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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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December 13 thru December 19, 2000

## Sheetz plan takes first step forward

By ELIZABETH SKRAPITS  
Post staff

**KINGSTON TWP.** - The preliminary subdivision application for the proposed Sheetz gas station/convenience store in the Pendragon Center at 163 S. Memorial Hwy., Trucksville, was approved by the Kingston Twp. Planning Commission, despite the mislabeling of the application as a minor subdivision when it is actually a major subdivision. The subdivision application would divide George Isaacs's Pendragon development into three lots, one leased by Grange Bank, one leased by Sheetz, and one by Verizon.

Only a scattering of residents and concerned parties showed up at the planning commission meeting on Dec. 5, and they were surprisingly quiet. Residents have been voicing concerns that a Sheetz will cause an increase in traffic along Rt. 309; that the area is becoming too built-up and some sort of check needs to be put on growth; and the noise and lighting will create annoyances.

Seven Sheetz representatives were present, including Mike LaCesa, Director  
See SHEETZ, pg 12

## Dallas School District seeks input online

By ELIZABETH SKRAPITS  
Post staff

**DALLAS** - Dallas School District would like district residents to take a minute to fill out its Community Survey — but don't wait for it to arrive in the mail.

All school districts in Pennsylvania are required to submit a strategic plan, which is an overall plan to assess its needs and determine whether changes or improvements need to be made. The Dallas School District has opted to use an online survey service to gather feedback from parents and the community to assist in putting together its strategic plan.

The district will use four main surveys: the first was the Parent Survey, which was also online; the Community Survey is the second. There will also be surveys for students and teachers, but these are going to be internal and not posted on the Internet.

Why do a survey online? "It allows us  
See SURVEY, pg 7

## Middle school renovations priced at \$18 million

By ELIZABETH SKRAPITS  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - Plans for renovations to the Dallas Middle School are starting to take shape. The architectural firm of Foreman, Burcavage will be submitting its preliminary land-development plan to the Dallas School Board on Dec. 22 for the January meeting.

According to Walter Tack, Pre-Construction Manager for Reynolds Construction, the new estimates of total construction costs for the Middle School project are \$14,381,712; total project costs will be \$18,079,712. "The new construction is a little more than you'd normally see because of the natatorium," Tack said, but in general he believes the costs are fairly typical and not excessive.

Tack said the middle school will include five new classrooms and a televi  
See MIDDLE SCHOOL, pg 3



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## Who let that dog out?

Christopher Colacito, left, kept a wary eye on his fellow puppy, played by Jimmy Caffrey, as the two prepared for the annual kindergarten and first grade Christmas play at Gate of Heaven School. More photos on page 8.

## PTO plans new playground for Dallas Elementary

By M.B. GILLIGAN  
Post Correspondent

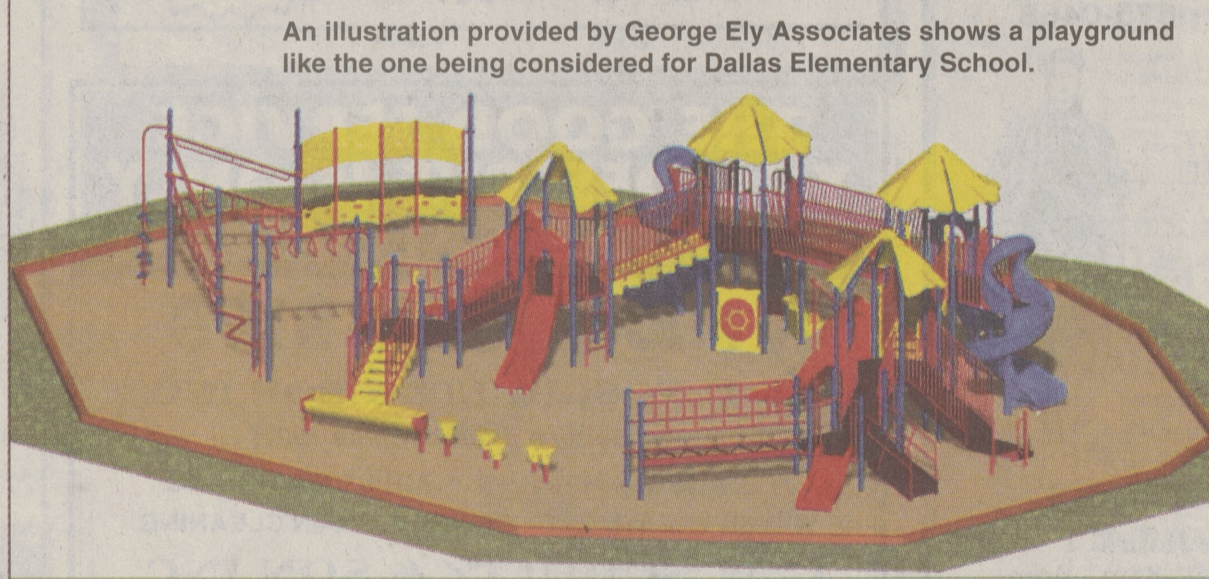
**DALLAS** - Plans are underway to replace the wooden playground structure at the Dallas Elementary School with a new modular system according to Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, Superintendent of the Dallas School District.

"The wooden structure was erected in 1988 and has had a very good run," Griffiths told members of the Dallas Elementary PTO at a recent meeting. "However, the structure is deteriorating and there are a lot of reports of splinters, bumps and bruises due to this. The

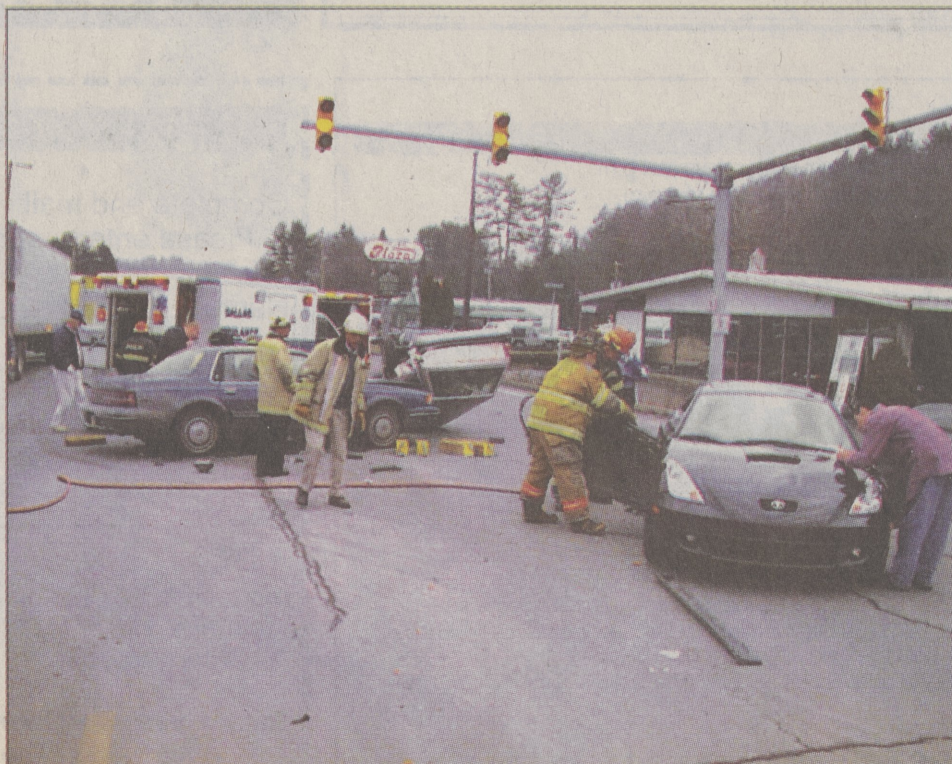
school district maintenance department spent a lot of time sanding, repairing and refinishing the structure over the summer for use this year but it is more feasible to spend the money to replace

the whole structure."  
The Dallas PTO was approached last year by Dr. Griffiths to help in a fund-

See PLAYGROUND, pg 3



An illustration provided by George Ely Associates shows a playground like the one being considered for Dallas Elementary School.



## 2 hurt in 4-car crash

A four-car accident Monday afternoon sent two people to the hospital and tied up the intersection of Routes 309 and 415. According to a press release from the Dallas Borough Police Dept., George Laczko, Shavertown, was approaching the intersection on Rt. 309 South when he drove over the median and struck a car driven by Leo Russavage of Tunkhannock. Laczko's car then hit a back corner of a Dodge Aries station wagon driven by Stanley Kabara of Swoyersville, causing Kabara's car to overturn into the path of a 2001 Toyota Celica driven by Jesse Wasserman of Tunkhannock. Laczko was taken to Geisinger Wyoming Valley Hospital and Kabara was taken to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. All the other people were not injured.  
POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

## Chief Miers will step down after 31 years

□ Career law enforcement officer to retire in March

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

**DALLAS TWP.** - Carl Miers, Chief of the Dallas Township Police Department, has notified the Board of Supervisors that he will retire in March 2001 after 31 years of service to law enforcement in the township.

A third generation peace officer, Miers began his career as a patrolman in 1969. He became the Chief in 1974 at the age of 29. He also served in the Pennsylvania National Guard for 26 years, retiring in 1991. He has two brothers who are in law enforcement. One is with the Pennsylvania State Police and the other is a patrolman with Dallas Township.

Asked why he is retiring now, Chief Miers said, "I have been here for a long time. Because we are a small department, the Chief is involved in daily operations. I have come to believe that it is a younger man's job."

Chief Miers has provided leadership for many improvements over the years. "When I first came on duty," he said, "we had no computers or typewriters. Reports were done by hand. We used CB radios. There was no mandatory training. Now we have computers, portable radios, and six cars. The department consists of nine full-time people, seven part-time and three school-crossing guards."

Under Act 120, the federally funded Safe Streets Act, all of the officers now attend basic training and are prepared to meet the demands of the job and the needs of the public they serve. The next phase of automation will include laptop computers in the cars so that officers can access state and national records when making road stops or working on an investigation.

"The supervisors have been very supportive of the need to upgrade the department which is well respected inside and outside of the county," Chief Miers said.

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