

State grant provides most of funds to buy rec park land

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with five fields, a Back Mountain Soccer complex with playing and practice fields, wetland conservation area, picnic areas, hiking trails, an outdoor ice skating/hockey rink and an indoor recreation center, according to the conceptual plan.



"This is a giant accomplishment for the Back Mountain."
State Rep. George Hasay

"We hope the infrastructure and outdoor areas will be ready for next summer," Sutton said.

The project has been broken into three phases. Phase 1 is the land acquisition which is currently in progress. Phase 2 is the outdoor grounds and recreation areas scheduled for 2002-2003. Phase 3 is construction of the indoor facility, possibly in 2005.

BMRA will hire a professional to direct its fund raising efforts, Sutton said. The association also will still be seeking grant money to help fund the project.

The idea of the Back Mountain Sports and Recreation Complex has been in the works for about three years. It started in 1998 with an ad hoc committee led by Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, Dallas Superintendent of Schools. Since 1998, the BMRA has formed as a non-profit organization which has been researching funding, complex locations and the need

in the area for such a complex.

The site in Lehman Township was found about two years ago and is geographically located in the center of the eight townships — Dallas, Kingston, Franklin, Lehman, Lake, Noxen, Jackson and Ross — and two boroughs, Harveys Lake and Dallas, the complex will serve.

"There certainly is a need for this recreation complex," said State Senator Charles Lemmond, Jr.

When State Representative George Hasay was a kid, he said, children could go play in Mrs. Jones's field. But today, Mrs. Jones doesn't want the kids there because of reasons like liability, land developers and urban sprawl. "This is a gi-



"This is a major league win for all of us in the Back Mountain."

Sen. Charles D. Lemmond, Jr.

ant accomplishment for the Back Mountain," Hasay said.

Lemmond congratulated the BMRA members for their efforts and said the plans are ambitious for the sports and recreation complex and so are the people who have brought it this far.

The majority of the land, about 80 acres, is currently owned by Frank and Anne Wal-



The conceptual plan for the Back Mountain Sports and Recreation Complex shows a set of Little League fields, center left, soccer fields, lower right, hiking trails, picnic areas and an indoor facility.

lace. The Wallaces have owned the property since 1965. They had thought of selling it to land developers, but they are very pleased it will go to the community.

Jessie Hagenbaugh, Jane

Meckel and Jack Davis had inherited their 50 acres from an uncle who had bought the land in the early 1900s. They had also been approached by land developers for the property.

Cousins, Jessie and Jane are

pleased that children will soon have fond memories of the area, as they do. As young girls the two said they would work in the hayfields and chase escaped cows on their uncle's property.

Middle School

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replacing all lockers, addition of coordinating wall tiles, refurbishing the auditorium seats, a new batting cage and a new gym floor.

The general trades construction contractor is Miller Brothers. Site work construction will be done by Popple.

The board also voted for the contractors to supply their own insurance instead of having the district purchase a blanket insurance policy which would insure the contractors. The savings for the district was estimated between \$1,500 to \$4,500.

Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, Dallas School District superintendent, suggested the board choose the individual contractors purchasing insurance because they would be purchasing it through the community compared to the district's policy through the Pennsylvania School Board Association.

During the asbestos abatement the middle school administration has been relocated to the high school library. The board also voted to renew its contract with Nutrition, Inc. for contract food services for the 2001-2002 school year. The board appointed the Joyce Insurance Group as the broker of record for one year, beginning July 1.

The Dallas School Board will hold a general meeting for the adoption of the 2001-2002 school year budget on Tuesday, June 26, at 6 p.m.

Lake Twp. recycling

The voluntary recycling drop off center for Lake Twp. will be accepting items on the second Sat. of each month. The next opening is June 9 from 10 a.m.-noon at the township building on Route 29. The following items may be dropped off: aluminum & bi-metal cans, clear, brown, & green glass, plastic #1 & #2 only. No motor oil containers or scrap aluminum can be accepted. No newspaper this month. Do not drop items off before the center opens.



POST PHOTO/HEATHER B. JONES

Back Mountain Recreation Association received a \$500,000 grant, which will be used toward the purchase of 130 acres for a sports and recreation complex. Seated from left: DCNR Deputy Secretary Richard G. Sprenkle; Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Ridge Lisa Baker; Shirley A. Moyer; Karen Z. Kyle; Joan Makowski, and BMRA President David H. Sutton. Standing: Richard J. Allan, Stephen Clemente, Gary Baker; Joseph I. Killeen, Eric C. Marquart, Kevin L. Rose, Representative George C. Hasay, Dr. Gilbert R. Griffiths, Dr. Richard G. Coslett, DCNR Secretary John C. Oliver, Senior Council to Governor Ridge Patrick J. Solano, and Senator Charles D. Lemmond, Jr.

Homemade dog biscuit sale

Senior Girl Scout Troop 665, of Dallas will be selling homemade dog biscuits at the Meadows Nursing Home "Market on the Pond" on June 16 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. For phone orders to be delivered the week of June 17, please call 696-3854 until June 15. There are three varieties available at \$3 per bag. Profits benefit troop activities.

Legion to hold annual flag burning ceremony

Daddow-Isaac Post 672, The American Legion will hold their annual flag burning ceremonies at the Post Home, Memorial Hi-way, Dallas, starting at 6 p.m., Flag Day, Jun. 14. Anyone with old flags that wish to have them destroyed, leave them at the Post Home. Remember, honor your veterans by flying your flag.

COUNTRY TRADITIONS

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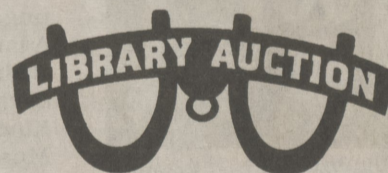
"SPECIAL STORE HOURS" WILL BE 10:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M. FOR THE GRAND RE-OPENING ONLY

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