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Main campus site may have edge, but which one?

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Just how "separate" a new elementary school will be is one of the main questions standing in the way of a decision by the Dallas School Board. But an emerging consensus would put the building somewhere on the main campus off Hildebrandt Rd.

The decision process to pick a site for the school is taking longer than some

"I am adamant that it remain a separate school."

Maureen Banks
Dallas School Board member

school board members think necessary. Determining where to put the new building has tied the board up for months. At

each meeting, board members exhibit the difficulty of getting agreement when nine people are weighing educational and financial considerations.

"It's been long and tedious for everyone involved. The decisions have gone back and forth," said Ernest Ashbridge, board president. "People have their minds set on where they want it put and we can't get a majority."

Board member, Reese Finn agreed. "The process has been longer than neces-

Tell us which you prefer. Ballot on page 8.

sary. We could've set a generalized time line taking into account informational meetings and public input. A couple of times we went over old material because some people came late into the process," said Finn. "It's difficult to get nine people to agree."

The main debate during the last several meetings has focused on what the word "separate" means. To many Westmoreland Elementary parents, who learned of their neighborhood school's demise at the Oct. 14 school board meeting, a separate school means a smaller community school off the main 100-acre campus.

Rita Mundy, a Westmoreland teacher.

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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

HAPPY IN SCHOOL

Students at Gate of Heaven School in Dallas are celebrating Catholic Schools Week. Festivities included an ice cream party

held Monday. Enjoying the treats, from left, Brittany Matosky, Kailey Peters and Marrissa Patton. More photos on page 3.

Henry's service to Sem earns national honor

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - A local philanthropist was recently honored for his admirable accomplishments in contributing to Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School. Frank Henry of Dallas was the recipient of the 1997 Seymour Preston Award, given by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).



FRANK HENRY

The national award honors an independent school trustee who has exhibited exceptional commitment and leadership to his or her institution. Most recently, Henry was the national chairperson of Wyoming Seminary's 150th Anniversary Capital Campaign, conducted in honor of the school's sesquicentennial. The ongoing campaign raised more than \$21 million, \$9 million more than the original goal.

Born and raised in Wilkes-Barre, Henry graduated from Wyoming Seminary in 1950 and from Yale in 1955. After three years in

the Air Force, he came back to Wyoming Valley to go into the family bus business, now known as Frank Martz Coach Company.

Henry remained active in the Seminary's community. He joined the school's board of trustees in 1967 and served as chairman of the board from 1973-1979. He was also chairman of the board's nominating committee from 1980 to 1996 and served as a president of the alumni association. Also, his three children are graduates of the school.

Though generous, Henry is reserved when talking about his

own accomplishments. "It's all a measure of how many good people you have around you to help," he said humbly. He said it was quite easy to raise the impressive funds. "Everyone believes in this cause. Wyoming Seminary has been around for 150 years. I don't have to sell this idea."

Henry credits the school with giving him a solid foundation on which to begin his career. As a day student and boarder, he made many friends with other students and teachers alike. "It provided a

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Team holds adventure for older Boy Scouts

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - A new group adds another dimension to Boy Scouting for older boys. Venture Varsity Scouting is an extension of the Boy Scouts of America, designed to meet the needs and interests of boys 14 to 18 years old.

The local chapter, named Team 007, had its first meeting on Jan. 23. It was started by John Pimm, scoutmaster of troop 693 and is sponsored by the Back Mountain Police Association.

"The name represents the seven troops here in the Back Mountain," said Pimm. "There's no copyright violations to James Bond," he explained with a laugh.

Pimm got the idea after he was introduced to caving by a friend. "I loved it instantly and wanted to find out everything I could about it," he said.

During his research he ran across the Venture Varsity program, which lists caving as one of its activities. After learning from other scoutmasters that many scouts were dropping out around the age of 15, Pimm saw this as an exciting option to keep boys involved.

"I found that a lot of Scouts were getting tired of just camping, they wanted something more adventurous to do," said Pimm, a self-described kid at heart.

Adventure is just what Team

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John Pimm, set to enter a cave.

Birthday bash for poor going strong at age four

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

COLLEGE MISERICORDIA - Andre Dembowski, R.S.M. will host the 4th annual Birthday Party for the Poor at College Misericordia Saturday, Feb. 1. Sr. Andre says, "It's almost like my dream that people recognize they have more than they need. Instead of getting presents, they will make donations to the poor."

Sr. Andre began celebrating her birthday with the public the year she turned 50. This year, she turns 54. "I feel like Jack Benny," she says. "This is the fourth anniversary of my 50th birthday."

Every year the party is held

with very little overhead. She explains that everything is donated. College Misericordia donates the use of Merrick Hall; Magic 93 donates a DJ for the evening and does all of their advertising. Food and paper products are also donated. Sister Andre says, "There is no fee to attend. People give whatever they can afford at the door." Individual donations have ranged from \$1 to \$500.

The party begins at 8 p.m. and lasts until midnight, and is open to anyone 21 years of age or older. Refreshments are provided at no charge, and a drawing will be held for prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 that will be donated to the winners' charity of choice.

Sr. Andre explains that she got the idea after visiting the St. John

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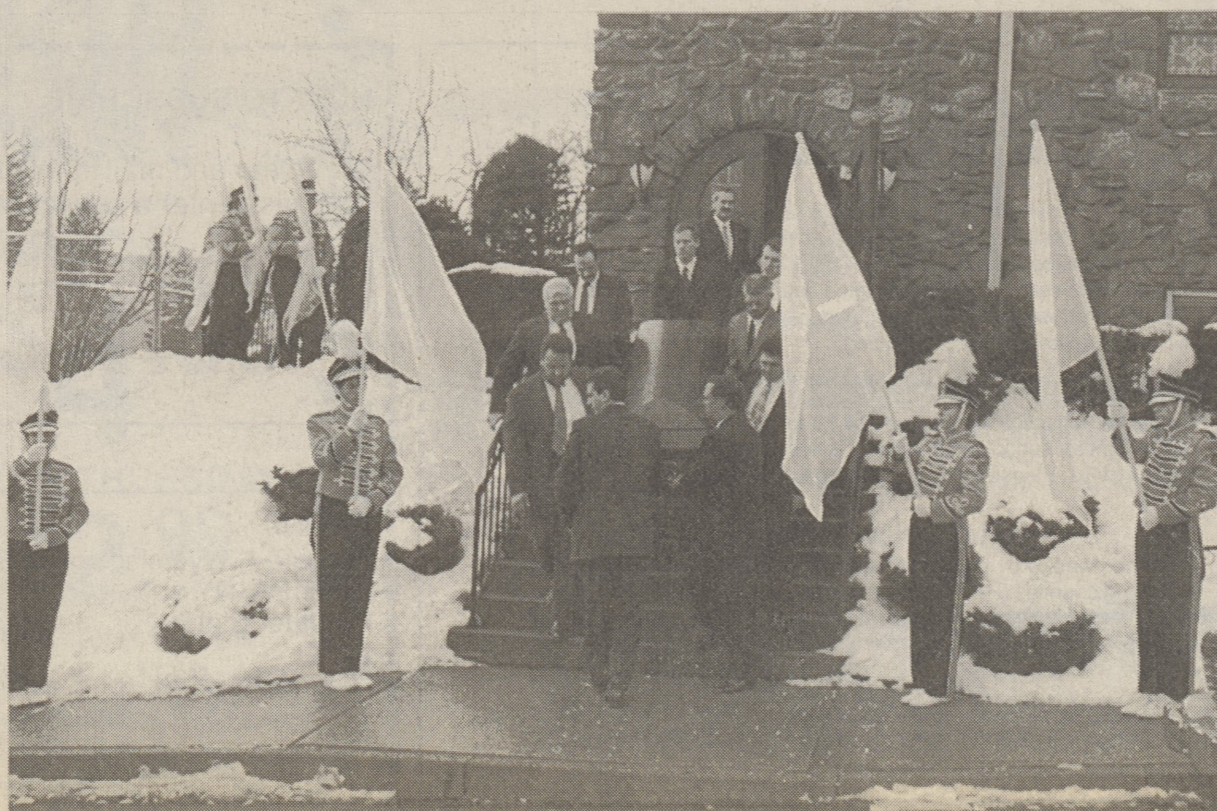


SR. ANDRE DEMBOWSKI

WYCALLIS LAID TO REST

Members of the Dallas High School Color Guard framed bearers who carried the casket bearing the body of Superintendent of Schools Gerald Wycallis, who died Jan. 18 from cancer. The service was held at St. Therese's Church in Shavertown, followed by burial in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Wycallis had been superintendent since 1984. He fell ill last year, and had given over day-to-day duties to assistant superintendent Gil Griffiths, who has been named acting superintendent by the school board.

POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK



■ **Sure thing** At least one Back Mountain student-athlete will win a Killer Bees award. Pg 9.

■ **Honor rolls** for Lake-Noxen and Lehman-Jackson elementary schools. Pg 7.

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