

Mountaineers tennis squad looking strong Page 7



THE POST

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

Creek cleanup astounds, disgusts

By RONALD BARTIZEK Post Staff

DALLAS — For decades, Toby's Creek has been neglected or abused as it travels from its source in Dallas Township, meandering back and forth along the same path as major highways that cut through the Back Mountain.

On April 24, it got some desperately needed tender loving care, when about 50 people gathered, ready to don wading boots and pull on gloves before tackling the cleanup of a quarter-mile stretch that parallels Lake Street in Dallas Borough.

Walter Chamberlain, district manager of the Luzerne County Conservation District, was delighted at the turnout and surprised at the volume of junk that was removed.

Community cleanups this week

Several Back Mountain municipalities are holding their annual spring cleanups this week. See page 2 for details.

"When I first looked at it, I wondered if there was enough stuff to merit a cleanup," he said Tuesday. But once the volunteers started

digging through underbrush and combing the stream bed, they found more than enough to keep them busy.

Chamberlain, a lifelong Back Mountain resident, was there to assist the cleanup and to supervise planting of native plants on steep slopes where invasive species had been removed. The new plants will stabilize the stream bank and, since all of them bear flowers and fruit, will attract songbirds as they provide a natural screen between the backs of commercial buildings and the stream.

The plants — among them grey and silky dogwood and Arrowwood Viburnum — were obtained with a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Restoration Plant Giveaway. Chamberlain guessed 250-300 were installed.

He is happy to see the creek getting some positive attention.

"It's been considered a nuisance," he said. "We pipe it, we channel it, we move it around. The reality is, it's an asset."

Dallas Borough Council President John Oliver also marveled at the amount and variety of debris. "You know, in the summertime when it's all grown in, you don't see this," he said.

The borough provided trucks and manpower to haul away the junk, and will now keep a close eye on businesses that about the creek to see that trash doesn't again mar the waterway. Oliver did his share of pulling dead branches out of the stream bed and Mayor Tim Carroll cooked hot dogs

See CLEANUP, pg 3



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Volunteers scoured a quarter-mile stretch of Toby's Creek in Dallas Borough April 24, then planted native plants to stabilize the stream banks. In top photo, Chelsea Fufaro, Dallas, looked disheartened as she packed some trash into a bag. Above left, Amanda Roth and Bridget Nash adjust waders prior to joining the cleanup. Above right, Michael Lukatchik watched as a borough shovel carted away one of dozens of old tires found in the stream bed.

Council president vows crackdown on sloppy businesses

By RONALD BARTIZEK Post Staff

DALLAS — John Oliver, president of Dallas Borough Council had no idea.

"I was shocked," he said Tuesday, by the amount of junk removed from a small stretch of Toby's Creek in the borough during the April 24 Great

Pennsylvania Cleanup.

And to the extent that businesses along the creek are responsible for the mess, he doesn't want to see something similar again.

"It's not in keeping with any kind of standards," Oliver said, and will not be tolerated in the future.

Oliver stopped short of blaming the

businesses for all the trash and debris that was picked up and heaved out of the stream bed by about 50 volunteers. He suspected that some of the items — a toilet, a washing machine tub and a truckful of tires — might have been deposited by people looking for a convenient, and hidden,

See BUSINESSES, pg 3

Lake-Lehman Key Club

Raising the bar of service

By ERIN YOUNGMAN Post Staff

LEHMAN TWP. — The number of blood units collected for the American Red Cross: doubled. The amount of money raised for the Leukemia Society: quadrupled.

Lake-Lehman's Key Club turns 40 this year and as icing on the cake, is enjoying what could be its largest, most fruitful membership ever.

"It's phenomenal," said the club's advisor, Gail Honeywell. "We have many more active members. I think the club has possibly tripled in number."

The club won Club of the Year honors in the northeastern Pennsylvania district, and Honeywell was named Advisor of the Year.

While moving into a new classroom last August, Honeywell unearthed the Club's original December 12, 1964 charter. Along with the document she discovered binders full of notes about the group's early years. The charter was matted, framed and presented to the school board last week.

As she was going through the binders, Honeywell realized the scope of the club has changed dramatically, from conducting four projects a school year to now completing more than 20 year-round.

In addition, she said the club has exceeded goal after goal since the 2003-2004 school year began. By far, the year's largest success was Pennies for Patients. The Leukemia Society fundraiser normally rounds up about \$500, but this year brought in \$1,971.35 for the organization.

"We've again exceeded our goal," she said. "To have raised this much means students really rallied for it."

Key Club is a non-profit service organization that has been sponsored by the Dallas Kiwanis since its inception. Each month it conducts several campaigns, from selling daffodils for the American Cancer Society to Trick or Treat for UNICEF. New projects are added each year.

New this year, the group sent cards to about 100 service people overseas, most of them Lake-Lehman graduates.

A blood drive sponsored by the club last November set a new record. Normally the school brings in about 45

See KEY CLUB, pg 10

Check it out

Jeff Jumper and John Berti took out Shavertown Volunteer Fire Company's newest addition for a test run recently. They checked the various components on the brand new, \$175,000 truck. Present but not pictured, Ryan Kastenbaum and Jason Ostrum.

POST PHOTO/ ERIN YOUNGMAN



Senior housing moving ahead

By RONALD BARTIZEK Post Staff

LEHMAN TWP. — Slowly but surely, the development of a gated senior citizen housing community is moving forward.

Barbara Simms, a member of the township planning commission, said last week that Richard Angelicola, owner of the property, has received conditional approval for construction of 78 dwelling units on 37 acres of land.

"It's going to take some time," she said, to resolve the conditions, which include creating an acceptable plan for

storm water management and an agreement with neighbors who challenged the project.

In early 2003, George Huntzinger, who owns adjacent property on 42nd Street, filed an appeal against the township supervisors' vote to rezone the land from agricultural to multi-family residential. That appeal remains on file with the county court, but there has been no action as the parties negotiate an acceptable resolution.

Proof the conditions have been met must be presented to the planning commission; another meeting is not re-

quired.

Angelicola said his original plan for the complex, named Greenbriar, called for 75-120 units. He also intends to construct walking trails, a swimming pool and tennis courts. Fourteen acres will be preserved as wetlands. He said no construction will take place until final approval is granted.

Each of the approximately 1,200 square-foot units is projected to have two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living/dining room, an eat-in kitchen and a one-car attached garage.

See GREENBRIAR, pg 2

Inside The Post

12 Pages, 1 Section

- Calendar12
- Church11
- Editorials4
- Obituaries5
- School10
- Sports7-9

Back Mountain Baseball begins 2004 season

Page 7



Lake-Lehman High School honor students

Page 10

Fundraiser planned to aid family of missing Lake Township woman

Page 3

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