

THE POST

50¢

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

Drug dogs prove effective

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

DALLAS TWP. - Frank Galicki wants the students and parents of the Dallas School District to know the high school and middle school provide a safe, drug-free learning environment.

Bringing in dogs to search the schools is just one way for the superintendent to show it.

Four drug-sniffing dogs from the state police's K-9 unit searched the high school and middle school for narcotics last week. The thorough search - which included student lockers, the gymnasium, and the auditorium - failed to find any evidence of drugs.

"I think it's a proactive approach," said Galicki, a former high school principal who is in his first year as superintendent. "We don't want to reactive. I believe it sends a message to kids that they go to school and learn in a safe, drug-free zone. It's added protection for the kids. There are a lot of good kids out there who don't want to get involved in drugs."

The district has been conducting random searches for the last four years, said Galicki. Last week's search was planned by the school district, but students knew nothing about it. Galicki said he hasn't received any calls from angry parents about the search.

"Even when I was a principal I didn't get many calls from parents," he said. "I've spoken to a lot of people and there's a strong feeling in the community to keep drugs out of the school."

During the four years the searches have been conducted, no drugs have been found, said Galicki.

"I think the first thought that goes through your mind is a relief that they haven't found any drugs," he said. "But other thoughts go through your mind. Do we need to do something else? How else can we educate the students and get them to talk about drugs?"

The district has a zero tolerance for drugs, said Galicki. In addition to legal action - local police would be called immediately if a search revealed drugs - there is an automatic 10-day suspension and a review process. There is also referral to the school's student assistance team, as well as local drug and alcohol services.

"There's going to be legal action we can't control that," said Galicki. "But there is also therapeutic action. We want to provide help to the student."

The district will continue with the searches, says the superintendent. They can take place at any time, and on any day of the school year.

"The kids know there's always a possibility for another search," said Galicki.

Celebrating a milestone

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

It was April 1865. The United States was nearing the end of the Civil War. Slavery had been abolished two years earlier. President Abraham Lincoln was on the verge of being assassinated.

And the Idetown United Methodist Church was born.

Members of the church - now known as the Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church - kicked off a yearlong celebration of its 140th anniversary last weekend with a special service at the Idetown United Methodist Church.

"It was a wonderful day, a great day," said the Rev. Nancy Russell a few days after the celebration. "People are still talking about it."

Idetown resident Mary Oliver purchased the land for the church for \$100 in 1893 and the cost to build the church was \$2,150. Ground was broken on July 6, 1893. The Idetown United Methodist Church was the first area church to welcome Fresh Air kids from New York City and the first to have training for Sunday school teachers.

In 1932, church members who were out-of-work carpenters built the church house, which was used as a social hall. The church bell - which still works today - was dedicated on Mrs. Solomon P. Ide's birthday and she was given the honor of being the first person to ring it.

"It's kind of neat to be member of a church with that much history," said Barbara Ide, who has been a member for 35 years. "If you think about it, the church was started in the 19th century. There are a lot of five-generation families that still attend."

Financial matters forced the Lehman and Idetown United Methodist churches to merge two years ago. The weekly worship services are held at Lehman United Methodist Church, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary in September.

Russell moved to the area 2½ years ago to take over the pastoral duties.

"It's been a wonderful experience to be part of the area," said the Massachusetts native. "Being here is more like my home, except for the ocean. I think the members of the congregation are building closer relationships. It was sad to leave one church or the other, but I think people have made some new friends."

Although she was sad to see the Idetown church shut its doors, Barbara Ide says there have been some positives to

See IDETOWN, Page 8



Idetown UMC begins 140th anniversary celebration

The Idetown United Methodist Church was founded in 1895. It merged with the Lehman UMC two years ago.



Jayne Haefele shows off the anniversary cake.



Former Idetown United Methodist Church parishioners William and Naomi Ward came back to visit old friends at the church's 140th anniversary celebration.



Pastor Nancy Russell greets parishioner Beverly Ide at the Idetown United Methodist Church's 140th anniversary celebration.

Back Mountain residents among many Audubon Society members

By GENELLE HOBAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - Each morning many of us hear the tweets, chirps and peeps out of the birds living amongst the trees in Northeastern Pennsylvania while we are trying to get a few extra hours of shut-eye.

One Eaton Township resident, however, doesn't roll over and throw a pillow over his head to drown out the sound. Instead, he listens intently to try to identify the type of bird it is just by listening to its chirps.

Bill Reid, a member of the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society for 25 years, has been a birder since 1937.

"It's a fascinating interest that is always changing," he said. "You get in touch with nature and learn a lot."

Reid and other birders are members of the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society, which is an

official chapter of the National Audubon Society. Geographically it covers the majority of Luzerne and Wyoming Counties. The group held its monthly meeting at the Dallas United Methodist Church earlier this week. The program featured a demonstration about various bats which live in the area.

"I got my start in birding because of scouting," Reid said. "To become an Eagle Scout we had to identify 40 different kinds of birds for our Bird Study Merit Badge. My sister was the family naturalist, and she pointed out an English sparrow to me and ever since then I've been interested."

Reid's favorite type of bird to watch for is an owl. They have fascinated him for years, he said.

According to its Web site, the goal of the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society is to encourage an appreciation for, and a need to protect, the natural beauty and biodiversity that exists in and out



Amber Zygumt gets a close up view of a Jamaican fruit bat from naturalist Susan Gallagher during a meeting of the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society.

of the region. Its members participate in a number of bird counts, including four Christmas Counts, and the Lu-

zerne County and Wyoming County Spring and Fall North American Migration Counts. Lehman Township resident Deb

ON THE WEB

Information about the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society can be found at www.gwas.org.

Petroski joined the organization in 1998 when she moved to the area. "I've been a bird watcher all of my adult life," said the Ohio native. "My first experience was with my grandmother. She was a backyard bird watcher. I'm more of a garden variety backyard bird watcher myself."

Petroski, the treasurer and membership chairwoman of the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society, said she joined because she wanted to meet new people who had similar interests.

"The club is just great because the people in it all love birding," she said.

See AUDUBON, Page 10

Inside The Post

10 Pages, 1 Section	
Church	2&6
Civic news	5
Only Yesterday	4
School	9
Sports	7-8

How To Reach Us

News: 675-5211
thepost@leader.net
 15 N. Main St.
 Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18711
 Advertising: 829-7101
 Subscriptions
 and Delivery: 829-5000