

Schools

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The unofficial poll results published in the Feb. 5 issue of *The Dallas Post* showed "site D" as the second favorite choice for the new school. The first choice was to leave the school where it is in Trucksville.

At school board meetings, many parents have voiced concerns about potential traffic disasters on the main campus, an overwhelming environment for young children, long bus rides, the loss of an intimate relationship between the students and teachers and potential drops in test scores.

A recent study performed by the University of South Carolina's Department of Education showed that smaller may not necessarily mean better. The study was based on the state test scores of 600 elementary schools ranging in size from 10 to 1,425 students.

The study states that based on its findings "the assumption that smaller is better does not necessarily hold true. In fact, elementary schools in South Carolina that receive more recognition based on academic performance from the state and from professional organizations tend to be larger rather than smaller." The socioeconomic status of schools was a factor, as the larger schools tended to be in higher socioeconomic categories.

The study points out that al-

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Paul Abremson
Stanton Leggett Associates

though "academic measures are important, other factors such as personal safety, social and emotional development, opportunities for participation in activities, etc. are also legitimate measures of school success that need to be considered before establishing an optimal school size."

Paul Abremson, president of Stanton Leggett Associates, who served as the educational consultant for Quad 3, said the adjoining of school is common at the secondary level because of the need for larger and more expensive facilities. "It's not done at the elementary level (as much) because the cost factors with specialized rooms (art, music, gymnasiums) isn't so great," explained Abremson who recommended the Westmoreland school be replaced.

Abremson said the choice for this type of building remained up to the community, but provided the following practical questions he thought significant to aid in

the decision-making process: Will there be sufficient space for parking, will there be enough outdoor space to accommodate each school, and will there be sufficient space for two sets of buses without interfering with parents and teachers in their cars?

"It could be a very interesting situation, with both cooperation and competition," said Abremson. The "school within a school" idea, in which large schools are broken up, has been in practice since the early 1960's, he said. In these situations, usually each section has its own administration.

The size and arrangement of the administration also has been a concern of many in the community. Some parents fear there will only be one principal for 1,200 students if "site D" is chosen. Abremson suggested two possible ways the district could handle the situation. "One way to do it would be to have a single principal and two or three assistant principals or a principal and two assistants in each building," he said, pointing out that it is up to the existing administration to select the structure.

The one point that everyone seems able to agree on is that it is up to the community to decide what is the best option for the children.

Westawski makes dean's list

Robert Westawski of Dallas majoring in occupational therapy has been named to the D'Youville College Dean's List for the Fall 1996 semester.

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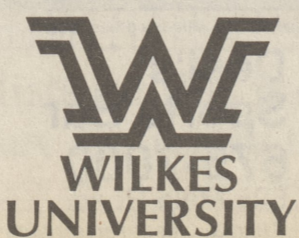
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Supervisors cite men who saved family

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post staff

KINGSTON TWP. - At the board of supervisors meeting on Feb. 12, Kingston Township Officer James Ibbotson and Edward Holland, Jr. were presented Letters of Commendation for their part in saving the Miller family from an arson fire in the early hours on Feb. 8.

Holland alerted police after he noticed a small fire on the porch of the Miller's home, located at 221 S. Memorial Highway in Trucksville. Ibbotson is credited with waking and evacuating the five family members and a family friend who were asleep in the house. Both recipients attended with their proud families.

The board voted unanimously on the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the new township municipal building's final development plan. The plan confirms the site and layout of the new building, which will be built on Center St.

A vote on the Salvaterra Major Subdivision Preliminary Plan was tabled because a zoning variance is required for the width of the two lots facing Harris Hill Rd. in Midway Manor. The minimum width of each lot must be 400 ft., currently they are approximately 300 ft. according to Ben Gorey, zoning officer. Also, the board is waiting to hear if the National Utilities water company will service the lots. If not, they most likely will grant permission for the drilling of wells said Gorey.

The supervisors denied Robert Steiner's request to turn 23 acres on Mount Olivet Road from an agriculture zone to a residential zone. If zoned as residential the minimum lot size must be one acre, if kept as agriculture it must have a minimum of two and a half acre sized lots.

Back Mountain Baseball, Inc. was approved to use the Center Street Park Field for evening practices from March 15 through Aug. 15.



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Kingston Twp. police officer James Ibbotson holds the award he was given by the township supervisors to commend his action that saved a family from fire Feb. 8.

School board holds line on tax collectors' fees

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. - The Dallas School Board voted unanimously at its Feb. 10 meeting to continue paying district tax collectors at \$4 per taxable property.

John Litz, finance committee recommended the method of payment be sustained prior to the vote. The tax collectors brought suit against the district in 1993 after the board voted against the former system of payment based on a sliding commission scale. That case is still pending.

Quad Three, Inc., engineers for the elementary school project, was in search of answers at the meeting. Paul Degillio and Joel Sims of the architecture and engineering firm have been involved in the process for two years now, and wanted to get clear direction on how to proceed.

"We would like to take a couple steps back to gain some clarity," Sims told the board. Sims and Degillio asked the board exactly what they needed to know; if the board wanted a separate school, if it wanted to stick with the K-5 structure and whether or not it needed a one or two story building. Sims also told the board if it wanted to connect buildings, Quad Three needed to know soon.

"We can approve Plancon A (a written justification for building to the state) and send it off if there

is direction by the board that a site will be determined in the near future," said Sims. He told the board that the Plancon process typically takes a year and construction takes anywhere from 14-18 months. "The earliest the building could be occupied is Sept. of 1999, but if site selection goes beyond April we won't make that date. The school will have to be built later," explained Sims.

Quad Three asked the board to list specifics they see as important and vital to ensure the best facility possible. The list included everything from durability and aesthetics to appropriate class size, community atmosphere and security.

Ernest Ashbridge, board president, thanked Quad Three for their input leaving the impression that the board would discuss these issues in more depth at future meetings.

Ben Jones, board solicitor said the district is seeking full restitution from the students responsible for the November mercury spill, which cost the district approximately \$150,000 in cleanup and disposal fees. "I don't think it's possible for the boy's parents to fully pay that amount back," said Jones. "Since it emanates from vandalism, it's unlikely to be covered by insurance."

The next board meeting will be March 10. There will not be a work session March 3.

Grange Bank posts hefty gain in assets, earnings

The Grange National Bank, Laceyville, Pennsylvania has announced its financial results for 1996.

Robert C. Wheeler, Chairman of Grange National Banc Corp. and Grange National Bank, has announced that the bank achieved an after tax net profit of \$1,501,000 representing a 27% gain over the previous year. The bank also experienced strong asset growth with an increase of \$12,378,000 in total assets representing a 13.5% increase over 1995. Earnings per share of \$4.23 and return on average assets of 1.52% also set new records for the bank.

The bank's President and CEO, Thomas A. McCullough, attrib-

uted the bank's record earnings to strong loan growth, a stable interest rate environment, low FDIC insurance premiums, and continued improvement in the bank's net interest margin. Mr. McCullough stated "We have experienced strong loan and deposit growth primarily as a result of our expansion into Luzerne County. We believe that our success in Luzerne County is proof that the public continues to prefer the type of personal service that only a community bank can provide."

The Grange National Bank currently operates eight full service banking offices in Luzerne, Wyoming, Susquehanna and Bradford Counties. Their ninth office, located in Trucksville, opened Feb. 18.

Civil War group to meet February 19

Wyoming Valley Civil War Round table will hold its monthly meeting on Wed., Feb. 19 in the library of the Dallas High School in Dallas. An unusual aspect of this meeting will be the display of many tables of Civil War artifacts and documents brought by the speaker, Joe Long, curator of the GAR Museum of Scranton.

Additional information on the Civil War Round Table or about the coming meeting may be obtained by calling Reese E. Pelton at 675-5790. Persons of all ages with specific or general interest in this defining event of American history are invited to be present.

Seeking stuffed animals for bingo

The Activities Department at the Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas, has need for stuffed animals in "new" condition to be used as bingo prizes for residents. To make a donation, call 675-8600, Ext. 139.

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But great products only take a business so far - advertising makes sure the greatest number of people hear about those bagels, and that's where *The Dallas Post* comes in. "We advertise in the *Post* because we know it works. It's the Back Mountain's local paper, and its readers respond," says Jim Sanderson, co-owner. So, if your taste buds are crying "Bagel," head over to Big Apple Bagels in the Dallas Shopping Center. And if your business needs to reach the Back Mountain, call *The Dallas Post*.

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