



Al Martin, left, of Orlando, Fla., and Sandy Race, of Cornelius, N.C., talk about the good old days.



Gordon Dersheimer, center, of Harveys Lake, welcomes Carol and John Arendt, of Carbondale, to the reunion.



Lake-Noxen Class of 1960 members Anne Whitesell Smith, left, of Sweet Valley, and Betty Honeywell Spencer, of Noxen, chat during a reunion celebrating the 70th birthdays of graduates of Lake-Noxen and Lake-Lehman High Schools.

HS classmates celebrate 70th

By SARAH HITE
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Two classes – one that graduated before and one that graduated after the merger of the Lake-Lehman School District – gathered to celebrate their 70th birthdays at Grotto Pizza on Aug. 10.

The Lake-Lehman School District formed in 1960 and those who graduated from Lehman Township High School in 1959 and Lake-Noxen High School in 1960 gathered to reminisce – though neither class ever attended the same school.

"I don't know any of those people," said Norma McNeill, of Shickshinny. "I just came to see what's going on."

She and three other friends who graduated from Lehman Township sat at a table in a private room in Grotto Pizza to reminisce with each other during the event.

Their class had about 70 graduates, and two years ago they held a 50th anniversary reunion weekend. They even visited their former high school, which is now site of the River of Life

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Church on Outlet Road. "It was wonderful," said McNeill, a former cheerleader. "We had a 70 percent turnout for that reunion."

Robert Gregory Jr., of Lehman Township, worked on his father's farm during high school, but tried to sneak in a football game from time to time.

Al Niezgod, who lives in Dover, Del., was an athlete, playing football and other sports.

"My favorite subjects were lunch and recess," he joked.

On the other side of the room, Lake-Noxen grads hammed it up for old time's sake while enjoying various appetizers.

The Martins happened to find love through staying in touch over the years. Al Martin and his bride of seven years, Mary Ann,



BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Classmates and spouses attending the 70th birthday reunion at Grotto Pizza are, from left, clockwise, Allan Hobbs, Don Kocher, Ray Wandel, Bev Wandel, Alice Kocher, Carol Bennett Hobbs, all of Harveys Lake; and Richard Race, of Cornelius, N.C.

reconnected after their spouses died.

Al was living in Lake Township at the time and eventually made the big move to Florida to

be with his girl – at least that's what he called her when they dated in high school back in 1960.

"They play golf together, and

sometimes she lets him win," said friend and cousin-in-law Alice Platt-Martin.

Mary Ann Martin loves going to reunions because it makes her

feel like she's back in high school.

"Age doesn't matter," she said. "We get together, we sing old songs, we tell stories. It makes you feel young."

HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH

Residents urged to display addresses

SUSAN BETTINGER
Times Leader Correspondent

Councilwoman Amy Williams urges all residents to display their 911 addresses on their homes.

The green signs must be a minimum of three inches tall and made of reflective material, Williams said at borough council's regular meeting on Aug. 21. Emergency services need to be able to locate the addresses clearly and quickly. The signs must be posted on mailboxes, as well.

A change of address form is not needed, as the old and new addresses are linked and the post office will forward mail for one year. Residents can call Borough Secretary Susan Sutton at 639-2113 for information on where to obtain the signs, as well as how to properly display them.

Resident Phil Krazner questioned the 1986 two-story boathouse rule. The ordinance prohibits any boathouse in Harveys Lake from having a second story. Council President Larry Radel responded by telling Krazner he could "fill out a request form to have it looked at by the planning and zoning department."

Solicitor Charles McCormick added that the issue was voted on again in 2009 after a two-year review and Council voted to keep the ordinance intact. McCormick further stated the rule helps to keep boathouses from being used as residence-

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Councilwoman Michelle Boice inquired as to why the number of calls to the police department, which is reported to Harrisburg, and the number announced at the monthly meetings are different. Boice pointed out the number of calls given at the meeting is much greater than the number reported to Harrisburg. Police Chief Charlie Musial replied that, under Title 18, only misdemeanors or more serious calls are reported to Harrisburg.

Resident Carol Culver expressed concern as to the reason her trash was not picked up this week. It was reported that a number of other residents' garbage pickups were missed, as well. The borough has a new crew picking up trash and it was not familiar with the route. The situation is expected to clear up by the next pickup date.

The next council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 18.



Mary Gibbon, left, and A.J. Leib, both of Mountain Top, have a laugh during the presentation by master gardener Roberta Troy in Forty Fort.



Pam Casey, left, of Luzerne, and David Orbin, of Drums, take notes on native and invasive plants during a talk by master gardener Roberta Troy.

Learning about invasive plants

By SARAH HITE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about identifying invasive plants and how to control them, contact the Penn State Extension in Luzerne County at 825-7701 or e-mail questions to LuzerneExt@psu.edu.

There's a predator living in Helene Hvizda's backyard.

The spiny creature slithers between blades of grass, swirling around living beings and tightening its grip, essentially choking the life out of them.

No, it's not a monster from a horror movie. It's an invasive plant called the Mile-a-Minute vine that hails from faraway countries like India, Eastern Asia, China and islands from Japan to the Philippines, and it grows so rapidly that it overtakes most other plants in the Hazleton woman's yard.

"I've been fighting this for two years," she said. Hvizda and others flocked to the Luzerne County West Annex building in Forty Fort on Aug. 8 to listen to Penn State Master Gardener Roberta Troy talk about how to identify and combat these alien predators in one's

own yard.

An invasive plant is one that was accidentally, or purposely, brought from another country and, because of the lack of natural predators such as insects and small animals that are in the plant's new habitat, are sometimes a force to be reckoned with.

Without birds and bugs to keep growth rates in check, invasive plants grow rapidly and spread aggressively throughout their new homes, which can cause harm to native plants that are fighting for the same ecosystems.

According to the United States National Arboretum website, the U.S. government spends about \$100 million yearly to fight invasive plants in wetlands alone. The aggressive plants can over-

take entire ecosystems, leaving the land undiversified and barren food-wise for native birds, bugs and small animals.

As Troy, of Franklin Township, stated during the presentation, the two kinds of plants often have to fight to the death.

"Some people ask, 'Why should I care?'" said Troy. "I am a hiker. I am a gardener. I am a bird-watcher. Invasive plants grow over trails and make them hard to navigate. They invade our garden. They replace native vegetation needed for food and shelter for birds and small animals."

Troy covered some common invasive plants found in the area and what native species look similar to each other and can be planted to replace its evil doppel-



Penn State Extension Master Gardener Roberta Troy, of Franklin Township, gives a presentation on native and invasive plants at the Luzerne County West Side Annex in Forty Fort.

ganger. She said many landscapers in the area may be unknowingly selling invasive plants. The commonly called Butterfly Bush, also an invasive species, can be considered a backyard staple to attract butterflies, if kept in confining conditions.

"I have a Butterfly Bush, but I planted it in a raised bed," said Troy. "That way it can't spread."

See PLANTS, Page 12