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LL Foundation awards scholarships



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Lake-Lehman Foundation scholarship recipients for 2012 are, from left, Tiffany Oplinger, Victoria Frederick, Matthew Gorski and Kristen Boyle.

Farrell Memorial Scholarship presented on anniversary of namesake's death.

By SARAH HITE
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The Lake-Lehman Foundation awarded the first John Peter Farrell Memorial Scholarship to a graduating senior at the foundation's tea event on Sunday, April 15 — exactly one year after Farrell, a former school board member, died in a car accident.

Farrell had served on the Lake-Lehman School Board since 2008. The Harveys Lake resident died on April 15, 2011 following a car accident on State Route 29 in Noxen Township.

Lorraine Farrell, Farrell's widow, presented the scholarship at the Hayfield House on the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus to senior Matthew Gorski, of Shaver-



Lorraine Farrell, widow of John Peter Farrell, pauses to reflect at the Lake-Lehman Foundation Annual Tea and Scholarship Awards Banquet.

town, who will attend King's College in the fall.

"It's a great honor to remember Peter in this way," Lorraine Farrell said. "Education meant a

lot to him ... we were always surrounded by it."

Lorraine Farrell is a reading specialist at Leo E. Solomon Elementary School in Plains Town-

ship. Peter Farrell worked as head custodian within the Wilkes-Barre School District for 25 years and his father served on the Wilkes-Barre Area School Board.

Lorraine Farrell said the student chosen for the \$500 scholarship was special because Gorski will study elementary education with a specialization in reading in college.

"King's is where I got my reading specialization," said Lorraine Farrell.

Johnna Evans, president of the Lake-Lehman Foundation, said the criteria for the scholarship were developed by looking at other scholarship requirements throughout the country. She said students must have a minimum grade point average, must participate in extra-curricular activities and must be "financially deserving" of the

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HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH

Council votes to move police

By SARAH HITE
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CLEANUP DAY

The Harveys Lake Police Department will be relocated as council members voted 4-2 in favor of the project on Tuesday after heated public debate on the issue.

The borough received a \$78,220 grant from gaming funds last month for the project which includes renovations to an old recreation building at 22 Little League Road for the police department currently located on State Route 415.

Council members Larry Radel, Boyd Barber, Fran Kopko and Amy Williams voted for continuing with the project while Michelle Boice and Thomas Kehler voted against the motion.

Council member Ed Kelly abstained from the vote as he wanted to see results from a referendum vote in November about whether the project should be completed.

Residents crowded the meeting room to express mixed feelings about the project — many were for the move, while others were against it.

Resident Carol Culver took issue with the fact that Mayor Clarence Hogan had signed a letter in November attesting the project had community-wide support while she insists she had not heard of its existence until recently.

Hogan told residents he had "word-of-mouth" support for the project.

"You misrepresented yourself, Mr. Hogan," said Diane Dwyer, a resident and former council member.

Radel said there were no public hearings on the project prior to the grant submittal because there wasn't assurance the borough would receive the money.

Radel said much of the grant-writing work was done on a volun-

A cleanup day will be held at Harveys Lake from noon to 3 p.m. today, April 22. The event, sponsored by the Environmental Advisory Council, will be held in celebration of Earth Day. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 814-9230.

teer basis by council members and four members were aware of the project last year.

Boice said the grant could be rewritten and resubmitted to make upgrades to the current police building instead of moving it across the lake, but Radel said the borough would risk losing the money if that action was completed.

Boice made a motion to rewrite the grant, but council members voted 4-3 against the idea.

Some residents had concern about the project's potential cost to taxpayers, as well as the removal of police presence in the "hub" of Harveys Lake.

"An isolated area like the rec building will send a message to residents and visitors alike that the police are not available, or even worse, that Harveys Lake does not have a police force at all," said Dwyer.

Boice said property taxes bring in about \$245,000 a year, but it costs about \$344,000 to run the police department. She said at least one of the three full-time and four part-time officers are on duty at a time and the department only has three cruisers.

Resident Jason Miller questioned why property taxes were so high to run a relatively small police force.

"We have a grant, that's fine and dandy, but I don't think there (are) many grants that are going to cover all the expenses you're

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Lake-Lehman seniors prep for last time on stage

By SARAH HITE
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For many of the students performing and working behind the scenes on the upcoming Lake-Lehman play, "Once Upon a Mattress," it will be their last time on the Lehman Township stage for a while.

But don't worry — none of them will look the least bit glum while performing the energetic and uproarious comedy loosely based on the Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale, "The Princess and the Pea."

After all, they are actors.

One of those leaving Lehman in a few months is 17-year-old drama club veteran Mikayla Orrson, who will move to New York City in September to attend the New York Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts.

Orrson, who plans to study film and television acting, has been part of the Lake-Lehman

theater troupe since she was in seventh grade and has participated in productions at the Music Box Theater in Swoyersville and the Northeast Youth Theater Company in Wilkes-Barre.

"Ever since I was little, I've always wanted to be on TV and then I found out it had a name — acting," said Orrson.

She's especially excited to live in the city she loves while also avoiding having to drive to get around.

"I love that you can go anywhere by subway," she said.

And though some have expressed concerns about Orrson's career path, she isn't deterred from pursuing her childhood dream.

"I have had a couple of naysayers," she said. "It's all I'm really passionate about, and I don't get bored doing it. It's all I'm really good at, and it's what I love."

Others in the Lake-Lehman theater group's senior class are preparing for many varied careers, from occupational therapist to elementary teacher.

Despite the differences in their professional aspirations, all the students said theater has given them the skills to be the person they're meant to be.

Clad in a tweed blazer and



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Lake-Lehman seniors Matt Gorski, left, and Mikayla Orrson perform 'The Cheerleading Song' with cast members during a rehearsal for 'Once Upon a Mattress' at the Lake-Lehman High School auditorium.

bowtie, Julia Whitesell, of Harveys Lake, said she had ulterior motives for joining the theater group back in seventh grade.

"I like attention," she said. The gregarious 17-year-old

plans to attend Misericordia University in the fall to major in English, which is related to another reason why she got involved in drama all those years ago.

"I got into theater because I really like writing," she said. "My mom writes screenplays and plays, so that's how I got interested."

Rebecca Rosser, of Sweet Val-

IF YOU GO...

The Lake-Lehman High School theater program will present "Once Upon a Mattress" at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28 and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 29. Reserved seating costs \$10 and can only be purchased through today. General admission costs \$7 and can be purchased in advance or at the door. Tickets can be purchased by calling 675-1761, e-mailing lehmantheatre@aol.com or by contacting any cast member. For more information, call the Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School office at 675-1761.

ley, said being involved in theater gave her the confidence to overcome her intense shyness.

She marched right up to the theater director at the time and asked for a part in the upcoming play when she was in seventh grade.

"I had the feeling that I didn't want to be shy anymore. I didn't want to be the little person," said 17-year-old Rosser. "I want to show people that I can get out there and talk and show emotion."

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