

# The DALLAS POST

50¢

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

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## DALLAS TOWNSHIP

## Residents demand water testing

Chief officials grilled after drilling mud is spilled in township.

By CAMILLE FIOTI  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Concerned about the effects that drilling mud spills may have on several wells near natural gas sites, residents and township officials said Tuesday that they want the water tested.

Representatives from the state Department of Environmental Protection and

Chief Gathering/PVR Partners fielded questions regarding the recent incidents during which water, containing bentonite clay, erupted through the ground.

Both DEP and Chief maintain that the incidents did harm the environment and that the mud, which isn't toxic, was contained and removed by a vacuum truck.

The locations of the incidents, which occurred on May 1 and 2, are in the wetlands area off Kunkle-Alderson and Upper Demunds roads.

The leaks, referred to as "inadvertent returns" are not uncommon, and can happen when the pressure from the drill

pushes mud through up from fractures in the earth's upper crust, said Marc B. Cooley, DEP Environmental Group Manager for the Scranton district office. He added that Chief is "addressing the incidents adequately."

"Shouldn't the municipality have been alerted?" supervisor Liz Martin asked Cooley, pointing out that she was told of the incidents two days after the fact by a resident. Cooley said the responsibility of reporting incidents falls on the shoulders of the operator, but that he'd see what he can do about notifying the township directly in the future.

Borough engineer Tom Doughton said there are several different kinds of bentonite, but the one he's most familiar with is commonly used to seal the bottoms of landfills, reservoirs and along house foundations.

"Anyone who has had a home well drilled in the last 20 years, you probably had it sealed with bentonite," he said. "I don't want people to leave here tonight thinking they're going to die from bentonite in their water. That's not the case."

Martin said she's concerned about the

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BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Scamp, who was found eating garbage in Nanticoke, waits for a new owner at the kennel at Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge in Franklin Township.

## Volunteers work to benefit Blue Chip

Leadership Wilkes-Barre group chooses the local animal refuge as focus for project.

By SARAH HITE  
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Thanks to a supply drive and other projects sponsored by Leadership Wilkes-Barre participants, Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge owner Marge Bart won't have to worry about visitors going to the no-kill shelter at all hours of the day, or whether there will be enough cat food for the coming weeks.

After all, it can be tough to keep track of everything as the only employee of a shelter that houses hundreds of animals throughout the year.

"I think they gave us a three to six-month supply of cleaning products," said Bart, who lives at the shelter in Franklin Township.

Bart was presented with the supplies at a picnic to honor volunteers at the Lockville Road shelter on April 29.

Rachel Rybicki, of Dallas, said the Leadership Wilkes-Barre group chose Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge as its focus because most of the group's members are animal lovers. "Many people don't realize the stories that go along with the animals," said Rybicki, who represents Penn State Wilkes-Barre in the leadership group.

Rybicki said a dog named Marcos has come to the shelter not once, but two times. Both times, Marcos had been poisoned by his previous owners.

"Now he needs to be on a special diet," said Rybicki. "Stories like that make you want to help."

The group installed signs on the property that outline the shelter's visiting hours. Bart said the shelter has grown so drastically since its creation more than 10 years ago and keeping up with the shelter's needs can be a difficult task for one person to manage.

"The sign we desperately need," she said. "We've grown so very

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## LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL BOARD

## Board opts to stay in trust until June 2013

Board will keep dental and vision benefits, but will seek health care elsewhere.

By SARAH HITE  
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The Lake-Lehman School Board has found a way to remain in the Northeastern Pennsylvania School Health Trust while allowing \$1 million per year. The district voted 8-1 Monday to keep dental and vision benefits but seek health care services elsewhere.

Solicitor John Audi said that as a health trust member, the district has the right to only utilize the organization's dental and vision insurance. Board member Walter Glogowski was the lone opponent of the measure.

The health trust is a consortium of school districts formed to collectively purchase insurance at lower rates.

The board also voted 8-1 to submit a letter of intent to withdraw from the health trust by June 30, 2013. Glogowski also voted against this measure.

Superintendent James McGovern told residents at a town hall meeting earlier this month that he asked the health trust to change its bylaws that require at least a year's notice for withdrawal from the organization, but the motion was voted down.

The board approved its proposed final budget 6-3 at the meeting, which revealed a \$1.8 million shortfall. Business Manager Tom Melone said the district's fund balance, akin to a savings account, will total about \$2 million at the end of this year and will help keep the district afloat for the 2012-13 school year.

Board members Karen Masters, David Paulauskas and Bo Kreller voted against the budget.

The budget, which features \$25.7 million in revenue and \$27.5 million in expenditures, will include a 4.26 percent increase in property taxes for Luzerne County residents, resulting in an additional \$53 for an assessed property value of \$140,000.

Those living in Wyoming County will actually see a reduc-

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## Kids Fishing Day reels in large turnout



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Madison Crawn, of Exeter, can hardly believe she caught this very large brown trout at the Sixth Annual Kids Fishing Day sponsored by the Back Mountain Police Association at Frances Slocum State Park.

## Hooked on fun

By SARAH HITE  
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Damp weather and a few dark clouds couldn't keep about 135 youths and their families from participating in the Sixth Annual Kids Fishing Day hosted by the Back Mountain Police Association on May 5 at Frances Slocum State Park in Kingston Township.

Ross Piazza, Back Mountain Police Association vice president, said the event is sponsored by local businesses and residents to provide a day of fishing and activity for children at no cost. Dennis Bonvie, of Swoyersville, and his 7-year-old son Rhys chatted with Joe Shiskowski, of Shavertown, and his 7-year-old son Joe Jr. near the lake just before the fishing began.

It was Bonvie's third time attending the event with his son, who loves fish-



Cameron Boyko, of Dallas, holds his corn and pole as he prepares to fish.

ing, even though Bonvie wasn't always a fisherman himself.

"I did some fishing," he said. "But for him, it's all about the thrill of the catch."

Shiskowski enjoys watching his son fish because of the excitement he sees in his son's eyes.

"To a kid, every fish is a big fish," said Shiskowski.

Piazza said the police association wanted to start the event to help children find an inexpensive hobby that would allow them to spend more time with their families.

"We do a bike giveaway, and one of the things you have to do to be entered is bring a grandparent," said Piazza, an officer of the state Fish and Boat Commission.

The kids also received fishing instruction from certified teachers,

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## Grange gets help

The state Grange revitalizes Mountain Grange Post 567 with a little local help.

By SARAH HITE  
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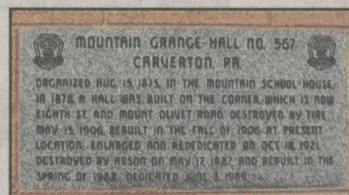
Mountain Grange No. 567 on West Eighth Street in Kingston Township is going back to its roots.

The Grange post's membership has been dwindling for the last 50 years, said recently-

elected president Carol Swanson, and she hopes the restructuring of the Grange will renew interest in the organization while maintaining the values and traditions upon which the Grange started.

The Grange is a family fraternal organization that promotes the betterment of rural America through community service, education, legislation and fellowship, according to the state Grange website.

Post No. 567 was originally started in the late 1800s and,



though the building burned down in 1987, it was rebuilt in 1988, thanks to donations from the community.

Swanson, of Trucksville, has been a member of the Grange since as far back as she can remember. Her parents and grandparents were Grangers, too.

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BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Mountain Grange 567 President Carol Swanson describes the resurgence of Grange interest at the hall in Kingston Township.



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