

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students receive honors, question curriculum

By SUSAN DENNEY
Dallas Post Correspondent

The Lake-Lehman High School library was packed with students receiving honors for sports, music and History Day competitions. But a small group of high school sophomores questioned the board about the elimination of the humanities class from the curriculum.

Director of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Tracey Halowich said the humanities program no longer fits the needs of younger high school students who take Keystone tests based on government and American history rather than the course matter of the world history-based humanities course.

She invited students to meet with her about the proposed changes.

Board member Andrew Salko said he was a humanities student who felt the benefits of the course. "I'm going to fight and be the advocate," he said of the course.

Halowich's title was also changed at the meeting. She has become the Assistant to the Superintendent with no change in salary or benefits other than those specified in the current Act 93 agreement.

Higher taxes look likely for property owners living in the school district, even though two Lake-Lehman school board members voted against the district's proposed final budget which in-

cluded a tax increase.

The proposed \$27 million budget calls for a millage of 9.671 for those taxpayers living in Luzerne County and a millage of 51.1882 for those living in Wyoming County. A mill is a \$1 tax on each \$1,000 of assessed property value. In addition to the tax increase allowed by the state, the district applied for exceptions to raise the taxes even higher.

After the meeting, board member Bo Kreller said he voted against the tax hike because he's hearing that taxpayers are tired of tax increases every year. "They're tired of having to pay the highest rate allowed," he said. "I believe there are other areas where we can be cutting."

Karen Masters joined Kreller in voting against the proposed budget, saying, "I feel the same. There are other concessions we can make." She added that residents are being taxed out of their homes in this economy.

All other board members voted for the budget except James Welby who was absent from the meeting.

The board unanimously approved a new bond issue. When a resident questioned the move, school officials explained the bond issue had a two-fold purpose. One is to refinance district debt at a lower rate and the other is to improve energy efficiency at the district. Over the 15-year period of the loan, the energy efficiency project

guarantees a net payback of \$400,000, including the debt service on the loan.

Karen Muldoon, of Dallas, was appointed as a school nurse for the district. The board also authorized the Human Resources Department to advertise for several teaching positions and an athletic director.

Head coaches for the fall and winter seasons were also appointed at the meeting.

The board recognized the retirement of Lehman-Jackson Elementary School principal Marilyn Glogowski. It also recognized History Day Coordinator Michael Novrocki as the recipient of the Patricia M. Behring State History Day Teacher of the Year Award.

BACK MOUNTAIN BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: CRYSTAL VISION CENTER



ABO certified optician Danielle Sweeney, Dr. Shelley Eskin and optician Lisa Gennusa work together as a team to provide patients and customers at Crystal Vision Center, Dallas, with a welcoming atmosphere and professional service.

ELIZABETH BAUMEISTER PHOTOS/THE DALLAS POST

Everyone's happy at CRYSTAL VISION CENTER

By ELIZABETH BAUMEISTER
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Although Crystal Vision Center in Dallas has been open for about five months now, the staff can't recall seeing a grumpy or unhappy face enter its doors yet.

"People are great here," said optician Danielle Sweeney. "Everyone's friendly and happy when they walk in the door."

Dr. Shelley Eskin added that she likes the new Dallas location because it is right in the center of the town's activity.

The Dallas office is one of seven in a privately-owned and operated business which began 21 years ago. It offers a wide range of services and products, including comprehensive eye exams for ages 4 and up, screenings for prevention and detection of eye diseases, contact lens fittings, designer eyeglasses for the whole family, eyeglass repairs and more.

Sweeney and optician Lisa Gennusa emphasized their enjoyment in working with people and serving their customers.

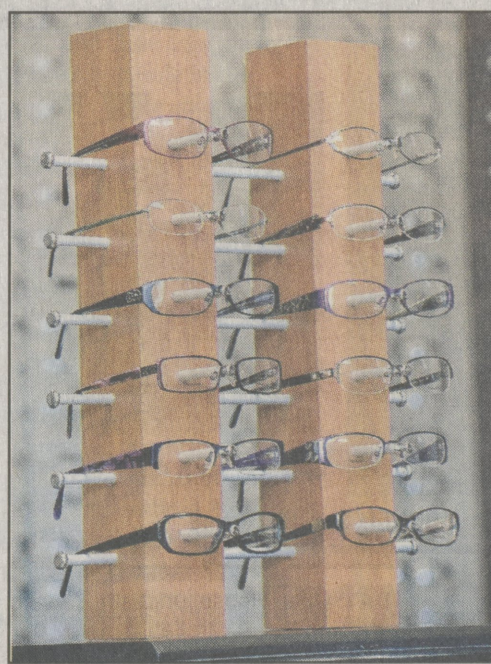
Gennusa's favorite things about her job are "helping people, listening to their needs and maximizing their insurance benefits." She explained the business accepts most insurances and even those who don't have insurance receive good deals, as all the eyeglass frames are priced 40 to 70 percent off the national retail. Misericordia University faculty, staff and students also receive a special discount. Gennusa enjoys helping customers find the perfect pair of glasses for the best price possible.



A display of children's eyewear brightens the room at Crystal Vision Center, Dallas.

Meet the doctor: Shelley Eskin, of Shavertown
Family: Husband, Marc Pensak, optometrist and owner of Crystal Vision Center; Daughter, Rebecca, 22, attends law school in Virginia; Son, Ethan, 19, attends college at Westchester University; and dog, Gabby.
Hobbies/Interests: Tennis, exercising and collecting antique glasses.
Dream vacation: Sitting on a tropical beach.
Glasses or contacts? Both.

"I just love people," she added. Sweeney and Gennusa work to help customers through the process of picking out their frames, educating patients on the lens options to best meet their needs, making sure the glasses fit perfectly and the prescriptions are correct and taking care of all the details.



The staff at Crystal Vision Center, Dallas, enjoys helping customers find the perfect pair of glasses to fit their needs and wants.

The business has its own on-site lab, which helps fill orders fast. Overall, the duo said, the goal is for everyone to leave happy.

Eskin, who has been in practice for 29 years, said her favorite parts of the job are "helping people see better, matching their needs with their lifestyles and mostly just dealing with people on a day-to-day basis."

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

Supers table 4-way stop sign issue

By GERI GIBBONS
Dallas Post Correspondent

Township supervisors tabled a motion to establish a four-way stop sign at the intersection of East Center and North Main Streets, pending a traffic study completed by Borton Lawson, township engineers.

In making the motion for the study, Chairman Jeffrey Box said it is necessary for the township to have a full understanding of safety issues and traffic patterns affecting the intersection before voting on the issue.

"Personal opinions aside, I think we should have a traffic study done and I believe it will reflect the need for a four-way stop sign at that intersection," said Kingston Township Chief of Police Jim Balavage.

Shavertown Fire Chief Gary Beisel voiced concerns in regard

to the sign, saying it could result in increased traffic congestion and affect traffic flow from Route 309.

Box said the board would again discuss the matter at its June meeting, pending completion of the traffic study.

The board also tabled a motion to make South Main Street a "one way," pending further clarification of its content.

In another matter, the board approved the adoption of Windy Street and Avalon Court within the Slocum Estates Subdivision.

The board ratified Laura Slocum as tax collector for the township effective March 4.

The board approved the Lands at Hillside Farms Fall Festival to be held on Oct. 5 and 6.

The next meeting of the Kingston Township Board of Supervisors will be held at 7:30 p.m. on June 12.

Kingston Township Chief of Police Jim Balavage

Shavertown Fire Chief Gary Beisel

Sherman named new chief financial officer for Civitas Media

Jeff D. Sherman has been appointed as the first chief financial officer of the newly-formed Civitas Media, it was announced May 1 by CEO and President Michael C. Bush. The appointment was effective April 22.

Civitas Media is the owner of The Times Leader, the Abington Journal, The Dallas Post, the Sunday Dispatch and the Weekender.

Bush said Sherman is a detail-oriented, results-driven professional who understands how important it is to provide great customer service.

"We are pleased to have someone with Jeff's financial acumen join our team. He will play a key role as we transform the local community information business," Bush said, "and it is especially nice to have an executive familiar with the Charlotte area and businesses join us as we establish our new headquarters there."

Sherman said the decision to join Civitas Media was an easy one.

"I really felt that my strengths in terms of bringing things together and streamlining operations from an ac-

counting background fit well with the company's vision for the future," he said.

A graduate of The Ohio State University with four years of service in the United States Navy, Sherman most recently was the Senior Vice President of Finance for the Harris Teeter Corporation, a group of more than 200 grocery stores.

He is a past president of Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Ohio, is the immediate past chairman of the YMCA and a former treasurer of the Matthews

Health Clinic in North Carolina.

"I think it's important to give back to the community," he said. "I've been very blessed with what I've been given and I think it's my obligation to help along the way when I can."

Sherman and his wife, Lisa, have two children, a son, Ian, 21, a student at New York University; and a daughter, Emily, 15, a high school student in Charlotte.

"I'm excited to be here and work alongside Michael and my goal is to get out and meet as many people as I can

in as short a time period as possible," Sherman said. "Nothing happens at my desk level, it all happens out there in the field and that's what I want to see."

Civitas employs 1,650 people at 99 locations across 12 states in the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic and South. The media company serves its communities through its dedication to the delivery of local information including news and advertising solutions, across a variety of platforms.