

# Youth sports rep is removed from two organizations

**George F. Gracely III is charged with possession of child pornography.**

A Back Mountain man has been removed from the boards of youth athletic organizations after being charged with 70 counts of possession of child pornography.

George F. Gracely III was removed as president of the Dallas Youth Basketball Association Board of Directors after a unanimous vote was taken at a special meeting on April 23. Vice president Scott Jenkins was unanimously appointed as presi-

dent of the association.

Gracely has also been removed as vice president of minor leagues for Back Mountain Baseball.

Gracely, 51, of Grandview Avenue, Harveys Lake, is accused of possessing several videos and numerous still photos of children engaging in sexual activity.

He was released from the Luzerne County Correctional Facility after posting a \$75,000 bond and was scheduled to appear at a preliminary hearing before District Magistrate James Tupper on April 29.

Gracely has been involved with

youth sports for more than 15 years and served as president of the Dallas Youth Basketball Association and vice president of minor leagues for the Back Mountain Baseball Association. He has also served as a Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association official for football, baseball and basketball and as an umpire for the American Softball Association, according to an arrest affidavit.

The resolution passed by the Dallas Youth Basketball Association board further resolved that, after taking into account the nature of the allegations filed

against Gracely, the best interests of the association and that Gracely is presumed innocent of the charges, he is suspended from any further involvement in the Dallas Youth Basketball Association in any capacity, pending the outcome of the criminal investigation.

According to attorney John B. Pike, a member of the association, Dallas Youth Basketball allows parents to serve as volunteer coaches or assistant coaches.

Parents chosen to be coaches must complete a criminal background check and child abuse check. Those background checks

are then forwarded to the respective agencies in Harrisburg.

Pike said the organization had the required clearance forms from Gracely on file.

Dallas Youth Basketball Association is a separate non profit organization not affiliated with the Dallas School District. It operates as a feeder program for boys and girls starting in third grade and progressing through eighth grade.

Steve Skammer, president of Back Mountain Little League, said that group is governed by rules and regulations set forth by Little League Baseball Inc. in Wil-

liamsport which requires all volunteers, including coaches, regular concession stand workers and maintenance personnel, to undergo background checks.

A statement issued by Back Mountain Baseball said, "Back Mountain Baseball is saddened to hear about the charges against George Gracely. Back Mountain Baseball has removed Mr. Gracely from all positions he has held within the organization and he will not be allowed to have any future affiliations within the organization."

-Compiled by Doty Martin  
Dallas Post Editor

## Making crafts at the church

There was plenty to do, lots to look at and much to buy at the annual craft fair held at the Trucksville United Methodist Church on April 17.

### CHURCH BRIEFS

#### Rummage and bake sale scheduled

The Dorcas Society of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dallas will hold a rummage and bake sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 1, in the church social hall, located off Route 118.

Bag day will be held on Saturday from noon to 2 p.m.

There will be clothes, toys, books, dishes and tools.

#### TUMC Trustees plan chicken barbecue

The Trustees of the Trucksville United Methodist Church will hold their spring chicken barbecue from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, May 7 and 8, at the Dickson Educational Facility, Church Road, Trucksville.

Take-out orders will be available from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children and must be reserved in advance. Tickets may be purchased by calling the church office at 696-3897 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday or by faxing orders to 696-3898.

#### Rummage sale set

The annual spring rummage of the Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, May 7, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 8.

Lunch will be served and there will be a bake sale and homemade soup sale. Saturday will also be bag day.

#### Roast beef dinner set

The Lutheran Brotherhood of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Dallas will hold its second roast beef supper on Saturday, May 15, at the church on Route 118, Dallas.

The family-style dinner will be served from 4 to 6:30 p.m. with takeouts beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Cost is \$8.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children. Reservations are encouraged by calling 675-3859, although tickets will also be available at the door.

#### Pastie sale

The regular monthly pastie sale of the Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church will be held on Thursday, May 22. Orders are due Monday, May 19, by calling 477-5219.



Molly Motosky, of Noxen, happily works on her jewelry during the craft fair.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST



Seven-yearold Lucas Tomko helps sell jewelry made by his mother, Teresa.



While his wife travels, Angelo Concert, of Harveys Lake, takes charge of her Avon booth at the craft fair.

## Library auction plans are in full swing these days

Plans for the annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction are in full swing.

For four nights in July, the grounds of the library will open to a flurry of shopping, bidding, eating and mingling with old friends and neighbors and making lasting memories for children and grandchildren.

Many volunteers are returning to help set up for the 2010 auction and to sample the delicious food prepared and served by the people who donate their cooking expertise to feed hungry volunteers at lunch.

Anyone may volunteer to help set up for the auction and bringing along a crock pot full of one's special cooking would be greatly

appreciated.

Donations are now being accepted from yard sales, estate sales and rummage sales.

Call the library to make arrangements or take small items to the library front desk.

Nearly Old, Attic Treasures and Cottage Keepers are in need of glassware, crystal, art, framed pictures, lanterns, lamps, jewelry, baskets, primitive items in any condition, Christmas items and collectibles, baseball and football cards, barware, ice buckets, small furniture, Plasticville buildings and railroad items.

Please label donations as Nearly Olde. Of course, antiques for the block are always welcome.

All items are tax deductible.

## LIBRARY AUCTION KICK-OFF DINNER SLATED FOR JUNE 7



Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction Kick-off Dinner Committee members met recently to plan for the annual event which will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 7, at Apple Tree Terrace at Newberry Estates. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to make a reservation by calling the library at 675-2281 by May 24. From left, are Carol Warholak Sweeney, Cynthia Das and Neela Patel. This year's auction is slated for July 8-11 on the library grounds in Dallas.