



Over 300 students from area high schools listened to motivational speaker Kenneth Czapracki talk about his experiences with the judicial system.



Students from Lake-Lehman and other area high schools are treated to lunch at a youth symposium on social issues at the Penn State/Wilkes-Barre campus.

Eyeing the future



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Rich Kuzmitsky tries vision-altering glasses that simulate intoxication at a youth symposium on social issues at the Wilkes-Barre Penn State campus. Watching his reaction is Luzerne County detective Charles Balogh from the district attorney's office.

Program helps teens address social issues

The annual Youth Symposium held at Penn State Wilkes-Barre brought together more than 300 area high school students to teach them skills that will help them properly address contemporary issues of justice, tolerance and violence.

This year's symposium, "Our Future ... Bring Your 'A-Game,'" featured workshops on Distracted Driving, Thugs and Drugs, the Making of a Trooper and Trapped in the Gang Life. Other topics of discussion included cultural di-



McKenzie Fallon, Brianna Headman and Katelyn Ashton take part in a law and order class during at a youth symposium on social issues at Penn State.

versity, stress management, substance abuse, personal goal setting, crime prevention, healthy lifestyle

choices and the importance of productive and participatory citizenship.

The Youth Symposium, established in 1973, encourages higher education/vocation training and continues to promote self-supporting, self-sufficient, productive citizens. Various social services agencies, law enforcement, community leaders and school administrators collaborated on this annual event to provide education to the youth of Luzerne and Wyoming Counties.

LAKE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Residents receive drilling update

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

It's just about a month into the Salansky site gas well drilling and residents sought out a progress report from Lake Township supervisors on Wednesday night.

As the drill pushes deeper, residents become more curious about issues such as the depth of casings, how far has been drilled and water testing at the Salansky site off Zosh Road.

The property owned by Township Supervisor Amy Salansky and her husband Paul began construction of the drill pad mid-summer. Salansky answered the questions she could and advised residents they could acquire EnCana Oil and Gas U.S.A.'s newsletter by visiting www.encana.com/operations/activities.

So far EnCana has drilled about 7,000 feet vertically and is beginning to drill horizontally, Salansky said. In EnCana's permit, Salansky said the horizontal drilling is proposed to extend to the southeast about 6,000 feet.

"I do not know if they will go that far," she said.

Living within close proximity, Joseph Rutchauskas, of Lehman Township, asked if it was known how far down EnCana was encasing the drill line to protect the aquifers.

Salansky was unsure of the depth of the casing, but added the answer could be found at the courthouse within EnCana's permit.

"I saw it within the permit," she said. "We do not keep those here. The county has that."

Rutchauskas said he read any drilling company is required to extend its casing 50 feet past the deepest well.

"What is the deepest well?" he asked.

The supervisors were unable to answer. Chairman Lonnie Piatt said he believed the Department of Environmental Protection would be able to answer

questions on wells. Another resident spoke up, saying he read in the Suburban News the deepest well is 1,000 feet down.

Rutchauskas asked if the supervisors knew if the casing extends 50 feet past that. Salansky said the Department of Environmental Protection would oversee that portion and could answer his question.

He then asked if EnCana has been performing the required on site water tests. Salansky said EnCana has been testing the water from her house and two natural springs on the property daily.

In other news...

- Supervisors announced that on Nov. 2, Election Day, the polls at the municipal building will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- A motion was approved to hire Gary Long of Lake Township as Road Department laborer. Long will have a 30-day probation period before being admitted to the township's medical plan.

- A motion was approved to pay Emergency Management Coordinator Barney Dobinick \$500 for composing the Emergency Response Guidelines and other related gas drilling issues.

- Volunteer Fire Relief Association to allocated \$12,836.90 to the municipality to be distributed to several volunteer fire companies for their assistance in coverage.

This money combined with an approved \$1,700 township donation will be distributed to Lehman Township Volunteer Fire Company, Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire Company, Harveys Lake Borough Volunteer Fire Company, J.R. Davis Volunteer Fire Company, and split between the Lake Silkworth Volunteer Fire Company and Ambulance Association.

- Supervisors also approved a \$700 donation to the Back Mountain Library in Dallas.
- The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Nov. 10, in the municipal building.

ROSS TOWNSHIP

Supervisors approve local donations

During a brief monthly meeting, supervisors voted to approve three donations to local organizations on Tuesday night.

Supervisors unanimously approved their annual donation of \$100 to the Back Mountain Memorial Library in Dallas. This is a regular contribution to the library given every year, chairman Stan Davis said.

Approval of a \$500 donation to the Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire

Department and Ambulance Association was approved. Davis abstained from voting due to his involvement in both organizations.

The donation will be split between the fire company and ambulance association, breaking it down to \$250 each.

The next meeting of the Ross Township supervisors will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 9, in the municipal building.

- Eileen Godin

HARPIN' ON THINGS

Fall and winter are nice but fishing trips will definitely be missed

Sitting on the outside deck of the Jolly Roger Fish House in Port Clinton, Ohio last weekend with two long-time friends waiting for an order of perch and chips, it hit me that this would probably be the last fishing trip of the season.

Before moving to a warmer climate in 1993, the three of us would make an annual fall fishing trip to Lake Ontario with local fishing captains Frank and Chris Michael aboard their boat, "Fin Atic." King salmon would be the target and we would always return home with some nice fish.

Fortunately, time and distance do not change how true friends are as the ribbing went on all day and into the night just as it used to. Even though the fish we caught were the size of the lures we used in Lake Ontario, we were after tender perch morsels that, cooked correctly, melt in your mouth.

The journey was basically the same as in the past, except for a few minor adjustments.

First, instead of having to



look for a quarter on the floor of the vehicle and a working pay phone when we neared our

destination, a text message was sent and two cell phone calls placed to loved ones, letting them know we were safe.

Ah, the wonders of modern technology. I remember my first cell phone. It was so large it came with a guy to carry it. It had limited range, basically line of sight to the tower, a regular phone receiver, rang with a normal house phone ring and four feet of cord connected to the box.

Not like the Blackberry contraption I now carry which has every gadget but a fish finder. It receives e-mails, can search the Internet, remembers hundreds of phone numbers and plays Kid Rock's "So Hot" when the Mrs. calls.

The Mrs. answered my call last week and, before I could say anything, she said, "I see you forgot to cut the grass." No, I didn't forget

to cut the grass. When I had time all summer to cut it, the darn stuff would not grow. It was a tough summer to grow a new lawn. Now that it's cooler, it decides to turn into a hay field in a week. I am just getting even with it by letting it grow.

After being assured that the coolers were carried inside the vehicle just the way she saw us pack them, the conversation went back to normal and we were wished good fishing.

And that leads to the second adjustment. One cooler, instead of being packed to the brim with spirits, was full of Gatorade, fresh fruit and beef sticks. The other one contained extra clothing since I seem to get cold much easier nowadays.

The third alteration to the normal schedule was that, at about 9 p.m., everyone went to bed. Total adult beverage consumption was two Buds, one Coors Light, one non-alcoholic Labatts and half a bottle of Motrin since we stood all day in a rocking boat catching fish a little larger than the fillets we

ate for dinner and everyone's knees were hurting.

Speaking of dinner, the Mrs. and I actually went out to eat during the last several weeks. We prefer to stay at home and eat but there are only so many ways she can cook plain chicken and beef.

Being of Italian ancestry, the Mrs. loves her spices and lasagna, spaghetti and a host of other dishes I can't spell. A marinated steak that messes up one side of the grill and cooked so that a good vet could get it back on its feet is her favorite.

Anyway, we went to the Lakeside Skillet and our waitress Sara rattled off the selection of specials. My plain burger was perfect and the Mrs. had an excellent Italian dish.

We also went to the new Leggio's in Dallas to celebrate the Mrs.' birthday. (Even I am smart enough not to joke about that subject) The building outside might look the same as it did when Mr. Pickett owned it but the inside has been redone and it is nice.

The place is hopping most evenings and we had to take two trips around the block to get a parking spot.

Jocelynn was the hostess and Amanda was our waitress. She made sure the Mrs. knew about the Lobster Ravs and clams which she ordered.

The Mrs. warned Jocelynn not to let anyone know it was a birthday dinner and there was to be no singing or cakes. Not to be deterred, though, I did find Gary Farber and his wife, Danielle and daughters Mya and Alexis waiting to be seated and asked them to say "Happy Birthday" when they walked by.

The look on the Mrs.' face when two people she didn't know said "Happy Birthday" was a priceless moment. Shock, anger and then that look out the side of her eyes at me similar to the look the bull gives Bugs Bunny when he is a matador and the bull has swallowed a shotgun and can fire out of his tail.

I have my head down shoveling food and trying not to laugh yet have the presence of mind to move my shins. It doesn't work because her shin-detecting radar equipped shoes hit the mark again. Thank goodness she has a sense of humor.

The Atta Girls of the week go to two friends and a new acquaintance, Ellen Vivian, Chris Lacke Conyngham and Heidi Osborn, who I saw at the Lithia Valley Horse Show last weekend and who have been enjoying the sport of horseback riding for many years.

Atta Way Ladies. You continue to show and win, keeping the newer crowd in its place.

Nothing beats experience. It was a pleasure watching professionals who know their sport compete in the arena.

Harp Heffernan was the associate publisher, outdoor editor and chief photographer of the Sunday Independent, a newspaper that was in his family for 27 years in Wilkes-Barre. You can e-mail him at news@mydal-laspost.com.