

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Budget cuts force 'drastic changes' to curriculum

By SARAH HITE  
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The school board faced "drastic" changes to the district's curriculum at a meeting Wednesday night in response to expected cuts in the district's state funds.

The board unanimously voted to cut two educational programs and make changes to three others in order to "teach students how to think, not what to think," said Director of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Tracey Ha-

lowich.

Most of the restructuring focused on graduation requirements, and two lower-level programs - elementary technology and exploratory foreign language for junior high students - will be cut completely.

Halowich said more technology usage will be incorporated into the elementary curriculum in order to compensate for the class cut.

High school science requirements will increase from 3 to 4 credits in order for students to

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graduate. An environmental science class will be added to the curriculum, and a lab period for the biology class will be eliminated with a plan to incorporate lab

time within regular class time.

Students will also need more credits in math to graduate - the credit requirement will increase from 3 to 3.5, and Halowich said

the credit requirement will increase to 4 in the 2012-13 academic year. A personal finance class will be added to accommodate the need for more credits.

Critical thinking courses will be added at the junior and senior high levels. High school students will no longer have the option to take a speech course, and Halowich said the requirements of that class, including public speaking and presentation skills, will be expected in core classes.

A Rosetta Stone foreign language independent study option

will be available to students in grades 10 through 12, and Halowich said the year-long program will be offered to 50 students next year on a first come, first served basis. Students will be able to choose any language besides Spanish and French, which are already taught in the district.

The social studies curriculum will have a decrease in its credit requirements - from 4 to 3.5. The psychology and sociology electives will still be an option for stu-

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LEHMAN TOWNSHIP

## Issue of signs is addressed

By CAMILLE FIOTI  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Township supervisors pointed out at Monday's regular meeting that the township has an ordinance prohibiting the posting of political campaign signs in the right of way on any township road.

"They're starting to pile up," said supervisor Doug Ide.

The ordinance also states that no more than two political signs are allowed on private properties and the signs cannot be larger than six square feet. Signs posted illegally have been removed by township officials and can be picked up at the police department.

At last month's meeting, a resident asked the supervisors if the township has an ordinance that prohibits demonstrations or protests at military funerals.

Solicitor Peter Savage said the state prohibits any kind of protests or demonstrations less than 500 feet from a church, cemetery or anywhere that a funeral service is held for civilians or the military. Federal regulations set the boundaries up to 300 feet for military, with no boundary restrictions for civilians.

In other business ...

- Supervisor Ray Iwanoski announced that the Back Mountain Community Partnership recently won the award of "Excellence in Township Planning" from the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

- The board voted to hire Christy Marie Elias of Trucksville as a part-time police officer. Elias, who works for the Dallas Township Police Department, will be the township's first female officer.

- Approved a temporary permit to Pikes Creek Raceway to hold a wine festival on May 7.



Misericordia students and members of the Back Mountain Business Association met to walk the Back Mountain Trail through Trucksville, hoping to bring more awareness to the resource.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST



Misericordia students and members of the Back Mountain Business Association walk the Back Mountain Trail through Trucksville.

## MU students lead trail walk

Two Misericordia University students took the lead in keeping local walking paths clean while promoting the beauty of the Back Mountain at an event called "Rails to Trails: A Walk in Nature." Kathryn Semcheski, of Trucksville and Jillian Bowen, of Port Monmouth, N.J. met participants on April 19 at the Luzerne entrance of the 4.2-mile Back Mountain Trail. The group walked the trail to Kingston Township near Pizza Perfect.

## Reps. Boback and Major announce May schedule for mobile veterans center to Tunkhannock

Reps. Karen Boback (R-Columbia/Luzerne/Wyoming) and Sandra Major (R-Susquehanna/Wyoming/Wayne) have announced the May schedule

for visits to Tunkhannock by the Department of Veterans Affairs' mobile veterans center, which provides services to veterans and their families.

The mobile vet center is scheduled to visit the area of the Route 29 and Route 6 Bypass in Tunkhannock (across the street from Gay's True Val-

ue), from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, May 2.

It will be available at Boback's office, located at 6 Cross Country Complex in Tunkhan-

nock from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, May 16.

Appointments for mobile veterans center services are not required.

HARPIN' ON THINGS

## I bought myself a Blueberry, or a Raspberry or some kind of berry

As I am unwillingly slipping into middle age, the age where I am young to some and old to others, where the memories of past competition



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and victory are not dulling the morning pain of injuries suffered, I am finding it is becoming increasingly hard to break old habits.

Yet, in order to keep up with the world and to thwart off the effects of my self-diagnosed disease CRS (can't remember squat), concessions have to be made. A while ago, one of these Blackberry phone things was added to my arsenal of reporter notepads, pock-

et calendar, stick-it notes and, of course, the Mrs. (who doesn't forget anything) which keep track of my daily life and future events.

I remember purchasing the Blueberry - er, I mean Blackberry - from some kid at the phone store whose fingers were a blur as they flew from key to key during setup. This procedure took no more than three minutes during which he rattled off a constant litany of instructions. It sounded like an M60 machine gun spitting out three round bursts as I could only catch every third word or so: rat-tat-push, rat-tat-hertz, rat-tat-send.

This kid should have applied for a speed talking position for one of those out of town TV commercials that end with "available at stores in Wilksbar." Smiling, he handed me the phone, which he had turned off and asked if I had any questions.

"Yea," I responded. "How do I

turn it on?" No sense of humor, not even a hint of a smile. So I took the phone and box with instructions and left.

Since that day, I have learned that this Raspberry - er, I mean Blackberry - can do almost everything but start the coffee maker in the morning and I am sure someone is working on that. One of the advantages I have found is getting e-mails for the business and being able to respond to an inquiry within minutes. The sender does not need to know that I am on the trout stream and not at work.

The calendar feature gives me a gentle buzz and vibration anywhere between 15 minutes and 12 hours in advance of an event or appointment which is much nicer than the reminder usually given by the Mrs.

What I am not so happy about is that everyone wants to text instead of talk. What happened to the days of a phone conversation

starting off with pleasantries then getting to business? Or sitting with friends on the porch watching the sunset and talking about the days' events?

I have watched youngsters standing on opposite ends of a gymnasium texting each other instead of walking a hundred feet. One young man was punching the buttons on his phone so hard I asked what he was doing. He said he was arguing with his girlfriend. He did that by putting certain words in capital letters. I received another blank stare with that one.

I have gone back and forth with texts to people but, after the third question and answer exchange, I ask them to send me a phone number. I get tired of pulling off the road to answer a text because it makes me miss curfew and irritates the Mrs.

Attempting to decipher the new text language is keeping my brain active but I have had to re-

sort to TALKING to my friend's daughter, Cierra Yonchik to get a better handle on things. She explained the "lol" laughing out loud, "btw" by the way, "omg" oh my gosh and "tyl" talk to you later. Having some fun, I asked if she knew what these letters stood for and she didn't: "dyhh?" do you have homework? "nc" no clue, "gmtp" give me the phone and "yg" you're grounded.

Even the Mrs. is getting into texting, although on a very limited basis. I figure the reason for the limits is that her friends can't figure out what she's texting. I have but it took research into how the Allies cracked the Enigma Code in WWII. See, she has these nice nails and, instead of taking the chance of chipping one, she uses the entire print area of her thumb.

Her texts come through like this with no spaces or punctuation: ukioqw3euikkoklovb-wrgrhjiopnmkwerklosazrty-

wedvblngassdxrtyertqasdfgfguioxcvb. This translates to: "I will be home late, bad traffic." Every third letter is what she is aiming for but now and then a number or symbol is thrown in for good measure. Usually, we just call each other since we both prefer to actually talk with people.

ATTA BOY ... The "Atta Boy" of the week goes to Brett and Bart Slocum of Slocum Insurance in Dallas. Their father Bruce started the business in the 60s and they continue to provide quality insurance with personal service to area residents. Atta Boy, Brett and Bart.

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. You can e-mail him at news@mydallaspost.com.