

THE POST

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

PSU W-B exceeds \$8 million goal

Penn State Wilkes-Barre's campaign for a new academic commons building has topped its \$8 million goal, thanks to a recent gift from campus alumnus Richard J. "Rick" Barry.

The academic commons will contain an expanded campus library, as well as an art gallery, auditorium, classrooms, and study and meeting space for students. The two-story building will be named for the late Abram Nesbitt III of Wilkes-Barre. Nesbitt, his family and estate were ma-

ior contributors to the campaign, which has now secured a total of \$8.2 million in private and university funds.

Barry also designated a portion of his gift to support conversion of the current campus library to a student services center. It will be named for John Murphy, the campus' former student services director and mentor to many students, including Barry.

"We are extremely pleased that the

See PSU W-B, Page 8



The new academic commons at Penn State Wilkes-Barre will be located across from the historic Hayfield House, at left, in Lehman Township.

TIMES LEADER FILE PHOTO/FRED ADAMS

Amusement parks focus of meeting



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES PETRILLO

The carousel was one of the many attractions at the former Hanson's Park in Harveys Lake.

The bi-annual meeting of the Back Mountain Historical Association will discuss the "Amusements of the Back Mountain" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 26 in the Banks Student Center's Kennedy Lounge at College Misericordia.

Local historian Charles Petrillo, author of "Harveys Lake" will be the feature speaker. The discussion will focus on the attractions at Harveys Lake - such as Hanson's Amusement Park - steamboats, hotels and other activities at the state's largest natural lake. He will also talk about the former Fernbrook Park.

Fernbrook Park was located in Dallas, where Offset Paperback is now located, along the Dallas and Harveys Lake Trolley Line. In 1928, Fernbrook Park advertised 18 amusement rides for the season, one of which was the recent addition of a roller coaster designed by Herbert Schmeck and built by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company in 1926, named the Wildcat.

The feature attraction of Fernbrook Park was the dance pavilion, capable of holding 2,500 people. During the Great Depression, rides were removed one by one until only the dance hall remained. The dance hall was later used as a skating rink before being closed in 1946.

Don Hanson's Amusement Park was situated at Harveys Lake on what was once the Lehigh Valley Railroad Picnic Grounds. Some of the early attractions at the picnic grounds in-

See AMUSEMENT, Page 8

TROUT SEASON

Hundreds answer casting call



The Softysiak family - Mike Deb, Brett and Sean - of Tunkhannock boards a boat for the first day of trout fishing at Harveys Lake.

FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

Alan Ide didn't have too much trouble catching his limit of five trout, casting his line in Leonard's Creek near Beaumont. A short distance downstream, Dave Vernon and his grandson Alex Berlew didn't have much luck, putting just one fish on the hook between them.

But despite the difference in success, the three fishermen concluded the first day of trout season with the same sentiment: it was a very enjoyable day.

Hundreds of anglers took to the various waterways in the Back Mountain on Saturday morning. Fishermen young and old could be seen at places such as Harveys Lake, Bowman's Creek, Frances Slocum State Park, Leonard's Creek and Moon Lake State Park.

"I've been fishing pretty much all of my life," said Ide, a Dallas resident who spent the day fishing by himself. "It gives me something to do. It gets you away from the grind. It's nice to spend some quiet time with a fishing pole in your hand and a line in the water. It was pretty good fishing. I took me half of a day, but I got my limit."

Not everyone was as fortunate. "We caught nothing, not a thing," said Joe Stier. The Dallas man spent a short time fishing on Harveys Lake with his father John, brother Dave, son Joey and niece Ashley. Stier's father and brother took out him out for a few hours to relax after a recent surgery. "We were only out for a short time, but it was a beautiful day."

The fact that they returned home empty-handed didn't put a damper on the day, says Stier.



The family of Joseph Stier, Dallas, get ready for a day on the water at Harveys Lake.

"It's all about the experiences," said the 31-year-old. "Even when you don't catch any fish, you can have a great time. It's a great way to spend time together."

Joey Stier says he enjoyed the time he spent fishing off the boat with his father, grandfather, uncle and cousin.

"I like going in the water and being able to catch stuff," said the 10-year-old Wycallis Elementary School student, who plans to go fishing for trout and salmon in Ontario, Canada in August. "Fishing for walleye is my favorite. They're big and challenging. Fishing is fun, but it requires a lot of patience. I like talking with my friends and family when I'm fishing."

Vernon spent most of the day fishing with his oldest grandchild. The pair spent about seven hours fishing in Leonard's Creek, with Vernon catching just



Miranda Sayre, Jackson twp., casts into Leonard's Creek in Beaumont.

one trout, while 10-year-old Alex will be able to talk about the one that got away.

"We weren't the only ones who didn't have any luck," said Vernon, who lives in Dallas. "There were about 20 people fishing around us and I think only four or five fish were caught. We still had a



Allen Ide, Dallas, casts into Leonard's Creek in Beaumont.

good time. It was the first time I was able to take (Alex) trout fishing. He's learning. He does a pretty good job casting."

While he encourages his grandson in other activities - Alex plays youth baseball and basketball - Vernon says fishing is something that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

"I just want him to have a good time and enjoy the outdoors," said Vernon, who has been fishing for almost four decades. "This is something he can have fun doing the rest of his life. I used to fish with my father and my friends. I've been doing it since I was a little kid. It's nice to be able to do the same thing with my grandson."

Oliver resigns

Lake-Lehman interim superintendent John Oliver Jr. resigned suddenly from the position late Thursday. He did not give a reason for the resignation. In a published report, Oliver's son, John Oliver III, said he believed problems with the school board and administration that arose during a public budget meeting Wednesday night could have played a role in the decision.

Oliver Jr., a longtime principal who worked in the district for 36 years, retired in 2002 but returned to serve as the interim superintendent when superintendent Michael Healey left for the same post in the Tunkhannock School District. Oliver began his duties April 1 and was expected to work until July 1.

In an interview for a feature story that was scheduled to appear in today's edition of The Post, Oliver said was enjoying himself and that returning to Lake-Lehman was like "being home again."



Oliver

Inside The Post

Civic.....	3
Church.....	2&5
Only Yesterday.....	4
School.....	6&9
Sports.....	7-8

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