

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board discusses personnel changes within schools

Discussion also focuses on Martin Luther King Day and hunting season.

By SARAH HITE
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Personnel adjustments were at the forefront of the Lake-Lehman School Board's meeting agenda on Monday evening.

In education, six substitute teachers were approved for hire at Monday's meeting. Their assignments are as follows: Daniel Allen of Dallas in mathematics, William Evans of Shavertown in chemistry, Christopher Hanley of Shavertown in elementary, Jamie Karge of Dushore in elementary guidance counseling, Jennifer Mines of

UP NEXT

The next Committee-of-the-Whole meeting of the Lake-Lehman School Board will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 14 and the next regular meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 21 in the library of the junior-senior high school.

Dallas in mathematics and George Pyle of Dallas in industrial arts.

Junior High Guidance Counselor Tara Sears was approved for a leave of absence from approximately Feb. 25 through the end of the year with utilization of 55 sick days and an unpaid medical leave.

Catherine Becker was approved for a mentorship with Reading Specialist Jennifer Ferkel for the second half of the 2010-11 school

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Jim McGovern
Lake-Lehman superintendent

year and the first half of the 2011-12 school year with stipend compensation.

English Department Chairperson Anita Kerkowski submitted her resignation to the board. The board approved, with regrets.

Gerald Gilsky was appointed as a substitute physical fitness director.

The board approved four coaches for the spring 2011 athletic season, including Christopher Davis and Bryan Mathers for baseball,

Mark Yapple as head boys lacrosse coach and Jennifer Loftus as head girls lacrosse coach.

In support services, the board accepted the resignation of George Nelson as central receiving clerk, effective at the end of this school year.

The following personnel were hired as substitute custodians: Kerri Pimm and John Wilson, both of Harveys Lake.

Teacher Associate Rita Carter was also approved for an unpaid

leave of absence that commenced on Jan. 4.

In other news...

Resident Mitchell Smolow of Jackson Township asked the board why students are not given the day off on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He said he also does not understand why students are not required to attend school on the first day of deer season.

Superintendent James McGovern opted to answer on behalf of the board, and he told Smolow that King's message was one that emphasized education, and that's what the district intends to uphold.

He also reflected on his college days when he was training to become a resident advisor, and he said learning about racial acceptance is only accomplished through

learning experiences.

"We learned to combat issues through education," said McGovern. "If we take the day off, I don't think we would be honoring Dr. King's message."

He also said that attendance hits record lows when school is held on the first day of buck season, and board member Walter Glogowski added that the district is penalized for poor attendance.

Ed Kelly, president of the Harveys Lake Fire Department, asked for the board's support in seeking tax exemption on a rental property used as a fundraiser for the fire department. He estimated it would be a loss of \$3,100 in taxes for the district this year.

Board Vice President Peter Farrell said the board would vote on the matter at its next meeting.

BACK MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Zoning issues, gas industry on agenda

By SARAH HITE
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The Back Mountain Community Partnership agreed last Thursday to begin keeping each of the member municipalities in the loop when it comes to zoning issues and the natural gas industry.

Kingston Township Supervisor James Reino Jr. suggested to the partnership that a legal document be drafted to keep communication lines open when something happens in one of the partnership municipalities.

The idea was spurred by the ongoing proceedings in Dallas Township about Chief Gathering LLC's application for special zoning exemptions to build a natural gas compressor station near the Dallas School District campus.

Reino also said that Kingston Township is in the process of approving a natural gas drilling ordinance that will deal with issues about drilling beyond municipality borders and truck traffic that could span across towns.

"What happens when we approximate a drilling site and it goes into another town?" he asked partnership members.

Reino proposed a joint working agreement to send information to the other municipalities if something happens, stressing the importance of receiving firsthand information in these situations.

"It's easy to send facts out," he said. "When you've got hearings going on, people are going to know anyway."

Solicitor Jeffrey Malak said Dallas Township and Dallas

UP NEXT

The next meeting of the Back Mountain Community Partnership will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 17 in the Sandy & Marlene Insalaco Hall at Misericordia University.

Borough have a similar agreement pertaining to zoning issues. He said that projects concerning Misericordia University and the new Geisinger facility on Dorchester Drive have participation from both municipalities.

Malak said making the agreement industry specific may be a less productive way to draft the document, but he told Reino his approach is a good procedure.

"The whole goal of this partnership is to give knowledge to all the municipalities," said Jackson Township Supervisor John Wilkes Jr.

In other news...

Keith George of the Luzerne Conservation District presented a project related to informing residents in the Back Mountain about the new storm water ordinance that must be passed by April 1 of this year. The conservation district received a grant to host workshops for residents to learn more about storm water management and create their own rain water collection barrels.

George asked if any municipality in the partnership would be interested in providing a space for the workshops and supporting the conservation district's efforts. The partnership agreed to continue discussions on the matter at a future meeting.



No one could stop Donnie Lute, of Dallas, from sampling the cake before dinner at the 50th annual pig roast at the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post 672 in Dallas.



Ted Dymond is up to his elbows in mashed potatoes during the 50th annual pig roast at the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post 672 in Dallas.

50 years of pig roasting

American Legion Post 672 hosted 50th annual pig roast earlier this month.

By SARAH HITE
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The Dallas American Legion Post 672 hosted its 50th Annual Pig Roast on Saturday, Feb. 5 but members didn't celebrate in any special way. The milestone fundraiser is just one part of what makes the Legion "more than just a bar," said John Kelley, post commander.

The fundraiser garnered monies for the various community projects the Legion has supported throughout its existence, including scholarship funds and donations to the Back Mountain Memorial Library and Back Mountain Food Pantry.

"The money goes into the general fund and is used to support the food bank, Boy Scout troops, the Red Cross blood drives and the building itself," said John Emil Sr., post treasurer and chairman of the pig roast. "We do a lot more than what people realize."

The pig roast featured roasted pork, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, stuffing, applesauce, a roll and cake made by about a dozen volunteers, who start cooking around 7:30 a.m. Emil said the event usually brings in between 200 and 300 hungry patrons to the Legion on Memorial Highway.

Wally Gosart, 90, of Lehman, is a life member of the Legion and hasn't missed a pig roast in years.

"It's a good fundraiser," he said as he enjoyed his roasted pork with gravy.

Ginger Spencer, a 39-year member of the Harveys Lake Ladies Auxiliary, said the pig roast was once true to its name - until the early 1980s,



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Lines form early for the 50th annual pig roast dinner at the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post 672.

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John Emil Sr.
Post treasurer and pig roast chairman

Bloomers set tour date

The Back Mountain Bloomers Garden Club has announced the organization's 2011 "Tour of Back Mountain Gardens" will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 2. The tour will include six private gardens and a chance to see the new Shakespeare Garden at Misericordia University in Dallas.

The gardens include a variety of styles and themes. The descriptions of the different private properties include beautiful stone walls built by the homeowner and multiple gardens; a mix of artistry, landscaping and a healthy dose of beautiful boulders; the backyard focal point boasts a sparkling pool, large patio and stone-built waterfall; an ultimate country garden planted with tender loving care; sweeping perennial beds, lots of year round color and a view not to be missed; new home, new landscaping and instant curb appeal in a wooded setting. All of the gardens are in the Dallas.

Misericordia was dedicated in June 2010 in memory of English professor Regina Kelly, RSM. It is designed in the English garden style and includes water features, arbors and brick pathways that wind around a central knot garden. All the plants are species of plants named in various Shakespeare plays.

A full schedule of garden, nature and landscaping workshops and demonstrations is planned by some of the regions most recognized master gardeners, professional landscapers and arborists.

Tickets for the "Tour of Back Mountain Gardens" are \$20 per person if purchased on or before June 25.

The ticket price is \$25 per person after June 25.

To request a Garden Tour brochure and registration form, contact Julie McMonagle at 696-5082 or e-mail jmmcm@frontiernet.net.

Additional tour information is available online at www.backmountainbloomers.org.

members roasted a whole pig with an apple in its mouth.

"At the end, they used to chance off the head," she said, laughing.

The pig roast may not feature an actual pig anymore, but the steady attendance and purpose of the dinner hasn't changed much.

Verne Grespell, 75, of Lehman, said the pig roast is something he can't miss because of the great food and great cause.

"It's good for them to get the help," he said. "I come just about every year, and the food is good."

Ned Podent, a six-year member of the Dallas American Legion Post 672 and 24-year member of the American Legion, said he's surprised the event lasted as long as it did.

"We must be doing something right," he said.

Jerry Paxton makes off with some take-out dinners at the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post 672's 50th annual pig roast dinner.

