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**THE BACK MOUNTAIN'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1889** 

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### Remembering firsts – many, many years later Lake-Noxen, Lehman-Jackson classmates

gather to share memories

#### **SARAH HITE Dallas Post Correspondent**

The Lake-Noxen Class of

1960 and Lehman-Jackson Class of 1959 went through a lot of firsts together. They voted to choose the first

mascot and school colors for the Lake-Lehman School District when it combined in 1958.

That tradition continued when many of those classmates celebrated their 71st birthdays during a casual reunion at Grotto Pizza on Friday, Aug. 9.

This is our third time meettogether," said Gordon shimer, a 1960 Lake-Noxen alumnus.

The 70-year-old from Harveys for its 50th anniversary reunion the Old Shoe for that year. and then everyone decided to gather for a birthday celebration last year, as many of the classmates turned 70 years old.

Now the tight-knit group keeps in touch throughout the year, thanks to modern technology and it wasn't long before another reunion was planned.

Dershimer enjoys socializing with his former classmates and had only kept in touch with a few before the 50th anniversary reunion.

Beverly Wandel, 71, of Harveys Lake, said she keeps showing up to the reunions "like a bad penny."

"It's fun to see all the old people - or should I say, past class-mates," she laughed.

of 1959 grad, said one of her favorite high school memories was meeting her husband, Ray Wandel, when he came to the school for the first time in ninth grade.



Members of the Lake-Noxen Class of 1959 and Lake-Lehman Class of 1960 have a night out at Grotto Pizza at Harveys Lake.

The coveted trophy is a key point of rivalry between the two to pick the school colors and the school districts, and the varsity football teams duke it out every Lake said the group got together November to see who will win said. "But I got used to black and

Dudinski remembers voting outcome was one he didn't want. "I liked maroon and gold," he gold eventually."

Del., said the Lehman school's class colors were once red and blue, and the district's wellknown Black Knight mascot was little dedication in the drawing Don Steltz, 74, of Sweet Valley, once another fierce black character.

"We used to have a Scottie dog as a mascot," laughed Niezgoda.

Seventy-one-year-old Roberts, of Sweet Valley, was hand-picked to draw the new her. Now it sticks out like a sore joined to meet girls."

Al Niezgoda, 70, of Dover, mascot in the class vearbook. The 1960 Lehman school alum said he was always a good artist, and he even etched in a hoping no one would notice.

thumb when you look at it."

Other classmates had similar goals in high school when it came to impressing the ladies. to his sweetheart at the time, was no exception.

"I just remember cutting class "I was dating a girl at the time all the time to go hunting," said named Flo," he said. "I wrote the Steltz of his extra curricular Jim name 'Flo' in the knight's cape activities. "I was in the chorus, or on the horse somewhere for but I wasn't a good singer. I just



Lake-Lehman Class of 1960, wait for more pizza.



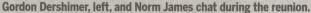
"He was cute," she said. But her husband remembered the romance a little differently.

"(She) liked my '49 Mercury," he said.

Dudinski, 70, of Frank Greentown, met his wife Donna later in life and out of the area, but the two share roots in the Back Mountain.

"My wife lived in Dallas, so we always have a little rivalry about which team has had the (Old) Shoe more times," said Dudinski.





### **Are you ready for some football?**

As the 2013 high school football season gears up, Dallas High School head football coach Bob Zaruta, left, and Lake-Lehman High School head football coach Gerry Gilski are preparing their squads for tough competition. For previews and more photos of this year's Mountaineers and Black Knights, please turn to Page 9.





## **Back Mountain Regional EMS &** Fire named EMS Agency of the year

EMS has been awarded the 2013 EMS Agency of the Year.

The award is issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency



ack Mountain Regional Fire Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) to recognize of this year's award recipients a significant contribution to Thursday, Aug. 15, and again

Medical Services, with the selected because it has worked the 36th Annual Pennsylvania assistance of the Pennsylvania cooperatively with surrounding State EMS Conference at the community organizations and Lancaster County and Blair municipalities to make many County Convention Centers changes that included increas- respectively. ing the level of service and facilitating a change from tradi- tation will occur on Nov. tional EMS protocols to a new 23, in conjunction with the standard that brings a higher annual Pennsylvania Fire and level of service to the communi- Emergency Services Institute ty with quicker response times. Dinner in Camp Hill.

The public announcement organizations that have made was scheduled to occur on Pennsylvania's EMS System. on Thursday, Sept. 26, dur-The local organization was ing opening ceremonies of

The actual award presen-

Bill Tarutis photos | For The Dallas Post People crowd the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Co. Hall for a spaghetti dinner to benefit Fire Chief Harry Sweppenheiser.

# Support for the chief

Fundraiser dinner benefits Franklin Twp. fire chief who was injured in accident

Members of the Back Mountain community came together on Aug. 10 in support of Harry Sweppenheiser III at a fundraiser spaghetti dinner held at the fire hall where Sweppenheiser spends so much of his time.

The Franklin Twp. fire chief was critically injured in a July 22 vehicle accident during a hard rainstorm. There were warnings of flash flooding as the chief and his 11-year-old son, Kyle, traveled on Eighth Street. State police who reconstructed the scene said Sweppenheiser was not speeding but pooling water on the windy road was enough to hydroplane his SUV into a treee.

Kyle Sweppenheiser, who was not injured in the accident, helped to staff tables at the fundraiser.

Sweppenherise is currently at a Philadelphia hospital undergoing therapy to regain use of his legs. He is expeted to be there for several weeks.

Maureen Oremus, who organized the fundraiser dinner, said Sweppenheriser has an uncanny ability to handle more than one thing at a time. She said, although it is difficult, the firefighters are carrying on in their chief's absence.



Sue Redmond, left, and Robert Kile, Sr. of Mt. Zion Fire Company dish out spaghetti in the Franklin Township Fire Company kitchen.



Family of Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Co. Chief Harry Sweppenheiser III chat at his benefit spaghetti dinner. From left, are Erik Sweppenheiser, son; Harry Sweppenheiser Jr., father; Sharyn Davis, sister; and Sarah Davis, niece.