

Hiring

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decision on a point system. "There's got to be a way to measure a candidate," she said.

New board member Dennis Gochoel admitted he's heard that getting a job at Dallas is a matter of who you know, although he hasn't actually seen that happen.

While he believes it's important to take politics out of hiring, he said there should be limits to how that is done.

"There's a risk if the board gets involved in every (administrative) decision. We have good administrators; we have to be careful that we don't handcuff them," he said.

Gochoel sees the school board's role as very closely related to that of the Senate. "Its role is to advise and consent — any policies need to keep that in mind."

Board president Dave Usavage said he was completely surprised by Matiska's April 20 presentation, adding that none of it had been discussed beforehand. He said some changes have already been made and he doesn't believe more people should be added to the process. In March, board members began sitting in on first-round interviews. Before that, the board was only at final interviews where administrators presented their two or three final candidates.

Usavage said opening all in-

"There's got to be a way to measure a candidate."

Maureen Matiska
Dallas school director

terviews to the board was an attempt at de-politicizing the process. Before the change he questioned whether the best candidates were in fact making it to the final cut.

While Usavage agrees the process should be de-politicized, he disagrees with Matiska's idea to bring in community representatives, saying it would make the process too cumbersome.

"The people within the Dallas district elected the board members to make those decisions. I take it very, very seriously," he said.

After her presentation, Matiska asked that community members interested in giving input or becoming a part of the hiring process e-mail her through the district's website.

The board took no action on Matiska's proposal at the April 20 meeting. She said she intends to keep talking about it until something is done.

"I think it would help the public to realize that if this could be instituted, it's not about politics anymore."

Runoff

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At its May 3 meeting, the board authorized township Solicitor Jeffrey Malak to request a new letter of credit from Rolling Meadows developers.

"It's like a guarantee," Malak said.

He said the bond request is one of the steps taken by the township that include refusing to issue any more permits for the Rolling Meadows area. A reversal of the original 1998 permit would require a separate legal action, he said. But if construction is in compliance with the plans submitted to the planning commission, then there's not much to do.

The bond, which is a requirement towards permit approval, would name the township as a beneficiary. The township would then cash the bond in the event it needs to make repairs or other improvements if the developer fails to fix any problems. The original bond expired in 2000.

If the developer doesn't issue a letter of credit, Malak said,

"I'm going to be surrounded by houses and all the water is going to run into my pool."

Amy Spess
Fieldcrest

the township could then take legal action. "The equity action would stop them until they're in compliance," he said.

Supervisor Chairman John J. Wilkes, Jr. said that the Department of Environmental Protection and the Luzerne County Conservation District have issued many citations during numerous inspections.

"Every time we go there, we have a list," Wilkes said. "The only thing we do is add to our list."

"Nothing has been corrected," said Supervisor Al Fox, who noted that with the bond "the township would have the power to assist the DEP."

Noise

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neighborhoods have been complaining about thumping noises and vibrations coming from the plant.

Griffiths said that heavy presses that are located in the section of the plant near the loading docks were the culprit. He said Pulverman's largest customer receives the stamped out sheet metal pieces that the heavy presses produce, six to seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Production generally stops Friday evenings and doesn't start up again until the third

shift comes on at 11 p.m. Sunday.

"We can set our watches by it," said Griffiths. It continues around the clock all week but is more noticeable between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. when the traffic noise on Lower Demunds Road is quiet.

Township Solicitor Michael Melnick said he and some neighbors would meet with Randy Mark, the plant's owner on May 7 to tour the facility and to hopefully come up with a timeline for a resolution.



Michael and Chris Huntington have fun with visitor to the Gate of Heaven pre-school in Dallas.



Emily Griswold, Sarah Moga, and Alicia Roncevich designed and made this costume for their project on Quakers.

Educational showcase

Gate of Heaven School students showed off their hard work and study at the annual academic fair, held last week at the school in Dallas. The event spilled over three evenings, with displays in classrooms Tuesday for the youngest grades, Wednesday for middle grades and Thursday for the oldest students, in grades 6-8.

FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Alisa Jolley and Cameron Brennan have fun with their penguin friends in Mrs. Gaunham's class.

Dog license sales

Luzerne County Treasurer Michael L. Morreale has announced that 2004 dog licenses are now available at the following locations:

- Dallas Twp. — Hoof-in-Paw-n-Jeans, 675-4800.
- Kunkle — Pet Care Associates, 675-1621.

Licenses also will be sold at the Treasurer's Office in the Luzerne County Courthouse, Wilkes-Barre, and at the Hazleton annex, 145 E. Broad St., Hazleton.

To obtain licenses by mail, send your name, address, telephone number, date of birth (if 65 or older), the dog's name, color, breed and gender. The mailing address is: Luzerne County Treasurer, Courthouse, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711. Return postage is not necessary.

The regular rates are \$8 for males and females; \$6 for neutered males or spayed females. The rates for senior citizens with disabilities are \$6 for males and females; \$4 for neutered males or spayed females. If you are applying for a license that requires the dog owner be a senior citizen (at 65 at the time of purchase), or a person with the disability, you must provide proof of age or disability to the county treasurer or agent.

Harveys Lake Lions invite new members

The Harveys Lake Lions Club is accepting applications for new members. Meetings are held twice monthly. Applications can be obtained by calling J. Peter Farrell at 639-1235 or Jeff Smith at 696-5026.



Physicians support Philharmonic's 'Conductor Challenge'

Back Mountain physicians Steven J. Kurzweil, M.D. and Dr. Susan Wilkinson recently joined more than 70 other individual and corporate donors who supported a "Conductor Challenge" between Wilkes-Barre and Scranton, proceeds of which benefited the Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic. At a recent performance of "Rock Around the Clock" at the Kirby Center, supporters of the Philharmonic donated more than \$7,500 to support guest conductor Charles Barber, Executive Director of The Luzerne Foundation and Wilkes-Barre's representative in the challenge. Barber "borrowed" the conductor's baton from Clyde Mitchell, Music Director and Conductor of the Philharmonic, to conduct "Blue Tango." Pictured at a reception following the performance are, from left: Dr. Steven J. Kurzweil, M.D.; Dr. Susan Wilkinson, M.D. and Charles M. Barber.

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