

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board appoints teachers, substitutes and coaches

By SARAH HITE
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Two teachers and two coaches were hired at the Lake-Lehman School Board meeting Monday night.

Allison Connell, of Forty Fort, was hired as an elementary autism teacher and Nicole Height, of Wilkes-Barre, was hired as a secondary mathematics teacher. Both will receive a starting salary of \$41,263.

Charles Lavan, of Wilkes-

Barre, was appointed as head girls' basketball coach for the 2011-12 school year. Mark LeValley, of Shickshinny, was appointed in a 6-1 vote as head baseball coach for the spring season.

Board member David Paulauskas voted against the measure. Board members Harold Cornell and Andrew Salko were absent.

The following substitute teachers were appointed: Amy Byle of Wilkes-Barre, Jacklyn Davis of Harveys Lake, John McDonald of Harveys Lake, Renee Novitski and Cory Patton, both of Dallas.

Jayne Spencer, former junior-senior high school secretary, was hired as technology assistant at a rate of \$16.31 an hour. Patricia Ross of Dallas was hired as a five-hour part time teacher aide at an hourly rate of \$9.75.

The following support staff substitutes were appointed: Debbie Blockus of Shavertown, Cynthia Rittenhouse of Noxen and Ann Charney of Dallas.

Essay contest winners

Three students were honored for their efforts in an annual Veterans Day essay contest. All

school districts in the Wyoming Valley are encouraged to participate in the event, which awards cash prizes to first, second and third place and honorable mention winners in each age group.

Retired Lieutenant Commander Susan Allen of the U.S. Navy told the board all first-place winners this year hailed from the Lake-Lehman School District.

Abigail Pascewski took the top prize in the fourth and fifth-grade category. Her essay gave reasons why people should honor veterans, including because "some of them have scary dreams forever."

Courtney Richards earned the top spot in the sixth through eighth-grade category. She wrote about the incredible sacrifices soldiers make every day, including leaving behind their families, which "makes (her) sad."

Rene Rismondo won first place in the high school category. Her essay mentioned the humbleness of veterans, who are more heroic than "Superman, Michael Jackson or even Hank Aaron."

The students were awarded certificates from the district and the contest committee. They were invited to a brunch and to

walk in the Wyoming Valley Veterans Day Parade.

Honoring board members

Superintendent James McGovern presented gifts to outgoing board members Moderno Rossi, Harold Cornell and Lorraine Farrell.

He also acknowledged recently-elected board members James Welby, Karen Masters and Richard Bombick who will begin their terms next month.

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Biking around the Earth without ever leaving the States

By SARAH HITE
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Michael Marley has been cycling for nearly half a century. In that time, he's racked up thousands of miles — more than 24,901.55 miles, to be exact.

Marley, 51, of Dallas Township, recently accomplished a goal he has been working on for nearly 20 years — to bicycle the circumference of Earth in cumulative miles.

While he began to log his miles in a journal in 1992, it wasn't until Marley turned 43 that he set his lofty goal.

"I looked in the mirror and thought, 'I'm getting old,'" he said. "I already had logged about 11,000 miles by then, and I asked myself how much longer could I bike, how do I conclude this?"

He started setting yearly goals and tried to calculate how long it would take him to reach his ultimate achievement. Year by year, Marley began to surpass his initial timeline as he increased his mileage.

For the last three years, Marley has been biking up to 2,000 miles in a cycling season, which can range from six to seven months, usually from March to October.

Despite his planned window of opportunity, weather is most often the deciding factor in whether Marley can

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Michael Marley
Dallas Township

ride his bike.

"I remember one time it was 50 degrees in January and I decided to take out the bike," he said.

Marley completed much of his goal in Northeastern Pennsylvania, but he also traveled to New York City, California, Maine and other areas.

First and foremost in his mind was always the goal at hand — visualization helped Marley during his treks.

"I would imagine myself going through North Africa," he said. "I'd fantasize about different parts of the world."

Music and scenery helped, too. Marley said he's always got his iPod plugged in, but the most powerful inspiration was the sights and sounds of wherever he happened to be traveling that day.

"I'm one to stop and take pictures," he said. "I like to

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Abby Curtis, of Shavertown, hands over a coat to Kingston Twp. Police Officer Martin Maransky during the annual Back Mountain Policemen's Association Warm Coats for Kids clothing drive.

Cops' coat drive needed more than ever

By SARAH HITE
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HOW YOU CAN HELP

Some donation sites for the Warm Coats for Kids drive include the Kingston Township Municipal Building, the Back Mountain Memorial Library, Fuel On and The Rock Rec Center. For more information or to host a distribution site, contact Ross Piazza at 760-9342.

The Back Mountain Policemen's Association is expecting a greater need for its Warm Coats for Kids drive this year due to the late summer flooding.

Ross Piazza, vice president of the policemen's association, said the clothing drive has doubled the number of collection sites and expanded the rules for donation to include adult clothing as well.

"We're anticipating a greater need," said Piazza. "With people losing their homes, (they) don't give much thought about winter clothing. We wouldn't doubt a lot of coats were ruined."

Piazza said the drive was expected to be in full force by Thanksgiving and collections will continue until January.

The program has worked with various organizations in the past, but Piazza would like to distribute the coats at a holiday dinner for those affected by the early September flooding.

He said after three years, the program has been able to determine what avenues for distribution are more successful.

The first year, the coat drive gave out coats to children at Misericordia University, but Piazza felt like transportation to the school in Dallas Township was a problem for those in need.

"I think people had a hard time getting to the college," he said.

Last year, the organization attended a holiday party for underprivileged children. Piazza said having the coats, hats, gloves and scarves there allowed the children to try everything on to ensure proper sizing before taking items home.

"That worked really well," he said.

Piazza is trying to coordinate a similar distribution site for this year. He also said several

local churches will have the donated winter clothing available once the collection ends.

The Warm Coats for Kids drive collected nearly 1,000 coats in its first two years, and Piazza believes this year's collection will far exceed that total.

"It's primarily Warm Coats for Kids, but this year because of the flooding we'll take anything anybody will give us, including adult coats, gloves and hats," he said.

Piazza said the group is also working with guidance counselors within school districts to satisfy any needs for clothing local youngsters might have.

"They'll do this in a very discrete way," he said. "They'll ask us for different coats in different sizes and allow the family to choose what they need."

Piazza said this way of dis-

tributing the clothing is part of how the Warm Coats for Kids drive got started. He said local teachers, counselors and police officers saw children without proper clothing in chilly temperatures more often than not.

"When you see kids going to school in light jackets, sometimes even just T-shirts, you see the need," he said. "That's part of the nature of kids, but I think a lot of them just don't have the clothing they need."

Piazza said the generosity of Back Mountain residents is the only unsurprising aspect of the fundraiser.

"People buy coats for us," he said. "People will donate coats with the hangers and tags still on them. That happens every year. There are a lot of generous people in this area."

The Back Mountain Policemen's Association is comprised of more than 20 police departments spanning the Back Mountain and West Side regions as well as the state Fish and Boat Commission, the state Gaming Commission and the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.



Michael Marley, of Dallas, has completed his goal of cycling the circumference of the Earth or 24,901.55 miles. Marley started logging miles in 1992.

LAKE TOWNSHIP

Illegal burning continues to be a concern

Illegal burning on Route 29 was brought to the attention of Lake Township supervisors during their November 21 meeting.

Residents confirmed they have seen burning near the intersection of Chestnut Tree Road and Route 29. One resident reported that debris, including metal and various construction materials, possibly flood-related, was being trucked in and burned.

Supervisors said they will call the Department of Environmental and request that someone inspect the site.

In other news, the adoption of two resolutions to accept FEMA reimbursements for disaster assistance from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee were tabled until Barney Dobinick,

township emergency management coordinator, could be present.

Dobinick had the reimbursement paper work said Carlene Price, township secretary and

treasurer.

In September, it was estimated damage sustained by the township totaled \$26,350. The total amount of damages for Tropical Storm Lee were un-

available.

The next municipal meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 14 in the township building.

-Eileen Godin

Grotto 'Parade of Trees' kicks off 16th season

Grotto Pizza at Harveys Lake kicked off the Sixteenth Annual Parade of Trees on Tuesday, Nov. 22 with a decorating party for participating businesses and charities.

The 2011 Parade of Trees features dozens of holiday trees sponsored by businesses that support local charities. Decorating teams from these business-

es as well as representatives from the benefiting charities were on hand at the decorating party.

Businesses sponsor a tree and then decorate that tree, usually with trimmings that reflect either the business or the charity being sponsored. Visitors to Grotto Pizza's Harveys Lake location then "vote" on which tree

is best-decorated by making monetary donations. The trees that raise the most money "win" and share an additional bonus from the pool of entry fees. All monies collected go to charity.

Since its inception at Grotto Pizza, the annual Parade of Trees event has raised more than \$100,000 for regional charities.