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Prison officials offer few specifics about escape, plans

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

JACKSON TWP. - Neighbors of the State Correctional Institute at Dallas (SCID) and guards who work there are casting a wary eye at assurances the prison will improve security and communications with the community.

A meeting last Friday was convened at the request of State Rep. George Hasay, and was organized as an informative in-

quiry into the events surrounding the recent escape of two inmates. "I think it was good that we had the chance to let them know about things that concern us," said Pat Rusiloski, of the Citizen's Advisory Committee. "But I think a lot of the things they have been doing haven't been working and I'm not sure if any of that is going to change."

Rusiloski, who has been active in prison issues for nearly two decades, received accolades for her efforts from many of

"What does it mean when you say the towers will be manned for the foreseeable future?"

Pat Rusiloski
Citizens' Advisory Committee

those gathered. "The people out there are the greatest resource we have and I think

it's important that we sit down and work out a way to improve communication to benefit us all," said Hasay. "Pat should be commended for her work and dedication over the years."

David Larkins, Superintendent, echoed Hasay's sentiments and indicated a willingness to cooperate with Jackson Township residents in developing a new emergency response protocol. "Quite frankly, I don't think we could have too much communication," he said. "I think

Pat and I need to get together and set up some kind of a phone tree where a prison official would call three or four people and they could start calling others in the event something like this should ever happen again."

Rusiloski's plans to move away from her role as prison affairs activist are temporarily on hold. "I've only worked with this superintendent on one or two

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They're back!

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Kathryn Sullivan, left, and Rachel Symons, third graders at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School, walked in to school Tuesday morning for the first day of the 1999-2000 year. The Dallas and

Lake-Lehman school districts continue to start school the week prior to Labor Day, a schedule that began several years ago after a snowy winter made it difficult to complete the school year on time.

Dallas senior balances chemistry, final year fun

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

DALLAS - Honors and awards in hand, Norah Krakosky is determined to enjoy the present while contemplating choices that will shape her future.

The Dallas senior is a member of the District Chorus and ranks at the top of her class's academic standings. Most recently, she was named a recipient of Rensselaer Medal honoring students who have distinguished themselves in the subjects of math and science.

The award, which includes a \$40,000 four-year scholarship to the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, New York, came as a surprise to Krakosky. "It was a complete shock," she said. "I was at the awards banquet and when they announced I received the Rensselaer Medal I was totally amazed. I didn't know I was even a candidate."

The scholarship is conditional upon enrollment at RPI, a decision Krakosky is still pondering. "I've definitely taken it into consideration but I really want an urban campus," she said. "Boston University, Tufts University and New York University are my top three choices right now, but I'm still thinking about it."

Krakosky's passion for learning, especially her interest in the sciences, is something she will take with her wherever she goes. "Last year I took AP Chemistry, with Mr. Fredericks, and it was one of the best experiences I have

"I prefer the kind of stuff you can see, on paper, or in the lab."

Norah Krakosky
Dallas High senior

ever had."

John Fredericks was equally impressed with Norah's accomplishments. "She is a great kid," said the Chemistry teacher. "She is one of the top students I have taught in my career and she is not one of those kids that others refer to as an egghead. She is very well rounded and very well respected by her peers."

Not all of this success, or the admiration that is associated with her achievements, has come easily to Krakosky. "I think there is a temptation to view Norah's accomplishments as something she has attained because of a natural intelligence," said Fredericks. "That is a part of it but she also works very hard and is willing to come in for extra help when she needs it."

As novices in the field of scientific inquiry, Norah and her AP Chemistry classmates frequently required assistance and guidance from their mentor. "It was really challenging but I think that's what made it so much fun," said Krakosky.

The opportunity to explore chemistry beyond a textbook was

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Colleges strive to offer more for students, community

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - As college students head back to class, area campuses focus on new efforts to enhance educational, professional and recreational life in the Back Mountain.

Penn State University Wilkes-Barre (PSU-WB) and College Misericordia offer their students and the general public access to state-

of-the-art facilities, specialized degree programs and stimulating cultural activities. "We have been a part of the community for 75 years, and we are one of the biggest employers in the region," said Gail Smallwood, Community Relations Director at College Misericordia. "So we try to coordinate programs and events here on the campus to meet the needs of our neighbors; that has been a part of our role from the beginning."

Nurturing cooperative partnerships between academic institutions and their communities is crucial to the growth of both. "I think things have changed dramatically in that regard," said Jeff Senese, Dean of Academic Affairs at PSU-WB. "I mean look we are not down at University Park, sitting in an ivory tower. We live and work right here so it's important

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POST PHOTO/KASIA McDONOUGH

College Misericordia sports a new campus bookstore in the renovated student center, right photo. Student orientation volunteers Melissa Brislin, left, and Leighann Williams checked out a display.

Below, Penn State Wilkes-Barre sophomore Jill Avery got an early start on her studies.



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

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