

PLAN

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cuss emergencies related to natural gas activities.

"It's a floating plan," he said. Tolomello said the board has been pressed on this issue for the last six months and a plan should be in place now as natural gas is flowing through the pipeline.

"You all can live with the lives of 3,000 children on your heads, but now it's 2,999 - my daughter is no longer your responsibility," said Tolomello. "I will decide when she evacuates and how she evacuates."

Humphreys said Williams will provide assistance with education on the facilities, policies and regulations for the pipeline, but the district will be in charge of developing an evacuation plan on its own.

While Galicki told residents the input will be needed from the township emergency management officials, Dodson said the school district must also come up with a plan of its own before emergency responders can intervene.

"We'll give guidelines, but we can't write your emergency plan," he said. "It starts at the bottom. The faculty here has to be trained."

Parry also said the emergency plan involving gas issues needs time to be researched.

"You can't even think about buses, because buses will be emitting sparks," he said.

Resident Wendy Cominski suggested the board ask for a moratorium on all activities on the pipeline until the district can implement and practice an emergency evacuation plan.

"Everyone here is dumping the responsibility on you," she told the board.

Another resident, Kerry Anne Daley, asked what the board will do when it can no longer depend on the information provided by Williams.

Board President Catherine Wega said the board can only contact higher governing agencies on the local and state levels to address the issue.

"I don't know how far it goes," she said. "I know you're frustrated and we are, too."

Dodson said Dallas Township plans to develop an up-to-date website that will notify residents about routine work on the pipeline, and the district will also be part of that notification process. Galicki said once the district is aware of routine work, parents will also be notified.

Galicki also said if parents choose to pick up their children while work on the gas line is performed, those absences will be excused.

Football coach

Parents also addressed the board about its decision to open the position of head football coach, a position former coach Ted Jackson Sr. had held for 27 years.

Resident Wendy Cominski suggested the board ask for a moratorium on all activities on the pipeline until the district can implement and practice an emergency evacuation plan.

Deb Roccogranti questioned why the board has not opened the in-school fitness facility for students to work out during off season.

Galicki said the situation was brought to the board's attention last week and the facility will be opened next Monday from 3 to 6 p.m. for all students. He said the field house weight room will not be open until a weightlifting coach could be hired.

The board wouldn't offer any details relating to Jackson's departure from the position, as personnel issues are usually kept confidential.

Jim Roccogranti said he felt the hiring panel would be biased, as it is comprised of a group of people who chose to open Jackson's position. The hiring panel includes board members, Galicki, High School Principal Jeff Shaffer and Athletic Director Nancy Roberts.

Don Artsma questioned Galicki about how much was spent on the advertising campaign for Jackson's position.

Business Manager Grant Palfey said about \$6,500 was spent on legal advertising for the head football position. Galicki said the position pays about \$7,500.

"And that's at the taxpayers' expense?" said Artsma.

Galicki added that interviews will be held on Thursday and Saturday for the positions of head football coach and weightlifting coach.

Student beaten

Another parent, Karen Cooper, told the board about a situation involving her 14-year-old son, Sean. She said he was beaten by another student and was unconscious for 12 minutes at the high school before anyone noticed or called 911.

Galicki confirmed the incident, but couldn't provide any details because he wasn't at the scene when it happened.

Cooper said her son now has frequent migraines and emotional problems because of the incident. She said he heard the student who attacked him planned to bring a knife to school "and kill him," and pleaded with the board to start using the brand-new metal detectors at the school and hire extra staff to man the area in which her son was assaulted.

She said students stood idly by as her son was attacked, with some students even videotaping the incident.

Galicki said the detectors will be in use by the second semester. He also said adjustments have been made to increase the number of hall monitors in that area.

In other news, the board...

Accepted the resignation of Paula Alu, personal care assistant at Dallas Elementary, effective Nov. 14, 2011 and Jo-

dy Kiwak, Wycallis classroom aide, effective Jan. 13, 2012.

Approved a resolution to not raise taxes above the state determined Act 1 index of 2.1 percent for the 2012-13 school year.

Approved the following appointments: Ashley Baker as Wycallis classroom aide, Laura Marrigi as Wycallis classroom aide, Kimberly McGuire as Wycallis personal care assistant, Deborah Limongelli as Dallas Elementary personal care assistant, Zachary Tarbox as Wycallis instructional aide, Megan Martin as Dallas Elementary personal care assistant and Ericka Chung as Wycallis classroom aide.

Approved an endorsement for the Luzerne Intermediate Unit No. 18 to work with local municipalities for its gaming grant application to build the Plains Veteran Memorial Educational Opportunity Center.

Approved extensions of leaves of absence for the following teachers: Crystal Seidel until April 12 and Nicole Miller until June 15.

Appointed Diana Burns-Snyder as a long-term substitute teacher, replacing Seidel through April 12 with a salary of \$45,189 and Kim Karavitch Leary as a long-term substitute teacher, replacing Miller through June 15 with a salary of \$35,000.

Appointed the following high school coaches: Ken Kashatus as head boys baseball coach with a stipend of \$3,695; Jim Casey as assistant baseball coach with a stipend of \$2,373; Matthew Samuel as head track coach with a stipend of \$3,695; Ed Radzinski and George Lazar as assistant track coaches with stipend of \$2,373 each; Michael Labagh as head boys' volleyball coach with a stipend of \$2,045; Nick Diaco as assistant volleyball coach with a stipend of \$664; Joe Pugliese as head tennis coach with a stipend of \$2,217; Chris Scharff and Abe Lewis as girls' soccer co-coaches with stipends of \$3,033 each; Joyce Tinner as head softball coach with a stipend of \$1,989; Tony Chiarucci as assistant-in-charge of softball with a stipend of \$2,373; Regan Palfey as assistant softball coach with a stipend of \$1,989; Fred Weaver as assistant-in-charge of baseball with a stipend of \$1,989; and Chris Plaviak as assistant baseball coach with a stipend of \$1,989.

The next Dallas School Board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13 in the administration building.

CIVIC BRIEFS

Christmas trees picked up in KT

The Kingston Township Board of Supervisors reminds residents the Annual Christmas Tree Pick-up continues this week from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Residents are asked to place Christmas trees at curbside with lights and ornaments removed.

Breakfast buffet set for Jan. 15

The Noxen Volunteer Fire Company will hold a breakfast buffet from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. today, Jan. 15 at the fire hall on Stull Road.

Price is \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for children under 12 years of age.

Volunteer program set at Meadows

The volunteer department at the Meadows Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Dallas, is holding orientations for anyone 13 and older at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18 and at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 20 in the multi-purpose room on the first floor of the nursing center.

Volunteers at the center assist with activities such as Bingo, crafts, baking and games. Volunteers are also needed to assist in the beauty shop, therapy department, and reception desk. Various days and times are available.

Registration deadline is Monday, Jan. 16. Call 675-8600, ext. 195 or 675-8600, ext. 115.

Mobile veterans center to visit Dallas

The Department of Veterans Affairs' Mobile Veterans Center will be at the Dallas Shopping Center on Memorial Highway from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20.

Some of the services provided at the center include individual, group, family and bereavement counseling, medical referrals, assistance in applying for VA benefits, employment counseling, guidance and referrals, alcohol and drug assessments.

Appointments for mobile veterans center services are not required.

Supply drive will benefit Blue Chip

A group of Leadership Wilkes-Barre participants assisting the Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge in Dallas will conduct a supply drive for the organization from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21 and Saturday, Jan. 28 at Pet Supplies Plus, 555 Scott St., Wilkes-Barre.

Items the group will collect include cat litter, canned cat and dog food, trash bags, holistic cleaners, paper towels, vinegar, latex gloves, precise holistic dry dog food, mops, pails, puppy pads, dish detergent, sponges, fuel cards, baking soda, Greenie cat treats, dog leashes, dry kitten chow, Revolution flea control, 6" paper plates, Soft Scrub with bleach, small dustpans, brooms, throw rugs, hand sanitizer, Neosporin and laundry cleaning solution.

For more information about Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge, call 333-5265.

Storyteller visits Dietrich Theater

Stories from Around the World with Fiona Powell will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Dietrich Theater, downtown Tunkhannock.

Storyteller Fiona Powell sits at her spinning wheel and spins folk tales from around the world for us to enjoy. Wherever your ancestors are from, Fiona probably knows a tale from that land.

The program is free. For more information, call 996-1500.

Bingo set for Noxen School

A 50/50 Bingo will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Noxen School, School Street, Noxen.

Food and beverages will be available and participants will pay per card.

All proceeds benefit the Noxen-Monroe Sportsmen's Club.

For more information, call 298-2052.

Dallas workers will collect trees

The Dallas Borough Road Department will commence curbside collection of Christmas trees until January 27.

Christmas trees must have all decorations removed prior to being placed curbside. Residents are to refrain from placing their trees curbside prior to weather predictions for snow

and/or freezing rain events.

Any questions or comments may be directed to the road department at 674-5362.

Legion sponsors essay contest

Daddow-Isaacs Dallas American Legion Postwill again sponsor the Pennsylvania American Legion Essay Contest.

This year's topic is "Should America's Presidential Electoral Process Be Changed?" Monetary prizes are available at the various levels.

Applications can be picked up in the schools or by calling Clarence J. Michael at 675-0488. Essays should be submitted by January 28.

Auditions at Dietrich

The Dietrich Theater in downtown Tunkhannock will hold auditions for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 28 and 29.

The show will be presented March 21-25. Actors needed are four women ages 18-50 and 12 men, ages 18-70.

Call 996-1511 for an appointment.

Mobile vets center visits area on Feb. 17

The Department of Veterans Affairs' Mobile Veterans Center will be at the Dallas Shopping Center, Memorial Highway from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17.

Some of the services provided at the center include individual, group, family and bereavement counseling, medical referrals, assistance in applying for VA benefits, employment counseling, guidance and referrals, alcohol and drug assessments.

Appointments for mobile veterans center services are not required.

Winter parking ordinance in effect

The Kingston Township Public Works and Police Department reminds residents the Winter Parking Ordinance is currently in effect until March 31.

The ordinance prohibits parking on the street between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., during any snow or ice storm and for eight hours following the commencement of a snow or ice storm.

DRIVING

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Eighteen-year-old Chelsea English of Dallas said she's usually tame in the car anyway, "unless there's a good song on the radio."

Both women said they have become more aware of their driving habits since the early December crash involving Damon Szatkowski, a Dallas student, who was critically injured.

"Every single time I leave the house, my mom says 'Drive safely,'" said English. "Even if I'm just going a mile down the road, she says it."

Robert Jolley said the changes to the laws will be most effective when there is a crash, as young drivers will most likely be fined more once an investigation is conducted.

He said the most important aspect of these new laws is prevention, and the Dallas Township Police Department plans to speak with new drivers within schools in order to spread awareness.

Dallas student Jeremy Stair, 17, believes the new driving laws only put further restrictions on teens, which he feels isn't fair.



McCOACH

"I don't think it's right, but it's not going to prevent kids from driving with more than one passenger," said Stair.

"They're still going to do it." Stair has been more aware of his driving habits ever since he got a speeding ticket shortly after getting his driver's license.

"It's always in the back of my mind now," he said. "I don't speed."

Michael McCoach, 17, of Harveys Lake, also knows the importance of driving safely - he got into a wreck in Lehman Township going 110 miles per hour not long after receiving his driver's license.

"I should have been dead," he said. "I didn't have any injuries at all."

McCoach thinks young drivers need those safeguards so they don't have to learn from experience like he did.

"Now I know better," he said. "Now I always wear my seatbelt."

Lake-Lehman alum Dean Kreidler, 21, said he believes young drivers like to "show off" by driving unsafely, and he thinks the



KREIDLER

new laws are a good idea to keep distractions at a minimum.

"My girlfriend goes to Lake-Lehman and I wouldn't want her to be

in a car with some guy who's just trying to impress everyone," said Kreidler, of Hunlock Creek.

Texting while driving will become illegal in March, and students admit they believe that is a major factor when it comes to distracted driving.

Allie Jayne, 18, of Hunlock Creek, said she's always safe in the car, and knows when to put down her cell phone.

"I figure it's more important to pay attention to where I'm going," she said.

Dana Jolley said she'll have her friends text people for her when she's behind the wheel - a practice she thinks is much safer while still responding to those who try to contact her.

English tries to eliminate the temptation altogether.

"I force myself to put my phone in the backseat," she said. "Someone could be walking across the street while I'm texting and that's it."

PEOPLE BRIEFS

Albrecht named to dean's list

Nathan Albrecht, of Shavertown, has been named to the dean's list at the University of New Haven for the fall 2011 semester.

Full-time undergraduate students must earn a 3.50 or better cumulative GPA for the semester to be eligible for the dean's list.

Albrecht is a freshman at the university.

Misericordia chair presents paper

Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D., medical director of the Physician Assistant program and recipient of the first endowed chair at Misericordia University, recently was an honored invited lecturer and panelist of the Congress of the Polish Surgical Society in Łódź, Poland.

Dr. Dudrick presented the

paper, "Management of Fistulas of the Upper Gastrointestinal Tract," and served on a panel of surgeons discussing complex abdominal surgical problems.

Dr. Dudrick has been a consultant and member of the Polish Journal of Surgery's editorial board for almost 10 years and has contributed several scientific papers for publication in the Journal which has recently achieved official recognition by the National Library of Medicine and Pubmed.

Dr. Stanley Dudrick receives award

Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D., medical director of the Physician Assistant program and recipient of the first endowed chair at Misericordia University, recently was presented the Nathan Smith, M.D., Distinguished Service Award by the New England Surgical Society at its 92nd Annual

entail, such as recent gas pipeline explosions in Appamattox, Va.; Cleburne, Texas; Carlsbad, N.M.; and San Bruno, Calif.

"Did you ever recall (Reza) talking about a catastrophic rupture of a 24-inch line at 1,000 (pounds per square inch)?" Tomchak asked Scott, who responded no. "Yet, when I look at live video available to everyone who is an oxygen-breathing biped on the planet Earth, and sentient, ... I see total destruc-

APPEAL

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because I'm going to be impacted; my family's going to be impacted," said Dottor. "I still don't feel comfortable."

Resident Norm Tomchak questioned whether Chief has ever conducted a study on what a "catastrophic incident" would

tion in a diameter of 1,000 feet."

Resident Kim Jacobs asked why the board was depending on the testimony of Reza, who was paid by Chief to conduct the study. She said he was biased due to this fact, and demanded another study be done by an independent party.

Scott said Reza is affiliated with governmental agencies, and if he were to be biased under oath, it could ruin his work reputation.