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THE POST

50¢

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

Penn State cites Eric Lee for service to the community

By M.B. GILLIGAN Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. — Eric Lee does not seek recognition for his contributions to the area, but it has found him.

The Pennsylvania State University Wilkes-Barre Campus presented Lee with the Outstanding Community Service Award at the campus commencement ceremony, May 15. The award, which recognizes a community member whose service and volunteerism positively affect the quality of life in the Wyoming Valley, comes with a one-time scholarship. A student who is enrolled at the campus for the 2004-2005 academic year and who has demonstrated academic excellence and community service will receive the scholarship in Lee's name.

"My family and I are very blessed and proud to be a part of this wonderful community, a place we have called home for 28 years," said Lee. "We take our citizenship very seriously. It is not good enough just to be an American. I try to be a good American, a good citizen."

Lee spoke from the heart in encouraging young people to become civic-minded. He suggested they take a trip overseas if even for just a short period of time. He predicted they would come back with an understanding of why so many people want to immigrate to the United States.

Eric Lee was born in Borneo and came to the U.S. in 1971 to attend the University of Georgia. He earned a Master's degree in Journalism and began his career in the restaurant business as a dishwasher on Long Island. He moved to Wilkes-Barre in 1976 and is the

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Finally, warm weather fun



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Here I am!

Matthew Fried, Dallas, played on the equipment at Center Street Park in Kingston Township last week. Warm weather meant a lot more activity at local recreation areas.

More than a junket, field studies bring school to life

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK Post Correspondent

A student with a great imagination gazing out a window at Dallas Senior High School might pretend that newly furrowed Back Mountain fields are ocean waves and barns are whaling ships. But Herman Melville's classic tale "Moby Dick" truly comes to life if that same teenager sights whales in Provincetown Harbor and smells the salty New England air from the deck of a 19th century sailing ship.

That's what Eleanor Buda, the American Literature teacher at Dallas Senior High School, figured. Her thought is now an annual, almost 20-year-old, field studies program at the high school that brings the literature curriculum to life for her students.

It was a rough start in the mid 1980s admits Buda. Dallas School District officials had concerns about a four-day, overnight bus trip to New England during the academic year. Safety and academic accountability were a concern. "And well, you can't miss school, just to miss school. But believe me, I am not a travel tour director. Many days we are too busy to stop for lunch," says Buda.

The first group traveled with school nurse Laura O'Malley, June Eyet, Louis Isaac, Meaghan Gilroy, and Buda, but subsequent trips have included parent chaperones as well. The trips are paid for through fundraisers and the student's own contributions, and cost around \$500 each.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

At Plymouth Plantation during the 2003 trip. Stephanie Miller, foreground; standing from left: Danielle Zarambo, Matt Moser, Renee Lavin, Tom Wilcox, Todd Buckley, John Gilligan.

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How To Reach Us

News: 675-5211
thepost@leader.net
15 N. Main St.
Wilkes-Barre PA 18711
Advertising: 970-7102
Subscriptions and Delivery: 829-5000

Hiring decision at Dallas fuels suspicion of favoritism

By RONALD BARTIZEK Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — Dallas School Board member Maureen Matiska doesn't understand why two middle school math teachers weren't hired at the May 10 meeting. And she questions why an applicant she says was recommended to the board was passed over.

"We had two excellent candidates," she said last week. "They would do justice to the kids."

In fact, she said, their credentials were virtually identical; both were graduates of Penn State and they had done student teaching at the same school.

The board hired Russell Eyet, who has been substituting in the district, as computer technology/math teacher at the middle school, at a salary of \$29,930. The position was created when a math teacher moved up to the high school to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Greg Solfaneli.

"My goodness, it's all above board."

David Usavage School Board President

Board president David Usavage feels the recommendation was misrepresented. He said Tuesday that after a second round of interviews, which only he and board member Gary Mathers attended, a third round was added so other board members could

observe and comment. Miscommunication between the board and administration had caused notices of the second meeting to be skipped.

Douglas Shook, who now teaches in Maryland, had been favored by a team of administrators, in part because he had stronger computer experience, but after the third interview, which Usavage said six board members attended, the district's math department

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FOR THE POST/M.B. GILLIGAN

Water for all

Sierra Rose Houck-Boyer, a fourth grade student at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School set up a water distillation operation for her science project. Several area schools held science fairs last week. More photos on page 2.

Burning 'grace period' to June 11

By RONALD BARTIZEK Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. — Burn, baby, burn. That may be the mantra of township residents in the next month. At their May 12 meeting, the supervisors voted to allow open burning of large piles of brush, tree limbs and other debris until a new burning ordinance takes effect on June 11. "It's a grace period," said vice chairman Jeffrey Box, and is acceptable partly because all burning had been banned as the new rules were finalized.

Like every other discussion about burning, this one became more complicated than first anticipated. Rosaria Shaver, who has argued for exceptions for businesses and owners of large tracts of land, again made that plea. In response, Solicitor Ben Jones III repeated his opinion that if the ordinance is not uniformly applied it will be worthless.

Jim Reino, of Lincoln Drive, questioned the time allowed for burning. During the "window of opportunity," as Jones called it, one of 13 conditions for obtaining a permit will be suspended, allowing fires larger than 5 feet square and a duration of more than three hours. But while the permit states that fires must be extinguished by 8 p.m., it does not restrict when they may be started.

"Could someone start at midnight and burn until 8 p.m.?" Reino asked. The board agreed to limit the hours to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Among other conditions that apply:

- A permit must be obtained from the zoning officer before any burning can take place.
No trash or recyclables, including leaves, material may be burned.
Water or extinguishers must be on site.
Fires must be kept 50 feet from

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