

Red Cross

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Burkhardt would like to respond to hurricanes and other calamities out of the area, but that will have to wait for retirement.

"I would love to, but I can't get away from work for three weeks," she said. She is a registered nurse at the Mercy Center in Dallas.

In addition to human volunteers, the Red Cross has agreements with hotels, food stores and restaurants where food and a place to stay are available at a moment's notice, with billing directly to the organization.

"I know I can go to McDonald's and order 100 hamburgers," Burkhardt said.

Gabriel said most of those arrangements are with larger stores, but in a pinch volunteers can set up temporary accounts with local businesses. She gave the example of a gasoline leak in 2000 at Chase Corners, when the General Jackson Store was the closest source of supplies.

"We want to do what's quickest, and keep it in the community that's affected," she said.

But more human help is always needed.

"They're really desperate for volunteers," said Evans, who also spends time at the chapter house in Wilkes-Barre every Monday afternoon. "People drop in and out."

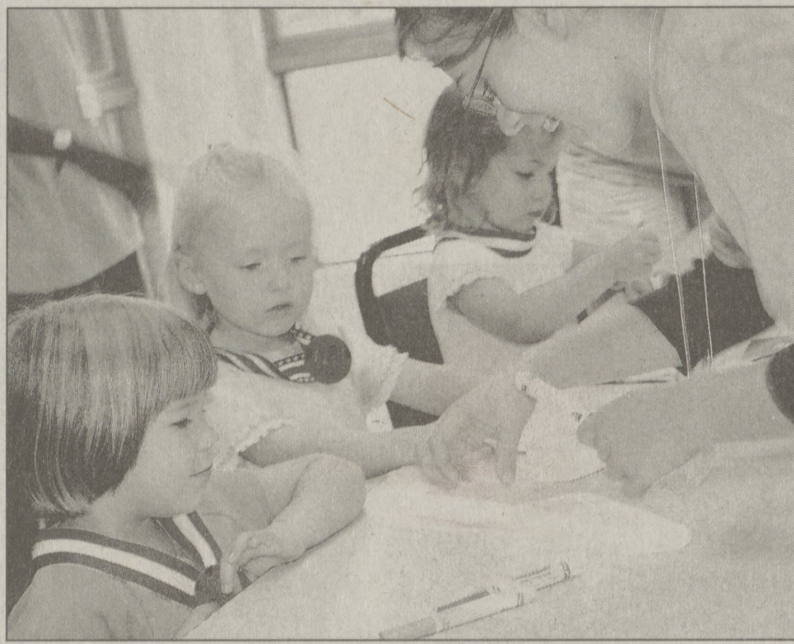
Gabriel agreed with that assessment. She said attrition is caused by people moving away, changing working hours or even becoming uncomfortable about going out in bad weather.

"Right now, we would add to the teams," she said, if more volunteers applied. "We're trying to keep those four teams as solid as possible."

Going for the gold



The Back Mountain Community Vacation Bible School for children ages 3 to 12, was held August 16 to 20 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dallas. This year's theme was "Go For The Gold ... Team Up With Jesus," selected to coincide with the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens. A free-will offering taken each day was donated to the Special Olympics of Luzerne County. The VBS was co-sponsored by five churches: St. Paul's Lutheran, Shavertown United Methodist, Trinity Presbyterian, Dallas United Methodist, Huntsville United Methodist and Prince of Peace Episcopal.



Above, Rev. Bill Lewis, Dallas United Methodist Church, helps children understand the value of an ultimate goal using "medals." At right, Hannah Grube helps, from left, Olivia King, Emma Oley and Sami Pugh make signs.

FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Spurned candidate for superintendent resigns

McLaughlin-Smith takes job as assistant superintendent at Crestwood.

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

LEHMAN TWP. — The Lake-Lehman School Board accepted the resignation of Dave McLaughlin-Smith at its August 17 meeting.

McLaughlin-Smith had last served as principal at Lake-Noxen Elementary. He had been offered and accepted the position of superintendent of the district in May, but was rebuffed after asking for assurance that he would be retained in another administrative position if he did not work out as superintendent.

The board appointed Michael Healey, former principal of Lackawanna Trail Jr./Sr. High School, at a salary of \$95,000 annually, plus a 10 percent co-pay towards his health insurance. McLaughlin-Smith had agreed to an \$85,000 salary.

Robert Roberts, who is retiring as acting superintendent, was paid approximately \$88,000.

In July, McLaughlin-Smith accepted the position of assistant superintendent in the Crestwood School District at an \$82,000 salary. He was unavailable for comment.

Before voting, board member Mark Kornoski expressed his appreciation for McLaughlin-Smith's service to the district. "This is one board member that is sorry to see him go," he said.

The board agreed unanimously to accept an offer of \$70,000 for the former Middle Level Education Building, which is now closed. The sale is to the River of Life Fellowship Ministries, which intends to conduct services in the building.

School board members emphatically rejected a suggestion to deal with false fire alarms by delaying response in order to give maintenance personnel time to check the system.

The system has malfunctioned several times through the summer, apparently because of dust in sensors. Dave Madajewski, director of buildings and grounds, said the fire department threatened a fine after the last false alarm. In order to avoid that expense, he asked the board to authorize a 15-minute window from the time the system alerted the alarm company's office of a problem during which a maintenance employee would verify whether or not there really was a fire.

"Absolutely, positively no," said board member James Welby, a volunteer fireman, of the plan. He said he would rather be called out at 3 a.m. for a false alarm than see a building destroyed by fire.

Board president James Mahon agreed. "I don't think there can be a buffer between the fire department and the school," he said.

Board member Charles Balavage said the company was at fault, and should be asked to go over the system. "Most buildings don't have this problem."

Madajewski said after the meeting there had been a problem with dust in the sensors, probably due to the construction project at the school. He said the system had malfunctioned twice before the sensors were cleaned and once since.

The system has a monitoring function that warns when a sensor is becoming dirty. Madajewski said he or another maintenance staff worker will check the system every day, and if there is any sign of trouble, the offending sensor will be replaced.

"They don't like it, so we're not going to do it," he said of the plan to delay calling the fire department when a warning is sent to the Simplex office.

In other business:
• District architect Doug Trumbower hinted that there may be a settlement with Johns Manville over problems with the senior high school roof. He said the company had been in contact with Mark Sobek, who was hired as a consultant on the issue, about "some pretty serious do..."

Before Richardson's, it was Besecker Ford Dodge

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Louis Richardson established his Dodge dealership on Lake Street in 1938, in a building that previously housed James Besecker Ford. Bob Besecker, whose real estate office is at the corner of Main Street and Memorial Highway, said in an interview last year that his father opened the Ford dealership in 1923.

The Ford garage operated until 1936, when it closed in the depths of the Great Depression.

Memorial Highway (Route 415) didn't exist when Richardson's was established and Lake Street was the main route to Harveys Lake. When the new road was built, it went through Louis Richardson's property, and the dealership had frontage on what is now a busy highway.

About 1980, Richardson's took over the vacant Himmler Theater next to the dealership, and it has been used for storage ever since.

Another dealership, Jim Oliver's Hudson showroom, once occupied the building that is now the Dallas Borough municipal offices, and James Besecker worked there in the 1940s.

— Ronald Bartizek

pay more heed to expenses. The cost of "floor plan," alone, the interest dealers pay on vehicles until they are sold, was running \$7,000 to \$8,000 a month, he said.

"And we can invest more money," Jim said, and more time. "I'll be at the office at 7:30 Monday morning."

The seven full-time employees, who Richardson calls "our active team," will return.

The inventory of new cars and parts that had been returned to Chrysler Corporation is back. Richardson said the company wants to keep a presence in the Back Mountain.

But in the end, it was the outpouring of support that got to him. "I've had so many calls and letters you wouldn't believe. It's the community support you get in a small town."

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