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## The Back Mountain's Year 2000 in review, from Dallas Post files

This was the year that was in the Back Mountain, as compiled by Dallas Post reporter Elizabeth Skrapits.

**January 5:** Local merchants and business owners reported they experienced no Y2K problems, despite their earlier worries.

The Dallas School District started to move ahead with plans for capital improvements to the middle school and high school, and began to think about adding a pool.

Dallas Middle School students wrote about what or who they thought was most significant about the past millennium: women's suffrage (Samantha O'Brien), D-Day (Lenore Kaplan), Johannes Gutenberg (Jeff Finn), Martin Luther (Cara Bestwick), electricity (Andrew VanLoon), and the microscope (Sara Getz).

**January 12:** Public hearing dates were set as the long-running dispute escalated between American Asphalt Paving

Co. and Jackson Twp. over mining at the company's Chase quarry. In 1976 the Chase property was rezoned from M-1 (mining) to A-1 (agricultural), which American Asphalt owner Bernard Banks said he did not know about until later. The purpose of the hearing was to determine whether the zoning should be changed back to M-1.

Kunkle residents attended a Dallas Twp. zoning hearing board meeting to protest the permit granted to Daniel Meeker allowing him to put a mobile

home on his property at the intersection of Kunkle Rd. and County Rd., on the grounds that it violated the zoning ordinance and Meeker wasn't going to be living there.

Also in Dallas Twp., the former Elston property, which includes Shadyside Lake, was offered for sale.

Dallas Fire & Ambulance purchased a 2000 Pierce Quantum Rescue Engine.

**January 19:** Numerous residents of Jackson Twp. showed up at the zoning

hearing to protest the board's recommendation to change the zoning of American Asphalt's Chase property from A-1 back to M-1. The residents claimed blasting at the quarry damaged their homes and properties and the noise was a nuisance.

Bill Metzger of Jackson Twp., a Lake-Lehman senior, earned a spot in the U.S. Marine Corps Band as an electric-guitar player.

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### Slip sliding away

Matt Giacometti and D.J. Carey had some winter fun following Saturday's storm, which turned out to be far less severe than

forecast, but still dropped enough cover to coat sliding paths with a few inches of the white stuff.

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## Dallas Borough has big plans for 2001

By ELIZABETH SKRAPITS  
Post Staff

**DALLAS BOROUGH** - Dallas Borough went through a lot of shake-ups in 2000, but is planning to get its act together in 2001 by cutting costs, getting grants, updating equipment and services, and making other positive changes. The new manager, Joseph Moskovitz, has been working hard to get the borough's affairs in order, and it was generally agreed that the police and the road crew have been doing exemplary jobs. "We're fortunate in this borough," councilman Dennis Garvey said.

The finalized operating budget for 2001 was approved at council's meeting of Dec. 19. It has been decreased from \$726,000 to \$720,000. "We put in the budget some things that are going to be changed, but nothing major," Garvey said in a later interview.

Certain items needed to be budgeted for, such as equipment for the road crew — for instance, a new street sweeper will have to be purchased at some point. The borough needs a new phone system, new computers and software, new pagers, all of which will be replaced with a view toward increasing efficiency while keeping costs down.

"We're looking to evaluate and upgrade everything," Garvey said, even down to finding another Internet provider. "If we can save

10 bucks per month, we're going to save 10 bucks," he said. "As head of the finance committee, I want to be pro-active in monitoring all costs and expenses in the borough."

Due to rising costs, the borough will be accepting competitive bids for health care and insurance. Local insurance companies will be able to submit bids. Garvey estimates finding a new health-care provider can reduce costs for the borough by \$14,000-20,000.

The police force will see some changes in the upcoming year. Council intends to hire another part-time officer due to the need for one — provided one can be found, as there is a general shortage. Chief Jack Fowler will try to get an officer from the approved civil-service list.

The borough is in the process of completing the paperwork on the issue of regionalization. Councilman Patricia Peiffer, as chairman of the police committee, has been working on compiling data to see if combining the Dallas Borough and Dallas Twp. police forces would be feasible. Garvey said it will be important to seek input from residents at public meetings and through surveys; he also said the Department of Community and Economic Development will, at no cost, study the borough's findings and come up with recommendations.

Grants will be the name of the game in 2001. The police department intends to look for available

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## Food bank overflows with generosity

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

**TRUCKSVILLE** - In mid-November the call went out. The shelves at the Back Mountain Food Bank were almost empty and the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays were nearly upon us. The demand on the food bank's resources would be great, but the supply of food was at an all-time low.

A picture that was published in the Nov. 15 issue of The Dallas Post showed the bare shelves that reflected the need. After much

hard work by many people, the scene is quite different now. A return visit to the food bank the Friday before Christmas revealed a picture is worth more than a thousand words.

Hundreds of pounds of food came in over the last six weeks at the official collection sites that were set up around the Back Mountain area. It took three large SUV-type vehicles to collect and transport all of it to the food bank. On a snowy morning, and in the spirit of the season, some folks came out of the magistrate's office in Trucksville to lend a hand to

unload the food and carry it to the food bank room.

"There was such an outpouring of compassion for our neighbors," said Barbara DeBellis, food bank coordinator. "It was remarkable. We are truly grateful and can't thank everyone enough. One woman even drove down from Scranton to donate food."

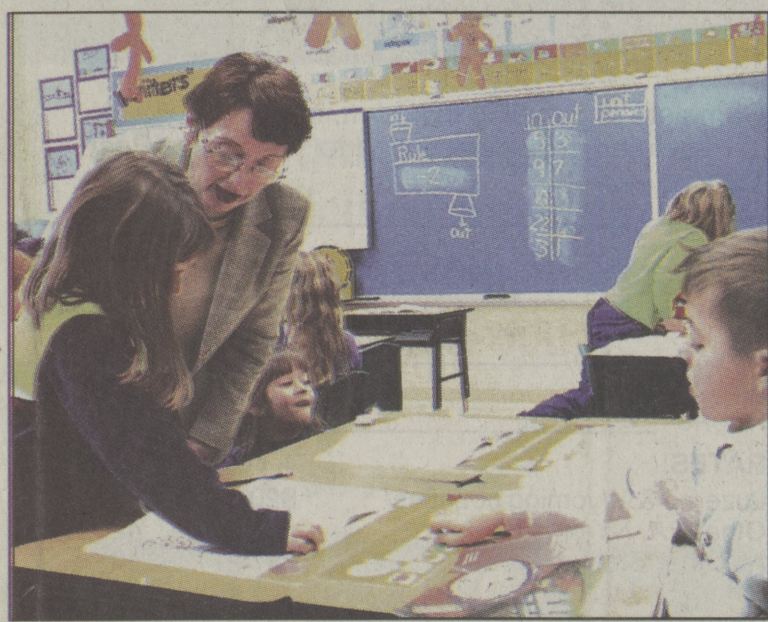
As a result of everyone's generosity, Mrs. DeBellis reports that 64 families were given food baskets for Thanksgiving and 25 families received assistance to make

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POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

Volunteers, from left, Bill Long, Bill Ostrum, Wally Gosart and George Gaylord now have plenty of food for those in need.



POST PHOTO/ELIZABETH SKRAPITS

Teacher Bonnie Palmatier worked with Erika McCabe on measuring her book as Danny Morgan observed.

## Practicality+fun+rote work=math kids love

By ELIZABETH SKRAPITS  
Post staff

**DALLAS** - Think back to your grade-school math classes. Do you remember those funny-smelling mimeographed worksheets with long rows of faded purple-printed problems, workbooks full of little else besides dreary equations, the teacher standing at the blackboard going over and over the times tables while you fidgeted with your pencil and wished it was time for recess?

Now imagine being in a math class where there isn't a worksheet in sight (not even a photocopied one), the workbooks are called "journals" and are full of projects, number games, and real-life math

"Even kids who aren't math-oriented like it ...it's a discovery on their part."

Bonnie Palmatier  
First grade teacher  
Wycallis Elementary

problems, and instead of squirming in your seat, you're jumping out of it to measure things and count things and play games like "Beat the Calculator."

Does the second scenario sound too good to be true? Not only is it true, but it's a descrip-

tion of a program currently being implemented at the Dallas elementary schools. It's called Everyday Math.

### What is Everyday Math?

Everyday Math is a comprehensive program developed at the University of Chicago (which is why it's also referred to as "Chicago Math"). Its purpose is to teach basic arithmetic and computation skills, as with a traditional mathematics program, but in an innovative and accelerated way. For example, by third grade, students are learning algebra. Even though they are not taught certain al

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