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September 11 tragedy changed us all in many ways

Several locals offer their perspective of the day that no one will ever forget.

By SARAH HITE
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The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on that clear September morning affected every American, all in different ways.

Below are a few perspectives on the day, the aftermath and the legacy on the 10th anniversary of

September 11, 2001.

Losing a loved one

In the span of a week, Darren Snyder's life was turned upside down.

In early September 2001, the Back Mountain business owner moved out of the Manhattan apartment he shared with his brother, Lenny, and his family to care for his mother, Marilyn, who had just been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The entire family, six children in all, gathered at the Snyder family's vacation home in Hun-

"It was a terrible, terrible disaster that brought us as American people together to help each other in a time of need."

Bonnie Turchin
Retired teacher

locks Creek on Labor Day weekend to spend time together in the wake of their mother's diagnosis.

Unbeknownst to Darren Snyder, that weekend would be the last time he saw his brother Lenny alive.

Darren Snyder still isn't sure

how or when it happened, but some time during or after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Leonard "Lenny" Snyder Jr. died.

He was last seen on the 76th floor of the south tower in the World Trade Center.

Darren Snyder, 35, of Wilkes-Barre, can still remember the panicked feeling that overcame his family on that Tuesday morning.

"It was a day of just complete highs and lows throughout the day," he said.

He tried to calm his parents once he'd heard the news - Lenny was working in the south tower on the 101st floor for Aon Consulting. The north tower was the first to be struck by one of the hijacked planes.

"Then you're watching the TV and you see the second plane hit

and it just really takes the wind out of you," he said. "It was surreal that this would be happening...though the south tower was the second hit, it was the first to fall."

He said his brother, the fire warden on his floor, was also in the World Trade Center during an attempted bombing in the early 90s. Darren Snyder said employees were instructed to hold each other's shoulders while evacuating from the building using the steps, which took

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There's lots new in Dallas schools

By SARAH HITE
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Students in the Dallas School District have many changes to look forward to this year when they return to classrooms on September 12, the most impressive being the brand new high school.

The Dallas Post contacted principals at the four Dallas schools to see what else is new in and around the district this year.

Dallas High School

The brand new, state-of-the-art high school will mark a new era in Dallas School District education, according to the district's website.

The more than 200,000 square-foot, three-story building will hold more students and host more programs than ever before.

Superintendent Frank Galicki said the most important idea for parents and students to take hold this year is patience.

"What I hope for this year is that everyone adjusts to the new campus and everyone has patience because it's going to take some time to adjust traffic-wise, to adjust finding classrooms at the high school, parking for athletic events, scheduling athletic events, utilization of fields not yet been completed and the completion of the track," he said.

Galicki said new traffic patterns will be the biggest change district-wide this school year, besides the new high school building. Instead of designated bus numbers, students will receive "slots," or assigned pick-up and drop-off areas for buses. Galicki said detailed information on the new traffic patterns will be dispersed through a Connect-Ed phone call to parents throughout the district in the coming days.

In addition to learning the ropes of their new school, students will also have a new dress code requirement upon entering the new building. Students will not be allowed to wear flip flops, sweat pants, gym shorts, or tank tops in the new building.

Information about the specifics of the new clothing policy can be found on the district's website, www.dallasd.com. Students can also download a map of the new building to better navigate the new school on the district website.

Principal Jeffrey Shaffer was unavailable for comment for this

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Dallas Middle School

Principal Thomas Duffy said there will be a few positive changes for students entering the 2011-12 school year at the middle school this Monday.

The student council will begin a program called "First Fridays," similar to what was formerly called "Color Day," in the cafeteria. Duffy said students will get the opportunity to show their school spirit on the first Friday of every month and the cafeteria will offer treats like Sno Cones in celebration.

"This is a way for us to maintain a positive school culture," said Duffy.

He also said the school will continue a good Samaritan-type award program called "Mountaineer Moments" where students and teachers can nominate each other for doing good deeds throughout the year. Duffy said students and faculty will be honored during the issuing of quarterly awards.

"Students and staff members will be looking out for others doing the right thing, which is positive for the school and other people," he said. "Anybody can nominate anyone else for things like, for example, if an eighth-grader helps a sixth-grader find his or her way to class."

The middle school has been equipped with promethean boards and LCD projectors in every room. Duffy said last year about 65 percent of rooms had the technology. He also said the building is now wired for wireless Internet access, and the school will experiment with allowing students to bring in personal laptops for specific projects.

Duffy also announced assistant principal Matthew Barrett will not be returning to the school this year. Galicki said the school board has not discussed whether or not this position will be filled.

"We're 100 percent ready to start the school year," said Duffy.

Wycallis Elementary

There aren't too many changes at Wycallis this year, other than

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Lehman-Jackson Elementary School Principal Marilyn Glogowski welcomes back students for the first day of the 2011-2012 school year in the Lake-Lehman School District.

Back to school in Lake-Lehman

Although they were a week late in arriving, students in the Lake-Lehman School District were happy to be back in school. Due to widespread power outages in the Back Mountain from Hurricane Irene, the 2010-2011 school year was pushed back a week in the Lake-Lehman School District with classes beginning Tuesday, Sept. 5 instead of the original August 29 start date. The focus on the first day is usually on kindergarten students who are entering public school for the first time.



Kindergarten student Ava Rogowski is hesitant to leave her mother, Liz, to start school at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School in Lehman.

Dallas Harvest Festival set for Sept. 18

The Ninth Annual Dallas Harvest Festival will take place from 1 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 18, rain or shine, on Main Street.

The event, which showcases the Back Mountain region's rich agricultural heritage, will feature a large farmers market, Kids Corner, fire truck rides, a petting zoo and a wide variety of community and food vendors.

This year's entertainment will be scheduled once again on two stages: Lewith & Freeman Stage at Route 415 and Main Street; and the Frontier Community Stage in the Dallas Centre Hardware (upper) parking lot. A special guest will appear on the Frontier Community Stage this year.

For more information on the Dallas Harvest Festival, please turn to pages 14, 15 and 16 in today's issue.

The ninth annual "Kiss the Pig" Contest is underway, featuring Back Mountain ice cream emporiums. Contestants are Back Mountain Creamery, Carverton Road, Trucksville; CK's Summer Treats, Route 415, Dallas; Friendly's, Routes 415 and 309, Dallas; and The Lands at Hillside Farms, Hillside Road, Shavertown.

One lucky winner will be the first to kiss the new potbelly pig, winning a donation to the charity or non-profit of their choice. Ball jars are also located at other

Back Mountain businesses, including Fuel On, J&J Deli, N-Mart, Pizza Perfect and Ochman's Coins & Jewelry. District Judge Jim Tupper will announce the winner at 4 p.m. on the main stage.

Winners of the annual Flower Display Contest for local businesses and the Good Gourd Pumpkin Decorating Contest will also be announced.

The Third Annual Best of Open Mic (BOOM) will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday,

Sept. 15 and 16 in the Gate of Heaven gymnasium, Machell Avenue, Dallas. Independent judges will choose the top three acts to perform during Sunday's festival. Categories are musical expression, prose, poetry and stand-up comedy. Participants should arrive at 5:30 p.m. to sign up. Food will be available for purchase.

This year's History Exhibit inside the Dallas Borough building (rear entrance) with students from Dallas High School presenting a video presentation about the history of Hanson's Amusement Park is scheduled for 1:30, 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. Visit a display, leave a special memory and take an on-line quiz about the park.



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