

*****MIXED STATES
 100 1/1/99
 BRINGTON BINDER ** 45
 BOX 336
 BRINGTON, IA 52540

SERVING THE BACK MOUNTAIN



FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY

THE DALLAS POST

Vol. 101 No. 42

Dallas, PA Wednesday, October 24, 1990

35 Cents

Voters will decide on county government change

By RONALD BARTIZEK
 Post Staff

One of this year's hottest, but most confusing political campaigns doesn't involve candidates for office; instead it offers the possibility of a fundamental study of Luzerne County's governmental structure. And despite the issue's unemotional nature, it has raised the political hackles of both those who favor and oppose a study.

The question itself is relatively simple—should a commission of 11 persons be formed to study Luzerne County government and recommend any changes to the

electorate? If the voters authorize the study commission, it will have up to two years to present recommendations to the county commissioners. If changes are suggested, they must then be put before the voters in a general election.

Voters entering the booth on Nov. 6 will first be asked to vote for or against formation of the study commission and, if they favor formation, they will then choose 11 names from a list of 47 commission candidates.

The initiative appears on the ballot largely because of the efforts of a group called "Citizens for the

The ballot question

"Shall a government study commission of 11 members be elected to study the existing form of government of Luzerne County; To consider the advisability of the adoption of an optional form of government or Home Rule Charter; To recommend the adoption of an optional form of government or to draft or recommend a Home Rule Charter?" A YES vote will create the commission, a NO vote will not.

Study of Luzerne County Government." Jack Conyngham of Jackson Township heads the group, and he questions why anyone would not want the review.

While vigorously endorsing a study, he says he and many members of his organization aren't committed to any specific changes. "Even if the question is turned

down, we hope the process will encourage row officers and elected officials to do a better job," he said last week.

Perhaps the most outspoken opponent of a study is Wilkes-Barre attorney John Moses, who says he came to his position slowly after actually backing a similar study in 1974. Moses says if the purpose of the study is to gather information, it's a waste of money. "There is no need to spend taxpayer money to conduct a study," he says, claiming that annual reviews by the county controller and the state auditor general are sufficient.

Luzerne County now operates under the third-class county designation, which leaves many decisions to the state. "We're under the protection and auspices of the state government," Moses states. "We pay state legislators to do their job, which includes evaluating local government."

And, Moses says, there is no better government than what Luzerne County has right now. "Any other option is less effective, less efficient and less cost-conscious, and more inhibiting to growth," he declared Thursday.

See COUNTY, pg 5



MOVING UP - Dallas ninth grade teacher John Baur and some of his students moved up to the Senior High building this year, giving it four years of classes for the first time.

Dallas High has 9th grade for first time

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
 Staff Writer

The Dallas Senior High School opened its doors this school year to ninth grade students for the first time in its history. While the reviews so far are mixed, most of the new freshmen are pleased with the change.

The students and five of their ninth grade teachers, formerly housed at the Junior High School, moved up, and after the first six weeks of school have been co-mingled with their sophomore, junior and senior students.

Sean Marhelski, freshman, said, "I like it here better. The food is better than it was at junior high. The classes are too far apart though."

Ted Kerpovich likes it at the senior high. "The food is better and we don't have younger kids running around, bumping into us. It is hectic changing classes and the locker arrangement isn't settled.

We have to share a locker with other classmen, but that's only for a short time," Kerpovich said.

"I don't like it up here," said Jennifer Liss. "I'd rather be at junior high. There we were the oldest students and here we are the youngest. I don't like that."

Tara Killeen doesn't like it at senior high because they have to go down to junior high every day for gym, but Jennifer Krakosky likes it at the upper school.

"We have more privileges here than at junior high and I like the building better," she said.

"I like it better here," said Maggie Redmond. "I don't feel like a little kid anymore like I did at junior high, but I do miss some of the teachers at junior high. The only thing that I don't like is that we have to go outside for gym a lot."

The decision to move the freshmen to the senior

See 9th GRADE, pg 3

Jackson Twp. lays plans for rec park

By RICH JOHNSON
 Staff Writer

Even though the work may be moving slowly the ideas for a recreation park in Jackson Township are speeding right along.

On Monday night, the Jackson Township Recreation Board held a meeting for the public to come and give ideas for use of the approximately 21 acres of land that will be part of the planned recreation area in the township.

The handful of residents in attendance tossed out many ideas for the board as it makes plans for the property.

Commission chairman Frank Poplaski said that the recreation area is in its early planning stages and the first projects may not be completed for over a year, but he said that this is a very important time for the recreation area.

The 21 acre area is located behind the township municipal building on Huntsville Road

"We have a long way to go," said Poplaski. "Our first project is to clear the way for and build an all-purpose field, which will give us the most use of the property the quickest." According to the board, the area will be a combination soccer and baseball field.

Approximately seven acres of land will have to be cleared for this part of the project.

The recreation commission is in the process of trying to get the Marine Corps to do the work at the site. "We are finishing all the pa-

perwork needed for (the Marines) and we hope they will give us an answer on whether they can do it or not by next month," said Poplaski.

Even if the Marine Corps decides to do the work, the recreation commission must have trees removed from the designated area and some of the land filled in.

Besides the multi-purpose field the recreation board has many ideas for the rest of the land, located around the new municipal building on Huntsville Road.

The board is considering picnic areas, a children's playground, basketball courts, hiking and jogging trails, nature trails, and a parking lot for the area. The township also owns part of the pond on the land and says it can be used for fishing.

See PARK, pg 3

Kingston, Dallas townships demonstrate different structures

By RICH JOHNSON
 Staff Writer

The workings of any government, whether it be federal, state or local, are confusing to most people. Making home rule governments or optional plan governments often adds to the confusion of the citizens.

However, residents of the Back Mountain can consider themselves lucky because they have a perfect example of the differences between a home rule government and the municipal code government. Like Luzerne County, Dallas Township is a municipal code government while neighboring Kingston Township is a home rule government.

The biggest difference between the two forms is the ability of a home rule municipality to choose its own structure. Municipal Code governments operate under codes written by the state legislature. In the case of townships, the codes vary according to the size of the township. Dallas Township is considered a Second Class Township by the state thus it follows the Second Class Township Codes.



The rules for home rule governments are different. While some codes are mandated by the state, many are drafted in the government's own home rule charter. For instance, the Kingston Township home rule charter, which was adopted in 1974, mandates a council-manager form of government. This means that a board of supervisors will be elected to handle legislative matters and a township manager will be appointed to handle the administrative affairs.

The township's manager, Jeffrey Box, said that this arrangement has been successful. "This system is patterned more after the federal government and the Constitution," said Box.

Municipal code governments

have the power to appoint a township manager if desired, but not many townships which follow the municipal codes have done so.

The jobs and powers officials can have is another big difference between the two types of governments. For example, in second class townships like Dallas Township a supervisor can also serve on the road crew or as another township employee. This is not the case under Kingston Township's home rule government.

The supervisors are elected and act as the township's legislative body by setting policy, appropriating funds and keeping a general view of the township's affairs. The manager acts as the administrator.

Box said that this helps keep more discussion on issues and takes away any chance of a conflict of interest.

For example, if Kingston Township had to purchase a new truck there are many people involved in the process, according to Box.

See TOWNSHIPS, pg 5

COMPARATIVE SALARIES FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

District	89-90 Budget	Supt.	Bus. Adm.	Prin. Sec.	Prin. Elem.
Dallas	\$12,466,441	\$59,074	\$28,890	\$40,446	\$41,868
Wyo. Area	11,850,000	54,500	47,000	48,500	48,500
Hanover Area	11,359,110	64,026	47,639	50,861	50,554
Valley View	11,282,075	60,000	31,412	48,728	45,638
Lake-Lehman	10,610,101	58,500	46,600	50,600	45,713

Supplied by the Dallas School Board. Figures were used in determining 1990-91 salaries for Dallas administrators.

Dallas raises based on comparative salaries

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
 Staff Writer

The Dallas School Board's decision to raise administrators' salaries by 10.4 percent was based almost exclusively on comparisons with other school districts, according to board president Clarence Michael.

The motion for the increases passed by a 5-4 vote with board members James Richardson, Ellen Nagy, John Litz and Ernest Ashbridge voting against it. The dissenting directors said their no votes were cast because other criteria, such as performance, were not included in the review process.

The districts listed in the chart accompanying this article are those with budgets comparable to Dallas.

The recent increases given to the top administrators in the Dal-


las District increases their salaries to \$65,217.52, superintendent; \$44,652.38, high school principal; \$44,652.38, middle school principal and both secondary principals; \$48,117.29, elementary principal, with many years of tenure; \$44,326.25, elementary principal, with lesser years of service; \$31,894.56, business manager; \$32,608.76, acting supervisor of building and grounds; and \$51,040.16, supervisor of curriculum and instruction.

The recently appointed superintendent at Lake-Lehman School District, Mrs. Nancy I. Davis, a superintendent of long tenure in the southwestern area of Pennsylvania, was given a salary of \$65,000 to accept the new position. The business manager at Lake-Lehman, Raymond Bowersox, has held that position for the last 15 years.

Inside The Post

- Calendar.....16
- Classified.....13-15
- Editorials.....4
- Obituaries.....2
- Police Report.....2
- Property transfers.. 8
- School.....11
- Sports.....12-13

Fall Community Events

- 
- Dallas Halloween Parade**
 Sun., Oct. 28, Church Street near school administration building.
 Assembly: 12 Noon
 Judging: 12:30 PM
 Parade: 1:00 PM
- HARVEST HOME AUCTION** - Sat., Oct. 27, 6:30 PM, Mountain Grange, 8th St., Carverton. Produce, baked goods, attic treasures, tools etc. Refreshments.
- CRAFT SHOW** - Sun., Oct. 28, St. Franklin Twp. Fire Hall, sponsored by Ladies Guild of St. Francis Cabrini Church. Refreshments.
- CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY** - Sun., Oct. 28, 1-3 PM, Jackson Twp. Fire Hall, Chase Rd. Refreshments and prizes. Public invited.

Leaf pickups scheduled

Area communities have set schedules for pickup of bagged leaves. Leaves should be left at the curb in bags of 40 gallons or smaller.

DALLAS BOROUGH: Now through about Nov. 15.
DALLAS TOWNSHIP: Nov. 12 through Nov. 16, weather permitting.
KINGSTON TOWNSHIP: Oct. 29 through Nov. 9.