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Bringing holiday joy in song

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Each Christmas season, a small group of women come together to sing, not just for themselves but to make the holidays brighter for others. The Community Singers have been a Back Mountain institution for 25 years and show no signs of slowing down.

The group varies in size from year to year, usually hovering around 15 singers. This year 12 women meet every Monday night at Mercy Center in Dallas to practice Christmas standards and to catch up with old and new friends.

They began meeting in early September and will be finished by mid-December. The Community Singers was an offshoot of the now defunct Women's Chorale of Dallas. The group used to perform a spring concert, but it became difficult with everyone's schedule. The Community Singers, as their name suggests, share their beautiful voices with others. Every year the women sing for people living in nursing centers and assisted living homes around the area.

"I like to sing in the nursing homes because it brightens the people's days," said Doris Kitchen of Dallas, who has been in the group the longest at 25 years.

Lois Schwartz of Dallas said

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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Playing Pilgrims

Students at Dallas Elementary participated in the school's annual Thanksgiving program last week. The students dressed like Pilgrims (and one Indian) and performed holiday skits and songs.

Above, April Radigan, left, Elizabeth Martindale and Scott Skammer were turned out in their holiday best Pilgrim costumes. More photos, including Trucksville Nursery School, on page 5.

Council gives OK to hiring relatives

By MEIRA ZUCKER
Post Correspondent

HARVEYS LAKE - nepotism: n. patronage bestowed or favoritism shown on the basis of family relationships, as in business or politics.

Many residents joke that everyone in the Back Mountain is related to one another. Now, at least, they can all get jobs at Harveys Lake.

By a unanimous vote, the Harveys Lake Borough Council decided Nov. 17 to adopt a Nepotism Policy that permits council to hire personnel who are related to council members, provided that council knows of the relationship.

Ed Kelly, who called for the vote, requested that "the nature of the relationship must be made public." George Andrews, who seconded the motion, said, "We would hire an individual on the basis of their ability."

The vote was the product of a heated and lengthy discussion on the hiring of Jason Wilson, the son of councilman William Wilson, as a full-time road department employee. This summer, Jason was hired on an emergency.

See NEPOTISM, pg 8

Classroom's a ball for this teacher

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - With 33 years of experience, Glenda Wilson knows a thing or two about teaching fifth graders. She also knows how to teach teachers-to-be. So well, in fact, they recently honored her for her talents.

College Misericordia's Teacher Education Department and its chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society for educators, honored Wilson and four other teachers during American Education Week ceremonies last week.

Wilson and the other teachers were nominated by Misericordia students and faculty. All of the teachers welcomed students from the college into their classes.

"By honoring these five excellent teachers, we honor all teachers," said Dr. Joe Rogan, chair of Misericordia's teacher education department. "We don't say thank you enough."

Wilson and her fellow honorees were thrown a small, elegant reception in the MacDonald Art

"When you see the look on their faces when they understand something, it's wonderful. And they are fun."

Glenda Wilson
Dallas 5th grade teacher

Gallery on campus.

"I was surprised," said Wilson. "It's always an honor if your students think you are doing a good job because they are with you five days a week." Wilson grew up in Georgia and her accent can still be detected. She graduated from Tift College in her home state and went on to earn her master's from Wilkes University.

Before she moved to Pennsylvania, the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Georgia identified her as one of that state's outstanding teachers and she has been listed twice in *Who's Who in Teaching*.

She has been at Dallas Elementary almost her entire career and is beginning to teach some of her former students' children.

Although she is grateful for the

award and acknowledgement, it's the children that bring Wilson back year after year.

"When you see the look on their faces when they understand something, it's wonderful," she said. "And they are fun."

Wilson nurtures their playful side. After they finish their challenging work, it's volleyball time. "We play volleyball as a reward," said Wilson. "I think most people work for positive reinforcement."

Wilson did not originally plan to become a teacher. "Actually, I wanted to be a chemical engineer. But, I ended up in elementary education because that is where everyone said the jobs were. It turned out to be a wonderful move," she said.

See TEACHER, pg 8



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

Glenda Wilson and her husband, Lynn Rothrock, after she was honored in a ceremony at College Misericordia. Outstanding teachers were nominated by students and faculty members in the teacher education department.

Misericordia prepares for next century

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - College Misericordia knows the contemporary teacher is up against much more than his or her counterpart of even 10 years ago. The times are a changin' and Misericordia plans to change right along with them.

In a completely self-initiated move, Misericordia's education department began to ask how it could improve and what was necessary to create top-notch teachers.

Dr. Joe Rogan, chairman of teachers' education, said the department began to ask for input from professors and students about four years ago. Rogan and other faculty researched what the experts were touting as the most important things new teachers

See 2000, pg 8

Doing their part

Students and others pitched in last week to make the holiday season a little brighter for the area's needy families. At right, volunteers from Back Mountain Harvest Assembly loaded a truck at Dallas High School with food for the Back Mountain Food Bank. From left, Rob Coscia, Rev. Dan Miller, Rick Rodzinak, Don Krey. Below, Allison Kehler stacked cans at Lake-Lehman. The food was given to local families.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



■ Dancin' with dad

Girl Scouts hold annual Father-Daughter Square Dance. Photos, pg 13.

■ Still rolling

Ruth Evans still rolls a mean bowling ball, at age 90. Pg. 8.

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