

# The DALLAS POST

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WILKES-BARRE, PA.

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AN EDITION OF THE TIMES LEADER

## Back Mountain Academy helps others manage grief

Grief counseling sessions offered after deaths of seven young area residents in last year and a half.

By DOTTY MARTIN

dmartin@mydallaspost.com

The death of 18-year-old Thomas Lynch on Feb. 13, 2012, sent shock waves through the Back Mountain.

Lynch, of Harveys Lake, passed away shortly after arrival at the Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center Emergency Room, Plains Township, due to injuries received in a motor vehicle accident in Dallas Township.

Since then, six other young Back

### SESSIONS OFFERED

**WHAT:** Grief counseling sessions sponsored by the Back Mountain Academy  
**WHEN:** 7 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays starting July 1 and continuing for six weeks  
**WHERE:** Dallas High School  
**COST:** Free of charge  
**INFO:** Call 696-6941 or email backmt-nacademy@gmail.com

Mountain residents have died, four involving automobile accidents and two from cancer, leaving area residents nearly speechless and grasping for ways to cope with the losses.

Candace Fike, former chairperson of the foreign language department at Dallas High School, wants to help.

Thirteen years ago, Fike started what is now known as the Back Mountain Academy and is reaching out to anyone who feels they may need help with their grief.

The academy is sponsoring grief counselor Elisabeth "Els" Heij, of New Milford who has trained internationally, for six sessions at the Dallas High School in an effort to bring the Back Mountain community together in its time of grief.

The sessions, which are being offered free of charge, will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Mondays beginning July 1 and are open to anyone of any age.

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BILL TARUTIS FILE PHOTO/FOR THE TIMES LEADER

Kelly Gibbons, right, hugs friends at a celebration of life for her daughter Kelci Gibbons at the Harveys Lake Beach Club. Kelci Gibbons was killed in an automobile accident on July 24, 2012.

## Former Dallas High School grid coach will be inducted into Pa. Scholastic Football Coaches Hall of Fame this Saturday



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Ted and Sandy Jackson relax in their Shavertown home among memorabilia from his long career as head football coach at Dallas High School.

## More accolades for Ted Jackson

By DOTTY MARTIN

dmartin@mydallaspost.com

There is life after Dallas High School football for Ted and Sandy Jackson. It's not the same life they had for the 27 years Ted was head football coach of the Mountaineers but it's a good life, nonetheless.

The Shavertown couple recently returned from a motor trip to the state of Wyoming where they assisted daughter Jill, a magna cum laude graduate of Ithaca College, begin her first clinical rotation in pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy.

They're dog sitting for son, Matthew, while he's in San Francisco training for a new job involving robotic surgery equipment.

Then there are those two beautiful little grandsons, Max and Jared,

### IF YOU GO ...

Ted Jackson Sr. will be inducted into the Pennsylvania Scholastic Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 15 at the Holiday Inn-Harrisburg East, 4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg. No tickets are required for the induction ceremony. A buffet luncheon will follow at a cost of \$24 per person. To make reservations for the luncheon, contact Chuck Spensky at 814-241-8523 or by email at cspensky@yahoo.com. Hall of Fame inductees will also be presented during the Big 33 game at 7 p.m. on June 15 at the Hershey Stadium. Game tickets are available on the Big 33 website at <http://www.big33.org>.

the sons of oldest son Ted Jr. and his wife, Robin.

Ted Sr. will be inducted into the Pennsylvania Scholastic Football

Coaches Association Hall of Fame in Harrisburg this Saturday, making him one of just 230 coaches to receive the honor since 1986. This year's inductees will be introduced at the Big 33 football game, an annual contest between the best players from Pennsylvania and Maryland.

"It couldn't have come at a better time," Sandy said of the award, referring to her husband's dismissal last year by the Dallas School Board.

Ted has chosen Ted Jr. to present the award to him and, although Jill and Matt are unable to attend the awards ceremony, the Jackson family will fill several tables at the event with members of both Ted's and Sandy's families, as well as several friends, planning to attend.

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BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Lucy, left, and Susie play Cow Pie Bingo on a gridded plot of ground during the Knight of Mayhem.

## Mayhem ensued at this fundraiser

It may have been day time but it was certainly a Knight of Mayhem as the Lake-Lehman fundraiser took place on June 1 on the high school grounds. Lucy the cow ended the Cow Pie Bingo competition with pin-point accuracy when she selected the winning plot at row 11, column 19, "owned" by Bill and Rita Cutter, after one hour and 15 minutes of play. Due to the heat and humidity - temperatures rose well into the 90s on Saturday - officials changed the rules of Cow Pie Bingo and, instead of the square with the most volume being declared the winner, the square with the first deposit was named the winning square. In addition to the bovine Bingo, there were children's games, a rock climbing wall, an outdoor wrestling tournament, a pie-baking contest and the crowning of Little Miss Lake-Lehman.



ABOVE: Athletic Director Jeff Shook goes for a dunk during Lake-Lehman High School's Knight of Mayhem.



AT LEFT: Brianna Lee, 12, of Hunlock Creek, right, crashes while texting and driving a simulator car as her friend Alyssa Pudnott, 12, of Sweet Valley, watches during the Knight of Mayhem. The simulator car was sponsored by Smith Insurance Group, Inc. of Shavertown.

## School's out!

School ended on June 7 for students in both the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts. Both schools held commencement ceremonies that evening at their respective football stadiums.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

ABOVE: Students take home projects and wave good-bye to classmates they might not see again until next year at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School.

BELOW: Through the open window in the empty art room at Wycallis Elementary School, these children are seen playing outdoors on one of their final days of school.



## Make your reservation for the Lemmond Award reception

David and Judy Rimple will be presented with the first-ever Charles D. Lemmond Jr. Community Spirit Award at an awards reception set for Tuesday, June 18 at Lemmond Theater on the campus of Misericordia University.

Established by The Dallas Post, the award is named after the former senator who passed away in 2012 and is designed to recognize a resident of the Back Mountain for his or her leadership and advancement of community spirit.

The award honors those who endeavor to improve the lives of Back Mountain residents through outstanding community service, public service or philanthropy and embody Senator Lemmond's commitment to doing the right thing, in the right way, for the right reason.

The Rimples started the development of the Back Mountain Trail on the old Lehigh Valley Railroad bed.

The trail, being developed for over a decade, connects Luzerne Borough with Dallas Township.

The awards reception is free and open to the public; however, reservations are necessary and will be made on a first-come/first-served basis.

To make a reservation, Call The Dallas Post at 675-5211 or email Dallas Post Editor Dotty Martin at [dmartin@mydallaspost.com](mailto:dmartin@mydallaspost.com). Please leave your name, your telephone number and the number of people in your party.

A free will donation will be taken at the event to benefit the Back Mountain Trail.



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