

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Essay contest winners acknowledged

GERI GIBBONS  
Dallas Post Correspondent

The Lake-Lehman School Board acknowledged winners of its essay contest entitled "Why is it important to recognize veterans and their families?" at its Nov. 11 meeting. The contest was open to district students in grades 4 through 12.

Overall winners chosen by the parade committee included Izabel Concert, sixth grade; Colby Kennedy, fourth grade; Maclyn Vasey, sixth grade; and Morgan Marchakitus, seventh grade. Also honored were Casey Brown, fourth grade; Jason Eiden, sixth grade; Alana Antonello, sixth grade; and Karlee Kreller, fourth grade.

"We are very fortunate to have freedom and this district seeks to honor those

who defend it," said superintendent James McGovern.

The board also acknowledged participants of the Seventh Annual Cheer for a Cause event. Cheerleading coach Sandy Dobrowski credited cheer squads with "a lot of hard work" in putting the event together. Proceeds from the event benefited the Lake-Lehman Foundation and St. Jude's Research Hospital.

In another matter, senior Nick Egan said the restoration of the outdoor basketball court had been completed as a requirement of his Eagle Scout project. Egan, of Boy Scout Troop 241, thanked friends, family, Boy Scout membership and leadership and area businesses for making the restoration possible. He said it included new poles, rims, backboards

and asphalt replacement.

"Many people are reaping the benefits of this project throughout the year," said McGovern. "We appreciate your efforts."

Athletic director Jeff Shook lauded the efforts of sophomore cross country runner Dominic Hockenbury this season, culminating in a silver medal at PIAA State Championships in Hershey.

Student Council representative Alyssa Talacka told the board that 40 students from the district's high school are participating in Student Council this year as opposed to previous years in which only four seniors took part.

"We intend to renew the spirit of the school," said Talacka, a senior, "incorporating academics and some fun."

BACK MOUNTAIN BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT; DELEUR'S BACK TO BASICS

# From Holland to Dallas, an old family trade continues, evolves

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If one were to choose just a single word to describe Leonard de Leur, 65, of Kunkle, owner of DeLeur's "Back To Basics," it would likely be "grateful."

Grateful for his family heritage and subsequent career that "chose him." Grateful to be alive after a battle with cancer. Grateful for the many "loyal customers" who keep coming back in support of his business. These are just a few of the things for which de Leur expressed his relentless gratitude.

"I always wanted my own business and to do good work and give a good product," he said, and that's what he strives for with his fireplace and stove shoppe, located at 166 Old Highway

Road, Dallas. "We do a good service. We sell a good product."

de Leur was born in Sliedrecht, Holland, where his father and ancestors were in the masonry construction business. He came to the United States at about 4 years old. Although he said he doesn't remember much from that age, he still recalls sliding back and forth across the deck of the ship with his brother on their journey over the sea.

His first home in America was in Washington state, after which he moved to New Jersey. From there, he landed in the Back Mountain, a place he likes for its beautiful countryside and "small town" atmosphere.

"Everybody knows everybody," he said.

He started mixing cement



Elizabeth Baumeister | The Dallas Post  
Leonard de Leur, owner of DeLeur's Back To Basics, displays one of the fireplaces in the showroom at the fireplace and stove shop at 166 Old Highway Road in Dallas.

around the age of 8 and, as he grew older, learned all he could about the family business in constructing everything from buildings to chimneys. His own business eventually evolved into the specialization of chimneys and fireplaces. Although he said he technically started the business in the early 1970s and it was incorporated in 1985, the business officially opened at the current

location in July 1989.

Then came an unexpected and almost fatal obstacle: de Leur was diagnosed with colon cancer.

The most difficult aspect of going through the chemotherapy treatments, he said, was his inability to perform his duties at DeLeur's.

"Back To Basics' is me," he said. "Everyone is here to do something, and this is what I do."

# Drummers

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Keith White, of Factoryville; Ed Crawley, of Clarks Summit; Dave Krewson, of Clarks Summit; and Sandy Newell, of Dallas participate in a drum circle at Everything Natural in Clarks Summit.

one or two drummers creating a beat, and the rest gradually joining in to add their own interpretations to the rhythm. Krewson described the result as more of a "conversation" than a musical piece.

Sandy Newell, who travels from Dallas to participate, said the drum circles are of a "freestyle" format.

"You come in and someone starts it," she said, "and it takes off."

"One of us will just start putting around and the others just join in," Krewson said. "It's fun to listen, fun to play and a little bit of exercise. And it does have a soothing affect to play...it's a good time to get together and have a few laughs."

He added the group often continues drumming past its scheduled 4 p.m. ending time, as no one wants to stop.

All are invited to participate, regardless of age and musical knowledge, or lack thereof. Some people bring their own drums and other percussion instruments, while others borrow the various instruments available from other participants. Some even use their own bodies as instruments, clapping their hands, stomping their feet or drumming on their thighs.

People also participate in the drum circles for various reasons. Newell said one of the most common is as a therapeutic or meditative tool.

Everything Natural co-owner Bary Kaplan, who first came up with the idea for The Everything Natural drummers when the shop moved to its current location about 10 years ago, said, "There are people who use it as a meditative tool

and people who do different things with drum circles." But no matter what the purpose, he said it creates a "welcoming and fun atmosphere."

"It's very easy going," said another of the drummers, Keith White, of Factoryville.

Kaplan said the group evolved a lot over the years since it first started and changed leadership a few times until Ed Crawley, of Clarks Summit, "stepped up and led the beat." He said the energy of the circles continues to change each time the group meets, sometimes creating an energetic happy atmosphere, sometimes more of a mellow feel, but always encouraging.

# 24th

From page 1

of its existence, bringing with her various original paintings and ornaments featuring portraits, among her works. Her clients have the option of customized scenes, such as movie or historical event scenes, or even portraits painted on the walls of their homes.

Bell-Hilfinger, who teaches at the Ben Franklin Craft Store in Towanda, has also painted a 384 foot mural at the Towanda Iron and Metal Building.

"People stop in traffic to view the mural" (which depicts scenes from various Stephen Foster songs), Bell-Hilfinger said. She also described the art work that she created on both the Towanda and Tioga

County Courthouses. Her husband, Gary, participates in several of her creations with his chainsaw carvings.

Myrtle Chamberlain of the Lehman Nursery, along with her daughter, Brenda, attended the event for the second year. The nursery has been in existence since 1989 and houses approximately 70 sheep. The sheeps' wool is used to make hats and socks, first by being spun on a wheel and then being knitted into the finished product on a knitting machine. The sales help to pay for the animals' food. Chamberlain hopes to return to The Arts at Hayfield exhibits next year.

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