, resulting in a later renewal date. After that, they will not have to pay separately for The Post.

Please call 829-5000 if you do not receive a Post, or have other questions about delivery. Your complaint will then be entered in our reporting system, assuring that it will be reviewed by a manager. Thanks again for your patience.

## Peggy Lacey takes on new challenge

By M.B. GILLIGAN  
Post Correspondent

The committee planning the 2004 Dallas High School Graduation Night Lock-In Party has just kicked off its first fundraising event of the year, a Kathryn Beich candy and gift sale, and this year's committee chairman is no rookie volunteer. Peggy Lacey, along with her husband Mark, has been a familiar face at Back Mountain youth sporting activities for many years.

"I was finished with the sports thing and I wanted to be sure that the Lock-In Party continued," said Peggy, whose two

**Volunteers**  
Making our community strong.  
If you know someone who might make a good example, call 970-7157.

daughters attend Dallas High School. Devin, a freshman, and Meredith, a senior, played soccer, softball and basketball throughout elementary school and their parents coached most of their teams.

"I coached Devin's soccer

team for seven years," said Peggy, who also refereed many games and served as a commissioner for Back Mountain Soccer for four years. Since her daughters played softball, Peggy was also involved with the Back Mountain Baseball Association as a coach and umpire for seven years. She served as Vice President of Softball for three of those years.

The sports connection would not be complete without recognizing Peggy's commitment to the Dallas Youth Basketball Association. "There were only

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