



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Gail Smallwood, director of public communications at College Misericordia, says she can't pick a favorite book, because she reads so many.

## Reading is important for work, enjoyable for pleasure

By JESSICA MORGAN  
Post Correspondent

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - This week has been designated as International Literacy Week and throughout the world, including here in the Back Mountain, a growing number of people are showing concern for people's lack of basic literacy skills.

Alarming numbers from the Pennsylvania Department of Education tell us that 25 percent of the state's adults are functionally illiterate. That means one person in four has never acquired the skills necessary to correctly complete a job application or fill out an unemployment form.

Joel Eneboe, owner of Dallas Bike Works, has seen firsthand some of the problems that can occur when employees are not literate. "Even a laborer needs to write an estimate or make a proposal for a potential customer," he says. Additionally, a person aspiring to make a living in today's world of business should also bring to the job a basic knowledge of office technology. Computer literacy is becoming increas-

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Rev. Dan Miller  
Back Mt. Harvest Assembly

ingly important today. Salespeople have to know how to construct spreadsheets and send E-mail in order to remain competitive. For adults trying to enter the workforce, Eneboe suggests brushing up on spelling skills as well. "There are no second chances in business," he warns. "People quickly lose their respect for a company if they receive information that includes obvious spelling and grammatical errors."

What kinds of problems would occur in a restaurant if its employees were unable to read and write? Chris Klug, the owner of Yesterday's restaurant in Trucksville became upset just thinking about it. "I just can't imagine what my business would become," she stated. "Everything that has to do with the restaurant business involves people being able to read and write, from the cook in the kitchen reading a recipe, to the waitress in the dining room writing the orders." Reading and writing have always been impor-

tant to this mother of six grown children who still takes time to enjoy a good book at the end of the day.

Gail Smallwood, Director of Public Communications at College Misericordia, starts her morning by reading several area newspapers including *The Dallas Post*. "I have to know what's going on in the community to be effective in my position," says Smallwood. Literacy skills are a day-to-day necessity since her department is responsible for all media relations at the college including writing news releases, news letters and the Alumni Magazine. "There's a lot of writing and reading in this job," she says.

A man of many talents, Rev. Dan Miller of the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly Church is particularly grateful he has the ability to read and write. "Literacy has enabled me to function better in my daily life, whether by reading a blueprint to build a house, or reading the Bible to learn how to best run my home." A native of Selinsgrove in central Pennsylvania, Rev. Miller loves life in the Back Mountain but, like so many of us, he dreams of faraway lands. "Reading has allowed me the opportunity to travel to lands I may never visit," he says, "whether real or imaginary."

If you'd be interested in giving an adult the opportunity to explore the world through reading, contact The Wyoming Valley Council at 287-2013.

## Back to drawing board for Dallas Elementary gym

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

**DALLAS TWP.** - Discussion about a proposed gymnasium for the Dallas Elementary School dominated the Dallas School Board meeting Monday night.

Paul Deglilio, a representative of Quad Three Group, the district's engineers, presented a plan that would add a 6,500 square foot, PIAA regulation size basketball court on the side of the building nearest Hildebrandt Rd. Gil Griffiths, superintendent of schools, questioned the absence of lockers, seating and showers in the facility, which would be a basketball floor surrounded by minimum clearances.

"Do we need four PIAA gyms?" asked board member Thomas Russ. Griffiths explained that an additional facility allowed more community use of the district's gyms. "If we cut the community out, we'd have no problem with scheduling," he said, but did not recommend such an option.

Joel Sims, another Quad Three representative, estimated that adding locker and shower facilities would tack another \$150,000

on the estimated \$650,000 cost of the gym. Sims said the gym would cost \$250,000 more than a 3,200 square foot multi-purpose room, an earlier option. Meeting PIAA standards adds another \$280,000 to the cost, he said.

Griffiths asked Sam Barbose, principal of Dallas Elementary, if he could make better use of a larger gym or a more modest facility which included some bleachers, storage room and showers. "Right now amenities are a little more important to me than a large gym," Barbose said. He also pointed out that without adjacent storage, chairs and other items needed for assemblies would have to be carried 140 feet from the present storage room.

In the end, the board asked Quad Three to come up with a plan that would create a gymnasium of approximately 4,000 square feet, plus lockers, bleachers on one side and locker rooms. While too small to meet PIAA approval, such a facility would be a "very usable gymnasium," for elementary school students, Sims said. He suggested it could be built for the same cost as the larger gym.

Sims also presented a plan for renovations and repairs to the school, with a \$500,000 price tag.

In other business, principals of each school made presentations about opening day preparations and activities. Frank Galicki, high school principal, said teachers and administrators had worked over the summer to create a "safe, orderly environment for everyone." He showed a schedule that listed activities for every day of the school year, and another that described better use of the "flex period," under which every teacher has a flex assignment every day.

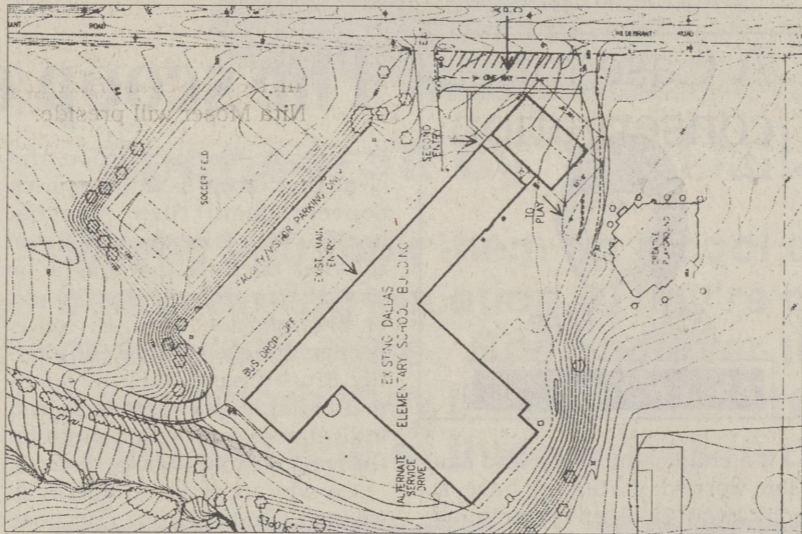
Galicki said assemblies and sign-up days had been held so that all students knew what activities were available. "Flex checkers" are assigned to check that students are attending the flex pe-

riod classes they signed up for. "It's our responsibility to see they are held accountable," Galicki said.

Assistant principal Paul Reinert described a nine-step discipline procedure that involves parents early in any disciplinary action. "Our focus is to prevent small problems from becoming big problems," he said.

Galicki proudly presented the latest SAT test score results. He said Dallas High School students averaged 513 points on the verbal test, an increase of 23 from last year, and 523 on math, an increase of 27 points.

Other principals said openings went smoothly, and particularly thanked Mark Kraynak, supervisor of buildings and grounds, for the condition of the buildings.



A drawing shows the proposed location of the Dallas Elementary gym, at the end of the right wing. Hildebrandt Rd. runs along the top.

### Six administrators get raises

The Dallas School Board voted unanimously to grant raises to six administrators at Monday's meeting. Board president Ernest Ashbridge Jr. said the increases were "cost of living," about 3 percent. The new salaries are:

- Frank Galicki, high school principal - \$64,410
- Anthony Martinelli, middle school principal - \$65,093
- Samuel Barbose, Dallas elementary principal - \$62,811
- Charlotte Williams, business manager - \$54,515
- Mark Kraynak, supervisor of buildings and grounds - \$36,778
- Jack Wega, computer coordinator - \$58,822.

### Vacancy

(continued from page 1)

ried an address from there. Other board members said they had candidates in mind for the post, which will run until Dec. 31, 1999. Had Finn resigned last week, candidates for his spot could

have been added to the November ballot. Now it is up to the board to appoint a replacement by Oct. 7, or the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas will do so after that date.

### Literacy volunteers plan events

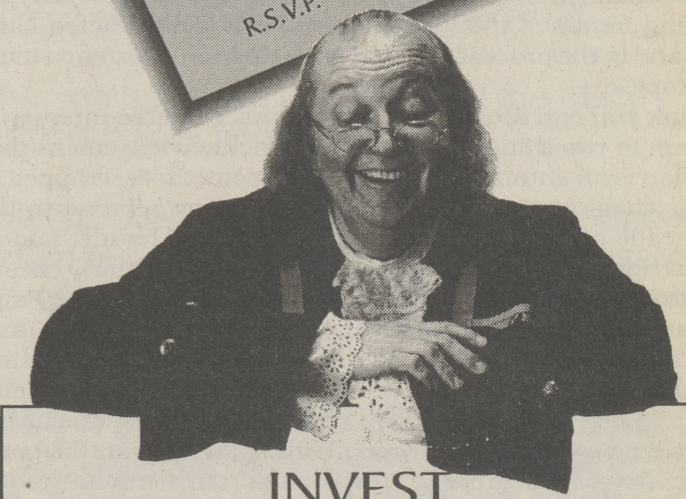
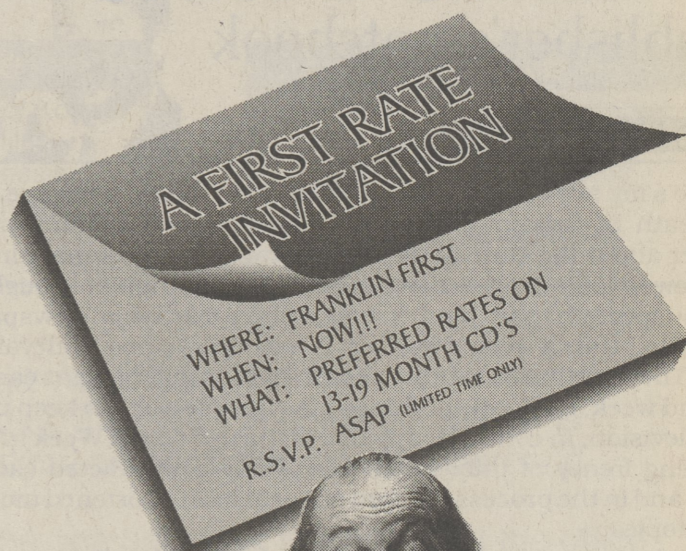
The Wyoming Valley Literacy Volunteers announces two programs in the month of September. The first is a Literacy Week Recognition Reception Sun., Sept. 14 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Wallace F. Stetler Learning Resources Center. It is located across the street from the clock tower at Wyoming Seminary, Sprague Avenue, Kingston.

Tutors will be awarded certificates to honor their service during the past year. Everyone is welcome: tutors and their spouses, students, and members of the public who would like to learn about the adult literacy program and how they can become a part of it. Refreshments will be served.

The second program is a series of Tutor Training Workshops, Sat., Sept. 13, 20, and 27 from 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hoyt Library, 284 Wyoming Ave., Kingston. These workshops train volunteers in the Laubach method of teaching adults how to read.

Call 287-2013 for more information and to register for the workshops.

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