



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

The cast of "The Wizard of Oz" at Lake-Lehman High School includes, center floor front, Hunter Root. From left, second row, Ben Steltz, Scarecrow; Emily Sisk, Auntie Em; Tyler Pearson, Dorothy; Ray Margary, Munchkin Farmer and Joe the Farmhand; Amanda Teutonico, Matthew Gorski, Oz; Charity Marvin. Third row, Ann Wallo, Wicked Witch; Bethany Taylor, Kendra Smith, Tibia; Mariah Raspen, Cowardly Lion; Ronnie Ziomek, Munchkin Mayor; Anna DeFranco, Winter Wenner, Munchkin Coroner/Witch; Sarah Litchman, Rebecca Roser. Fourth row, DeLilah Van Gorder, Raine Scott, Karli Doran, Shawni Scott, Mikayla Orrson, Derek Osbourne, Timman; Mr. Brian Gorski, Uncle Henry; Hunter Lefkoski, Hope Naugle, Aelish Ellis. Fifth row, Row Avery DeFranco and Julia Whitesell.

DOROTHY

Continued from Page 1

"Gina asked if there is a certain teacher that is enthusiastic and loud and everyone said 'Mr. Gorski,'" the younger Gorski said.

This will be the first time the elder Gorski has been in a theatrical production.

"I was voted as Uncle Henry," he said. "I gladly accepted. I'm excited. I'm looking forward to it."

Tenth-grader Mikayla Orrson, 15, is having no trouble playing the role of Gloria because she is similar to the character.

"Gloria's like a princess and she thinks of herself of being high and is smiling all of the time," Orrson said. "I practiced being happier. I'm normally a very happy person so the character suits me. We're very much alike."

The students received no funding from the school district for the musical so they were forced to raise money to present the show. They have raised almost \$2,000 so far through fundraisers

at Friendly's in Dallas, weekly school bake sales, paintball tournaments, a prom fashion show and an Easter egg and pierogi sale.

Major Ackerman estimates the students have raised one-sixth or one-seventh of the total cost of the production.

"Coming in to a theater situation with no budget, we had to make a decision - do we proceed with something small and financially risk free or do we go for it?" Major Ackerman said. "And I think if you ask any of the kids, they wanted to do something grand."

A fundraiser for the drama club will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Monday, April 5, at Friendly's in Dallas. The restaurant will donate up to 15 percent of sales from the evening to the club.

"It's kind of a triumphant feeling because we're overcoming not having that," Shawni Scott said.

Hunter Root is the farm hand in Lake-Lehman's production of "The Wizard of Oz."



PRISON

Continued from Page 1

lic to attend.

Sen. Lisa Baker has committed to attending the meeting, Fox said.

"As a township supervisor, I am concerned about the safety for all the residents in our community," he said. "That's what we have to make sure, that everyone's protected. It's OK to want to save the taxpayers money by not manning the towers, but if that's going to jeopardize the safety of the citizens we have to look - is that a wise decision? As a resident...I have the same concerns for my family

and for the residents."

The DOC announced on March 19 that it will reduce tower staffing at five state prisons - Camp Hill, Cumberland County; Dallas, Luzerne County; Graterford, Montgomery County; Huntingdon, Huntingdon County; and Rockview, Centre County.

Beard said in a press release that advancements in technology and substantial upgrades to perimeter security at Pennsylvania's state prisons will allow the DOC to reduce staffing levels at the towers of five facilities without compromising safety.

Beard said in the release that the move, expected to save the state nearly \$5 million will begin in May and be fully implemented by June.

"Over the last several decades, we have spent millions of dollars strengthening our prisons' perimeters and security," Beard said in the release. "These enhancements, coupled with security improvements made within the prisons, all greatly reduce the need to staff perimeter towers around the clock, without compromising safety inside or outside of our prisons."

Some area residents, however, are not convinced their safety will not be at risk, prompting township supervisors to schedule the public meeting.

Chairman of supervisors John

"Jay" Wilkes wrote and signed a letter, inviting residents to the meeting. He wrote in the letter that the prisoners who escaped in 1999 did so over a razor wire fence between two unmanned towers.

"This not only put the safety of the residence (sic) of every community at risk but also demonstrated why the manned guard towers have been a vital piece of the security system at the correctional facility at Jackson Township," Wilkes said in the release. "The Jackson Township supervisors are very concerned for the safety and security of our residence (sic), neighbors and those employees that work at the Jackson Township facility!"

Fox said the community needs

to make sure the safety upgrades that have occurred at newer state prisons have also taken place at older prisons, including SCI Dallas.

He acknowledged some measures were put into place after the 1999 escape, including returning guards to the towers and an additional razor wire fence. But he is not sure if the prison received the same safety improvements that newer prisons have.

"I think we should be proactive rather than reactive and I think, in that situation, the state was reactive rather than proactive," Fox said. "I'm not sure that we are up to the standards of the newer prisons."

"This could accommodate two classes at the same time," she said.

Adams hopes to be able to add one new piece each year.

Anyone interested in making a donation to the playground is asked to call Adams at 696-3899.

FUN

Continued from Page 3

the PEG accomplished in a short amount of time.

"They said they will match what was raised throughout the school year," she said of the board.

Kuhar attributes the success of the playground fundraisers will result in a final product that will "benefit children for years to come."

The Luau offered school and church families an opportunity to escape the lingering grips of winter and enter a colorful Hawaiian atmosphere where children of all ages could catch a duck for 25 cents, make a craft, paint, limbo and learn to Hula.

One PEG family offered the Child Identification services of its employer, Baltimore Life, which allowed parents to have their children photographed and finger printed for an identification card.

Rand Rodkey, a local Baltimore Life representative, said parents will receive cards in about two to three weeks.

Helping to assist the PEG mothers, eight girls from Girl Scout Troop 32831 from St. Nicholas and St. Mary's School in Wilkes-Barre volunteered their afternoon to set up and operate various stations.

Troop Leader Toni McDonald said PEG mother Monica Law contacted Bridget Ford, another Troop 32831 leader, with the idea of offering the girls a community service opportunity. McDonald said the girls love working with children.

"They are using this opportunity to work towards their Silver Award," McDonald said of the Scouts. "They are also earning service hours."

The inspiration behind the fundraising efforts is to give current and new students an updated playground to enjoy. Adams said the current playground is composed of a wooden train, a metal fire truck, a slide and other smaller pieces.

Although the playground equipment is safe, it is showing wear and is costly to maintain.

"Some pieces like the fire truck and tot house are 20 years old," Adams said. "We want to upgrade to the heavy duty plastic pieces and switch to rubber mulch."

Adams' goal, pending the ap-

proval of the board of trustees of the Trucksville United Methodist Church where the education center is housed, is to replace the playground surface with rubber mulch and add one playground unit this summer. She found an ideal piece with 12 stations, including tic-tac-toe, a clock, activity panels, a car and three slides.

Puzzles, Page 2

◆ PUZZLE ANSWERS

— King Crossword —
Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

I	D	E	S	A	G	E	C	A	L	M		
F	O	G	H	O	R	N	S	A	R	I	A	
S	H	O	R	T	C	C	U	T	M	E	E	T
I	T	S	R	H	E	S	U	S				
C	E	L	L	O	S	O						
A	M	Y	L	P	A	G	E	A	N	T		
P	U	N	S	A	G	E	S	E	A	T		
S	N	O	W	M	A	N	M	A	X	I		
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M	I	E	N	E	V	E	R	Y	D	A	Y	
B	E	D	S	T	A	W	L	A	M	E		

— Go Figure! —
answers

5	-	2	x	7	21
x	x		÷		
6	+	8	x	1	14
-	+		x		
9	÷	9	+	3	4
21		25		21	

— Super Crossword —
Answers

P	A	L	I	N	B	L	T	C	O	G	S	R	O	D	A	N		
A	R	A	M	I	S	R	A	H	A	L	T	R	Y	C	R	I	M	E
P	E	O	P	L	E													
P	A	S	E	D	W	A	R	D	S	B	B	S		A	L	T		
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ulated suburban areas and in areas close to public drinking supplies.

The "Halliburton Loophole" is a name dubbed for a provision in the 2005 Energy Policy Act that exempts hydraulic fracturing, an oil and gas production method, from Safe Drinking Water Act regulations.

PETITION

Continued from Page 1

Junta hopes to obtain 1,000 signatures and plans to present the petition to state legislators during an upcoming public meeting on natural gas drilling. The meeting will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7, at the Kingstons Township Municipal Building.

Local state Rep. Phyllis Mundy and state Rep. Camille "Bud" George, of Clearfield County, have committed to attending the meeting, Junta said. George is the majority chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Junta started researching natural gas drilling about six months ago after learning it was coming to his community.

"My neighbors, we all started saying this is not good and that's when we started going to zoning hearings where there were drilling permits," Junta said.

In an e-mail he wrote asking people to sign his petition, Junta said the gas companies want to drill very close to the Huntsville Reservoir and Ceasetown Dam which supply water to over 80,000 people in Luzerne County.

The petition asks state legislators to close the "Halliburton Loophole" and to modify state laws to allow restrictions on natural gas drilling by at least five miles in pop-

ulated suburban areas and in areas close to public drinking supplies. The "Halliburton Loophole" is a name dubbed for a provision in the 2005 Energy Policy Act that exempts hydraulic fracturing, an oil and gas production method, from Safe Drinking Water Act regulations. "There have (been) many accidents with regard to gas drilling, toxic spills and contamination of fresh drinking water supplies around the country and in PA," Junta wrote in the e-mail. "If you enjoy clean water and want to stop or limit this dangerous activity in our watershed, then go to this link and sign the petition."

Junta is one of the founders of the recently formed Luzerne County Citizens for Clean Water which was recently renamed the Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition. The mission of the group is to protect communities and the environment from exploitative natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale region.

According to Junta, the group offers advice to people who have signed leases and tells them how they can protect the land and water and how to monitor companies. They also counsel those considering leasing and help them get the maximum protection in their leases, he said.

Junta stresses he is not anti-natural gas drilling; he just does not want it to occur in suburban areas.

"There are corridors I think we can establish where this can be done," he said. "I think there's a way to keep everybody happy, I really do, to keep it right and away from people."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Tigers Wrestling Club practices set

The Benton Tigers Wrestling Club will practice from 6 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday.

Wrestlers interested in getting better or wanting to learn more about the sport are welcome. The focus of the club is on Freestyle and Greco Roman, but all styles are welcome and taught.

Cost to join is \$200 and a USA Wrestling card is required. More can be found at <http://www.ben-tigerswrestling.com/>

[btwc.html](http://www.ben-tigerswrestling.com/btwc.html).

JAKES event set for April 25

The Red Rock Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will sponsor its annual JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge Ethics and Sportsmanship) event on Sunday, April 25, at Moon Lake Park.

For just \$15, youths 17 years of age and younger can attend a day-long event that teaches them what the outdoors has to offer. Children are placed in groups according to their age and go through different classes throughout the day.

Some of the classes offered include turkey calling, b.b. guns, outdoor cooking and archery for the 11-year-olds and younger, and archery, shotgun/clay shooting range, turkey calling for the 12 to 17-year-olds.

Classes are taught by volunteers and the shotgun/clay shooting range is also led by the PA Game Commission. Lunch is served to all who attend.

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