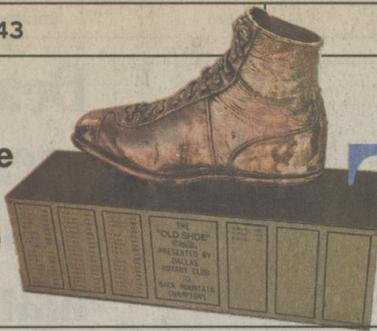


Old Shoe Game preview. Page 9



THE POST

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

Helping the poor any way they can

Operation Honduras brings hope to kids and villages

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

The poor will always be with us — children in third world countries, orphans too, people made deaf by untreated ear infections or suffering with AIDS. So what can an average Back Mountain resident do?

Four years ago Audrey Simpson of Shavertown wrestled with that very question. An answer was provided by her first cousin, John Prokopchak, who along with some Friday night poker buddies had traveled to Honduras in 1997 to see how they could help the poor people there.

The talented group of electricians, builders and tradesmen first traveled to Honduras in

See HONDURAS, pg 8

Kingston Township sets budget meetings

SHAVERTOWN — The Kingston Township Supervisors have scheduled special meetings Monday, Oct. 27 and Tuesday, Oct. 28 to discuss the 2004 budget.

Township Manager Eddie O'Neill will present preliminary estimates of revenue and expenses, and the supervisors will make final decisions. "I present what I feel to the board," O'Neill said.

Kingston Township is unique among Back Mountain municipalities in being a home-rule government. The township is able to tax income at a higher rate, 1.5 percent, which has allowed for the elimination of a local property tax.

But the economic slowdown has had an effect. "The economy's bad, raises are down and people have lost jobs," O'Neill said. "Naturally, the earned income tax payable to the township will taper off."

Last month, officials chose to postpone participating in a regional master plan until the budget was settled and they were sure they could afford it.

The hearings will start at 6:30 p.m. each day in the municipal building at 180 E. Center Street.

A perfect 17



Amanda Sagan brought the ball upfield against Crestwood during Lake-Lehman's historic victory over Crestwood Monday. The win was the 17th against no losses in the regular season, the first time the Black Knights had gone unbeaten and untied. Story, more photos on sports page.

FOR THE POST/FRED ADAMS

Trail gets key piece of puzzle

Easement could pave way to 4-mile run

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN — An easement has been granted which will allow users of the Back Mountain Trail to make it through a large area that was previously impassable.

Judy Rimple, President of the Anthracite Scenic Trails Association, said the new section above Harris Hill Road will enable hikers and bikers to enter and exit along Lehigh Street

near Division Street and make a near continuous trail from Luzerne to Shavertown.

Rimple said October 20 that the association is only a few easements away from completing the Luzerne to Misericordia stretch and that as of an October meeting of the association's board of directors, the decision had been made "to actively engage owners in conversation to gain the remaining right of way."

She said there are only three areas standing in the way of a continuous trail network.

The easement recently granted by Craig and Karen Williams of Trucksville will enable the trail to proceed north

See TRAIL, pg 3

Woman says cops ignore burglaries at her home

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — A woman who lives at a Harveys Lake trailer park told council Tuesday night police have not helped her with ongoing thefts at her home.

Micheline Bidgood, of Hanson's Landing trailer park, emotionally told council how she has endured three years of repeated robberies at her home and alleged her numerous calls to police have done nothing to solve the problem.

Bidgood said that an intruder has been entering her home

daily and helping himself to items such as sugar, eggs, and toilet paper. She said the intruder will take any variety of things. Recently the vandal stole her vehicle's battery and battery cables.

She said calls to the mayor and police chief have not solved the problem and that Police Chief Jeffrey Butler has told her she needs to catch the criminal in the act.

She also alleged that when officer Charles Musial responded to a call at her home, he told her she was senile and should-

See HARVEYS LAKE, pg 8

'Car nut' partners launch dealership

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN — Automobile enthusiasts will soon be checking out the shine on a Porsche or Ferrari where handymen once looked for just the right bolt.

Three partners, self-confessed "car nuts," have purchased the former Back Mountain Lumber & Coal property on Route 309, and plan to open Autoworks International, an exotic auto dealership, there in January.

Jeff Dickson, Dan Monk and Bernard "Buz" Boback have shared a love for unique and high-performance cars for decades, and now hope to turn their hobby into a successful business. The former hardware store is undergoing a complete renovation, with the 8,000 square foot first floor now being refitted into a showroom.

There is another 8,000

square feet in the basement and a 1,500 square foot office in the building that fronts the highway. A separate building at the rear, across Main Street, is also in the plans. "We will need that space," said Dickson, for a service and detailing facility. Whether the existing 18,000 square foot structure can be used hasn't been determined, and that part of the project will wait until spring.

The former hardware store, aside from offering a location with frontage on a high-traffic roadway, had another appeal. "We could have put it anywhere, but we wanted to keep it in our town," Boback said. All three have long-time Back Mountain roots.

The partners feel they are entering a field that is on an upswing. "The market is strong," said Boback. "If you're not quick (to buy), you lose the

See AUTOWORKS pg 4



POST PHOTO/IRON BARTIZEK

Jeff Dickson, Buz Boback and Dan Monk stood among some of their own unique cars in front of the former Back Mountain Lumber & Coal, which they are renovating into an exotic auto dealership.

Region once had several new dealers

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

Though it had a small population, the Back Mountain was home to several new-car dealerships over the years, and one of them continues to thrive.

Louis Richardson established a Dodge dealership on Lake Street in 1938, and it's still there. Prior to that, he had worked for A&P. "I don't really know how he got into the car business, to be honest," said James Richardson, Louis's son.

The third generation of the family, William, is now running the dealership, taking over from Jim, who entered the business in 1967 but is now semi-retired.

Jim Richardson said the family's dealership is one of only about 50 left in the nation selling just the Dodge line. But that hasn't proved to be a problem, and the store sells an aver-

See DEALERS, pg 4

Dallas author inspires youthful writing

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS — When she isn't writing books, Catherine McCormick Gourley is encouraging children, who are her audience, to take up the pen themselves.

The award-winning author was at the Back Mountain Memorial Library last week to make plans for an upcoming workshop. Gourley, who lives in Dallas with her husband Dennis, has written 17 books, including several for the popular The American Girl series.

"I write narrative non-fiction social history books for 10-14-year-old girls," said Gourley, who grew up in Wilkes-Barre and graduated from Coughlin High School and Wilkes University. "I write feminist books for kids."

Her latest book, which was just recently released, is titled "Society's Sisters," and tells the story of several young women who worked very hard to change their communities before women's suffrage.

"I'm talking about 14- and 15-year-olds who led rallies and boycotted," said Gourley.

Gourley taught teenagers at both Meyers and GAR. "I was a teacher with aspirations of being a writer," said Gourley. "I feel that I'm still doing what I intended to do, which was to work with children."

Gourley, a national director with the Library of Congress, is in charge of the annual writing competition called "Letters About Literature." The contest is open to students at three levels: grades 4 to 6; grades 7 to 8; and grades 9 to 12. It involves writing a letter

See WRITING pg 3

INDEX

14 Pages, 2 Sections

Calendar.....	14
Church.....	12
Crossword.....	10
Editorials.....	6
Obituaries.....	7
School.....	13
Sports.....	9-11

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POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

Catherine Gourley stood by a poster for the "Letters About Literature" program she is coordinating.