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Goldie Mingus works the night shift at Orloski's in Dallas.

## While most of us sleep, the work must go on

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER  
Post Staff

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - It's a nice fall night. The crisp air leaves you with a shiver as you let your dog back in. You finally get everyone else to bed and pull the thick down comforter over your head. Ah, safe, sound and warm.

Not a thought in your little dozing head is of the guy at the gas station handing cigarettes to truckers at 3 a.m. A car passes, but you don't imagine it's a delivery driver making his nightly run

*"It's either dead quiet or really busy. There is no happy medium."*

Doug Higgins  
Dallas Twp. patrolman

to the convenience store where the clerk is talking with her regulars out for their 3:30 a.m. break from Offset Paperback.

There are a number of people who work the night shift in the area, and they create a sort of nocturnal network of workers. People work the late hours for

many different reasons. For some, it just fits their personal schedule better, others are paying their dues and waiting for a solid day shift position.

At 11 p.m. on a Thursday night, Dallas Township patrolman Douglas Higgins, 27, prepares to pull an all nighter. Luckily, he only

works this shift about twice a week. The officers are on a rotating schedule so no one is stuck working the late shift every night. On this night Higgins will work until 7 a.m. His partner Wayman Miers works from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Miers was off on this particular night.

Higgins said he always worked through the night when he first started as a part-time officer. "It wasn't that hard to get used to when I first started," said Higgins, speaking of the days when he was a single rookie.

Now a married man with a two-year-old daughter, he said the first couple of nights back are tougher. "It's hard on the family. I think my wife, Gerry Lynn, could do without it," he said.

Higgins said the Back Mountain becomes a different place at night. "It's either dead quiet or really busy. There is no happy medium," he said. Higgins said alcohol is a large factor at night. Alcohol is usually involved with any domestic dispute or vehicle

See NIGHT SHIFT, pg 8

## Planned drug policy likely to face resistance

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER  
and RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - If the Dallas School District adopts new policies for drug searches and testing, it won't be without controversy, especially from parents and fans of athletes.

The school board is planning to vote on policies that would allow random locker searches with the aid of drug-detecting dogs and mandatory drug testing for athletes. The policies underwent their first reading at Monday's regular meeting and will be up for more discussion and a vote next month.

"The two policies are part of the district's plan for elimination of illegal substances," Gil Griffiths, superintendent, told the audience. Griffiths said the district introduced a prelude to the canine searches in the student/parent handbook by defining lockers as school property and therefore subject to search.

The canine searches will en-

*"I'm against picking on one group. That's not random."*

Jeff Townsend  
Father of two athletes

compass the entire school, not specific lockers, Griffiths said Tuesday. Dogs from both the Mid-Valley Drug Task Force and the PA State Police may be used. State law gives school districts more latitude to conduct searches, Griffiths said, requiring only the suspicion of wrongdoing. Police would need a warrant to conduct a similar search.

If drugs are found, police may "feel bound to pursue" prosecution, Griffiths said, but it will ultimately be up to the county district attorney to take a case to trial. The school is not planning to press charges for simple posses-

See DRUG POLICY, pg 3



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## JUST BEING NOSY

Dallas Elementary School students were treated to a presentation last week about other cultures thanks to the school PTO's Cultural Diversity Committee. Phillip Reese played Rumpelstiltskin to the delight of, from left, Michael Walton, Matthew Glicini, Justin Hall,

Lauren Murgitroyde, Brandon Billings, Reese and Heather Ashby travel from New Jersey to schools around the Northeast giving the presentations. Another photo and more information about the committee appear on page 12.

## Commercial zone asked for land by Rt. 415

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER  
Post Staff

**DALLAS TWP.** - At the regular supervisors' meeting Oct. 7, Len Kozick, zoning officer, reported that Lee Sweinberg has requested a zone change for a triangle of land bordered by 42nd St., Briarcrest Drive and Rt. 415. Sweinberg wants the six acres changed from residential to business.

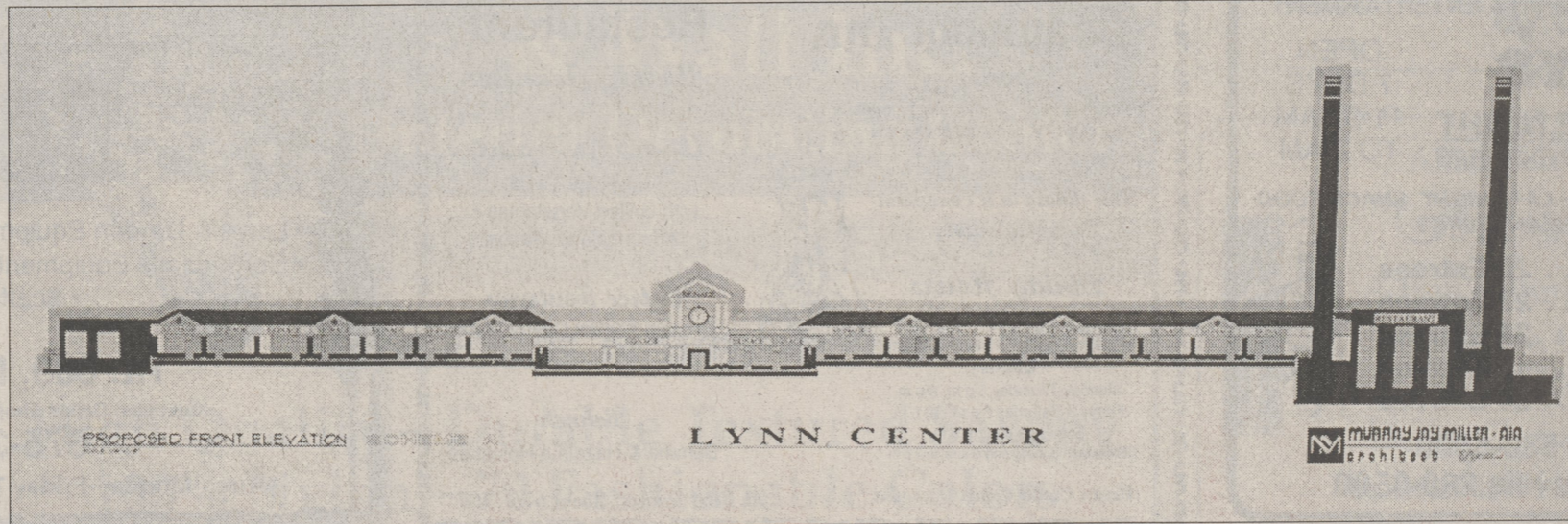
"It should've been zoned B-3 business to begin with," Kozick told the board. "We want businesses along the highway."

Kozick said Sweinberg does not currently have a particular use in mind for the land. "The best use for it is business. It's zoned B-3 all around it," said Kozick.

This would not be a case of spot-zoning if changed, Kozick said. "It would be extending the zoning on the highway."

Also, George Swan is appealing a decision made by District Justice James Tupper that ordered him to remove a vacant trailer from his property. "Swan pulled a trailer into Dallas three years ago," said Kozick. "He doesn't live in it and the neighbors complained so

See DALLAS TWP., pg 8



An architect's rendering of the front of the renovated Native Textiles building.

## Developers have big plans for former textile plant

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER  
Post Staff

**DALLAS BOROUGH** - The old Native Textiles plant that has stood vacant and looming over Memorial Highway for more than two years is being resuscitated by a Harveys Lake couple.

Under the company name Twin Stacks Properties, Rick Haas and Lynn Banta closed on the property Sept. 26 and jumped right in to remodeling the 50-year-old factory.

The couple has big plans and a lot of vision for what will be the Lynn Center. Inside and out the building looks like a factory. From its time clocks to huge open spaces where massive machines were once housed, the image of men and women working hard inside the brick building comes easily to

*"Being in Dallas has been terrific. We really love it here."*

Lynn Banta  
Developer of Lynn Center

mind.

Nevertheless, Haas and Banta plan to turn the old factory into the premier retail shopping complex in the Back Mountain. While remodeling is a must for this venture, the developers will keep the industrial feel for its patrons.

"We want to preserve the industrial flavor," said Banta, who has 16 years as a corporate lawyer behind her. "For example, we will keep the curved glass windows where the cafeteria was," she said.

Of course, the stacks are staying right where they have always been, as well as the small pond in front. "There used to be a fountain in the pond that ran 24 hours. We're going to bring it back," said Banta, who is originally from Luzerne. Haas moved from Chester County when the couple moved to Harveys Lake two years ago.

A restaurant will go in the large part of the building between the stacks. Banta said they are currently talking to a few different restaurant owners. "We want the restaurant to be a popular one," said Banta. She suggested it might even include an outdoor dining deck overlooking the pond.

There is also the possibility of a micro-brewery coming to Lynn Center, she said.

Murray Jay Miller is the archi-

tect with the challenge of creating a contemporary facade while incorporating the existing shell of the building. "We're trying to maintain some historical integrity while making it a first-class shopping center," Banta said.

The 100,000 square foot building sits on 15 acres and will house 20 to 25 stores, said Haas. The spaces range from 960 sq. ft. on up. There also is 54,000 sq. ft. of warehouse and light manufacturing space available.

Corman Securities, Classic Interiors and Designs, and Pride and Groom Pet Store are the first three tenants of the Lynn Center. "These give an example of the flavor of variety we will have," said Banta.

Banta estimates the building See NATIVE TEXTILES, pg 5

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