

Projects

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Their "monumental" nine-by-nine-foot acrylic split canvas hangs in the school's new entry. "It's called 'Great Jubilation' and is of the earth with trees and figures swirling by. It's all about unity and giving something back to the school," said Peterson. The canvas will be a permanent piece of art for the Lake-Lehman school building.

Angela Anderson, Shavertown and Heather Smith, Dallas, expect the yield from their project to be used up quickly, but they don't mind. They planned and organized a dance at the school last November to benefit the Back Mountain Food Bank, raising \$1,198 that will be used to restock the shelves there.

Nick Casaldi, produced and edited a home video of his friends and their BMX bicycle antics. "At first they told me I couldn't do it," said Casaldi. "I needed to get special permission to do this project."

Casaldi logged in over 75 hours of friends goofing around on bikes, then began the process of editing the video. "I had to buy a lot of new hardware — 60 gigabytes — a new digital video camera, and software," he said.

When it was finished, Michael Gokay the co-principal at the school, "really liked the video."

Blair Welter's family is, according to her, "Kind of like a miniature ASPCA." Her grandfather raises emus and they are always picking up stray animals.

The Sweet Valley teen decided to raise a seeing eye puppy for her senior project. The now 10-month-old black lab was given to Welter to handle and raise in July.

The process was coordinated through Luzerne County 4-H and the Luzerne County Seeing Eye Puppy Club. Welter has logged over 100 hours just in training hours.

"He's a real character (her dog Opus); he has a cocky personality," said Welter, who adheres to set guidelines as she raises the dog. "They use the word 'rest' instead of 'stay,'" she said. The animal's food and veterinary costs are reimbursed by The Seeing Eye.

Opus will be returned in August to Morristown, N. J., where he will be harness trained and then assigned to help a blind person.

If art or animals aren't your cup of tea, you might, like Jake Riddle of Harveys Lake, just



Blair Welter, Luzerne, raised "Opus", a seeing-eye puppy, as her senior project at Lake-Lehman High School.



Jasmine Watson and Adrienne Dragon, both of Harveys Lake, befriended an elderly person as part of their senior project.

"It's all about unity and giving something back to the school."

Ashley Peterson
Lake-Lehman senior

want to fix up your car as a senior project. "Nope," said Riddle. "I wasn't allowed to do that, and some people even said I couldn't do a car show."

But he did. "If I couldn't work on my car at least I could see some nice ones," he said. Jake organized a car show with a cruise around Harveys Lake to benefit the Harveys Lake Fire Department.

"I called Grotto to get the parking lot, printed 1,500 flyers with setup help from Bruce Baker's computer, and went to other car shows and businesses to tell them about the show and give out flyers," he said.

"I learned you can't procrastinate, because it's a lot more work to set up for the public than you would think."

Riddle had plenty of help along the way. He was especially thankful to Charlie Van Buskirk from the Pacers of NEPA car club for pointing him in the right direction, and friends Bill and Dave Davis. They helped him set up tables, loudspeakers, and a 50/50 raffle at the car show.

"We roped off the parking lot. Most people cruised the lake then came back for lunch."

Riddle also solicited area businesses for the top 25 trophy



Nick Casaldi, Sweet Valley, took some impressive video of his friends' BMX stunts for his senior project.

awards and learned that telemarketing is not for him.

"But I prayed for good weather. The day before was cold and rainy and the day after was horrible. Saturday, October 12 was beautiful; there was a slight breeze and it was 72 degrees," he said.

There were about 48 entries and the event netted \$535 for the Harveys Lake Fire Department.

"Seeing those cars coming in and knowing I had a part of it — definitely awesome."

Riddle's favorite car is the 1969 Corvette Sting Ray even though he drives a 1993 Special edition Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham.

"This may be just the beginning," said Riddle. "I'd like to own an indoor building where they can hold car shows."

Native American program at DMS

The Hampstead Players recently presented a program on Native American leaders to Dallas Middle School students. The theatrical company had student volunteers play various roles.

Pictured kneeling, from left: Peter Recchia and Dean Chopka. Standing: Susan Cartiglia, Lucas Scheitrumf and Chris Higgins.

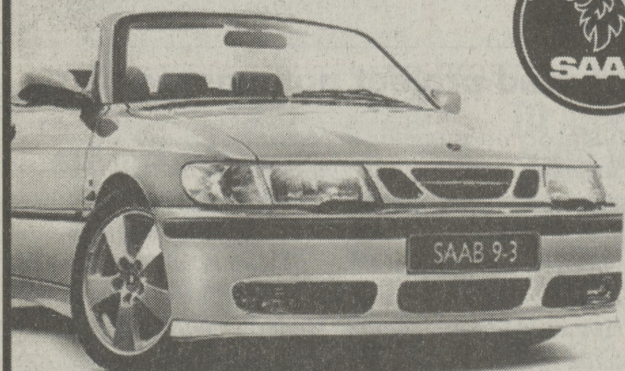
Fresh Air Fund seeks hosts

The New Year gives families an opportunity to make resolutions about activities they can do together in the coming year. In 2004, help the children of New York City by volunteering to be a host family for The Fresh Air Fund. Volunteering is a chance to introduce children to volunteering and community service.

For more information on hosting a Fresh Air child, contact Karin Spak at 655-9342 or The Fresh Air Fund at (800) 367-0003, or visit The Fund's Web site at www.freshair.org.



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