

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board approves 11+ percent increase in taxes

By REBECCA BRIA
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The Lake-Lehman School Board has approved, by a 6-2 vote, a tax increase of almost 11.39 percent for 2010-11.

The proposed final budget for 2010-11 calls for total expenditures of \$26,694,082 and total revenues of \$25,788,778.

The tax rate will rise from 7.8011 to 8.6894 mills in Luzerne County and from 55.6534 to 58.3524 mills in Wyoming County. A mill is a \$1 tax for every \$1,000 in property value.

Pennsylvania Act I, known as the "Taxpayer Relief Act," requires school districts to limit tax increases to the level set by an inflation index unless they obtain an exception or the increase is approved by voter referendum.

Thomas Melone, of Albert Melone and Company, which serves as the Lake-Lehman School District's business manager, said the rise in taxes means an increase of \$127.75 in property taxes for the average property assessed at \$143,702 in Luzerne County.

In Wyoming County, there will

The budget will be voted on for a second time at the next board meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. on June 28 in the junior/senior high school auditorium. It must be approved by June 30.

be an increase of \$33.75 for the average property.

The tax increase raises the index rate to 11.1 percent, three times above the district's index rate of 3.7 percent set for the 2010-11 year by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The board was required to adopt a preliminary budget in February because members did

not agree to limit themselves to the 3.7 percent index rate. In order for the board to raise the tax rate above 3.7 percent, an exception had to be approved either by the state or by voter referendum.

Melone said Lake-Lehman applied for \$1.2 million in exceptions under special education, tax and state funding maintenance and Public School Employ-

ees' Retirement System (PSERS) increases. The district was awarded all \$1.2 million in exceptions from the state, he said.

Board President Moderno Rossi and board treasurer Mark Kornoski voted against the measure. Board first vicepresident Peter Farrell was absent.

Kornoski said it was "a hard pill to swallow" to vote for the budget.

Rossi said he did not vote for the budget because there were no cuts in it. He said he would support eliminating four elementary teacher positions from which

teachers are retiring this year. Superintendent James McGovern said eliminating the positions would result in approximately \$280,000 in savings. McGovern also said he expects to see personnel cuts in the final budget.

McGovern said the proposed final budget will be on display for 30 days, available for public inspection for 20 days and advertised in the newspaper for 10 days prior to the next meeting.

The budget will be voted on for

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Painted to look like Spider Man, Connor Spencer, of Hunlock Creek, gets into the role of the super hero.

CHARLOTTE BARTZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Supervisors approve developer's credit

Supervisors approved on June 1 to accept a new letter of credit for Dorchester Land Development, LLC and to release its old letter of credit.

The new letter of credit is for \$858,689 received from First National Community Bank. The old credit to be released by M&T Bank is in the amount of \$172,104.40.

The letter of credit is to satisfy part of Section 103.4 in the township's subdivision and land development ordinance. The section states that "no lot in a proposed subdivision or land development may be sold and no zoning and/or building permit to erect any building, structure or other improvements upon land in a subdivision or land development may be issued unless and until each of the following conditions are met: the plans and application have been granted final approval by the township Planning Commission; all required conditions and/or improvements as set forth in the grant of approval have been met and required improvements have been constructed or until the applicant has posted a form of financial security, acceptable to the Planning Commission, which guarantees that all re-

quired improvements shall be subsequently constructed within a defined period of time; and the final plan, as approved, is filed and recorded with the Luzerne County Recorder of Deeds."

Dorchester Land Development, LLC, is the owner of the site of the new Dallas Geisinger Clinic being built on Dorchester Drive in the area of the former Sacred Heart Park. The new clinic will replace the clinic currently in the Dallas Shopping Center and will offer more specialty services.

Groundbreaking for the new facility is scheduled for June 10.

Bids to be opened at next meeting

Bids for the paving project on Main and Campground roads will be opened at the next supervisors meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 15.

Vice chairman of supervisors Frank Wagner previously said the project will consist of paving Main Road from the Kingston Township line to Route 309, as well as all of Campground Road.

Contract documents, including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the township office. Sealed proposals for the project will be received until 4 p.m. on June 15.

- Rebecca Bria



Makenci Walsh and Emily Babcock, both of Sweet Valley, fly through the air on the swings.

A 'fair' time in Sweet Valley

The 50th anniversary of the Sweet Valley Fair was a huge success as Mother Nature provided summer-like temperatures for fair-goers to enjoy. The Sweet Valley Volunteer fire Company hosts the Memorial Day Weekend Fair and Parade to raise money for its yearly operating expenses.



ABOVE: Chelsea Smith, left, of Huntington Mills, and Rachel Whitesell, of Hunlock Creek, chow down on funnel cake.



AT RIGHT: All eyes are on Stephanie Chaga, of Lehman, as she hurls herself into the air.



First Lieutenant William J. Dunn Jr., of Shavertown, left, was recently promoted to the rank of Captain in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

Dunn promoted to captain

First Lieutenant William J. Dunn Jr., of Shavertown was promoted to the rank of Captain in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard during a ceremony held May 15.

During the ceremony, Captain Dunn was also the recipient of the Army Commendation Medal and the Pennsylvania Commendation Medal for his service in the 28th Infantry Division's, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

The Army Commendation Medal was awarded for Dunn's distinguished service while assigned as Intelligence Law Officer and Defense Counsel for the 28th Infantry Division. As a defense coun-

sel, Dunn successfully litigated numerous administrative separation proceedings and provided legal assistance to Soldiers.

In September, 2009, Dunn was ordered to active duty service in support of the Joint Task Force, G-20 Summit, held in Pittsburgh, PA. For his exemplary service as a legal officer during this National Security Special Event, Dunn was awarded the Pennsylvania Commendation Medal.

Captain Dunn is currently assigned as Trial Counsel to the 55th Brigade Combat Team in Scranton. In his civilian capacity, he serves as an assistant district attorney in the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office.