

Westmoreland

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All the teachers at Westmoreland agree with her, she said. She was invited to discuss the matter with the Dallas Elementary teachers Tuesday.

Mundy said she was "disturbed" that Quad Three Group representative Paul DeGillo didn't know the name of his firm's educational consultant, although "he said he was sure his firm has one," and that he didn't know how many teachers had been asked for input into the feasibility study which Quad Three performed last year.

"If it's not broken, why try to fix it?" asked Westmoreland PTO president Susan Baiaomonte. "The research shows that students in smaller schools do better on standardized tests."

Superintendent of Schools Gerald Wycallis said he hadn't seen any research which specifically mentioned smaller schools housing grades K through five.

"I shared it with you," Mundy responded.

Ellen Smith wanted to know why tearing down the Westmoreland building and erecting a new one on its site didn't meet the board's long-range plan.

"When the jointure was formed the district purchased a 100-acre tract so that all the schools would eventually be located on one site," Wycallis said. "That was before my time, but I recall reading about it in the records. Please remember this is still in the preliminary stages - we have lots more planning to do before we make a final decision."

In its study last year Quad Three Group offered six options:

- Erect a building behind the middle school to house grades four and five, with kindergarten through third grade using the Dallas Elementary School. Demolish the Westmoreland School.

The total project would cost \$6.54 million. Quad Three rec-

ommends the board adopt this option.

- Erect a building behind the middle school to house grades three through five, with kindergarten through second grade housed in the Dallas Elementary School. Demolish Westmoreland.

The total project would cost approximately \$8.5 million.

- Build an addition on the Dallas Elementary School and house all elementary students there, at a total cost of \$4.8 million. Demolish Westmoreland.

- Build a wing for grades three through five alongside the Dallas Elementary School, with kindergarten through second grade using the present building. Demolish Westmoreland.

The estimated cost is \$6.6 million.

- Demolish Westmoreland and erect a new building on its site, at a total cost of approximately \$6 million.

- Renovate the Westmoreland School and add six rooms, at a total cost of \$3 million.

DeGillo pointed out that the state won't reimburse districts for renovations which exceed 60 percent of a building's replacement value. Renovating Westmoreland would probably not qualify the district for state reimbursement, he said.

In other business, the board approved the first reading of a policy requiring all bus drivers to submit to random drug and alcohol testing, as required by federal law for all drivers with CDL licenses. The testing will be performed and paid for through a pool formed by Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18.

It also approved a list of student teachers, winter sports coaches, elementary school volunteers and instructional aide substitutes.



BMT Salute to Red Jones slated for Jan. 19

Luzerne County Commissioner Joseph "Red" Jones of Lehman Township, will be the guest of honor at a cocktail reception and dance January 19, at the Irem Temple Country Club in Dallas. The "Back Mountain Salute to Red Jones" is being sponsored by many of his friends in the area. Former Lake-Lehman principal and Harveys Lake resident Jay Zaleskas is the event chairman. Jones served on the Lake-Lehman School Board for 14 years, resigning in November after winning a seat on the board of Luzerne County Commissioners and being sworn in as commissioner on January 2.

The event will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. Music and dancing will be provided by the "Fabulous Breaker Boys." For ticket information and reservations, call 696-3133. Ticket donation is \$37.50. Committee members are: seated, from left, Jay Zaleskas, Dr. William Price; standing, Bill Jones, and John Oliver

Craft shop

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He wants to convert the house to a craft shop which would offer Christmas items hand-made by shut-ins and disabled veterans all year round and limited edition porcelain dolls, which range in price from \$15 to \$1,000. If the business makes money, he plans to replace the house with a steeped log building designed by Lincoln Logs.

Donna's Dolls and Christmas Home would be the first of its kind in the area, he said. Evans plans to retire from the military in September, 1997 and operate the shop with his wife, Donna.

Evans said he had considered other B-2 properties along that stretch of highway, but each had a drawback.

The supervisors unanimously rejected the rezoning request because of safety and the high volume of traffic on the highway, which they said makes it nearly impossible for cars to enter Route 309 from Holcomb Road and nearby Ellis Ave. Holcomb Road ends at a blind corner.

Police chief James Balavage said there were "at least a dozen accidents" in 1994 and 1995 and four fatalities on that stretch of highway since he has been an officer in the township. "We have had to drop a hospital chopper onto the highway four times for accidents," he said.

Neighbors, who gave the township a petition opposing the rezoning containing 100 signatures in December, said they are also concerned about safety, increased traffic on Holcomb Road and the neighborhood's 32 children and two day care centers.

Mary Lou Swingle also questioned the feasibility of opening a

craft shop. "I had a craft shop on Main Street and couldn't make a go of it," she said. "I know of another shop at Fernbrook that also closed."

If Evans's business fails and he sells it, the B-2 zoning would allow just about any type of business to set up in its place, Lou Ellen Zekas said. "More than 90 percent of all small businesses fail. We could get anything in here - even an adult video store."

In a slick presentation which included professionally prepared overhead transparencies, one sporting the American flag, Evans attempted to rebut the neighbors' objections and pointed out the benefits his shop would bring to the area.

"Once I build the log building in 10 years it will increase neighborhood property values," he said. "Increased business volume will help the community and will improve the quality of life. We will also help disadvantaged veterans making crafts."

He said he obtained 100 signatures on a petition supporting his shop "in less than two hours" from patrons at the Dallas Village Shopping Center and Insalaco's at the Country Club Shopping Center.

Answering objections that some of his signatures were from residents of Ashley and the valley, he fired back, "The neighbors' petition also had names of people from outside the neighborhood."

After the meeting Evans vowed not to give up and said, "Now I know how they operate. Next time I'll be ready. I'll fill that room with people and I'll get 5,000 names on a petition - I'll get the guys from the American Legion to help me out."

Bridal section postponed

Because of the storms last week and their effect on The Dallas Post's production deadlines, the Wedding Fantasy special feature has been postponed until next week's issue. Advertising will be accepted through Fri., Jan. 19.

Martin in District Orchestra

Katherine Martin, daughter of Jeanette Martin of Shavertown, was chosen to perform at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 9 Orchestra Festival, January 24-27 at the Old Forge High School, Old Forge.

Katherine is a junior at Lake-Lehman High School and has been a member of the award-winning Lake-Lehman Band for five years. She was chosen as drum major for the 1995-96 marching band season along with drum major Matt Link.

Katherine has studied music with Nancy Sanderson at Wilkes University. She has played the flute for six years.

This is the second year in which she has been chosen to perform at the District 9 Orchestra Festival.



KATHERINE MARTIN

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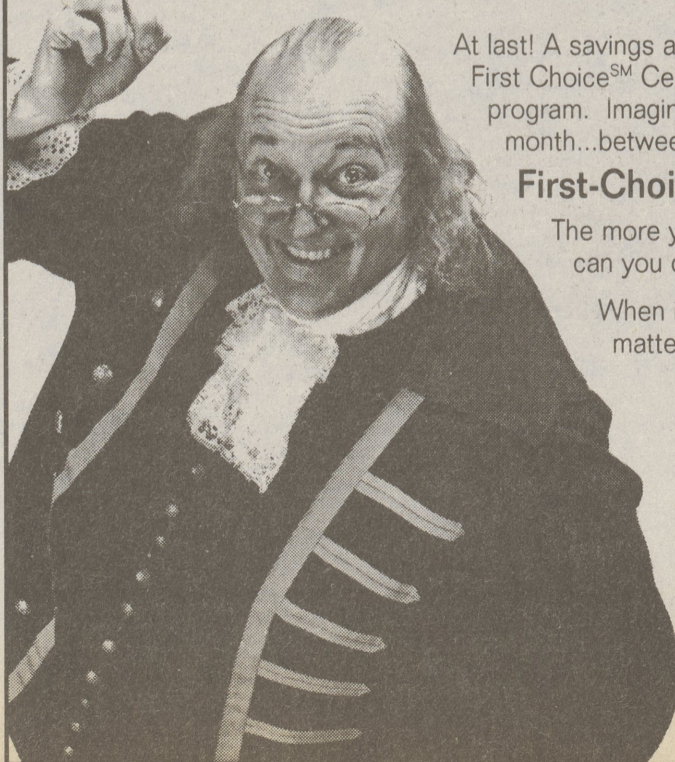


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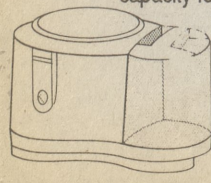
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