

## Taxes

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county's cost to \$2.95 per bill.

Money isn't the only concern raised by O'Neill and representatives of the other targeted municipalities. If the county takes over collecting, the result could be two separate bills in each property owner's mailbox.

"That's certainly not increasing efficiencies," O'Neill said. And it may be confusing to people accustomed to getting the two tax bills together.

Service is another issue. With a tax collector on duty in the township office, residents can stop by to drop off payments of both local and county taxes, and get a receipt.

"That's a service that we like to have for our residents," O'Neill said.

The county can remove tax collection responsibility only from cities and home-rule municipalities. The three home-rule municipalities, Kingston Township, Wilkes-Barre Township and Kingston Borough, charge the county \$3.50 per tax bill. Pittston charges \$15.91, Nanticoke charges \$6.93 and Hazleton charges \$3.45, according to a listing DePolo compiled. The county took over collection from Wilkes-Barre last year, and DePolo says that has saved more than \$160,000.

DePolo, the county Deputy Treasurer, said Wednesday that O'Neill needs to relate his concerns and suggestions to the commissioners, who will decide what will be done. His plan was drawn up in response to a request from the commissioners for savings ideas.

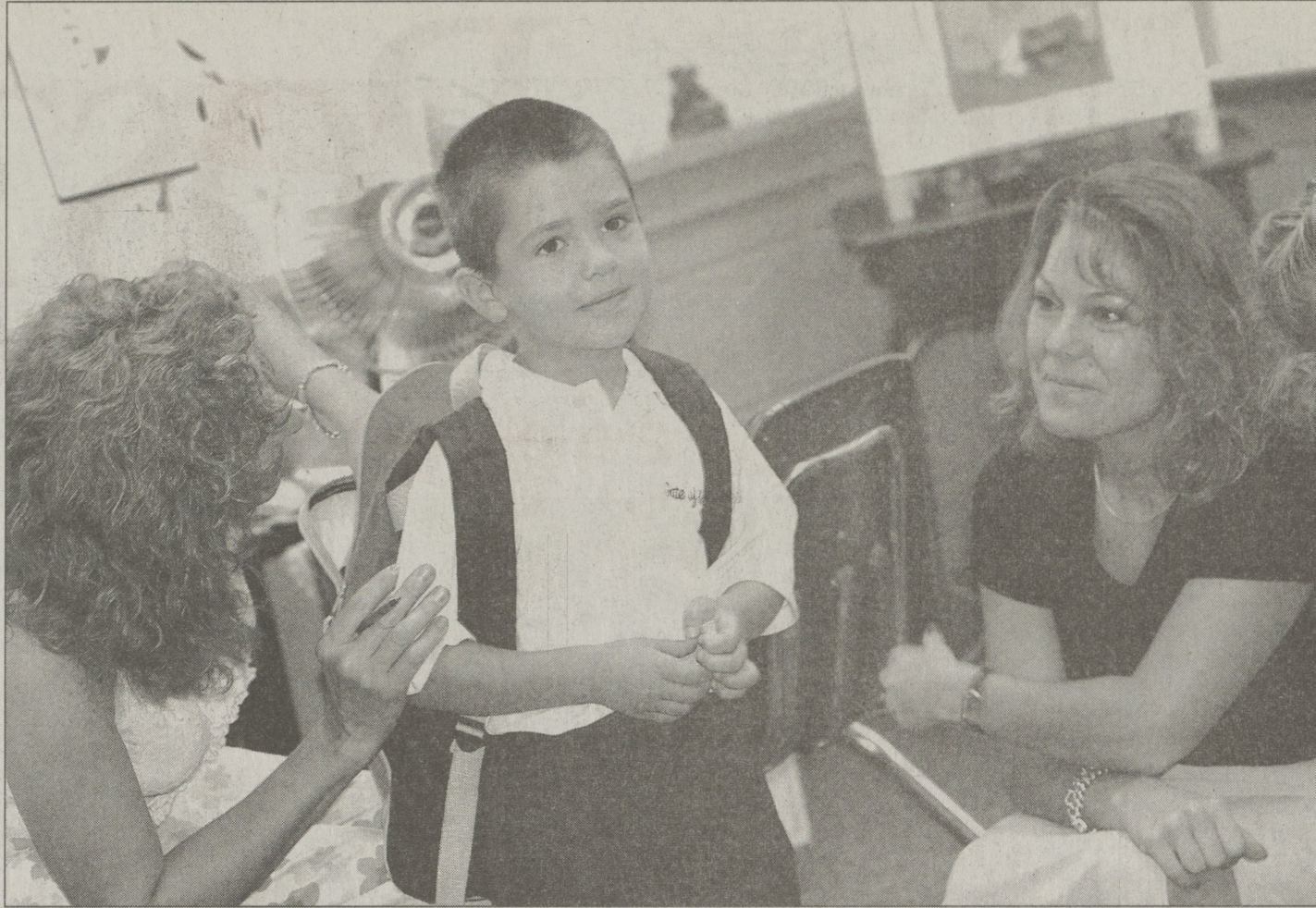
Because the county's annual budget process begins October 1, DePolo believes the issue will be decided at the September 15 commissioners meeting.

Other townships use elected or appointed tax collectors, and state regulations prohibit the county from taking over their services. However, the rate the county pays, generally \$3.50 per bill, can be reduced, although not until 2006.

## Bren moved to John Heinz, can see visitors

Joe Bren, the Dallas Township police officer who was seriously injured in an auto accident August, 18, has been moved from Community Medical Center to the John Heinz Institute for Rehabilitation on Mundy Street in Wilkes-Barre.

He is now allowed visitors and phone calls and is in room 202. Visiting hours are from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 1 to 8:30 p.m. on Sat. and Sun.



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## Well, maybe it won't be so bad

School bells rang, at least figuratively, last week around the Back Mountain as students returned to classrooms at the start of the new year. The newest of the new were kindergarten students, arriving for their first day. The Post stopped by to capture the looks of anticipation or trepidation on their faces.

Carolyn Suhocki, kindergarten aide at Gate of Heaven School in Dallas, and mom Denise Driscoll try to convince R.J. Driscoll, of Shickshinny, that school isn't so bad.

## Pie contest

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apple pies, prepared and baked at home; no lattice or crumb topping may be used.

- No canned filling, whipped cream or ice cream will be accepted.

- Judging will be based on overall creativity, appearance, crust color, flavor, texture, filling consistency, and doneness.

- Pies should be baked in either 9- or 10-inch disposable pie tins. If not, bakers are responsible for picking up their own containers at the Dallas Borough Building before the end of the festival, or they will be disposed of.

- Prizes will consist of first, second and third place in both divisions.

- Winning pies will be on display at the Dallas Harvest Festival.

- Pies should be brought to the Dallas Borough Building no earlier than 10 a.m., and no later than 11 a.m., on the morning of the festival, Sunday, Sept. 19.



Judging apple pies in the Dallas Harvest Festival contest will be Amy Dorrance, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, and Assistant General Manager of Food Services at College Misericordia, College Misericordia Executive Chef and General Manager Paul McMillan, and Metz & Associates pastry chef Jodi McMillan.

This year's contest chairperson is Amy Dorrance, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, and Assistant General Manager of Food Services at College Misericordia. Joining Dorrance as judges will be

College Misericordia Executive Chef and General Manager Paul McMillan, and Metz & Associates pastry chef Jodi McMillan. Questions relating to the contest can be directed to Amy Dorrance at 675-8276.

## SENIOR MENUS

Senior Citizens Centers sponsored by the Area Agency on aging for Luzerne and Wyoming Counties offers hot noon meals Monday through Friday to people 60 years of age or older. Donations from participants are gratefully accepted and needed in order to expand this program. The following is the menu for the week of Sept. 6-10. All menus include margarine, milk and coffee. The Senior Center is located at 22 Rice St., Dallas.

MONDAY: Closed for Labor Day.

TUESDAY: Turkey and swiss cheese croissant, tomato, lettuce, pasta salad, iced cookie.

WEDNESDAY: Quarter pound hot dog with chili, potato puffs, baked beans, fresh watermelon.

THURSDAY: Chicken tenders, au gratin potatoes, carrots, chocolate cookie.

FRIDAY: Egg salad, cheese, lettuce and tomato, vegetable soup, mixed fresh fruit.

## PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfers were recorded recently at the Luzerne County Courthouse:

Janet Nicoll to Donald Brislin and spouse, Dallas, \$120,000.

Robert Coslett Jr. and spouse to Allen Wolfe and others, 53 Powderhorn Drive, Dallas, \$140,000.

Judy B. Johnsen to Charles Norris and spouse, Dallas, \$108,000.

Leonard Roginski and spouse to Emily F. Pedersen, Fairview, Dallas, \$108,100.

Donald Ricko and spouse to Matthew T. Austin, Dallas Township, \$131,000.

Peggy Smith and others per tax claim to MVM Holdings LLC, Franklin Township, \$1,200.

Lillian Sacco to Andrew Brooks, Villa Roma Minor, Harveys Lake, \$62,000.

Michael Monaco and spouse to Edward Muhnisky and spouse, Lakeview Terrace, Harveys Lake, \$87,500.

William J. Owens to William Davies and spouse, Harveys Lake, \$67,000.

William Javer and spouse to Thomas Quinn and spouse, Harveys Lake, \$127,500.

Gregory Javer and spouse to Thomas Quinn and spouse, Harveys Lake, \$175,000.

John Karsko and spouse to Joseph Pagnotti and spouse, Bayfield, Harveys Lake, \$70,000.

Thomas Hutchinson and spouse to Colburn L. Jones, Oak Hill, Lehman Township, \$145,000.

John Stolarick to Lisa A. Fuller, Lehman Township, \$90,000.

Caleb Hoyt and spouse to Rebecca Hoyt, Ross Township, \$150,000.

Salvatore Cometa and spouse to Ralph Seltzer and spouse, 11 Lakeside Drive, Ross Township, \$79,000.

Donald A. Wesley to James D. Laniewski and spouse, Grassy Knoll, Ross Township, \$206,000.

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SUNDAY - Pinmonkey @ 7 pm; Fireworks Finale, 9 pm Co-sponsored by S & S Amusements

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**Corrections, clarifications:** The Post will correct errors of fact or clarify any misunderstandings created by a story. Call 675-5211.

**Have a story idea?** Please call, we'd like to hear about it.

**Letters:** The Post prints letters of local interest. Send letters to: Editor, The Post, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18711. All letters must be signed and include a phone number at which we can reach the author.

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