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# THE POST

50¢

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

## Burn ban proposals varied in scope, focus

By ERIN YOUNGMAN Post Staff

**BACK MOUNTAIN** — If Kingston and Dallas townships pass their proposed bans on open burning, many home owners could be looking at regular trips to drop off yard waste.

Both townships have introduced legislation that would do away with most outdoor burning. Officials have said they don't have a choice if they want to continue to receive grant money for their recycling programs.

If passed, residents would become responsible for carting yard waste like leaves, limbs and grass clippings to either their township's recycling facility, or to the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA). The townships do not, however, have the ability to dispose of larger limbs and fallen trees.

Some Kingston Township residents have been outspoken about the proposed ban since it was first discussed in July. Residents there can currently burn both yard waste and trash.

Rosaria Shaver organized a petition against the ban that attracted 370 signatures. She believes the ban would be a violation of her rights as a property owner.

"Basically it's my yard. If they're going to take that away, what's next?" she said.

Shaver said she'd feel differently if the supervisors were willing to compromise on the issue.

"Stop burning garbage, but not limbs. Don't just completely stop it," she suggests.

Dallas Township has no burning restrictions in agricultural areas and burning is permitted in residential ar-

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**Dallas Middle School students brought more than gingerbread to the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen last week. They also played and sang holiday music for an appreciative audience. From left: Erika Miller, Samantha Backes, Mary Ketchner and Kristin Justice.**

POST PHOTO/ ERIN YOUNGMAN



## Students spread holiday spirit

By ERIN YOUNGMAN Post Staff

**WILKES-BARRE** — Outside the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen, 30 Dallas Middle School students filed off their Mountaineer bus with a spring in their step and smiles on their faces.

For weeks their German class has been working to create gingerbread houses — dozens of them — to distribute to those who need extra holiday cheer.

The soup kitchen was their second stop out of many this day, and the students were brimming with excitement.

"It's fun," commented Alyxandra Howard, age 12, "It feels

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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Dave Rogers was joined by his family at a recent meeting of Cub Scout Pack 281. From left: Erin, Alayne, Rychelle, Charlotte, Dave and Tom Rogers.

## 'Person of Year' is man in the middle

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK Post Correspondent

**DALLAS** — While Time Magazine may have named the American soldier Person of the Year, National Guard Reservist Dave Rogers, with the 109th Field Artillery unit, Kingston, feels like a "man in the middle."

Rogers, 55 — father of four, a veteran of two tours of duty in Vietnam and a staff sergeant in the 109th — has been placed on 24 hour standby call, while most of the men in his battery have been called up for a 15-month assignment that is expected to include service in Iraq.

"I feel I need to be with those guys, we'd train together every weekend. It's difficult not to go," Rogers said.

Rogers is employed as a civilian by the Army as a mechanic for the 109th, including a battery in Plymouth that has yet to be called up. For now, his job continues to be maintaining their equipment.

But Rogers has other loyalties as well.

As he spoke recently during a meeting of Cub Scout Pack 281, 10-year-old Tom Rogers, Dave's son, hung on his dad's arm. "I'm a trained den leader and helper here for the Webelos of Pack 281," Dave Rogers

*"I feel I need to be with those guys, we'd train together every weekend. It's difficult not to go."*

Dave Rogers Dallas

needs an implant. We take her to the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia."

Rogers proudly notes that his daughter is now cancer free. But, he says, "It's harder for those young kids to go, some have babies and pregnant wives, children they won't even know."

Rogers has all his shots and is ready to go. "I run like a kid, my health has been good, I can do all the push-ups, age is not a barrier in my case. We probably have two more years to get that country stable again. The biggest problem is that those people don't understand we just want to help and some don't know how badly they were treated."

Charlotte Rogers, Dave's wife, found it difficult to talk but took a deep breath and said, "Of course, we are praying that he doesn't go, but in our minds he already has."

*"Of course, we are praying that he doesn't go, but in our minds he already has."*

Charlotte Rogers Dallas

## Insurance attracts lots of interest

By ERIN YOUNGMAN Post Staff

**HARVEYS LAKE** — Dock insurance, unattainable from conventional sources, has been the impetus for many new families to join the Harveys Lake Protective Association.

For approximately \$100 a year and the annual \$20 membership fee, association members can obtain \$3,000 worth of coverage. The insurance was dreamed up by association members who sought to create some monetary protection against spring ice damage. No insurance companies currently offer the coverage.

"We got 15 to 20 new member families specifically so they could get the ice insurance," said Mark Sobek, president of the association.

He said overall, the group has attracted a good number of insures. He

expects as the December 31, 2003 deadline approaches, applications will come in more furiously. "We're hoping to see at least 100 (insures) the first year and I think that's a realistic goal," he said.

The association began accepting insurance applications in November.

Because the association is not a licensed insurance company, only members are eligible for coverage.

Sobek said attracting new members has the added benefit of additional dues and a growing bank account to use for community projects. The annual fee to be an association member is \$20 per single person or \$25 per family.

Membership dues have recently been used to add buoys to unsafe areas of the lake, contribute to the Lake-Noxen playground fund and put a flag pole at the entrance to the lake.

Sobek said the association, created over 70 years ago to look after summer homes in the winter, is going through a period of growth. As membership increases, so does its financial viability.

"In the last two years we've gotten up to 40 new members. That's really helped out in the income end."

Sobek said the association has several projects going on from creating a web page to tracking quality of life issues at the lake.

## Holiday trash pickup schedule

*There will be no DAMA trash and recycling pickup on New Year's Day. Normal Thursday collections will take place on Friday.*

*There will be no bag limit on trash through Wednesday, Dec. 31. The normal two-bag limit will resume Friday, Jan. 4.*

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## Judge appoints Gochoel to fill board vacancy

By MARK GUYDISH For The Post

**WILKES-BARRE** — The Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas decided December 18 that the Dallas School Board had incorrectly named Dennis Gochoel to fill a vacancy.

Then the court gave the seat to Gochoel.

Anthony Barbose resigned from

Dennis Gochoel

the board Nov. 1. The board failed to name a replacement by a state-mandated deadline of Nov. 30, so the decision fell to the courts.

But a board, with new members, took office on Dec. 2 and immediately named Gochoel to fill Barbose's vacant seat. The board then filed a motion asking the courts to declare the seat filled and to close the issue.

Complicating the matter on Dec. 1, Ernest Ashbridge — who had been ousted by voters in the May primary — filed a petition to be appointed by the courts — one day before the

courts started accepting petitions.

Gochoel countered by filing a complaint contending that Ashbridge had filed a faulty petition. Gochoel said an unidentified notary public had "falsely attested under her notary public seal that she was present when the petitioners" signed Ashbridge's paperwork.

On Thursday, Judge Joseph Augello overruled all objections and declared the seat still vacant. Judge Michael Conahan then issued an order filling the vacant seat — giving it to Gochoel.