

The DALLAS POST

50¢

Serving the communities of the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts | www.mydallaspost.com

Prison security is concern again

By REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

IF YOU GO

Public meeting on proposed tower staffing reductions at SCI Dallas Thursday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Hall, 1160 Chase Rd., Jackson Township

JACKSON TWP. — Al Fox remembers the last time the towers at the State Correctional Institution Dallas were unmanned.

It was Aug. 16, 1999 when serial arsonist Anthony Yang and convicted killer Michael McCloskey escaped from the prison.

Fox, vice chairman of supervisors for the township, lives on Pine Tree Road along the prison property's border. His land is separated from the prison by a short

stone wall that can easily be climbed.

Fox recalls having prison officials and a SWAT team on his property that day, trying to determine if the escapees went in the direction toward his home.

The incident occurred when the towers were not staffed, he said.

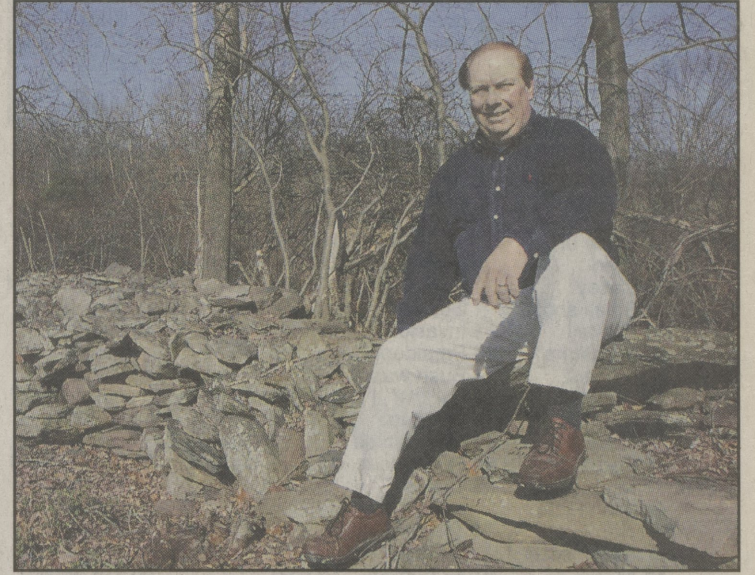
The state Department of Corrections has decided to reduce tower staffing levels again, prompting Fox and the other

township supervisors to schedule a public meeting on the issue. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, at the township volunteer fire department hall, 1160 Chase Rd.

Township supervisors have invited Luzerne County state representatives and senators, state Department of Corrections Secretary Jeffrey Beard and the pub-

See PRISON, Page 12

Al Fox, of Jackson Township, sits on a stone wall between the state prison grounds and his property.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

LOVE THAT BUNNY!



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Madison Price, of Trucksville, is just thrilled to be in the arms of the Easter Bunny during the Kingston Township Annual Easter Egg Hunt. For more photos, please turn to page 3.

Petition urges rules be put on gas drills

By REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

IF YOU GO...

Dr. Thomas Giunta is worried. When the Lehman Township resident learned a natural gas drilling company applied for a permit to drill an exploratory well in his town, he re-

searched Google maps. Giunta looked up the distance between the proposed Peaceful Valley Road and the Huntsville Reservoir and learned it was 1.7 miles.

That's too close for Giunta. He's concerned that the reservoir, which supplies water to thousands of people in the area, could become contaminated.

The Ceasetown Dam, which is only half a mile from Moon Lake Park, is another fear for Giunta. Luzerne County commissioners have proposed leasing land and water in the park to a natural gas drilling company.

"If it (contamination) happens

Public meeting on natural gas drilling Wednesday, April 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. Kingston Township Municipal Building, 180 E. Center St., Shavertown

in the reservoirs, it's going to be catastrophic," said the podiatrist, who has an office in Kingston.

Giunta decided to create a petition to urge state legislators and the state Department of Environmental Protection to put a stop to proposed natural gas drilling in the Back Mountain community. He received help with the petition from Brian and Jen Doran, also of Lehman Township.

The online version of the petition has 200 signatures, many of with Back Mountain residents. Giunta said the group is also up to about 600 paper signatures.

The petition can be found online at www.petitiononline.com/cleanh2o/petition.html.

See PETITION, Page 12



Giunta

Dorothy, the wizard and all their friends are coming to Lake-Lehman

By REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

IF YOU GO

"The Wizard of Oz" musical and spring art show Friday, April 16, and Saturday, April 17, at 7 p.m.; Sunday, April 18, at 3 p.m. Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School Reserved pre-sale seating: \$10 adults, \$6 children 12 and under General admission: \$8 adults; \$5 children 12 and under For reserved pre-sale tickets, call Jill at 477-2902, Ginny at 675-1761 or e-mail LakeLehmanOz@aol.com

Ronnie Ziomek will soon have more mementos to add to his Wizard of Oz collection.

The seventh-grader at Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School will play the Mayor of Munchkin Land in the school's upcoming production of "The Wizard of Oz" musical.

"I love the movie," Ziomek said. "I have a huge collection of Wizard of Oz everything."

The school will present "The Wizard of Oz" musical at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 16, and Saturday, April 17, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 18. A spring art show will also be held in conjunction with the musical.

Gina Major Ackerman, who operates Major Performing Arts Center in Trucksville, is directing the school's spring musical this year. Although she has directed youth theatre in the Wyoming Valley for 16 years, this is her first time leading a high school performance.

"There are several different Wizard of Oz scripts," Major

Ackerman said. "This is the one that was the first big stage show version script. I picked this one because people will see differences from the story line and the movie...."

In addition to students from the junior/senior high school, Major Ackerman has involved 32 students from elementary schools in the Lake-Lehman School District. The elementary students will play munchkins in the musical.

It's also the first time in approximately 20 years that student musicians will play the music for the show in a live show band, Major Ackerman said.

Major Ackerman, an alumnus of Lake-Lehman and its music and theatre department and a former Miss Pennsylvania, has invited retired Lake-Lehman music and theatre teachers Jane Morris and Maureen Purcell to attend the show. The two will sit in the front row, Major Ackerman said.

She also hopes to invite her

former marching band director, John Milauskas.

The students began preparing for the musical back in January with their first task being to watch "The Wizard of Oz" movie, complete with popcorn.

The cast has been busy since then, practicing every day with the exception of Wednesdays and Sundays. Saturdays are utilized as set building days. Sisters Shawni and Raine Scott did much of the set work, along with other performers and parents.

Sixteen-year-old Tyler Pearson, who is in 11th-grade, will play the role of Dorothy. Although Pearson has had lead roles in other productions outside of school, this is her first part in a school musical.

Like many of the students in the school's drama club, Pearson is also active in various community theatres. She feels the most challenging aspect of her role is living up to people's expectations of Dorothy because the audience will know if



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Tyler Pearson, who plays Dorothy, has a special fondness for Derek Osborne as the Tin Man in Lake-Lehman High School's production of "The Wizard of Oz."

she makes a mistake.

"It's been fun but it's been different because there are 30 little munchkins running around the place," Pearson said.

Oz will be played by Matthew Gorski, who is 16 and in 10th-grade. Although he auditioned

to be the scarecrow, he is happy with his role of Oz.

"I watched the movie and I took some notes on how he goes from really, really bad to good," Gorski said of the man behind the curtain. "I think that's so great that I can go

from different characterizations."

Gorski's father, Brian, a history teacher at the junior/senior high school, is also in the musical and will play Uncle Henry.

See DOROTHY, Page 12



6 09815 20079 19