

Track squads
make their mark
at Dallas and
Lake-Lehman

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LAKE-LEHMAN

THE POST

50¢

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

Poetry contest is big draw

More than 300 enter first contest sponsored by Friends of the Library

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS — The Back Mountain Memorial Library celebrated its first annual Poetry Contest at an awards presentation on May 4 at the library. Winners in each of the three divisions received certificates and cash awards, in addition to a copy of a collection of inspirational congratulatory messages published by Vi Gommer, co-chairman of the event.

The poetry contest was a natural offshoot of the 16th Annual Luncheon With a Special Author sponsored by the Friends of the Back Mountain Memorial Library. "We thought it would be fun to sponsor a poetry contest to coincide with the theme," said Jill Kryston, co chair.

Melanie Maslow Lumia, editor of "Got Verse" was this year's guest speaker. "Got Verse" is a collection of poetry stemming from her involvement with the Tudor Poetry Reading Series.

"The readings were so great that I thought, if we could just read them again..." said Lumia. "I put out for submissions and the poetry blew me away."

The first place winners in each division were invited to read their entries at the luncheon and all of the poets on hand at the award ceremony were asked to read their poems for the audience. Dallas Elementary fourth grade student Erica Luzetski, was a little nervous and opted to stand by as Lumia read her poem entitled, "Things I Wish I Could Remember."

Erica won \$100 for her efforts. "My teacher, Mrs. Ford, convinced me to write a poem," said Erica, who has had a library card for as long as she can remember. "I had no clue I would win."

Lake-Lehman High School students in the American Studies course were also encouraged to participate. "I've written some poetry before," said Skye Nickalls, first place winner for Grades 9-12. "I enjoy poetry."

The poets in the audience were invited to attend local poetry readings like the one at Tudor Book Store, at 7:30 p.m. on the third Friday of each month or at Barnes and Noble, at 7:00 p.m. on the second Friday of the

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FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Science is hard work

Michael Lyons tries hard to make the science projects work during last week's academic fair at Gate of Heaven School in Dallas. More photos on page 3.

Board member suggests new hiring criteria

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — Dallas School Board member Maureen Matiska says inconsistent hiring practices in recent months call for a new, more objective process by which applicants are chosen.

Matiska presented an alternate hiring plan after the April 20 board meeting at which Daniel Natitus, son of board member Frank Natitus, was hired as head high school wrestling coach.

"I guess what I don't want to see is Dallas get the reputation of, 'If you know someone, you get the job.' I do believe there have been some instances recently where that has happened," Matiska said in an interview last week.

Matiska would not name who had been hired in such a way, and Natitus' hiring did not bring much scrutiny from the public or other board members. According to the district, Natitus was the only applicant for the wrestling position.

"A new (hiring) process would take out of the realm: 'I had to vote for him because he's my best friend's brother's kid,'" she said.

Matiska is proposing two key changes that would make hiring at Dallas more objective. First, involve one or more parents, or members of the community, and second, base the

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Runoff ruins yard, homeowner says

By VICKI KEIPER
Post Correspondent

JACKSON TWP. — Fieldcrest resident Amy Spess has a flooding problem, but she doesn't live near a large body of water.

Her home rests at the base of a hill along Hillside Road. At the crest above her property, new homes are being built in the Rolling Meadows development. Spess claims that culverts installed at the new development are ineffective and since August, 2003, runoff from heavy rain flows into her backyard, flooding her basement and swimming pool.

"I'm going to be surrounded by houses and all the water is going to run into my pool," she said. "I put thousands of dollars in my backyard and I can't even use it."

As well as repairing their property, Spess and her husband were forced to alter it by digging a ditch along the length of her backyard to catch runoff. But even this preventive measure required vigilance.

"I was out at 11:30 at night making sure that the ditch didn't overflow," she said of the heavy rain that fell Sunday night.

Her letters to developer Ray Peeler go unanswered and she wonders who will reimburse her for repairs done to her property, she said.

After listening to her case at a couple of township and planning meetings, Jackson Township supervisors decided to take actions that would prevent further problems.

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Still no peace for plant's neighbors

By CAMILLE FIOTI
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — The noise ordinance that was drafted in 1965 needs to be revised to accommodate the growing population in the township. That seemed to be the consensus of the large number of angry residents who attended last week's Board of Supervisors meeting to voice complaints about the noise and vibrations coming from the Pulverman plant on Lower Demunds Road.

A recent sound study performed

by the township indicated that Pulverman was not in violation of the ordinance because the decibel readings coming from the plant were below 72 which is the maximum allowed.

Rosemary Hosey pleaded with the supervisors to help put a stop to the noise. "We are entitled to peace in our homes. Noise pollution is a much of a health risk as air pollution. No one that bought their homes in this area saw this coming. We elected you to protect us, to be our voice."

A number of residents at Tues-

day's meeting said that if nothing is done they will file a class action suit against the company.

"It's not the decibel as much as it is the repetitive noise, it is similar to sitting in a torture chamber," said Dr. Gilbert Griffiths of Orchard View Terrace.

Life was peaceful when Encon occupied the facility, the residents said. Since Pulverman moved in at the beginning of the year, the residents of Lower Demunds Road, Downing Drive, Orchard View Terrace, Ondish Hills and other nearby

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FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Duck hunting

Kevin Clarke, Dallas, and daughter Leah Marie Clarke, checked Toby's Creek for ducks and other natural features last week. A stretch of the creek in the borough was cleaned up two weeks ago during the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup.

Church proudly notes 150 years of service

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

KUNKLE — Kunkle United Methodist Church to celebrate 150th anniversary Saturday at a special dinner that is expected to attract nearly all the 93 members and their guests.

The steeple can barely be seen from the highway near the Kunkle Fire Department, but as you travel north on Rt. 309, a left turn around the fire hall soon reveals a quaint little white church rich in the history of the Back Mountain.

"In 1853, Conrad Kunkle opened his own home for religious services," said Irene Transue, a member of the church since 1954. "Later the meetings were moved to the old Noxen

schoolhouse where they remained until a church building was erected and dedicated."

On April 1, 1888, a lot was deeded to the church by the Theodore Ryman family at a cost of \$1.00. "The church only owns the land that the church building actually sets on," said Transue. "The rest, which includes the driveway, the parking lot and the front lawn, belongs to the Kunkle Fire Department."

The church, built at a cost of \$1,300, was dedicated in March of 1888, and a bell tower was added in 1896. In those days, oil and carbide lights were used in the church, the church was heated by a wood-burning stove, and horses

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