



## Don't even ask

Helping the less fortunate isn't always easy, as a woman found out Monday. After tossing donations into the Salvation Army collection box at Back Mountain ServiStar, she realized a bag of her son's good clothes had been mixed with the donations. Thinking quickly, she climbed into the box. A passerby heard the noise of someone inside and called 911 to report it. When police responded, they got the real story, and all rescuers had to do was help her get out, with the bag of clothes. For obvious reasons, she didn't want to be identified.

POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

## Correction

In the Dec. 2 issue of The Dallas Post, an article on Nikki Banfield and her dog Loki's honors at the Schutzhund National Competition mischaracterized female dogs in the competition. The article said the competition has been traditionally dominated by male dogs because females have been thought not to possess the proper temperament. According to Banfield, "the Schutzhund has been dominated by male dogs simply by virtue of size and strength. When a female can do as well it says a lot about the breeding and consequently the temperament of the dog. Maybe a female will win someday." Female dogs have been competing side-by-side with male dogs since the Schutzhund started.

## Newspaper office holiday schedule

The office of The Dallas Post will close Thursday, Dec. 31 at 2:30 p.m. and be closed all day Friday, Jan. 1, 1999 for New Year's. Contributed items for the Jan. 6 issue should be in the office Thursday, Dec. 30. Advertising deadlines will be Monday, Jan. 4 at 4 p.m.

## DAMA will not pick-up on January 1

DAMA wishes to remind customers that there will be no collection of trash or recyclables on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 1999. For both holidays, Friday collection will be on Saturday.

There will be a no bag limit for trash beginning until Saturday, Jan. 4. The normal two bag limit will resume on Monday, Jan. 4.

## UGI posers in area, check reps' I.D.

UGI Utilities, Inc. - Electric Division (UGI) has received reports that individuals posing as company representatives are requesting permission to enter homes for the purpose of examining electrical equipment. Residents are encouraged to ask individuals claiming to be UGI representatives for proper identification before allowing them to enter their homes. All UGI employees carry identification. If any individual is unable to produce proper identification, he or she should not be permitted entry and local police should be contacted immediately.

## Middle school

(Continued from page 1)

situation" were also offered as big problems by Dr. William Price, superintendent of schools, who wholeheartedly agrees with Roberts on this issue.

The school board recently approved "PlanCon A," a preliminary proposal to the state Department of Education that outlines the district's needs. Price said the state will in turn determine if the project is acceptable and how much the district will be reimbursed.

The plan consists of adding the middle school onto the front of the high school and building a new gym. Middle and high school students would share some facilities, such as the cafeteria, auditorium, library, and choral and band rooms, some of which they already share.

Roberts and Price said scheduling and busing would be used to keep the younger and older students away from each other.

Price said the plans are only preliminary ones which are up for much more discussion and require more specifications, such as a price. No one is putting forth any precise figures yet. Price is using \$10 million as a working

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**Dr. William Price**  
Superintendent of Schools

estimate, including additions and renovations to Ross Elementary in Sweet Valley.

Price thinks the addition plan is a solid one that would easily serve the community for the next 20 years. "(The addition) would afford us the opportunity to maximize student potential learning and it would update the facilities and consequently cut down on preventative maintenance. It's a win for the students and the taxpayers," he said.

Members of the Lake-Lehman Taxpayers Association do not agree. Representatives of the association say they want school administrators and board members to renovate the building the district already has. They believe the school can be renovated for less and end up much like a new school.

At last month's board meeting, a representative from Mellon Bank discussed a 15-year bond issue for the projects that would not result in a direct millage increase.

The association thinks that's just too good to be true. "They're holding themselves at a fixed rate and they are still looking at teachers' contracts. If anything needs

fixing there is nothing to cover it," said Jeff Pauley, Lake-Lehman Taxpayers Association president. "You have to pay for it someplace."

Pauley said he does not see how an addition could be any better than a thorough renovation. A feasibility study performed by Quad Three, Inc. estimated the renovation to the middle level building at \$3 million to \$4 million.

Price said, "Even if the building is renovated, it will still be a 57-year-old building with obvious defects."

In the past year the Department of Education has begun to allow reimbursement on older buildings. The taxpayer association believes this can be a viable option for the district.

Price said the district would have to spend money to get the building up to code before it could begin to be renovated, and that the reimbursement amount would not be significant.

Roberts said the resistance by some taxpayers is understandable. "Some are afraid of what the building will cost. They are afraid of the impact. But, the building

has been outused. It is no longer functional," he said.

The school board's new president, Moderno "Butch" Rossi, said the best solution is to close the middle school and add on to the high school. He said the middle school has too many problems to keep it open or renovate.

Rossi, who said he is a member of the taxpayers association, will not vote for a millage increase for the addition. "We have to look at what the money involved is. I think we can work out payments." He also said he is open to input from the community, even students.

Lois Kopcha, the former board president, said she wants more concrete information concerning the addition and would like more options from which to choose.

"We haven't had it all explained to us. No costs have been given. We don't know the square footage or number of rooms," said Kopcha, who wants to take the decision process very slowly.

She said the addition "just doesn't seem right," and said the feasibility study called the middle level building "structurally sound." "I would like to see all of the options. I'm afraid they'll (administration) push it right through. I might agree with it. We have not discussed it. I think we should have a lot more meetings. When spending taxpayers' money you have to be really sure what you are getting," said Kopcha.

*If anything needs fixing there is nothing to cover it. You have to pay for it someplace."*

**Jeff Pauley**  
President, Lake-Lehman Taxpayers Association

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