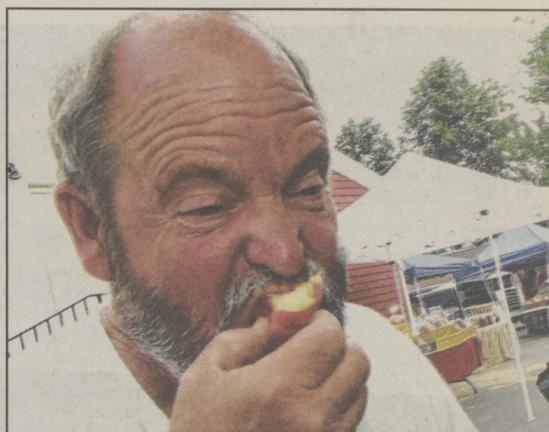




Eating donut peaches at the Back Mountain Memorial Library Farmers' Market was the choice of the day for 1-year-old Olive Barket and her mom, Sinead, of New Jersey, while visiting Olive's grandfather, Sol Barket, of Dallas.



Barbara Kolchin, of Dallas, finds beefsteak tomatoes at the Back Mountain Memorial Library Farmers' Market. Paying for the find is her husband, Dr. John Kolchin.



Jack Nutche, of Shavertown, said that eating donut peaches at the Back Mountain Memorial Library Farmers' Market was "just like eating candy."

Farmers' market fresh as it gets

The Back Mountain Memorial Library Farmers' Market opened on July 14 to patrons mingling while perusing the many vendors, including locals like Dymond's Farm and Brace's Orchard, to those who sell new products like organic honey and "fancy cupcakes." Organizers say the first weekend was a great success, causing some vendors to completely sell out of goods within two hours. The farmers' market is located in the Back Mountain Memorial Library parking lot at 96 Huntsville Road in Dallas and is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 6.



Dorothy Hopa, of Dallas, selects carrots to freeze from the Back Mountain Memorial Library Farmers' Market.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Daycare coming to Lake-Lehman

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

Lake-Lehman schools offer kindergarten classes for children just beginning their educational careers, but soon the district will have a hand in caring for youngsters as small as infants.

After taking a long look at the district's financial future, Superintendent James McGovern and the school board decided alternative sources of funding — specifically operating a daycare facility at the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School — may be a worthwhile venture.

"During the budgetary process, not only do we look for ways to do things more efficiently here, but I think the key to funding education in the future is going to be alternative funding, trying to find supplemental streams of money," said McGovern. "We try to look at what we do well — we're in the business of education."

The facility will be managed by Hildebrandt Learning Centers, LLC. The childcare company will provide a program manager and instructors for the infant through pre-kindergarten care. Everything else, from supplies to maintenance, will be covered by the district.

McGovern said the initial intention was to operate the facility independently, but that idea was scrapped due to lack of experience in the early childcare field on the part of the school district.

Another option was figuring the logistics of before and after school care, but before the details could be worked out, McGovern said personnel from Hildebrandt Learning Centers contacted the district about partnering in this venture.

The facility will be located in the former district offices next to the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School. The district offices will be relocated in the junior/senior high school around the block.

McGovern said there was talk of purchasing an off-campus building for the daycare or constructing a facility on campus, but construction estimates as high as \$500,000 prevented administrators from moving forward with those proposals.



Lake-Lehman Superintendent James McGovern describes the renovations currently underway at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School to accommodate the district's new day care facility.

BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Lake-Lehman School District's daycare project, contact the district office at 675-2165.

"We just couldn't do that, and we didn't want to take out any new financing for this scenario," he said.

About \$100,000 was budgeted for the renovation project, and though bids came back a bit higher than expected, the district had enough funds to move forward. Renovations to the district offices mostly entailed demolition of walls to create more open space for the facility.

Two pre-kindergarten classrooms, equipped with separate bathrooms, already existed at the site and the facility even has access to its own playground. McGovern said more than enough parking spaces are available for the site, as well.



One of several classrooms at Lehman-Jackson Elementary to be converted for use by the new daycare facility in time for the start of the 2012-13 school year.

"We're not venturing far out from what we normally do," he said.

McGovern said residents had expressed concerns about taking business away from other local daycare facilities, but he said Hildebrandt Learning Centers offers a unique service at a different

cost scale than other programs in the area.

"We feel Hildebrandt is one of the most well known and prominent early learning centers in the area and to partner with them, we're very fortunate," said

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Corey was 'the strongest person'

Recent Dallas graduate succumbs to three-year battle with cancer.

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com



EHRET

The Back Mountain community is mourning the loss of a young man considered by many of his friends as "the strongest person" they know.

Corey Ehret, 18, of Dallas died Sunday, July 22 after a three-year battle with embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma.

Friends remember the recent Dallas graduate as a person whose perseverance and positive outlook on life could rival that of any professional athlete.

Ehret was first diagnosed with cancer in 2008, though he remained an active member of the varsity cross country team throughout his high school career.

Dallas High School cross country coach Matt Samuel said Ehret sometimes seemed like a second coach — he was always present to offer support and advice to fellow teammates, which included his twin brother, Chris, and his younger brother, Brenden.

"He was a source of support, and though he was going through his own personal struggles and for as tremendous as those things were, for him to take his focus away and concentrate and offer his counsel and advice to all other members of teams was just amazing," said Samuel. "For him to be able to do that at such a young age, you really don't see all that often."

When Corey's cancer went into remission, the team celebrated the triumph with him, and he began to run with the team again. Samuel said Corey was a very active and important member of the team during that time.

"It was amazing to see him come back and then step onto our team after going through that stuff, and cross country was very tough to deal with in first

place," the coach said. "He was able to overcome his cancer treatment and contribute to the team in a meaningful way. He was a scoring member of team."

Corey's efforts were so admired by his coach and teammates that the team started a Corey Ehret Award, which is given to runners who overcome great odds to be successful members of the team.

Corey was awarded the honor in its inaugural year, and he helped choose the recipient of the next year's award winner.

"It speaks to the character of Corey and everything he stood for, not just during his battle with cancer, but in his regular life," said Samuel. "It stands for our most courageous and persevering and diligent athlete."

Former teammate Jess Adams, 18, of Dallas, said the team participated in fundraisers to aid the Ehrets.

"When we first heard about (Corey's diagnosis), we were coming up with ways we could support him, and we helped with different fundraisers," said Adams. "One thing I remember, a lot of teammates wrote on their shoes, 'For Peach' because we used to call him Peachy. Because of his cancer treatments, his hair was peach fuzz and the name stuck. That was a big show of

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