

Local residents enjoying the final few days of summer at Harveys Lake.

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THE POST

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

Beth Maffei reads 'Let's Get a Pup' to one of the groups of children.



Rebecca Oley, team music teacher, sings with a group of children.



COUNTRY WEDDING

A real country wedding

New York couple anxious to tie the knot in Dallas barn next spring

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

DALLAS – It will be a wedding to remember, something you might read about in Vogue magazine. And the "country chic" wedding that will take place on Mount Olivet Road next spring.

Chandeliers and sconces will be brought in and each of the 200 guests will be chauffeured by bus from New York to Dallas. The wedding will represent a trend among young couples to leave the traditional wedding setting behind.

They will be married in a barn.

The wedding ceremony and reception will take place in the three-story, red, gambrel-roofed barn near the corner of Lower Demunds and Mt. Olivet roads. Built in 1912 by Wilkes-Barre coal baron W. T. Payne, the barn has been recently painstakingly restored by its newest owners, Rob and Allison Freidman.

In 2003, the Freidmans hoped to secure the barn from further damage, house some horses, and perhaps add a bowling alley or shops in the barn.

Then quite by accident, Allison Freidman was looking at a message board on an Internet site for restored barns when she came across this message: "Looking for barn in PA for September wedding."

Friedman responded to the query and the engaged New York couple who posted the message is very glad she did.

"We love being in the country and we don't like tents," says Mika Kleban, referring to herself and husband-to-be Todd Schwartz. They will be married on a date to be determined in May. "We like the barn wood and the history behind the barn. It will be a lovely way to have

"We like the barn wood and the history behind the barn. It will be a lovely way to have our wedding."

Mika Kleban
Bride-to-be

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FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Guests at a wedding next spring will be seated in these folding chairs. Country weddings have become a popular alternative to traditional settings.

Learning love



FOR THE POST/JONATHAN JUKA

Rachel Maniskas, 6, looks at the picture she colored while Mitchell Robert, 6, works on his during a community-wide Vacation Bible School earlier this week.

150 children attend community-wide Vacation Bible School

By KRISTA CONNOLLY
Post Correspondent

SHAVERTOWN – Candy comes in many flavors. So does religion.

But, that didn't matter to the 150 children attending a community Vacation Bible School – Kingdom of the Son, Prayer Safari – this week at the Shavertown United Methodist Church. As they used gummy Swedish fish, Sweet Tarts, and mini chocolate kisses to learn about God's love, the children didn't realize they were from different churches.

The Methodist, Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Lutheran and Episcopalian children were busy playing games, eating snacks and hearing stories, all intertwined with the religious theme of the day.

"This ecumenical VBS concept began approximately eight years ago," said Bonnie Ziegler, Sunday school director at Shavertown United Methodist.

"And it's been going strong ever since," added volunteer staff coordinator Amy Huntington.

Although the VBS is sponsored and paid for by six of the Back Mountain Christian churches – Shavertown United Methodist, Dallas United Methodist, Huntsville United Methodist, St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince of Peace Episcopal and Trinity Presbyterian, children from ages 3 to 13 of all churches were welcome.

"This year, we have children from Gate of Heaven, St. Therese's, Our Lady of Victory, St. Maria Goretti and Firwood United Methodist Church in Wilkes-Barre," said Huntington. "The program is free of charge and everyone is welcome."

Huntington agreed. "We do not distinguish any differences in the children's backgrounds," she said. "If a Catholic child wants to bless themselves before snack time, that's great. All during the school year, we join for soccer, tee ball, football and sports ac-

tivities, why not come together during the summer, to blend our faith? It makes it bigger and better."

"The children experience a prayerful week of worship, fun and fellowship with their friends and family."

The bigger and better idea is readily apparent at the makeshift summer camp. The children, grouped together by ages and animal nicknames are ushered through the various play stations by the 65 parent and teenage volunteers. One such volunteer, Jim Snyder, superintendent of the Trinity Presbyterian Church, proudly smiled as he donned his neon colored vest, with his new nickname badge "Crossing Guard Jim."

"We have a lot of fun," he said. "We would only have had 19 students at our individual church this year, it would be a drain on resources, both with money and parent volun-

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Students at former one-room schoolhouses get together for reunion

Classmates, friends recall the good old days

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

JACKSON TWP. – They walked to school – yes, sometimes more than a mile in the snow and rain – and shared a single classroom with as many as 50 other students in eight different grades.

If they wanted a cup of water, they took a bucket to a nearby pump or stream – and carried the heavy bucket to the school. If drinking the water forced nature to call, they paid a visit to the outhouse.

There was no electricity. And if they

wanted heat during the winter months, they helped their teacher start the furnace each morning.

Life as a student in a one-room schoolhouse wasn't easy. But Helen Franklin, Dorothy Gmitter and Keith Cragle say they wouldn't trade their experiences for anything.

The trio was part of more than 15 former one-room schoolhouse students from the Back Mountain who gathered last weekend in Jackson Township for a reunion. The third annual event was held at the home of



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTO/FRED ADAMS

Helen Franklin rings a 100-year-old bell from the former Rome School in Jackson Township. Franklin's mother, Victoria Maude Bulford, was a teacher in the one-room schoolhouse during the early 1900s.

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