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Dallas school land sale angers Little League group

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

The proposed sale of land now used by area Little League and softball teams has angered members of Back Mountain Baseball, Inc., the organization that operates programs for 65 teams and 900 youngsters.

The Dallas School District plans to sell property to an affiliate of Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. The district wants to sell 12.6 acres of land along Country Club Road on which the administration building and the former Dallas Township School is located, as well as playing fields for the leagues.

The Dallas School Board's approval of the site's sale to the Wilkes-Barre General Realty Inc. for

\$950,000 came as a complete surprise, according to members of the Back Mountain Baseball Inc. Association.

"We had no part in the negotiations for the sale," said Back Mountain Baseball's president Larry Lettie. "If the district had consulted with our officers we might have been able to negotiate some sort of a deal.

"A 10-year lease on the lower field is not long enough. With the money we have invested in the past two years we were looking to a long term lease. These fields are the home of Back Mountain Baseball, we don't want to relocate. A two year lease on the upper fields is nothing. We have 65 teams including baseball and softball and 900 kids and still

growing. If we lose any part of the fields we will have to cut back on teams. How do you tell young kids you can't play, we don't have the room?" Lettie continued.

"We don't want to leave; we want to stay here. We are on a course where softball is getting so big, we were going to build a complex for the sport on the upper fields. We would never have invested money in the lights and the new refreshment stand but the district assured us the land would not be sold," Lettie said.

He explained that the association has had three 5-year leases at \$1.00 each time for the field's use and that he understood Wilkes-Barre General would also lease the field for \$1.00.

"We did not have any say in the leasing, however, and that is our concern," Lettie said. "We need to negotiate for all the fields and for a longer length of time. We are talking long, long term. These fields should be here for Back Mountain Baseball long after I am gone," Lettie stated.

"We are in the process of obtaining counsel and hope that we will be able to come to an amicable settlement with the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital administrator," explained Lettie. "As we understand the circumstances, they plan to renovate and make use of the buildings as a medical/physical fitness center. We are interested in keeping the fields for our Back Mountain boys and girls and we hope to come to some agreement."

Dallas teachers reject latest offer

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Individuals familiar with negotiations over a new teacher contract in the Dallas School District have told The Dallas Post that the teachers' union negotiating committee has rejected the administration's latest salary offer.

The sources said the district's latest offer was for \$2,200 annual raises for each year of a two year contract.

The teachers are reported to be standing firm on their request for a five-year contract with an annual increase of approximately 10 percent. That would mean more than 90 percent of the district's teachers would receive an annual salary of \$65,000 by 1995-96, according to the administration.

Repeated attempts to reach Dallas Education Association president William Wagner were unsuccessful. The person who answered the phone first at Wagner's home said Wagner was attending a legislative picnic and later said he would return the calls, which he had not done as of early Tuesday afternoon.

The next negotiation meeting is set for September 5.

District says teachers won't budge

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from a press release issued by the Dallas School District's Negotiating Committee.

On August 13, 1991, the Dallas School District's Negotiating Committee increased their initial salary offer to the Dallas Education Association's Negotiating Committee in an effort to come to terms on a two-year successor agreement.

The District's latest salary increase was made through the state assigned Mediator, Mr. Jim Paley, to the teacher's representatives.

After eight months of bargaining, the teacher's negotiating committee still refuses to make any movement in their initial salary demands.

The teacher's negotiating committee is seeking a five (5) year contract with yearly salary increases approximately 10% on average per teacher.

See TEACHERS, pg 8



Still smiling after 7 years

Charles and Olive Bartlett of Dallas stand proudly by their 1948 Packard at the Lehman Antique Car Show held August 18. Restoration of the car, a seven year endeavor, has garnered the couple many awards. (Post Photo/Charlotte Bartizek)

Marchers support deaf child's cause

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Eighty-five hearing impaired persons carrying signs turned out August 13 to support Lake-Lehman student Mark Dutton's request to attend the Scranton State School for the Deaf instead of the Luzerne Intermediate Unit.

The 12-year-old resident of the Lake-Lehman District has been attending classes for the hearing impaired taught by the LIU, but he and his family say the LIU does not provide effective communication with Mark.

Don Rubel, Jr., Mark's uncle and a sign language faculty member at Bloomsburg University, supports the Duttons contention that the language used by the LIU

is incompatible with the youngsters needs.

"Mark understands and speaks American sign language," said Rubel. "The LIU teaches classes in sign English and Mark has become increasingly distressed and frustrated."

Rubel claimed that Lake-Lehman administrators promised the family that Mark would be allowed to attend SSSD in the Fall of 1990. When it was learned that he had to attend LIU classes, the Dutton family filed a request with the state to allow him to attend SSSD.

An initial decision in favor of keeping Mark at the LIU was overturned by a panel of two attorneys and an educator and the Lake-Lehman District was reprimanded

for forcing the student to attend classes against his will.

Recently, the family heard that there was to be an appeal to the Federal Court by the district on behalf of the LIU.

"These people demonstrating tonight are supporting Mark's transfer to the SSSD," said Rubel. "They know communication is the essence of education."

Mark's grandfather, Don Rubel, Sr. asked, "Why stop a child from going to school where he can learn?"

Protestors came from as far away as Allentown, Levittown, Philadelphia and Williamsport to support Mark's cause.

They urged the board not to appeal and to allow Mark to attend

See DEAF, pg 2



TAKING AIM - Paul Shiber, 8, of Dallas, takes a shot after a game Saturday.

Youth Soccer draws 100's

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

For more than a dozen years, soccer fever has gripped the Back Mountain.

The Back Mountain Youth Soccer League played its first games of the 1991 season August 17, with 600 kids in ranging from 8 to 16 playing.

The children in the under 8-year-old teams (U-8), will play their first games this Saturday, Aug. 24.

"Right now we have over 800 kids in the intramural soccer, starting with U-8 and going to U-16," said Paul Callahan, president of the league.

"Intramural is an instructional league," said Callahan. "We play to win, but we don't keep track of the games or standings. At the end of the season we offer a little tourna-

ment for every level but U-8."

The U-8 teams play on a smaller field, have smaller goals, and only have seven players from each team on the field at a time.

"At one time, we were over 1,000 kids," said Callahan. "We could go over that, but we don't have enough coaches. Unfortunately, that means sometimes we have to turn some away."

Callahan has been coaching for about 9 years.

"I got involved because of my son, Sean, was in a U-8 team," he said.

Callahan's daughter Christy is on a U-13, all girls team. "When we're looking for coaches, it's usually a parent with a son of daughter in the league."

See SOCCER, pg 8

DAMA to face 2 lawsuits over trash program

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

Two attorneys say they will file lawsuits against the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) and municipal officials, claiming the authority is infringing upon the rights of citizens and private haulers to make and fulfill contracts.

"They are denying the individual homeowners the freedom of choice," said Attorney Phil Medico, representing Searles Sanitation and C&K Sanitation, who said the suit would be filed Monday afternoon.

Medico would not say what damages will be asked in the suit, but alluded to substantial amounts.

"There are a number of communities who go out to bid and give a bid to XYZ hauler, but they allow other haulers to operate shoulder to shoulder," said Med-

ico, naming Wyoming Borough as an example. "They've made a result of any violation by the homeowners a criminal offense by the taking of property without due process of law," he said, referring to DAMA's threat to put liens on residents' homes if they don't pay their bills.

Medico charged that DAMA got into the recycling business only because it would soon lose its primary job of handling sewage waste.

"DAMA is going out of the business of sewage treatment," said Medico. "Now they want to get involved with municipal waste collection. They did that because there were special interests at stake, specifically the jobs."

Tom Bagley, executive director of DAMA, said that while the Authority will be connecting its sewer lines with the Wyoming See DAMA, pg 8

In South Abington: same program, few problems

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

Six months before the Dallas Area Municipal Authority initiated a recycling program, South Abington Township, which is located outside of Scranton, started a similar program using the same contractor.

But unlike the Back Mountain experience, protests against the system were few and far between.

The township signed a three-year contract with Danella Environmental Technologies Inc., giving them exclusive rights to collect waste and recyclables.

South Abington residents will pay \$153 for the first year of service, \$156 for the second, and \$157 for the third - more than the \$135 the residents in Dallas Borough, and Kingston and Dallas townships will pay the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA).

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Community Events

MEET THE TEAM NIGHT - Aug., 21, 6:30 PM, for the 1991 Dallas football season, Dallas High School. Parents and friends invited.

FLEA MARKET & CRAFT SALE - Sat., Aug. 24, 10 AM-4 PM, Eastern Star Building parking lot, Dallas (behind Acme). Lunch served. Rain date Aug. 25.

ARTS AT HAYFIELD SUMMER FESTIVAL - Sun., Aug. 25, 11 AM-6 PM, Penn State campus, Lehman. Arts, crafts, music, fun for kids, food, one-woman play, "Sojourner," at 3 PM.

NEW COMMUNITY SINGERS - begin their fall season Aug. 26 at Mercy Center, Dallas, 7:30-9:30 PM. All women who enjoy singing 3 or 4 part harmony are invited.

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