

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Wellness center planned but who will pay for it?

By REBECCA BRIA
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A wellness center will soon be constructed at Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School.

The Lake-Lehman School Board on Nov. 16 approved a 3,200-square-foot wellness center to be built in an old wrestling room and changing room near the junior high school gym.

According to Superintendent James McGovern, the center will feature free weights and cardiovascular equipment that will be used by athletes and general students.

Plans for the center have been discussed for two years. McGovern said the project will

cost between \$7,000 and \$8,000 but added it is undetermined who will pay for the center.

The superintendent hopes much of the construction will be completed during the holiday break in December.

Essay contest winners

Four district students who placed in the Wyoming Valley Veterans Parade Essay Contest were honored for their accomplishment.

Retired U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Susan Allen, chairperson of the contest, said this is the third year for the contest but the first year Lake-Lehman participated.

This year's essay theme was "How a veteran past or present

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has inspired me."

The contest was open to all students in grades four through 12 who attend school in the Wyoming Valley.

Kodey Hummel, of the junior/senior high school, and Rebecca Osiecki, of Lake-Noxen Elementary School, were both finalists.

Brandon Kelley, of the junior/senior high school, placed second in grades nine through 12 and Evan Butcofski, of Lake-Noxen Elementary School, placed first in grades four

through five.

The students received a certificate from both the district and the Wyoming Valley Veterans Parade Committee.

The committee also awarded first-place winners \$250, second-place winners \$100 and third-place winners \$50. The winners and finalists marched in the Wyoming Valley Veterans Parade.

Ross project

The board approved disburse-

ments for Nov. 16, 2009 in the amount of \$259,819.01 for the Ross Elementary construction project.

Retirement

The retirement of custodian David West, effective Oct. 24, 2009, was approved. The board tabled a vote to hire a new full-time custodian.

Athletic coach hires

Thomas Chipeco, of Dallas, and Anthony Cibello, of Wilkes-Barre, were appointed seventh and eighth-grade boys basketball coaches for the 2009-2010 school year. Their salary is in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Lesley Corey was hired as the dive and assistant swim coach for the 2009-2010 school year and Alda Maturi was named the assistant swim coach. Both will be paid \$1,383 each.

Corey Brin was selected as the head boys volleyball coach for the 2009-10 school year and Kevin David was named the assistant boys volleyball coach.

Substitutes

The following individuals were added as substitute teachers: Jennifer Hunter, Dallas, music; Jeffrey Krynick, Wilkes-Barre, English grades seven to 12; Jill Scott, Sweet Valley, En-

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DALLAS BOROUGH

Increase in taxes is expected

By REBECCA BRIA
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Residents can expect to see an increase in their municipal taxes next year, according to borough manager Tracey Michael Carr.

The proposed 2010 operating budget was approved Nov. 18 by council and calls for an increase in taxes, although Carr says she has not yet configured the millage rate. A mill is a \$1 tax for every \$1,000 in assessed property value.

According to Carr, the borough's 2009 millage rate is 1.07.

Carr says the increase is due to the need for increased revenue to match expenditures and that the certified tax base will also be lower next year due to reassessment appeals which lowered some property values.

The 2010 budget is for just under \$1.1 million, compared to over \$1.4 million in 2009. Carr says there were more projects budgeted for this year than for 2010.

Storm water piping project

Don Holdredge, of Norton Avenue, asked council for an update on a stormwater drainage piping replacement that is supposed to take place in his neighborhood.

Holdredge said in October that his property and the property of several of his neighbors have been continually dam-

aged by storm water runoff since 2006.

Norton Avenue, Spring Street and Lehman Avenue are set to receive \$100,000 in federal funds through a 2009 Luzerne County Office of Community Development grant for the piping replacement.

Carr said that a required environmental study was conducted and the project was advertised. She said the Luzerne County Office of Community Development told her the documents will be sent to the federal government for approval.

No parking zone

An ordinance was passed to establish a no parking zone on a section of Lake Street. Council President Pat Peiffer says the zone will be along Misericordia University property from "the blue house" to the president's house.

The zone was mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in order to allow for safe site distance from the former Commonwealth Telephone Company building which was purchased by the university.

Resignation

The resignation of part-time road worker Clayton Yeust, effective Nov. 21, was accepted. The borough manager was also authorized to seek applications for the position.

Traffic bulbs

Approval was granted for the borough to participate in an inter-municipal cooperative project with NEPA-Alliance to implement signal conversion program. The program is designed to assist municipalities in energy and cost savings by placing LED bulbs in traffic signals. The borough is seeking a Pennsylvania Energy Conversation Works! Grant for the project.

Payments

Payment to Papillon & Moyer Excavating and Paving was approved in the amount of \$65,735.45 for the Orchard Street Bridge demolition project and the storm sewer improvement project.

Payment was also authorized to Hondru Ford in Manheim in the amount of \$28,728.35 for a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria Police Cruiser and equipment purchased under the PA CoStars 13 state contract. An additional \$3,565 was approved to LRB Enterprises, Inc. for exterior graphics for the cruiser.

Partnership funding

A membership contribution was approved toward start-up funding for the Back Mountain Community Partnership in an amount to be determined by the partnership's board not to exceed \$1,300.



The Shavertown United Methodist Church is sponsoring a Community Thanksgiving Dinner for the entire community. Helping to plan the event are, from left, kneeling, Royal Sutton and Nancy Silvi. Standing, Sandy Michalisin, Nick Michalisin, Nancy Dingman, Carol Folk, Sherrie Waslick, Russ Hoover and Dee Dee Hoover.

SUMC plans Thanksgiving dinner

The Shavertown United Methodist Church is sponsoring a Community Thanksgiving Dinner for the entire community.

A full Thanksgiving dinner will be served and offered free to anyone who does not want to

be alone or simply does not want to cook on Thanksgiving Day.

Reservations, indicating the number of people attending, should be made by Monday, Nov. 23, by calling the church office at 675-3616.

The dinner will be served, family style, at noon in the Social Room at the Shavertown United Methodist Church, 163 N. Pioneer Ave, Shavertown.

There is no charge for the dinner; however, a donation may be given.



The public is invited to view the 34th Annual Student Art Exhibit during Thanksgiving Week at Sue Hand's Imagery, 35 Main St., Dallas. Artists who will display their works are Merre Martin, seated. From left, standing, Maisie Oldeack, Carolyn Kerkowski, Lauren Shission and Kristen Boyle.

Students will display art work in art exhibit at Sue Hand's studio

The public is invited to view the 34th Annual Student Art Exhibit during Thanksgiving Week at Sue Hand's Imagery, 35 Main St., Dallas.

Artworks on display include impressionistic and realistic works in all fine art drawing and painting media. Renderings, abstractions and various

design compositions will also be exhibited. Students range in age from 5 to 85 years old.

Award-winning artist and teacher Sue Hand will be present during the exhibit to welcome visitors and answer questions about the artwork. She invites visitors to watch while she draws and paints on

her current projects.

Studio hours for the exhibit are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The studio will be closed Thanksgiving Day.

For more information, call 675-5094.

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Municipal taxes are not expected to rise; budget will be adopted Dec. 15

By REBECCA BRIA
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Municipal taxes in the township will not increase in 2010, according to the preliminary \$2.4 million budget presented Nov. 17.

Supervisor Glenn Howell gave a brief presentation on the preliminary 2010 spending plan and said there will be no increase in the .52 municipal millage rate.

A mill is \$1 in tax for every \$1,000 in assessed property value.

Total estimated expenditures for 2010 are \$2,410,700, up from \$2,284,000 in 2009.

Howell attributed the increase to rising costs for a variety of items.

He said the state's liquid fuel funds allocation to the township for 2010 has been lowered to \$213,939.

The funds can be used for expenses such as road department workers' salaries and road maintenance.

The preliminary budget will be on display for 20 days at the township municipal building.

The tentative adoption of the budget will take place during the next supervisors meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Information request

The supervisors gave John Newman, of Wedgewood Way, a Pennsylvania Right to Know Act

"Either you guys don't care and I don't believe that's the case or you're hiding something and I don't believe that's the case or you don't know what you're doing."

John Newman
Wedgewood Way resident

information request form after he repeatedly asked for a financial report at previous meetings.

The supervisors previously told Newman he could view financial documents at the municipal building during business hours.

"Either you guys don't care and I don't believe that's the case or you're hiding something and I don't believe that's the case or you don't know what you're doing," Newman said.

Mitigation plan

A resolution was passed to adopt a Bi-County Hazard Mitigation Plan for the counties of Luzerne and Lackawanna for the purpose of obtaining disaster assistance if ever needed.

According to the supervisors, each municipality in the two counties must adopt the plan in order to be eligible to receive future state or federal disaster assistance funding.

911 address ordinance

A separate resolution was adopted to acknowledge the countywide addressing ordi-

nance and agreement to cooperate with the addressing project for the purpose of public safety and Luzerne County 911.

The Luzerne County Board of Commissioners adopted a countywide addressing policy on July 17 along with an addressing policy and guidelines for providing standards for the naming of streets; for the fabrication, erection and maintenance of street name signs; and for establishing a street address numbering system for the county.

The township is one of several municipalities undergoing changes for the countywide addressing system contracted by GeoComm, a communications engineering and geographic information system mapping firm specializing in enhanced 911 systems for public safety entities. The system will eliminate rural route addresses and replace them with street names and numbers.

Fred Rosencrans, of Luzerne County 911, said in June that he estimates about 30 percent of the township is still using rural route addresses and will likely be affected by the change.