

THE POST

50¢

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

Art-full harvest



Amanda Kuczynski finds a wreath for her new house in Hunlock Creek among the treasures.

PHOTOS FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Arts at Hayfield Summer Festival weathers deluge

By GENELLE HOBAN
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. – The continuous rainy weather last weekend transformed the 22nd annual Arts at Hayfield Summer Festival at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus into a sea of umbrellas.

However, the rain didn't stop visitors from walking up and down the commons to check out a variety of local craft vendor tents.

Vendors sold everything from oil paintings to fresh baked goods to jewelry. This year's event also featured live entertainment from the folk rock group Just Us and a live performance from the Back Mountain Theatre Group.

Pam Castellani of Sweet Valley, owner of The Country Frog in Sweet Valley, sold wheat weavings, her self-proclaimed specialty, among other things at her booth.

The summer festival is one of the two key fund-raising activities of Arts at Hayfield, which supports fine arts, crafts and cultural performances in the Back Mountain and Wyoming Valley areas.

The money raised from the festival supports the spring Poetry Festival, music and theatre offerings at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, celebrity luncheons and local library outreach books on the arts, as well as other things.

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"We come to a lot of these community events that are for a good cause. We display what we love to do."

Pam Castellani
Owner of The Country Frog



Char Overturf, Falls, sold her tie-dyed scarves at the Arts at Hayfield festival.



Jessica Ryan, Lehman Township, checks out some handmade jewelry.



Despite the rain, Richard Beck of Benton carved a bowl from wood during the annual arts festival held on the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus.

10 MINUTES WITH...



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTO/DON CAREY

Red Jones calls his final square dance after more than 50 years of entertaining local dancers.

Jones recalls good times in community

The former Lake-Lehman school board member returned home to the Back Mountain to call his last square dance

By GENELLE HOBAN
Post Correspondent

Editor's note: This is part of our occasional "10 Minutes With ..." question and answer series. If you would like to recommend someone for the feature, e-mail editor Dave Konopki at dkonopki@leader.net or call him at 829-7248.

In 1951, after a caller failed to show for a square dance – and following some encouragement from his brothers – 13-year-old Joseph "Red" Jones marched up to the stage and called his very first square dance.

Some Back Mountain resident might also remember Jones from his 14 years of serving on the Lake-Lehman School Board, as a Luzerne County commissioner, or from his career in sales management.

After undergoing triple-bypass surgery last fall, Jones and his wife of 45 years, Marie, relocated to Forsyth County, Ga., to live with their daughter and avoid the harsh winter. The pair liked the area so much they decided to purchase a home of their own.

The 68-year-old Jones recently called his final square dance in the Wyoming Valley after 55 years of taking the stage for countless events and organizations.

GH: What is your fondest memory of the Back Mountain now that you live in Georgia?

RJ: "The Lake-Lehman School District is probably my fondest memory because when we lost our home in Plymouth Township to the flood of '72 we moved out to Lehman and my kids started school there. I loved going to see my children play basketball and perform in the band. There were a lot of close-knit families in that community. The teachers and the administration were excellent too."

"The Back Mountain area as a whole, I believe, is a beautiful place to live, raise children and worship no matter what religion you are."

GH: How did you first get involved in politics?

RJ: "I started in politics at 15 years old. I had a lot of respect for some older guys back in the 1950s. I always tried to be around them. Chappy Lore, who was tax collector, taught me about the game. I was so in awe to see these politicians, how they talked to people and served the public. In those days they were respected. I think it's a very honorable profession if you keep it honorable."

GH: Of all the offices you could have sought, why did you choose to run for school director?

RJ: "When we moved up to Lehman, I never thought of running for school director. An outstanding school director from my region wanted

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