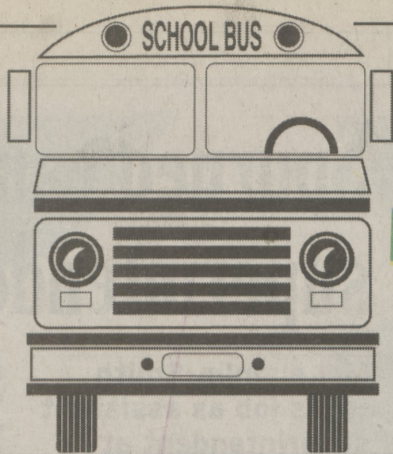


Dallas and Lake-Lehman school bus schedules

Pages 6-7



# THE POST

50¢

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



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## Olympic size fun

David Oley hits the balloon over Julia Adonizio's head during a faux Olympics event during the Back Mountain Community Vacation Bible School, held last week at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dallas. The theme was "Go For The Gold ... Team Up With Jesus." More photos on page 2.

## Outpouring of support leads Richardson to reopen

Decision to close was hasty, Dodge dealer admits, so he'll give it another go.

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

DALLAS — Was it prayer, guilt or a shrewd business mind that led Jim Richardson to reverse course and reopen his family's Dodge dealership only a week after closing it? Maybe a little of each.

Following what he admits was a hasty decision to close, Richardson's conscience, tweaked by customers and friends who had done business with three generations of his

family, led him to give it another go. "I owe it to the people who have been so dedicated and loyal," he said August 13, after a week of soul searching. "I got a guilt trip letting people down."

The second thoughts started as Richardson opened payments arriving from customers who had received a brief letter announcing the closure along with their bills. Most of the checks came with notes recounting years as satisfied customers and lamenting the loss of a trusted friend.

Then there were the nuns. Richardson said the Sisters of Mercy, his largest customer, said they would pray for him and whatever troubles had led to shutting the doors.

"I don't know if that worked," he said, but

a few days after hearing about the heavenly pleas, he and his family took another look at the business and decided to open again.

There will be some changes in the operation, though, which Richardson now sees as overdue. "I can't operate in the olden days any more," he said.

In the past, he would extend credit to customers who were short of cash but needed to get their vehicles repaired. "If you can pay me, pay me," was the philosophy, he said. "Those days are gone."

The dealership may even begin taking credit cards.

Richardson and his son, William, will also

See DODGE, pg 2

### 3 lifetimes in teaching

## Lake-Lehman bids farewell to long-term administrators

By PAUL LAZAR  
For The Post

Ninety-eight years of experience.

That's what Lake-Lehman School District will miss the most with the retirement of educators Bob Roberts, Robert Kunkle and Rich Gorgone.

Gorgone and Kunkle have already retired, and Roberts will join their ranks in December. Until then, he will mentor incoming administrators.

Each has spent more than 30 years in the field of education in various positions, but their common focal point has always remained the same, the education and well-being of students in their school district.

In the years they have served the students, parents and the rest of the faculty of the school district, each has seen, and been a part of, changes in education.

Gorgone has been a history teacher, football coach and athletic director. He has always enjoyed the students, and wanted to get into teaching and coaching at an early age. "That was



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Together, Bob Roberts, Robert Kunkle and Rich Gorgone devoted 98 years to the Lake-Lehman School District. Kunkle and Gorgone retired at the end of the last school year, and Roberts will step down in December.

my desire when I was young," he said. "I was very fortunate to be able to do it."

The high points of his career include Lake-Lehman's district championship in 1997 and attaining his 100th coaching victory.

As an added bonus, Gorgone has met some of his closest

friends, many of them parents of students he has coached, along the way. "I look back and I created a lot of nice friendships with those parents," he said. "You don't realize it as it happens, but when you retire and look back, it just kind of jumps at you. I have great memories and friends."

Gorgone, a married father of four, plans to keep busy as an assistant football coach at King's College in Wilkes-Barre. "It's been a pretty good ride for me," he said. "And when I got the opportunity to coach at King's I jumped on it."

Like his retiring colleagues, Gorgone said would do choose the same career again.

Roberts, who has served the school district for 33 years as a teacher, superintendent, middle-level principal and high school co-principal, believes that his career choice allowed him to make a difference, as did the teachers who inspired him.

"I was undecided out of high school and went to school at LCCC and Stroudsburg, but always had teachers who cared," he said. "I just fell in love with the profession. The last year I spent at the high school was very rewarding for me as co-principal."

Roberts taught social studies for about 15 years in the district before going into school administration. He recalls the dread of

See RETIREES, pg 3

## Ready to lend a hand

Not all volunteers go to disaster sites far away, some serve close to home.

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

They don't follow hurricanes or chase tornados, but local Red Cross volunteers are always ready to help out neighbors in need.

While some of their comrades respond to the devastation brought to Florida by Hurricane Charley, Theresa

### TO HELP

The Red Cross welcomes new volunteers for all its services, including emergency response. To inquire, call 823-7161 and ask for the volunteers director.

Evans and Linda Burkardt are prepared to bring comfort and assistance to victims of tragedy closer to home.

The Back Mountain residents are members of Red Cross Emergency Services teams that serve Luzerne County. Each of four teams covers a week in rotation, on call at times of the day when Red Cross offices are closed, principally weekdays 4:30 p.m. to 8 a.m., weekends and holidays.

Like so many volunteers, these two have personal reasons for donating their time to help others. Burkardt traveled to El Salvador a few years ago with a group from her church, Trinity Presbyterian.

"After what I saw there, I wanted to give something back to the community," she said.

Leader of a team, she and her three teammates are available to support other emergency personnel or the victims of fires, floods or other adversity. Local fire chiefs call out the on-duty team when firefighters need food and water while dealing with a stubborn blaze, or when families are displaced and need housing, food, clothing or just a sympathetic ear.

So far this year, Burkardt has been called only twice, which she considers a good sign that emergencies have been infrequent.

Evans, a retired real estate broker, was the recipient of assistance as a child, and when she stopped working was able to return the favor.

"Red Cross would take care of us and feed us," when she was a child in Europe, she said. Her experiences as a volunteer have included responding to a gasoline leak in Jackson Township, fires, and the explosion of fireworks in Plymouth earlier this year.

"Mass care" is her favorite role, helping families with basic needs such as shelter and calming them in the storm of a disaster.

All volunteers receive the same basic training, and local volunteers could travel to the scene of major disasters.

"That's how the Red Cross ensures consistency nationwide," said Amy Gabriel, Director of Emergency Services at the Wilkes-Barre office. While additional training may be needed for specific assignments, the transition is easy because everyone has the same foundation.

See RED CROSS, pg 2



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

### Something old that's new

Joe and Susan Terasavage, Harveys Lake, presented their newest treasure at the Back Mountain car show in Lehman. It was the 21st edition of the event, which is put on by the Lake-Lehman Band Boosters. More photos on page 3.

### Inside The Post

12 Pages, 1 Section

Calendar	12
Church	11
Editorials	4
Obituaries	5
School	6-8
Sports	9

More champions!  
Girls win 11-year old state championship and boys wear 9-10 district crown.

Page 9



Carrie Martin Endowment adds \$1,000 to prizes for Luzerne County Fair Queen.

Page 10

Arts at Hayfield 20th year.

Page 12

### 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