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Rec board sets timeline

□ Land is nearly in center of Back Mountain

By ELIZABETH SKRAPITS
Post staff

DALLAS - The peer counselor, Julie McMonagle, has been hired, the study committee has been formed, the grants are applied for, and plans for the proposed recreational complex are moving full speed ahead.

The Back Mountain Recreation board of directors were present on Thursday, Nov. 16 at the Dallas Middle School auditorium to introduce its plans to an audience of around 30 people and to field comments and questions. "The public said they wanted this, so we wanted to keep them involved," said Dave Sutton, Chairman of the Back Mountain Recreation Board. "So far we've had nothing but support."

Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, who was one of the first to recognize the need for a recreation facility in the Back Mountain, said when he started to do some digging into the history of the project in 1997, he found the idea had always been there. An ad-hoc committee of approximately 19 people was formed to discuss feasibility. "Everyone had a different idea of what recreation in the Back Mountain could or should be," Dr. Griffiths said. So many ideas and so much enthusiasm were generated that the ad-hoc committee was eventually transformed into the Back Mountain Recreation Board (BMR), an official non-profit organization, with most of the original ad-hoc members still involved.

The newly-formed Recreation Board sent out 15,000 surveys to Back Mountain residents to get a better idea as to what the community thought about the project. "We ran from pillar to post," Dr. Griffiths said. "We had drop-off boxes in Noxen, in Dallas ..." The response was overwhelming, with 98 to 99 percent of it in favor. "Parents liked the idea, kids liked the idea — we got a lot of positive comments," he said. Community feedback was encouraging enough for the committee to begin to move forward, even if it was "a couple of inches at a time," according to Dr. Griffiths.

By a near-miracle, the perfect location became available at an opportune time. Dr. Griffiths came across a real estate ad which looked promising, so Dave Sutton and fellow board member Gary Baker

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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Colorful little Indian

John Henry, dressed in Native American costume, was one of 28 third graders at the Wyoming Seminary Lower School who shared a Thanksgiving feast with parents and classmates last week. More photos on page 8.

Woodridge residents oppose cell tower

□ Nextel plan called incomplete, inappropriate

By ELIZABETH SKRAPITS
Post staff

KINGSTON TWP - A "monopole" isn't a fancy seaside hotel or a French version of a board game — it's a tower for wireless telecommunication transmission, and township residents who live in the Woodridge section of Shavertown don't want one in their backyards.

"What this is all about is putting a tower in the middle of a neighborhood," said Woodridge resident Robert Riley. Reston, Virginia-based Nextel wants to build a communication tower on a piece of land leased from Daniel Voitek and Mary Lukasavage, and is fighting property owners for its right to do so, despite residents' concerns about esthetics, potential health risks, and loss of property value due to the proximity of the tower.

A year ago, Nextel applied to Kingston Twp. for an exception to be allowed to build its tower on the Voitek property. It was denied by the zoning hearing board in December, 1999, and Nextel promptly took the township to district court. The case was dismissed.

In April, 2000, Kingston Twp. passed Ordinance 2000-3, which specifically deals with communication towers, setting up a list of regulations for their construction and placement. The ordinance, says Township Manager Jeffrey Box, was passed out of necessity, due to the increasing number of communications companies coming forward with requests to erect towers. "Every municipality should be upgrading their zoning ordinances to deal with this new technology," Box said, noting wireless technology wasn't around when PA township zoning standards were first drawn up in the 1960s, so the old ordinances made no provision for it.

Nextel filed an application Oct. 18 for a conditional use on the same site. "Conditional use" means use of a property in

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The schools are alive with holiday spirit of giving

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - Caring and sharing is the theme running through local schools this month. Many schools are holding food drives and Dallas High School is sponsoring a coat drive.

"The Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) started this (coat drive) four years ago," explained guidance counselor Robyn Jones. "We really expect to have our most successful year, yet."

Used coats and jackets are brought in by the students and then the Commission on Economic Opportunity's People Helping People program distributes them to needy families in the Back Mountain.

"We've already exceeded last year's total of 158 coats collected and we don't finish until November 22," said Pam Pambianco, the parent volunteer who is helping with the drive. "We put flyers up in some of the stores and around the school. The students have just been wonderful. They sorted the coats into sizes and filled boxes that I brought in for them."

"We even received a call from a resident at the Meadows Nursing Center," said Jones. "She donated two beautiful coats that



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lindsey Jayne, right, dropped into a container some of the 67 pounds of pennies she brought for the Penny Wars program at Dallas Elementary School. Kaitlin Kean lent a helping hand.

she can no longer use. Heather Shultz and Stefanie Salavantis came with me to pick them up. These two seniors are very community service oriented and are the student coordinators for the program," explained Ms. Jones.

Lake-Lehman High School students sponsored a Feed A Friend program. "This year we're providing food for 10 local families," explained Cathy Wolfe, a teacher at the high school.

"The students brought in so

much this year that these families will really get a nice package-much more than just Thanksgiving dinner," she said.

The Harvey's Lake Lions Club made a generous cash donation that will help to buy the turkeys and Lake-Lehman Student Council funds will be used to make up the difference.

Lake-Lehman Middle School students will receive a unique reward for their successful food drive. "Each homeroom adopts a family and gets a list of things to bring into school," explained eighth grader, Kristen Noler. "Then, each class that brings in everything on their list gets to throw a pie at their homeroom teacher. We have 14 families this year."

The Dallas Middle School Student Council is sponsoring a food drive for the Back Mountain Food Bank. "We've been doing this for more than 10 years," explained Student Council moderator Norine Amesbury. "This drive finishes the day before Thanksgiving and is used mostly for distribution at Christmas time."

The food is delivered to the food bank by the guidance counselors and the school principal, Anthony Martinelli. The classroom that collected the most

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Sheetz submits store plan

□ 12 gas pumps, 30 parking spaces on Trucksville site

By ELIZABETH SKRAPITS
Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. - Sheetz has submitted its preliminary land development and minor subdivision plans to the Kingston Twp. authorities, and they will be put on the agenda for discussion at the township planning meeting on Dec. 5.

Minor subdivision plans are a requirement of the Pennsylvania State Planning Code, to be completed any time a piece of land is divided for sale or lease.

According to the preliminary plans, the proposed Sheetz will be located at the Pendragon Center on Memorial Highway (Rte. 309 South) between the Grange Bank and Verizon, on a leased plot totaling 1.93 acres, already zoned for commercial use. It will have

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