

# The DALLAS POST

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## Tom Hillman helps Scouts with camp experience

Dallas man wants to make sure Boy Scouts get chance to make memories like he did when he was younger.

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Bob McGuire, den master of Cub Scout Pack 241, Lehman, was never more surprised the day he received a phone call "completely out of the blue" from a former den master, whom he had never met.

Tom Hillman, of Dallas, told McGuire he had been looking at the newspaper and saw a picture of a Scout troop. The image fondly reminded Hillman of his three years as the Scoutmaster of Pack 241 and of the summer camping trips he and his son Bill (now a senior at Lake-Lehman High School) enjoyed together at Camp Acahela in Blakeslee.

Hillman came from a Scouting family - his father and grandfather were both Eagle Scouts. He thinks that everything about the Scouting process prepares and leads the boys to camping. While many of the programs and activities can be done indoors, getting the Scouts outside and sleeping in a tent should be the end result. Just to "go away" and work together as a group are

other good things about camping, Hillman says. McGuire told Hillman that, sadly, only 11 Scouts from Pack 241 had participated in summer camp the previous year. McGuire and Hillman felt that the \$250 camp fee might make the cost of summer camp an expensive option for an average family. Because Hillman does not want any Scout to not be able to go to camp for lack of funds, he was willing to pay 50 percent of the cost of summer

camp the previous year.

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Boy Scouts Damian Napierkowski, left, and his brother, Blaise, of Cub Scout Pack 241, Lehman, raise their hands because they have spent summer camping time at Camp Acahela, thanks to the generosity of Tom Hillman, a former pack leader who has contributed to the summer Scout camping experience. Hillman was presented a plaque by the Scout group in recognition of his contribution.

## Christian athletes connect off field

By SARAH HITE  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Student athletes at Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School have a new way to connect off the court - and on a different level.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes group meets twice a month at the high school to discuss Lake-Lehman sports, socialize with friends and study topics from the Bible that students get to choose.

Speakers are also brought into the meetings to discuss relevant topics of the students' choosing, such as dating to how to be a better Christian.

The group got its start this year by former high school social studies teacher Chip Sorber and current physical education teacher Mike Leskowsky.

"My first experience of Christianity was in college," said Sorber. "I didn't go to church when I was younger, and I had a curiosity about it. I got involved in a Fellowship of Christian Athletes group. I didn't take to Christianity right away and I'm still working on it."

Sorber started a smaller, less official group with the same premise when he coached baseball at Lake-Lehman.

"It was a small group, about five to nine kids," he said. "This year I thought I'd open it up to the whole school. The administration was really supportive of it."

Leskowsky, whose family members are active in the group, wanted to be part of the fellowship group to help students deal with a changing society.

"I think we're going to try to reverse the trend, the (negative) direction society is going," he said. "This gives an opportunity to be more open to faith and it gives me something to talk about with the kids."

Sorber believes the legal removal of Christianity within schools had led to negative consequences, including the inability of the U.S. government to pay its debt to other countries.

"We were a Christian nation at the start," he said. "...People



BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Lake-Lehman Fellowship of Christian Athletes guest speaker Pastor Dan Miller addresses the group.

### TO LEARN MORE

For more information about the Fellowship of Christian Athletes group at Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School, call the school office at 675-7458. For more information about the Pastor's Pantry in Noxen, call the Noxen United Methodist Church at 298-2503.

need to be exposed to (Christianity). This gives the kids an opportunity."

The students also chose a service project for the holiday season. They collected canned goods and nonperishable food for the Pastor's Pantry in Noxen. The Pastor's Pantry is only open three hours a week but manages to serve between 25 and 65 families a month. Pantry organizer Pearl Race said the pantry depends on food drives promoted by local service groups.

"We think about Christian values and this time of year you want to help the poor and the



Lake-Lehman Fellowship of Christian Athletes founder Chip Sorber, right, and financial sponsor Curt Swanson discuss the mission of the group.

needy," said Sorber. "We're also going to do a project around Easter."

Curtis Swanson, who owns Curtis L. Swanson Funeral Home in Hunlock Creek, is a financial supporter of the group and provides pizza and soda for the students.

"I believe in Christian values and I think kids need them," said Swanson. "I think they are really lacking those values. People don't go to church to learn the Bible anymore."

Shoshana Mahoney, 16, of

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### LEHMAN TOWNSHIP

## Glitches increase phone calls to 911

By CAMILLE FIOTI  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Accidental "butt dials" and occasional glitches in the telephone system contributed to an increase in 911 calls, said Lehman Township Police Chief Howard Kocher during the board of supervisors meeting on Jan. 7.

Kocher said emergency personnel must respond to each call, even if it is a hang-up, adding that last year emergency personnel responded to 108 hang-up calls and 123 burglar alarms, most of which were also false alarms.

During the board's reorganization meeting prior to the reg-

ular meeting, the board approved a resolution that would increase the property tax to 1.45 mills. A mill is a \$1 tax on every \$1,000 of assessed property value. There are no other tax or service increases this year.

The board voted to appoint Marian DeAngelis as secretary and Right-to-Know Officer at an annual salary of \$30,000.

The board also voted:

- To re-appoint Dave Sutton as chairman, Ray Iwanoski as vice chairman and Alvin Cragle as treasurer. Cragle's salary was set at \$17,000 per year.

- To re-appoint Howard Kocher as chief of police at a salary of \$41,700 per year.

- To appoint Mark Liparela as temporary, full-time police officer at a salary of \$30,000 per year.

- To re-appoint Peter Savage as the township's solicitor at a salary of \$600 per month.

- To appoint Michael Sholtis as zoning officer at a salary of \$8,000 per year.

- To appoint Barbara Simms as assistant zoning officer at a salary of \$5,900 per year and planning commission administrator, also at \$5,900 per year.

- To appoint Doug Ide to a 4-year term on the planning commission.

- To appoint the following to the zoning hearing board: Joseph Rutchauskas, 5-year term; John Hanish, 4-year term and Brian Doran as an alternate.

The next regular board of supervisors meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 18 following a public hearing at 6 p.m. regarding abandoned roads near the Lake Silkworth area.

## KT supers seek new member

The Kingston Township Board of Supervisors is seeking letters of interest from residents of the township to fill an unexpired term on the board of supervisors.

Regular supervisors meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month with public work session held at 7 p.m. the preceding Monday.

Residents may send letters of interest to Kingston Township Board of Supervisors, c/o Township Manager, 180 E. Center St., Shavertown, PA 18708

Letters of interest will be accepted until noon on Jan. 18.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Kingston Township Administration Office during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or by calling 696-3809.

