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Parents stunned by vote to move school

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - One vote made the difference in the location of a new elementary school.

Over many parents' and teachers' objections, the board voted 5-to-4 to place a replacement building for Westmoreland Elementary behind the middle school on the 100-acre campus which already houses an elementary building, the middle

school, high school and playing fields. The building will house grades kindergarten through fifth grade, which are the levels presently at Westmoreland.

Maureen Banks, John Litz, Reese Finn and Tom Landon voted against the measure, which was not printed on the meeting's agenda. Voting for the school were Ernest Ashbridge, James Richardson, John George, Thom Russ and Joseph Kunec.

"I'm astounded and very frustrated,"

"They pacified us all along until they got their own agenda taken care of."

Ellen Smith
Westmoreland PTO president

said PTO president Ellen Smith. "They pacified us all along until they got their own agenda taken care of."

"Don't worry — no matter where we go we'll still be Westmoreland," consoled reading specialist Rita Mundy, who seemed to be near tears.

"This proves that going to school board meetings makes no difference at all," fumed Jane Ketchner. "Look how many board meetings we attended, and they took the advice of people who don't come at all."

"I'm very disappointed with the decision," said PTO secretary Susan

Baiamonte, who noted that the board never asked the parents for their input. "When four of nine board members — nearly half of them — don't agree, the location of the building should be looked into further. Mrs. Banks brought up some very excellent concerns which need more extensive study."

Craig and Karen Williams said they were "very frustrated" and thought the

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How's THIS?

Patrick Powell let Dr. Andrea Taroli sneak a bite from a pastry during an open house last week at the new Mercy Physicians

Network office in Dallas. The event drew a large crowd to the Church Street office.

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Neighbors at odds over burning at Lake Louise

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP - Neighbors call his property an eyesore, but Steven Kester says he's just remodeling his Lake Louise home.

David Bronsberg complained to the supervisors at their last meeting about Kester, who he accused of running a business on his land, bringing in truckloads of debris to burn and allowing piles of cement debris and tree chippings to accumulate on his property.

"Whatever he's burning, it gives off noxious black and white smoke," said Bronsberg, who thought some of the material might be insulation. "I'm worried that it might cause toxic substances to run into the lake and pollute it."

He also said he thought Kester might be using part of the farm for a business. "If he's allowed to set up a business there, then you can rest assured I'll set one up on my land," he said.

Kester, who bought the former

Lake Louise Farm about six years ago, said he's simply remodeling his home.

"The house is at least 120 years old and was last extensively remodeled in the 1920's," he said. "I have gutted two or three rooms — the kitchen had five layers of plaster, drywall and paneled walls."

He moved debris from the renovations in his pickup truck to the side of the barn, where he's burning it, he said. "Even if I were burning insulation, it isn't toxic any more."

He's collecting the tree chippings that rest in piles around the property to use as mulch, Kester said.

Kester said he has tried to research the history of the Lake Louise Farm, which was last used for several horses, with little success. Local folklore has it that a structure was first built on the farm between 1848 and 1850, but it either burned down or was remodeled.

The supervisors have instructed zoning officer Art Owen to inspect the property for possible violations.

State Rep. candidates tout support for small business

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

DALLAS - The candidates for State Representative in the 120th District showcased their support for small business at the Oct. 10 meeting of the Back Mountain Business & Professional Association. Phyllis Mundy, the three-term incumbent Democrat — "and proud of it," she said — and Bill James, her Republican challenger, each gave a short talk highlighting their business-related accomplishments and priorities.

Seeking her fourth term, Mundy described her activities as a member of the House, and before that as a manager for a small manufacturing business. In addition to her House duties, Mundy serves

on the board of directors of the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce.

"My door and my mind have always been open" to ideas that aid small businesses, she said, after listing her support for measures that have passed the State Legislature. Among them was reform in the workmen's compensation plan, which she said was opposed by many traditional Democratic constituents such as unions, lawyers and the party itself. Mundy also reiterated her support for the arena, describing it as a piece of infrastructure that will help attract new employers to the region.

James said his 14 years in a

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Chorus gives voice to singers old, new

By JACK HILSHER
Post Correspondent

SHAVERTOWN - A Shavertown "resident president" became an ex-President last month when Susan Demidovich, who led the Wyoming Valley Oratorio Society, passed her gavel on to Fr. Eugene Gorski of King's College.

Susan, who is also a soprano in the society chorus, says, "It was time to give someone else a chance, but I'm not giving up singing. That means too much to me." She laughs and adds, "I call it my 'stress reducer!'"

Demidovich and husband, Stephen, a businessman/manufacturer, are about to down-size their nest on Bulford Road because their two birds have flown. Son Mark is a civil engineer in Atlanta and daughter Julie is studying in Florence, Italy. They plan to move to Newberry Estates when their house is sold.

The Society Susan led capably for three years is coming very close to its 50th anniversary. In 1948 a chorus formed from the Council of Churches performed Handel's *Messiah*. It was well-received by the community and the following year saw semi-annual performances begin, a board of directors formed, and fundraising started.

In 1952 a name, "Wilkes-Barre Oratorio Society" was adopted and eventually changed to "Wyoming Valley Oratorio Society."

Clifford Balshaw, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Musical Direc-

"I am continually amazed at what this man can get out of people, even out of the ones you would call 'shower singers!'"

Vicky Gallagher
Sweet Valley

tor was appointed director and served for many years.

Membership began to grow as more people who "just like to sing" joined up. So, too, did the musical repertoire expand, and the organization soon began to live up to the name "Oratorio."

That means a long program of religious or contemplative character performed in a concert hall or church, without scenery or costumes, and by solo voices, chorus and orchestra. Oratorio composers are most often Handel, Haydn, Stravinsky, Shostakovich, Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. Programming more or less standardized on three annual concerts: fall and spring are classical while the summer one is of a lighter nature.

(In fact, while she felt she should not be quoted, one Back Mountain member of the chorus admitted "Our current director is taking a good look at Gershwin!")

Previous director Balshaw's name will be very familiar to many

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Cross burned in Dallas

Someone burned a cross alongside Sedlar Rd. in Dallas Township the night of Oct. 10. A passerby noticed the cross and called police, who are investigating the incident. Dallas Twp. police chief Carl Miers said no evidence was found of other activity. A small swatch of cloth survived the fire. It was a multicolor stripe with alternating blue, white, red and peach colors. Len Harvey, who takes care of the property where the cross was burned, said he couldn't recall a similar incident ever taking place. Miers said it was the first time his department had been called for such an investigation. Anyone with information may call the Dallas Twp. Police Dept. at 675-5251.



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

■ **Who'll wear the crown?** Dallas students vie for Homecoming Queen. Pg 3.

■ **To a tee** Justin Jumper is gearing up for the state championship golf tournament. Pg 9.

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