



Oley Valley Community Fair



Berks-Mont Photo by Harold Hoch

Despite poor weather on Thursday, the Oley Valley Community Fair marched on last weekend as fair-goers were treated to the usual good food and fun events, such as the adult pedal tractor pull. Pictured above, Brian Hamm, former Oley resident, leads the way on his tiny tractor.



THE LUTHERAN HOME AT TOPTON
Celebrating 105 years of area service ... see special insert

Mouns Jones

The 36th annual Mouns Jones Country Fair, presented by The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 29 and 30, at Old Morlatton Village in Douglassville. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. See special insert.

Times Capsules

Flea Market

•Calvary United Church of Christ, Barto, is having their annual Fall Craft and Flea Market on Saturday, September 29 from 8-2 p.m. at the church.

Starwatch

•Boyertown Planetarium: The Boyertown Planetarium will present a new star show entitled "African Eclipse" on September 29 at 7 p.m. They will also host a "Starwatch" on October 5 beginning at 8 p.m. The Planetarium is located at the Junior High East Center off Route 73.

Craft Bazaar

•The 23rd Annual Bazaar, Craft, Flea and Bake Sale of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 471, Boyertown, will be held at the Post Home, Walker Drive, Boyertown, on Saturday, October 13, from 8-2 p.m.

Post Prom

•The Post Prom Committee for the Class of 2002 of the Boyertown Area Senior High School will meet in the cafeteria at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2. All parents of seniors are invited to attend.

Recycling

•Boyertown and Hereford: September 29, November 3, December 8. In Boyertown, take your recyclables to the borough garage, 408 S. Reading Ave. In Hereford, go to the township building, 3131 Seisholtzville Road.

Heritage Festival

The Berks County Heritage Festival will be held October 6 and 7 from 11-5 p.m. at the Berks County Heritage Center, 2201 Tulpehocken Road, Wyomissing.

Oley says "no" to plea for bussing to Hill School

By Diane Van Dyke
Berks-Mont Writer

The Oley Valley School Board voted on Sept. 12 against providing transportation on Saturdays for students who attend The Hill School, a private school located in Pottstown.

Property and Transportation Committee Chairperson Mary Anne McCarthy made a motion to provide Saturday transportation on an interim basis until a permanent solution could be reached by Oct. 17. The board voted against the motion, 6-3.

Board member Robert L. Moore said he could not vote in favor of the motion unless he knew the cost and whether there would be any reimbursement from the state.

Superintendent Jeffrey F. Zackon advised at a subsequent school board meeting on Sept. 19 that the cost for Saturday transportation would be approximately \$1,000 per year.

When a busing contract was reached with Quigley Bus Service Inc., Bally, in June, Saturday transportation was not part of the contract, he said. The cost of the transportation contract for 2001-02 is \$665,922.

For several years, the district had someone transport the four to five Hill School students using a van, said Zackon.

"When that person could no longer do it last year, we used the BCIU (Berks County Intermediate Unit) services," he said. "The cost was approximately \$24,000 to transport all the non-public students."

Parents of the Hill School students argue, however, that the district is required to provide the transportation by state statute.

Eileen Lundquist, Oley, referred to section 13-1361, which in part states: "Such transportation of pupils attending non-public schools shall be provided during regular school hours on such dates and periods that the

nonpublic school not operated for profit is in regular session . . ."

School district solicitor Robert Kreitz said the language was "not clear" about Saturdays. The district currently provides transportation for non-public students during the week.

"There is no appellate court case that construes the language," said Kreitz. He said there is, however, a case on appeal pending in Pittsburgh. In that case, the lower court determined that the district does have to provide transportation.

Lundquist explained that the Hill School holds Saturday classes because students only have half days on Wednesdays to allow time for sports. "All students are required to play sports," she said.

"I know they (the school district) are trying to save money," said Lundquist, "but they are required by law to provide the transportation."

Former Pottstown head named interim principal

By Diane Van Dyke
Berks-Mont Writer

While the search continues for a new Boyertown Elementary School principal, the school board on Sept. 18 approved hiring an interim acting principal.

Dr. Ray E. Feick of Gilbertsville will be filling the void left by Ann Helion on Sept. 21. He was the former superintendent of the Pottstown School District from 1970 to 1991. He has also taught numerous high school and college courses.

Feick has previously served as interim principal for Oley Valley High School and as interim superintendent for the North Penn, Wissahickon and Centennial School Districts.

Board member Barbara Hartford voted against the appointment because she felt that teachers in the district who have been certified to serve as principals should have been given the opportunity.

Superintendent Dr. Charles Amuso explained that this could have been done if the vacancy had been for a semester or a year.

"Since it is only for two or three months, it would not be good for the students," he said. "It would be too disruptive."

A substitute teacher would need to cover the classes taught by the teacher serving as the acting principal, he said.

"I would not want such a disruption for my children and I have heard other parents express such complaints," said

Board President Gayle Buckman. "It would be particularly hard for elementary school where students are with the same teacher all day."

Feick will be compensated at a rate of \$395 per day.

Amuso anticipates that the board will be voting for a candidate to permanently fill the position at the Oct. 9 board meeting.

John Dugan, who is serving on the search committee with Lucie Smith and Barbara Hartford, said that 22 applications were received. "We interviewed six candidates and selected three," said Dugan.

Those three candidates will be screened by Dr. Amuso and interviewed by the school board.

16-year-old injured in school parking lot

By Jason Weitzel
Neighbors Editor

A 16-year-old girl sustained severe head injuries after a fall from a moving vehicle.

The incident occurred on Friday, September 21 in the parking lot of Boyertown Area Senior High School.

The student was taken by Medivac to the intensive care unit at Lehigh Valley Hospital and will be released later this week.

The girl was sitting on the back of a car with two friends when the driver, a 17-year-old Boyertown student, suddenly took off. The other girls, ages 15

and 16, suffered minor injuries but were not taken to the hospital.

After the fall, the driver sped away from the scene and he didn't return until after the victim was taken to the hospital.

Colebrookdale police arrived on the scene and interviewed several witnesses.

Police are still investigating the incident.

Because of the BASD's confidentiality policy, school officials are unable to comment on the incident until the police investigation is completed.

The 17-year-old offender may face school suspension or possible expulsion.

Boyertown School District

Cavalcade, Sept. 29



Berks-Mont Photo by Harold Hoch

The 42nd Annual Cavalcade of Bands, featuring the University of Delaware Fightin' Blue Hen Marching Band, will be held Saturday September 29, 6:30 p.m. at the Boyertown Senior High Football Stadium.

The Boyertown Area Senior High Band, the combined Junior High West and East band, Exeter High School, Great Valley High School, Daniel Boone High School, Wilson High School, Pottstown High School and others will participate this year. (Pictured above): Members of the senior high band practice during Boyertown band camp.