

Troop 232 builds a winning catapult. Page 7



THE POST

50¢

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

Blood drives take on new importance

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS — While out and about this week preparing for the holidays, the American Red Cross would like you to remember it only takes an hour of your time to help save a life.

The organization is counting on a good turnout at two upcoming Back Mountain blood drives. Donations from this area will help keep supplies from dipping dangerously low, said Wyoming Valley Chapter spokesper-

son Molly Groody. "From what I know, the Back Mountain has a terrific donor base."

That base is especially important right now, because the organization is heading into the holidays with a blood supply that is a third of what is considered safe.

While donations usually tend to slip around the holidays, this year's need is more dramatic than in years past, said Groody.

"We've had a drop since the begin-

ning of summer." She said normally such a decrease would turn itself around when schools reopened in the fall.

That has not been the case this year. Blood supply is down to about a day's supply, or even less for some types. A safe amount would be about a three-day supply.

"Now we're going into the holiday season and people will get real busy — giving blood goes way down on the

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You can help

American Red Cross
Blood Drives
Tuesday, Nov. 25
10-4 p.m.
Fellowship Evangelical
Free Church
45 Hildebrandt Rd., Dallas
Friday, Nov. 28
1-6 p.m.
Gate of Heaven Church
10 Machell Ave., Dallas
Call 823-7161 for more information.

Budget is on agenda once more

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. — Try, try again. That's what the supervisors will do Monday at a special meeting aimed at producing a first reading of the 2004 township budget. The session begins at 7 p.m.

Township Manager Eddie O'Neill has stated the present plan spends \$400,000 more than it takes in, with the difference being made up by drawing down savings accounts.

That is a combined figure for both the general and capital accounts. Incoming Supervisor Jeffrey Box says the two should not be mixed. "That makes no sense," he says.

Box doesn't like the idea of spending reserves — which would be reduced to \$146,000 under the plan — but said Wednesday there may be no other choice in the short term.

"The township needs to provide services, police officers and road workers," he said. He is hopeful an improving economy in 2004 will improve the township's fiscal situation.

O'Neill hopes to complete a first reading at the conclusion of Monday's meeting. "That's the intention, once we hash it out," he said last week.

Plenty of hashing has already gone on during four rancorous meetings held since October 27. In those meetings, the supervisors agreed to reinstate the summer recreation program, spring cleanup and made a commitment that no employees will be laid off, all of which could add to the projected deficit.

A project to pave Green Road has been blamed for some of the fiscal difficulties, and members of the public have asked the supervisors to look into cancelling or postponing it. O'Neill said it may be possible to do so.

"There are some options and they will be discussed Monday," he said.

A first reading was scheduled for November 12, but the supervisors voted 3-2 to reject the budget at that time. The document must be available for public inspection for 10 days prior to final adoption, which must take place by December 31.

Cool and clean

Erin Sutliff, left, and Tina Watkins got a kick out of soap by the slice that seemed too pretty to actually use. They were at the craft fair sponsored by the Lake-Lehman Band Sponsors, held November 15 at the high school. More photos on page 4.



POST PHOTO/
CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Some resistance to re-addressing

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — Thomas Clark doesn't understand why the home he has lived in since 1984 must suddenly have a new address.

"I've been 3 Kitchen Avenue for 15 years; I'd like to remain 3 Kitchen Avenue," Clark said Monday night.

Clark said representatives from the Harveys Lake Fire Department stopped by his home November 15 to inform him that his new address would be 73 Kitchen Avenue. Since his street has only eight houses on it, Clark wonders why it's necessary to renumber them. "What's the difference?" he asked.

The entire borough is being reviewed and most addresses changed to conform to the "Colorado" system that is recommended by the Luzerne County 911 Center. The consistent addressing is meant to help emergency responders find the correct location when answering to a call for help.

"We are suggesting what is appropriate," said Connie Masias, Data Control Supervisor of the county 911 center.

Instead of more accurate response, Clark sees expenses for himself. "I think it would hit me right in the wallet," he said, because he would have to change the address on his driver's license, car registrations, insurance policies, checks and other doc-

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Early deadline for November 30

Due to production requirements imposed by the Thanksgiving holiday, deadlines for the November 30 issue of The Post have been moved up. All contributed material for that issue must be received by 1 p.m. Monday, November 24. Send material by e-mail to: thepost@leader.net



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Phase I, restoring the exterior of the Noxen Depot, is moving along smartly. Supporters of the restoration met last week to plan Phase II, the interior.

Depot project steams ahead

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

NOXEN — The All Aboard Committee of the North Branch Land Trust met recently at the Old School House in Noxen to discuss plans for Phase II of the Noxen Depot Rehab project.

Phase I, the exterior work on the building, officially started in August although the planning began nearly four years earlier. Exterior work should be completed in January.

"Phase II involves the interior of the build-

ing and we hope to utilize a lot of volunteers," said Linda Thoma, Executive Director of the Land Trust. "We are making plans to solicit donations of cash but also goods and services."

The committee hopes to find plumbers, electricians, building contractors and, even, well drillers willing to volunteer to help with the project.

"We're certainly going to need an army of volunteers, but it's something that we can

See DEPOT, pg 4

Bridge rebuilding waits on PennDOT

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN — Preliminary work on the long awaited \$800,000 East Center Street bridge project, began earlier this month. If all goes as planned, the new, wider bridge could be completed by the end of 2004, said project Engineer Dave Fetterman.

An additional \$30,000 will be spent to add a third lane to the bridge. According to Eddie O'Neill, township Manager, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will reimburse the township 80 percent of the project's total cost.

On the drawing board since at least 2001, a new bridge is needed to replace what is largely a century-old structure resting on layered fieldstone, said Fetterman, of Borton Lawson Engineering. Years of high and fast-moving water through Toby's Creek below has worn holes in the foundation.

See BRIDGE, pg 4

Sizable water rate hikes are sought

By PAMELA C. TURFA
For The Post

Pennsylvania Suburban Water Co. — the parent of a number of small Back Mountain systems — is seeking permission to raise rates for most customers.

Rates for seven water systems in Luzerne and Wyoming counties would go up 9 to 44 percent under the company's request, filed Friday with the state Pennsylvania Utility Commission.

Customers in the Oak Hill system would see a

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How To Reach Us

News: 675-5211
thepost@leader.net
15 N. Main St.
Wilkes-Barre PA 18711
Advertising: 970-7102
Subscriptions and Delivery: 829-5000