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Halloween proposal irks kids, parents

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Puffy white ghosts are not the only Halloweeners crying BOO! this fall.

Some Back Mountain children and their parents are upset about a plan to move trick-or-treating to a Saturday afternoon. "Everyone I have talked to about this thinks its just ridiculous," said Maureen Leahigh, of Dallas Township. "We're going to take petitions around our

neighborhoods to collect signatures protesting this."

The controversy began last month when the Dallas Borough Council first discussed plans to host trick-or-treating events on a weekend afternoon.

Charles Kane, a member of the borough council, cited safety concerns as the reason for the change.

Letters were sent to the supervisors of neighboring towns inquiring about their willingness to help coordinate Halloween activities in those communities. "I called the Dallas Township office and I was told by Len Kozick that this was a done deal," said Leahigh. "I couldn't believe that one person, who I think must have been motivated by concern for his own children, could decide what's best for my

"My favorite thing about Halloween is getting candy and being outside when its dark. It wouldn't be fun in the day."

Caitlin Metz
Age 5

See HALLOWEEN, pg 8



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Colorful safety message

Chloe Alles, a student at Trinity Preschool in Dallas, admired the stack of toy firemen's helmets on a counter at the Shavertown fire hall. She and her classmates visited the fire station to learn about fire safety. Firefighters showed them the trucks and other equipment, and demonstrated how a fireman looks when he's all dressed up to investigate a reported fire. Tony Kaiser, assistant chief, stood behind the counter.

Volunteer firefighters from many departments presented the fire safety message last week, which was Fire Prevention Week. Seep pages 12 and 13 for more photos.

Rec center organizers back to work

Vacation, personnel change slowed plans, but now they're ready to raise money

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - The new president of the Back Mountain Recreation Board indicates plans for the proposed recreation center are moving forward, despite some unanticipated delays.

Rumors about the project's demise have been circulating throughout the Back Mountain in recent weeks. "We are alive and well, contrary to what I have been hearing people are saying," said Dave Sutton, who was elected president of the board when Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, Superintendent of the Dallas School District relinquished the post.

The change in leadership required a period of adjustment. "The transition and exchange of power held us up a bit," said Sutton. "It's also difficult to meet during the summer months because people are so busy driving their kids to soccer and baseball. It's tough to get everybody together."

Board members currently are organizing a plan to raise the money needed to secure land for the project. "Right now we are in the process of putting together a fundraising campaign," said Sutton. "It's taking a little longer than we thought it would only because none of us has ever done this kind of thing before."

Sutton said he has approached several people from the Back Mountain about being a fundraising chairperson. "A few individuals have said they need some time to think about it so we're just waiting on that," he said. "It's a tough time to do this kind of thing because the YMCA just completed a big fundraiser and a few other groups people in the area are doing the same."

Two parcels of land have been identified as properties the recreation board

See REC CENTER, pg 8

New taste treats, jobs on the way

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

DALLAS - Anyone tired of selecting a meal from a plastic menu offering mouth-watering temptations like super-duper supper - would you like a colossal cola with that? - take heart. The Back Mountain soon will welcome two new eateries which are sure to cure frozen burger fatigue.

Stax & Co., a new restaurant owned by the proprietors of Hops & Barleys in Luzerne, is nearly ready to open in the recently renovated Twin Stacks Center on the Harveys Lake Highway. "We should be ready by the end of the October," said Donna Snider, who along with her husband Scott, and partner Rich Lukasavage, has been working day and night to put the finishing touches on the place. "Of course, if you asked Scott when we're opening he'd tell you this weekend; he can't wait."

Others are just as excited. "So many people have been asking me 'When are you opening?' This is something the we really need in the Back Mountain," said Donna Snider.



POST PHOTO/KASIA McDONOUGH

Scott Snider, co-owner of the new Stax & Co. restaurant that will open in Twin Stacks Center, posed on the stairway that leads from the dining room to the bar. The old phone booth was rescued from College Misericordia.

The kitchen at Stax & Co. will be open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. "We will have a full menu and we'll be focusing a little more on dinners than we do at Hops," said Scott Snider. "We'll have everything from snacks and bar

foods to pastas, steaks and sandwiches. I guess you'd call it American food."

Patrons will be able to enjoy their freshly prepared meals in

See TASTE TREATS, pg 2

GOH parents: Bus run is making kids late for school

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

DALLAS - A change to the Dallas School District bus schedule is creating havoc for Gate of Heaven Elementary School students and their families.

A group of concerned parents gathered at Monday's meeting of the Dallas School Board to discuss the problem. "The bus that stops along Pioneer Ave. is running 15 to 20 minutes behind schedule and the kids at those stops are getting to school late," said John Aciukewicz. "They are supposed to be in their homerooms at 8 a.m. for announcements and prayer but they aren't getting to school until 8:10 or 8:15."

The parents initially reported the problem to Susan Farr, Transportation Coordinator at Dallas.

"I was told my son isn't missing anything educational, just prayer, so it's not really a problem," said Renee Benedetti. "But that's one of the reasons I'm sending him to Gate of Heaven so it's not acceptable to me."

Most of the parents said they are relying on car pools to get the children to school on time but that they hoped a better solution

See LATE BUS, pg.3

District begins process to sell old Westmoreland building

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

DALLAS - Arrangements for the sale of the Westmoreland Elementary School building and grounds have begun, as the school board voted unanimously to approve a motion declaring the facilities unused and unnecessary to the district.

Two appraisals of the property's value have been obtained by the district in preparation for its sale, which can be accomplished by any of three methods. The first option available to the district is

to offer the school for purchase at a public auction. The second method of sale is by sealed bids, with a minimum bid specified along with terms of the contract to include stipulation that the transaction be paid in cash and the building be sold in an "As Is" condition. Finally, the district is permitted to hire a real estate broker to conduct a private sale. This method would require the approval of the court of common pleas.

Dr. Griffiths said the board

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