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School's fate to be decided at July 17 meeting

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - Described by property committee chairman John George as "a football," the issue of either renovating the Westmoreland School or building a new one will be decided at a special meeting of the Dallas School Board July 17 at 7 p.m.

If the board decides to erect a new elementary school, it will also have to decide where - at the present Westmoreland site, on the 100-acre campus on Hildebrand Road or at the site of the present administrative offices and the vacant Dallas Township school.

"I think we should vote on it in the fall, when everyone's back from their vacations."

Maureen Banks
School board member

At the regular July 8 meeting, vice-president Tom Landon said he would ask the architect to prepare two separate estimates for building the new school and for including a pool in the construction program.

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Beccaris will race, charity will win

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - A sleek white race car piloted by Dallas resident David Beccaris will help raise money for an area organization while roaring through two days of road racing this weekend at the famous Giant's Despair Hill Climb.

For every car in his class which Beccaris beats, Luzerne County Big Brothers/Big Sisters will receive \$50 from Bonner Chevrolet, one of Beccaris's sponsors.

Wanting to do more than simply donate to a charity, Beccaris had cooked up the idea with Bonner's general manager Richard Crossin, who selected big Brothers/Big Sisters.

"I wanted to do something different to help a charity and make it competitive," Beccaris said. "The better I do, the better Big Brothers/Big Sisters does. It brings a lot more excitement to the race."

"It's certainly different," said Big Brothers/Big Sisters executive director Ron Evans. "Of all our generous contributors, we have never received a donation from a racing car before. We'll be on hand at Giant's Despair to cheer Dave on."

In the Back Mountain, Penn State's Wilkes-Barre campus athletic department, Competition Plus in Fern Brook and Dreier World Industries in Shavertown have also lent their support to Beccaris's slightly modified '92 Chevy Camaro in its only road race this season.

"The better I do, the better Big Brothers/Big Sisters does."

Dave Beccaris
Dallas

Beccaris, a Penn State graduate and ardent Nittany Lion fan, uses the fitness facilities at the Wilkes-Barre campus. Staying fit is a must for drivers, who often sweat off several pounds during a race and need to be tough to withstand the car's heat and the weight of their protective asbestos clothing.

Competition Plus owner Bill Zukosky makes sure the Camaro is in top shape for each race, fine tuning the suspension, steering, electrical and other systems. Zukosky also preps race cars for Back Mountain drivers John Halbing, Will Dannert, Charles Baylor and Bill Knecht.

Other sponsors are Car Stereo Plus in Luzerne, Motorola Racing Radios, Colours in Wilkes-Barre and Team World Athletic Clothing.

Beccaris's best time last year at Giant's Despair was 57.5 seconds. The well-known course twists its way through the mostly abandoned village of Laurel Run and over an underground mine fire to the top of Wilkes-Barre Mountain, snaking around a nasty hairpin curve and several sharp S-bends.

See RACE CAR, pg 8



Ernie Ashbridge, chairman of the 50th annual library auction, painted the auction bell gold a couple of weeks ago.

POST PHOTO: CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Auction is labor of love for volunteers

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Now celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction was once considered old home week, an important fundraiser undertaken by the entire town and the social event of the summer, all rolled into one.

"At the auction grounds behind the old library we were packed in like sardines - those were the fun days, when it could take nearly an hour to get from one side of the area to the other," recalled local artist Sue Hand, who donates a special auction painting each year.

Retired guidance counselor George McCutcheon was chairman in 1969, the first year the auction realized \$20,000 after



Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction
July 11-14, at the library, Huntville Rd., Dallas
Special section inside.

all expenses were paid. "We didn't know how much money we were making," he said. "We were just on a roll - the barn was literally bursting at the seams with antiques, which raised the bulk of the money."

People wanting to donate items called him at all hours, even at 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve, when a Forty Fort family leaving the area offered a load

of items they couldn't take with them. McCutcheon rounded up his nephews, Dwayne and Howard Sprau, and headed down to the valley.

"We came back with a good load of things," he said, chuckling. "Bill Moss was tickled."

One of the auction's valiant volunteers, Moss was also known as "Mr. Barn" because he organized all the donated items and catalogued every one.

The jovial bearded fellow - McCutcheon couldn't decide whether he resembled Santa or Colonel Sanders - wore the craziest hats while he was on duty sending items to the block to be sold.

"Bill was a great barn man," McCutcheon said. "He was even there to clean up."

The auction became a family affair, with wife Dorothea running the Odds 'n ends booth for many years and daughter Georgia McCutcheon Zwartjes running the art booth with Maureen Purcell. Dorothea McCutcheon was also a member of the Friends of the Library for a long time.

McCutcheon was advisor to

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Ryan Ulbrich doesn't let heart disease stop him

By LEN KRYESKI
Sports Writer

TRUCKSVILLE - Like plenty of youngsters growing up in Northeastern Pennsylvania, 9-year old Ryan Ulbrich loves the game of baseball and is a big fan of the New York Yankees. He especially admires Don Mattingly, the former Yankee first baseman and captain who is reportedly mulling coming out of retirement for the 1997 season.

And like so many of his peers across the country, Ryan's favorite current player is Ken Griffey Jr., slugging center fielder for the Seattle Mariners.

As you might expect, the Trucksville native plays Little League baseball. After spending a year at the tee-ball and AA levels, Ryan recently completed his third season of organized ball at the AAA level. He roamed the outfield for the National League champion Cardinals while also seeing some action at third base.

Cards manager Angelo Bertinelli gradually worked Ryan into his pitching rotation. At seasons end, he pitched a complete game victory over the Reds. The 6-4 win gave the team the best record in the National League.

All that sounds pretty ordinary, until you learn that just a few

"I saw the look in the parents' eyes. I tried to put myself in their position with my son."

Angelo Bertinelli
Ryan Ulbrich's coach

months ago, it appeared Ryan wouldn't even get his uniform dirty, let alone pitch a baseball. Playing baseball not only seemed improbable in '96, it was the least of concerns for Ryan and his family.

During a simple well visit last October, physicians notified Ryan's parents, Jeff and Barbara Ulbrich, that their son's blood pressure was dangerously elevated. Further testing indicated the diagnosis to be quite severe - he had a congenital heart disease.

"It was a shock," said Barbara Ulbrich adding that it was hard to believe the problem existed since birth, since her ever-active son always appeared to be in good health. "He had just finished a full season of soccer before the well visit."

The family credits the unselfish efforts and direction of Bret Yarezwower, a pediatrician at

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Ryan Ulbrich, recovered from heart surgery, relaxed in his room. He just completed the baseball season, pitching the final game.

POST PHOTO: CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

■ **Softball rules Sr.** softball stars stomp Mountaintop to stay unbeaten. Pg 9

■ **Showbiz!** Students from Major Performing Arts danced and sang at their recital. Pg 2

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