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Teams clamor for practice space

By SARAH HITE
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In a semi-rural area with lots of farm land and bare acreage, athletic field space in the Back Mountain is at a premium these days – and youth athletic teams are clamoring for the chance just to practice their sports skills.

Practice and game-playing fields in the Back Mountain include those located at the Lake-Lehman and Dallas School District campuses, the Back Moun-

tain Recreation Complex in Lehman Township, Center Street Park in Kingston Township, the Jackson Township Recreation Park, those recently created by the Rock Recreation Center in Kingston Township and some space at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dallas Township.

Baseball fields are located in Dallas Township, Franklin Township and Harveys Lake Borough.

All of these fields must meet the demands of dozens of youth and high school athletic teams.

"Our ideal option is to use fields here (in the Back Mountain)."

Donald Bowden
KT Raiders president

Finding space

Some teams can't even find a space to call home.

Donald Bowden, president of the Kingston Township Raiders, said the team is searching for a

field on which to play its games this season. But the organization's home field, which is located in Forty Fort at the Dana Street Elementary School, hasn't

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Lake-Lehman Athletic Director Tom Rokita describes the many uses of Edward Edwards Stadium by various athletic teams.

BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST



Eighth-grader Grace Kuschke, 14, of Harveys Lake, describes her project on tropical rainforests.

BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Science students strut their stuff

By SARAH HITE
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Seventh and eighth-grade students participated in the annual Junior High Science Fair at the Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School on May 23.

Projects ranged from determining whether dogs and cats are right or left-pawed to seeing what items in one's backyard are biodegradable. Honors students were required to do the projects, while general science students had the option to create a project for extra credit.

Debbie Milford, seventh and eighth-grade science teacher and event coordinator, said not all the projects were based on the scientific method – some students were able to perform research and present it through project.

Though Milford took students to the library when they started the projects, most of the work was done at home. Students were required to work

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at least 25 hours on their chosen project.

Karle Coole, of Noxen, explored what plants and animals can be found in the Arctic, a polar region located in the northernmost part of the Earth.

The 14-year-old said it was interesting to learn about how different plants and animals adapt to the extreme climate. "I enjoy learning about science, especially physical science," she said.

Grace Kuschke, 14, of Harveys Lake, took to a different



Eighth-grader Maranda Moosic, 13, of Lake Township, describes her project on desert life at the Lake-Lehman Junior High Science Fair.

area of the Earth – the tropical rainforest.

"I liked learning about all the different layers of the rainforest and what lived where," she said.

Kuschke also presented in her project that the rainforest is being destroyed, and explained different ways people

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DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget calls for 2.1 percent hike

By SARAH HITE
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DISTRICT SALARIES

Below is a list of recently approved raises for Dallas School District administrators for the 2012-13 school year.

Superintendent Frank Galicki - \$106,951
Business Manager Grant Palfe - \$83,609
Director of Technology William Gartrell - \$91,143
Special Education Director Amy Linen - \$71,981
High School Principal Jeffrey Shaffer - \$91,143
Assistant High School Principal Brian Bradshaw - \$66,442
Middle School Principal Brian Bradshaw - \$79,866
Dallas Elementary School Principal Thomas Traver - \$79,866
Wycallis Elementary School Principal and Director of Curriculum Paul Reinert - \$99,752
Director of Maintenance Mark Kraynack - \$66,365

The school board approved its \$32.9 million budget for the 2012-13 school year on Monday night, which calls for a 2.1 percent millage increase to 11.8052 mills.

A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 in average assessed property value.

The budget also includes a per capita tax of \$10, an earned income tax of 1 percent split with district municipalities, and an emergency services tax of \$52, \$5 of which is district funds.

Business Manager Grant Palfe said the increase will amount to an additional \$37.59 to the average annual property tax bill of \$1,750.

He added the district could have applied for exceptions to further increase the millage rate, but the board and administrators wanted to raise taxes by the statewide wage index or lower since the completion of the new high school.

The board approved the resignation of a middle school teacher who is under investigation for "inappropriate behavior" involving students.

David Shuga, a middle school

special education teacher, submitted his resignation the same day Superintendent Frank Galicki said administrators became aware of the allegations.

Galicki said the situation came to light on Thursday when several students approached middle school Principal Tom Duffy "with

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KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

No chickens in Kingston Twp.

By SARAH HITE
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their manure can be used for compost in gardens.

All the squawking about raising chickens in Kingston Township came to an abrupt halt on Wednesday as supervisors voted against changing the zoning ordinance to allow the keeping of fowl in residential areas.

Supervisors James Reino Jr., Jeffrey Box and Shirley Moyer voted against changing the ordinance, while Gary Mathers remained the lone supporter.

Resident Chris Mathers, of Trucksville, wife of Gary Mathers, championed the issue a few months ago and presented research on the topic for the board to digest.

She said tending a small flock of chickens makes one more sustainable; they keep away mosquitoes, ticks and other insects, and

Mathers lives on a large lot about 600 feet away from the nearest agriculturally-zoned parcel, which allows for the raising of chickens.

"I feel I have a right to grow my own food," she said.

Supervisors told Chris Mathers that the issue lies in how the birds would impact neighbors and property values and whether the zoning officer could handle managing the flocks.

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