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Neighbors oppose rezoning request

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Many neighbors are concerned about Robert Post's request to convert 70 acres of conservation-zoned property into a residential development. Land conservation, traffic and esthetics are some of the reasons nearby residents are not happy about the proposal.

According to a handout given to residents near the Post property by Dallas Borough, a conservation district allows houses on two-acre lots with a minimum frontage of 200 ft. An R-1 residential district allows each house to be built on 10,000 square feet with a minimum frontage of 70 feet.

Post's land is located off W. Center Hill Rd. in the borough. A preliminary schematic subdivision plan given to adjoining property owners shows 73 lots plotted side by side covering about 70 percent of the land, with a minimum lot size of one-half acre.

The Dallas Borough Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the request May 29 at 7 p.m. at the borough municipal building.

Paul Lumia, who lives on W. Center Hill Rd. beyond the Post property, believes the development would change the character of the borough forever. He also questions whether or not zoning ordinances mean anything. "To change it to residential is haphazard zoning," he said. "Why have a zoning plan in the first place if it can so easily be switched," the Back Mountain Land Trust member asked.

Lumia said he is not against someone subdividing their land, but is against changing the zoning to do it. "People have to be responsible. We are a small borough in a rural area. The integrity of the land should be kept," he said. "If you do it once it's all over."

Lumia points out an alternative.

See REZONING, pg 7



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

A NEW COMMUNICANT

Lauren Yurko, one of 50 new communicants at the First Holy Communion service at Gate of Heaven Church May 17, showed her enthusiasm for her new status. More photos on page 5.

Firefighters proud, but sad about care home blaze

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - The heroic volunteer ambulance crews and firefighters who quickly responded to the fire that ripped through the Country Manor personal care home at Harveys Lake on May 13

will not soon forget that night. They sadly remember not only the nine victims of the fire, but how the quick response, skill and selfless compassion of everyone who converged on the scene that night saved 12 lives.

"It was a tragedy," said Carrie Freeman, assistant fire chief of

the Kunkle Fire Department. "Everybody did all they could. They worked really well together and did a really good job."

Freeman's father, Jack Dodson, Kunkle fire chief, feels the same. "The fire companies did a really great job. The Back Mountain can be proud of their fire and ambulance companies. Everyone worked really well together," he said.

Dodson said the response to the blaze was extremely quick. "Our fire company was there within five minutes. The response

See BLAZE, pg 3

Commission sends Cellular One back for new plan

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. - The planning commission sent Cellular One back to the drawing board in its request for permission to construct a 280-foot tower on land owned by the township.

At the May 13 meeting of the commission, three representatives from Cellular One presented their bid for subdivision approval. Rich Rusnock, Real Estate Specialist; Kate Naughton, counsel for Cellular One, and Andrew Bennett, who designed the site, presented a plan that would erect a cellular phone tower on land behind the township building, just off Rt. 309. This initial plan was criticized

"We think it's a step that will take us into the 20th century and possibly the 21st."

Frank Townend
Dallas Twp. solicitor

by board chairman Bill McCall. "Before you can construct, you have to have subdivision approval," McCall said. "You are subdividing this tract from the whole. I have a problem with this because you have only an approximate location."

The township supervisors have
See CELLULAR ONE, pg 8

Board okays \$8.6 million maximum for new school

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - The planning process of the K-5 elementary school can resume now that the Dallas School Board has approved an \$8.6 million maximum project cost. The board unanimously agreed on the figure during a special meeting held on May 19.

A maximum project cost is necessary for the state, architect and district to determine reimbursement, building materials and budget concerns. The district has about \$5 million in reserve. If bids from suppliers come in high or the board decides to spend more than the \$8.6 million, the district will have to take out a \$3

million loan or bond issue. "We won't decide that until down the road," said Ernest Ashbridge, board president.

Paul Deglilio, architect and Sharon Lehman, interior designer from Quad 3, Inc., presented the board with various interior and exterior building materials. Deglilio said the approximately 48,000 sq. ft. school would be made of non-flammable materials, such as steel and concrete. The entrance doors and window frames will be aluminum, with insulated double pane windows. Deglilio recommended a gas heating and ventilation system for the building.

See SCHOOL, pg 8

Memorial Day parade Monday

The Memorial Day Parade sponsored by Daddow Isaac Post 672, American Legion, Dallas will be held Mon., May 26, from 8:30 a.m. Steppoff time is at 9 a.m. The parade will form at the Legion Home.

The parade will proceed to the Dallas Memorial to Veterans and on to the Woodlawn Cemetery, located on Woodlawn Ave. behind Wendy's Restaurant, then to the Chapel Lawn Memorial Park, Rte. 415, west of Dallas. Both cemeteries will be well decorated with American Flags on all graves of American Veterans.

All Fire and Ambulance Assoc. in the Back Mt. have been invited, as well as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and all youth groups, the Legion Drill Team, John George, Commander, 50-year members of the Post and all Legionnaires. The Legion Auxiliary will supply the wreath. Rev. David Cappeloni, Gate of Heaven and Rev. Michael Bealla, Dallas Methodist Church will give invocation and benediction. Dallas High School Band under the direction of leader Todd Hunter will perform.

The main speaker will be Lisa Baker, Northeast Representative for Gov. Tom Ridge and a Back Mountain resident.

See page 2 for more Memorial Day events and observances.

Offset Paperback notes 25 years in Back Mountain

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Offset Paperback Manufacturers Inc. marked its 25th year in the Back Mountain with a celebration at its plant in Dallas on May 15. Local and state dignitaries were on hand to personally congratulate OPM for its strides in technological progress and community support.

The plant employs approximately 660 people from the Back Mountain and surrounding area. The company has roots stemming back to 1907 when Frank Simkin, a Russian immigrant started a small printing company called Universal Printers in Winnipeg. That small company grew to be the largest manufacturer of paperback books in Canada.

In the late 1950's, the Simkin family sold their printing enterprise to Canadian Oil Company while retaining its operation. By 1960, Frank Simkin's son, Saul, was the only member of the family left at the plant. Saul saw an opportunity in small presses in the United States and believed offset printing would yield higher quality than the commonly used flexography.

In 1966, Simkin started Valley Paperback in Phoenix, Arizona. The company had taken its first step towards its goal by 1968, when the first offset press was purchased. One year later Valley Paperback was purchased by VTR Inc., a conglomerate out of Lansing, Michigan.

VTR built a site in Dallas in

See OFFSET, pg 8



Offset Paperback Mfrs. Inc. employees show off their silver coins commemorating OPM's 25th year in business in Dallas. From left, seated, Mark Umphred, Todd Mayer, Robert VanGorder and Doug "Cowboy" Auchus; standing, Scott Griffith, Todd Adams, Bob McGuire, Steve Wickard, Stan Kotulski and Jerry Zezza

■ New PSU leader

Dr. Mary Hines, a community college dean from Maryland, named CEO at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. Pg 3.

■ Eyes on you

'Angel Eyes' was the theme of the Lake-Lehman senior prom. Photos on pg 12.

INDEX

16 Pages	2 Sections
Calendar.....	16
Classified.....	14-15
Crossword.....	16
Editorials.....	4
Obituaries.....	13
School.....	11
Sports.....	9-10

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