

County fair opens Thursday

The 48th annual event features plenty of entertainment, food, fun.

The 48th Annual Luzerne County Fair will be held September 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, at the fairgrounds, Route 118, Dallas.

Fair hours are 4 to 11 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 8 and 9; 4 to 11:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 10; 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11; and 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 12.

Admission price is \$8 which includes unlimited amusement rides sponsored by S&S Amusements. Children under 2 years of age are admitted free and senior citizens pay half price everyday.

Week-long attractions include antique tractor display, arts and crafts, be a farmer for a day,

bucket times, Back Mountain Food Pantry, pottery by Skip, Catherine McAuley Parade of Baskets, baby farm animal exhibit, 4-H and agriculture exhibits, farmers' market, Silly Sally Balloon Animals, Ag for Kids free activities tent, Monkey Man & Money Pal Django, live entertainment and over 250 food and commercial exhibits.

Entertainment includes: Wednesday, Sept. 8: the Blues Brotherhood, fair amphitheater, 7 to 8 p.m. and 9 to 10 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 9: Flaxy Morgan, fair amphitheater, 7 to 8 p.m. and 9 to 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10 - NOMaD - North of Mason-Dixon, fair amphitheater, 7 to 8 p.m. and 9 to 10 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 11: the Cadillacs, fair amphitheater, 3 to 5 p.m.; Doug Brewin as Alan

Jackson, fair amphitheater, 7 to 7:30 p.m. and 9 to 9:30 p.m.; Ryan Pelton as Elvis, fair amphitheater, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 12: Two out of Three, a Meatloaf Tribute Band, fair amphitheater, 2 to 4 p.m.; Star Fires, fair amphitheater, 6 and 8 p.m.

A fireworks finale will be held at 9:15 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 12.

Parking for the fair is available in lot "A" on the fair side of Route 118. A free shuttle is offered from parking lot "B" on the north side of the fairgrounds, across Route 118. Handicapped parking is available by using Gates A or B. Parking for persons with wheelchairs is available by using the Gate B entrance only.

For more information, call the fair office at 675-FAIR.

Calling all amateur photogs

First Dallas Days Photography Contest open through Sept. 14

The 2010 Dallas Harvest Festival Steering Committee is conducting the First Dallas Days Photography Contest.

The contest is open through September 14 to any Back Mountain resident who wishes to "capture the beauty and culture of the Back Mountain" in a still photograph.

More information and contest rules are available by contacting Gina Major, photo contest coordinator, at gmajor@aol.com, Photography by Andy at 696-4646 or the Dallas Harvest Festival at 675-1950.

CUB SCOUT PACK 155 PLANS SIGN-UP NIGHT



Pack 155, Trucksville, invites boys ages 6-10 to sign up for Scouts from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 8, at the Dallas Elementary School. Families are also invited to attend the pack meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16, at the Trucksville Educational Building at Trucksville United Methodist Church, on Kretschmer, left, is Scoutmaster and George Bath, right, is Cubmaster. For more information, call Crys Jennings at 696-6941 or Diane Bath at 696-4990.

Skyhaven pilots plan fly-in breakfast

The Skyhaven Pilots Association will hold its bi-annual Fly-in Pancake Breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 19, in the main hangar at Skyhaven Airport on Route 29, approximately 1/8 mile south of downtown Tunkhannock.

The breakfast, including eggs, ham, sausage, coffee and orange juice is priced at \$7 for adults and \$3 for children.

Spectators are invited to spend the day at the airport, enjoying aviation-related activities free of charge. Participants with lawn chairs may sit in specially-provided spectator areas.

RC Model Airplanes, classic cars, antique airplanes, home-builts, recreational type and public safety vehicles will all



Preparing for the Skyhaven Pilots Association bi-annual Fly-in Pancake Breakfast are Charlie Gay, left, airport operations manager; and Bobby Zampetti, public relations manager.

be on display. Airplane rides will be available for a nominal fee.

There will be an arts and crafts show outdoors in tent ar-

eas adjacent to the airplane hangars.

For more information, call Charlie Gay, Skyhaven Airport Operations at 836-4800.



William Long, chairperson of a fundraising campaign at the Trucksville United Methodist Church, burns the bank loan note dedicating the church and its auxiliary buildings debt-free. Also participating in the note-burning act are, from left, trustee chair Raymond Metzgar Jr., Rev. Charles Gommer, Louise S. Hazelton and Rev. Lori Steffensen.

Celebrating at TUMC

Pentecost Sunday, May 23, was a great day of celebration for the members and friends of the Trucksville United Methodist Church.

The morning began with two worship services, including confirmation, and was followed by the rededication of the church's debt-free campus and the naming of the Dr. Richard C. Post Memorial Hall.

Bishop Susan B. Hassinger presided over the day's events with the assistance of seven other members of the clergy, including Rev. Lori J. Steffensen, pastor of Trucksville United Methodist Church; Rev. Gregory C. Myers, Wilkes-Barre District superintendent; Rev. Ken Carder, Rev. Charles F. Gommer, Rev. Dr. C. Travis Kendall, Rev. William Kennard and Rev. Ernest A. Steffensen.

At the 10 a.m. worship service, 14 young people were confirmed and received into full membership of the United Methodist Church.

Following this, the congregation, led by Bishop Hassinger, proceeded to the William and Melba Dickson Educational Facility for a service of re-dedication.

Rev. Charles F. Gommer reflected on the importance of this occasion. He reminisced about a day, 40 years earlier, when he, as the pastor of Trucksville UMC, witnessed the dedication of a new educational facility on May 24, 1970. He then reflected on how that space had gradually become inadequate to meet the needs of the 21st century.

As a result, he said, on December 10, 2000, the congregation voted to upgrade the existing buildings, including the sanctuary, and approved the addition of a new wing to the educational facility. A building campaign was undertaken and construction began two years later.

"Now, we stand here today," Rev.

Gommer said, "our expansion complete and our debt entirely paid off!"

William Long, chair of the campaign, then presented the new, debt-free buildings for re-dedication by Bishop Hassinger.

Included in the act was the renaming of Fellowship Hall as the Dr. Richard C. Post Memorial Hall in recognition of a generous gift recently received from Dr. Post's estate. A well-known veterinarian in the community, a Scout, a beloved friend and member of the church and its first crucifer, Dr. Post passed away in 2009 but did not forget his church.

The events of the day culminated in the burning of the bank loan note, symbolizing the completion of the 10-year 2.1 million fundraising campaign.

Participating in this act along with Bill Long and Rev. Lori Steffensen, were trustee chair Raymond Metzgar Jr., Louise S. Hazelton and Rev. Gommer, campaign co-chairs.

"By working together we were able to pay off the entire debt in just 10 years," said Bill Long. "We are all very proud of what we have accomplished as a church family."

"These facilities," Long added, "not only serve the congregation at Trucksville but are here for the entire Back Mountain community."

"Indeed, the generous outpouring of support from the extended community was an integral part of our success," said Morag Michael, community chair. "Scout Troop 155 and Cub Pack 155, both sponsored by our church, worked hard in raising funds and helping to furnish a space dedicated to Scouting activities and meetings. Families and friends of Trucksville Nursery School (recently re-named Trucksville Early Childhood Educational Center) also held fundraisers and

sponsored the sale of bricks dedicated in an 'Alcove for all God's Children'."

Under the original building plans, a section of the basement was also offered to the Back Mountain Ministerium and the Commission on Economic Opportunity to house the Back Mountain Food Pantry. The church had long supported this organization when it was housed in the former Kingston Township Municipal Building but, by the turn of the century, many realized that space was becoming inadequate and increasingly difficult to access.

The Ministerium accepted this offer and the congregation voted to incorporate a larger, handicapped accessible space in the basement of the new wing to be used solely for the new pantry. As an ecumenical project, many outside groups, including foundations and local churches and businesses, lent support to this community endeavor.

Hazelton observed that, when the new pantry opened in 2003, it was serving 75 households. Today, she said, that number has climbed to 245.

With such facilities in place, including a new educational wing used by both the Sunday School and the community early childhood education program, the challenge before the Trucksville Church, said Pastor Lori, is to now use these gifts to glorify God by being Christ's hands and feet in the world.

Earlier, in worship that day, Pastor Lori invited the congregation "to dance with God and trust God to lead us. May we be found faithful."

A reception with refreshments followed the conclusion of the morning's events for the over 200 people who attended the celebration.

HARPIN' ON THINGS

After being away for 15 years, it feels really good to come back home

Good morning Dallas Post readers.

After a brief hiatus from the Wyoming Valley (a little over 15 years) during which the missus and I went looking for the meaning of life, we have returned to



Heffernan

Lehman, which will always be home in our hearts.

The weather in Florida was unbeatable

except for the occasional evacuation for hurricanes and the people in South Carolina were the friendliest we have ever met. But the smell of fresh cut hay, the feel of real dirt when planting a garden, the mountains covered with maple and oak trees and seeing childhood friends again overrules the places we have been.

Several weeks ago, Dallas Post

Editor Doty Martin asked if I was interested in writing a weekly column. I responded in the affirmative because once you are in the newspaper business it is hard to get it out of your system. I did a little writing and photography while guiding fishermen and women in the Florida Keys but never as much as I wanted.

I did get to fish with some interesting people, though, during my tour on the platform. The platform is a small piece of fiberglass 18 inches wide by 24 inches long which extends above the motor on a flats boat and is connected to the boat by aluminum poles. Newcomers to flats fishing thought it was cute that we all had covers to keep the sun off our outboard motors until it was explained that we stood on that small piece of fiberglass and pushed the boat around for six or seven hours a day with a 21-foot long carbon fiber pole in 12 inches of water while hunting fish.

Back to the people I had the

pleasure of fishing with. Actor Ed Marinaro from Hill Street Blues was fun and is a great angler. We fished together in the Redbone Tournament in Islamorada and he is the only man I have ever seen the missus not be able to talk to.

When he stuck out his hand to greet her, she tentatively reached towards him. Then he gave her a hug and I thought she was going to faint. Those big blue eyes were glued to him and she listened to every syllable he uttered. When he left, I guided her to a chair and was tempted to call the paramedics.

I did some early morning tarpon trips with astronaut General Tom Stafford. He was a riot to have in the boat. He would rattle off all the constellations and tell stories of his days at the Cape. I told him he was the craziest person I had ever met because he sat on the world's largest firecracker and survived.

The most memorable person I fished with was the American

Sportsman Curt Gowdy. What a class act. I had the opportunity in the 80s to fish with him in the Williamsport area when he was announcing the Little League World Series. I met him again in 1997 at another Redbone Tournament and, would you believe, he remembered my name and where we went fishing? It had to be at least a dozen years. No wonder he was the greatest.

I have a photo of myself and angler Tom from Detroit who caught one of the largest fish in the tournament, receiving an award from President George H.W. Bush and Curt Gowdy. I sent that photo to George Smith, who was the outdoor editor of The Times Leader back then and he ran it on the outdoor page. That was an awesome day, standing with two legends of our time.

Since we are on the subject of fishing (one of my favorites) I recently ran into Bob Albee and Kenny at Dallas Sporting Goods. I was glad to see Bob still in

business with a shop stocked full of fishing supplies. Last I remembered, he was at the lake. Nothing beats a local store where you are known by name and not just a number.

It's good to see some of the businesses and people I remember still operating. Gino's Shoe store was always a stop when traveling back to Pa. from Florida. We talked about cars, something I will get into in later columns. The next stops before the road trip south would be Grotto for a pie for the road and Cook's in Lehman for a supply of Middleswarth chips.

The Gunn Brothers are still operating in Lehman, Gary Ide took over the John Deere building on Route 118 and Tommy Williams will coach wrestling at Lehman. Bill Norris, with whom I power lifted at Rick's Gym, is now a Dallas policeman and Jim Eason and Gerard Geist are doing a wonderful job at Dallas Hardware.

Now for the "Atta Boy" of the

week. An "Atta Boy" or "girl," as the case may be, is a pat on the back for doing something right or good. Mr. Lacek from Plymouth, who helped teach me how to drive, would give me an "Atta boy" when I remembered to put on the turn signal before turning or put the plug in the row boat before putting it in the river.

"Atta Boy" Kenny Cook for the flashing neon "OPEN" sign which can be seen traveling West on 118 at least 200 yards away and has helped numerous people avoid getting rear ended while deciding whether or not to turn into your parking lot by motorists doing 45 mph (yeh, right) through the center of Lehman.

It's nice to be home.

Harp Heffernan was the associate publisher, outdoor editor and chief photographer of the Sunday Independent, a newspaper that was in his family for 87 years in Wilkes-Barre. His column appears every other week in The Dallas Post.