

# THE DALLAS POST

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At Mercy Center building

## Congressman listens to gripes of area seniors

By JOHN HOINSKI  
Staff Writer

Senior citizens of the Dallas/Back Mountain area, distraught over services and existing conditions at the Mercy Center on the campus of College Misericordia, met last week with Congressman Paul Kanjorski to discuss their plight and possible solutions to their problems.

Kanjorski-D, of the 11th congressional district, got together in an informal gathering with approximately 60 senior citizens at the Mercy Center cafeteria. And even though he did not offer any financial solutions, the Congressman did promise to send letters to both the Luzerne County Commissioners and the Bureau of the Aging (which seems to be the focal point for their frustrations), in an effort to open the lines of communication.

Although Kanjorski did say that ineffective attempts to communicate between the two may be a part of their problems, he also stressed that cutbacks initiated by President Reagan for the elderly also play an important role. Kanjorski said that while the rate of inflation has risen over the years, the money allocated

for the facilities of the elderly has not, thus services provided three years ago, for example, cannot be fully provided now. And with no relief in sight, Kanjorski sees that as a major problem, particularly in this region.

"We here in Northeastern Pennsylvania are hurt the most," Kanjorski stated. "There are 116,000 senior citizens in this congressional district (which is made up of seven counties), and that is more than anywhere else in the United States with the exception of six districts in Florida."

The citizens generally agreed that not much can be done about the federal cutbacks, but they would like to see the money currently allocated for the Mercy Center reutilized by the Bureau to help service their needs. This, they say, is where the problem lies.

Over the past few years, the citizens say that transportation to the center, and deterioration to the center itself, has been getting progressively worse, and despite attempts to get help from the Bureau, they say they are getting no response and feel their facility is being put on the "back burner" in relation to the other buildings.

In an effort to bridge that gap and allow the citizens (See GRIPES, page 2)



Beauty of winter

Rickett's Glenn State Park on Route 118 provides some beautiful scenery even in the winter months. This waterfall, captured by Dallas Post photographer Ed Campbell, is evidence of that.

Dallas Post/Ed Campbell



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

### Florida-bound

Dallas varsity cheerleaders were second runnersup in the Northeastern Regional Competition and qualified to participate in National Competition in February in Orlando, Fla. Members of the varsity squad who will depart for the competition, Feb. 21, with their advisor, Mrs. Sheila Bonawitz, are shown here. First row, Ann Marie Danna. From left, second row, Lori Timek, Shannon Cleary, Michele Kirchner. Third row, Erin Cleary, Meg Gorgone, Peggy Kasmak, Heather Lawley. Fourth row, Jackie Carsman, Eileen Nagy, Kathy Farrell and Cherie Davis. Absent at the time of the photo was Linda King, co-captain.



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

### Place first

Dallas Junior Varsity Cheerleaders placed first in the Northeastern Regional Competition which qualified them for the national competition in February at Sea World, Orlando, Fla. The squad, who will participate in nationals are, first row, Mollie Grasso. From left, second row, Kim Hall, Amy Cutter. Third row, Shauna Griffin, Lisa Gorman. Fourth row, Carolyn Dillon, Tracy Richardson. Absent at the time of the photo was Tairran Batory.

## Dallas cheerleaders counting days to Florida trip

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Correspondent

Dallas Senior High School cheerleaders are counting the days before they leave Feb. 21 for Orlando, Fla.

The eight-member junior varsity squad, coached by Kim Griffin, and the 13-member varsity squad, coached by Sheila Bonawitz, will depart by air Feb. 21 to enter the National Cheerleader Competition at Sea World, Orlando, Fla. They will be accompanied by their coaches and several parents, acting as chaperones for the group.

The two Dallas squads qualified

for the national competition by placing in the Northeast Regionals at Rutgers University, New Jersey. Competition in the regionals was divided into four categories, Varsity, Coed, Junior Varsity and Junior High squads. Squads placing first in each category within the 18 regions across the country automatically qualified for the national competition while second and third place runnersup qualified as participants at large.

The junior varsity cheerleaders placed first in their category, automatically qualifying for the national competition in Florida.

"The girls were terrific," said Ms. Griffin. "It was the first time they had participated in any competition but they performed like professionals."

The varsity cheerleaders were second runnersup in the regional competition, qualifying them for the nationals. This season marked the second consecutive year, the Dallas varsity squad competed in the regionals.

"Last year our varsity cheerleaders placed fifth in the competition," said Mrs. Bonawitz. "They also did an excellent performance but this year's squad outdid them. They had

the advantage of knowing what was expected of them this year. Although most of this year's girls did not compete last season, several of the seniors did."

Rules for both regionals and the national competition are very exacting. Competitive time for each squad is two and one half minutes, with 1:15 allowed for basic cheerleading and 1:15 for musical dance routine. Judges are strict about the time and if a squad goes over the 2:30 time, as much as 30 points can be deducted, thus automatically eliminating the girls from the competition. The routine can be less than the maximum time, however, without the girls losing points.

All of the routine must be performed within a 42-foot square on a spring floor.

Judging is based on overall performance, fundamentals, group performance and projection. Overall which includes difficulty of the routine, practicality of the material in the routine and crowd appeal accounts for 40 percent of judging. Fundamental skills, including jumps, cheers, gymnastics, etc. account for 35 percent and group performance such as synchronization, timing, formation, spacing and rhythm make up 15 percent of the judging. The final 10 percent or points are judged on projection including voice, eye motion and overall face expression.

Both the junior varsity and varsity squads practice six days weekly in addition to cheering for the basketball and wrestling competition. Their Saturday practice begins at 7 a.m. and continues for hours. Monday through Friday, the girls practice prior to the games whether they are at home or away.

All of the choreography has been by the girls, who got some of their

ideas from watching tapes of various other competitions or from original moves recommended by some of the members.

Squad members practice gymnastics during practice as well as individually when at home.

The eight-member junior varsity squad has a very difficult mount which just meets national requirements in the height allowed. All of the members do the back hand springs from the mount and one girls does a back tuck from the top of the mount.

The varsity squad has been doing more difficult routines using standing back tucks, aerials, shoulder stand tucks, tension drops and basket falls. They also do a multiple series of consecutive back hand springs.

Their ultimate goal is to get the crowd to cheer with them, a goal in which they have been so successful that it is now difficult to get the fans to stop. Their aim is to have the fans support the teams.

All of the girls attend the Universal Cheering Camp at Penn State each year and this past season the varsity girls received a trophy for the "Supreme Performance in Dance"; they also received a plaque for the "Most Spirited Squad in Camp", their selection made by the more than 1,000 participants attending the camp.

Members of the junior varsity include four sophomores and four juniors, Shauna Griffin and Tracy Richardson, co-captains; Tarrion Batory, Lisa Gorman, Molly Grasso, Kim Hall, Amy Cutter and Carolyn Dillon. The varsity squad includes seniors Linda King, Lori Timek, co-captains; Cherie Davis, Peggy Kashmark; juniors Erin Cleary, Kathy Farrell, Ann Marie Danna, Eileen Nagy, Meg Gorgone;

sophomores, Heather Lawley, Shannon Cleary, Michele Kirchner and Jackie Carsman.

"The school district has given us excellent cooperation," said Mrs. Bonawitz. "We are having a cheerleading exhibition Feb. 10 at the senior high school with squads from all over the Wyoming Valley area participating; Dallas Unico is sponsoring a spaghetti supper; and on Super Bowl Sunday, the girls are conducting a hoagie sale. We are also soliciting patrons and sponsors to help the girls defray expenses. All proceeds will be used to pay the girls expenses."

The girls and their advisors will depart Feb. 21 and return Feb. 26. The preliminary competition will be held Saturday, Feb. 22, and the finals, Sunday, Feb. 23. While at Sea World, the girls will stay at the Holiday Inn.

Ask the girls about their competition — their answer "We're proud to be representing our school and the Back Mountain. We will do our best not to disappoint our fans and supporters."

## Vidlicka honored by school board

By JOHN HOINSKI  
Staff Writer

In a special presentation at its meeting on Monday night, the Dallas School Board presented Sandra Vidlicka with an award of achievement from the Pennsylvania Association of School Business.

The award, which was presented by board president Donald Jones and Superintendent Gerald Wycallis, affords her registration as a state school business administrator.

A graduate of Alvernia College, she will also receive her master's degree in business administration from Wilkes College shortly.

Vidlicka served as president of the N.E. Association of School Business Officials, and is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials. She and her husband, Daniel, reside at Sprucewood Drive in Lafflin.

In other business, Mary Ann

Storz, speaking on behalf of cheerleader coach Sheila Bonawitz, said the Dallas Senior High varsity and Dallas Senior High jayvee cheerleaders are busy setting up various drives to help raise money for their trip to Florida on Feb. 21.

The group needs approximately \$8,000 and they don't have much time to raise it. In addition to canvassing, they have also initiated a raffle and a hoagie sale for Super Bowl Sunday.

Also, the various resolutions were passed in these respective committees:

The continuation of the SAT Coaching Courses for the 1985-86 school year and to appoint Mrs. Donna Trebilcock to teach the English sessions and Mr. Leonard Matysczak to teach the Mathematics sessions.

Personnel: Recommended that Margaret Vojtko be allowed to teach English at the Dallas Junior High to satisfy her practice teach-

ing requirements.

Accepted the resignation with regrets of Darren Perry, custodian. To approve Mrs. Debbie Lott, Box 10, Ridgewood Road, R.D. 2 Wilkes-Barre, as a substitute in elementary education. To approve a request from the Luzerne Intermediate Unit that Mrs. Michele Fernald, Ms. Mary Malloy and Ms. Carol Kopko be allowed to complete their practice teaching requirements.

To approve overtime payments for Payroll Nos. 23, 24, 25, 26, 1985; and No. 1 in 1986. To accept the resignation of Mrs. Theresa McCue with regrets.

Student Activities: That Robyn Jones be permitted to attend the U.S. All-Star Coaching Clinic Conference sponsored by the U.S. Olympic team to be held in Atlantic City, N.J. on Jan. 24 and 25.

Transportation: To approve Charles Condem as bus driver for the remainder of the 1985-86 school year.

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