

# New fitness center coming soon to Trucksville

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

**TRUCKSVILLE** — If you're looking for a place to stretch your entertainment dollar, then "The Rock" may be the answer.

"To provide a safe, positive and uplifting environment where children and adults throughout the community can participate in a variety of recreational activities" is the mission statement of the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly's new Rock Recreation Center at 340 Carverton Road. It is located behind the church and up the hill.

"The idea for the center initially evolved from a great deal of community interest in providing safe after school programs for kids," said Doug Miller, the director of the new state-of-the-art facility. "Then that idea was expanded to include equipment and programs for adults as well."

The 20,000 square foot building houses unique areas for numerous activities such as basketball, volleyball, racquetball, aerobics, weight training, cardiovascular programs, soccer, flag football, and more. It features Paramount and York equipment, treadmills, stationary bikes, hardwood racquetball, volleyball and basketball courts, full locker rooms, a nursery, a large multi-purpose room, game room, kitchen and vending machine area.

Future plans for an outdoor multi-purpose lighted sports field. The architect for the project is Kyle Kinsman from Wilkes-Barre, and it is being constructed by Sordoni Construction Company from Forty Fort.

"We're also excited about the stage area in the main gymnasium," said Miller. "It will be a wonderful place for us to put on various productions, such as dramas and concerts, and host other large gatherings. We will have seating for 500 people and additional space for another 500 to sit on the floor."

*"I know how important it is that we find safe havens for our kids."*

**Doug Miller**  
Director of "The Rock" Center

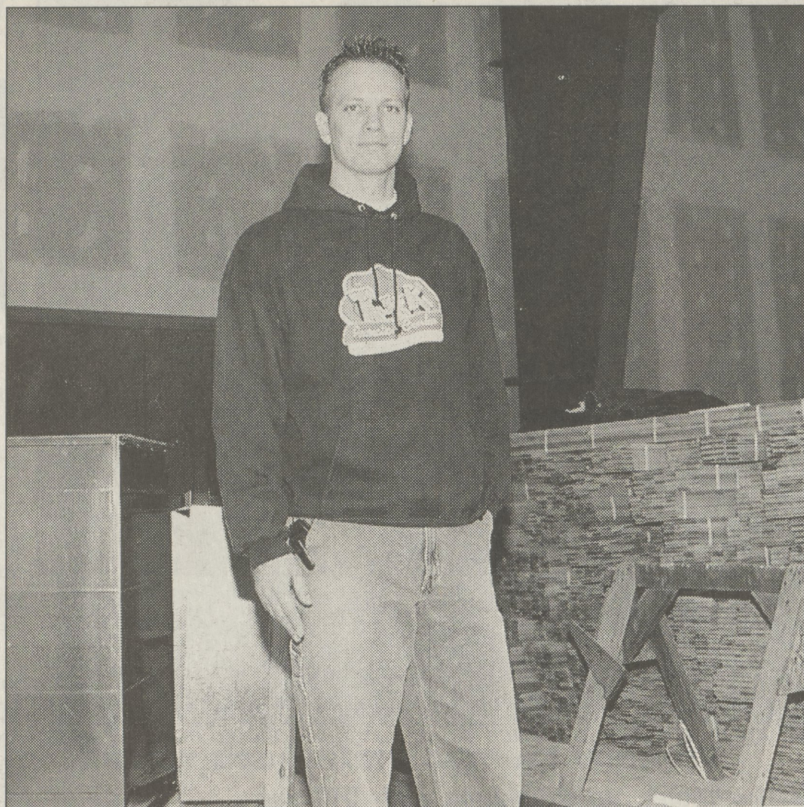
The dream for the center came from the pastor, Dan Miller. "He had a passion to reach out to the community," said Doug Miller, "and I always had a passion for a sports ministry. Fortunately, it all came together at the same time. I grew up at the YMCA and the Boys Club of America and I now have children of my own. I know how important it is that we find safe havens for our kids."

One of those children came up with the name for the new facility. "The congregation voted on names that were submitted," said Miller, "and one of our 11-year-old girls had the winning entry. 'The Rock' is symbolic for us on several levels."

Most of the funding for the \$1.7 million center came from the 500-member congregation. They conducted two 12-month campaigns beginning more than two years ago. "The financial goal was to make the center affordable," said Miller, "while at the same time, offering amenities that would attract enough people to make it self-supporting. We plan to start out with an all-volunteer staff which will be trained in CPR and have background checks and child abuse prevention training seminars. They must be at least 18 years old."

Construction of "The Rock" began last April. "We will open for business in early March," said Miller, "but people are already calling us to see how they can join."

Single memberships are \$20



Doug Miller, director of "The Rock," stands at the main entrance where members will be welcomed to the new recreation center. An outside view is shown below.



per month or \$199 a year. Family memberships are \$35 a month or \$399 a year. There are also plans for a Phase II which will include the sports fields, walking trails, campsites, and a climbing wall on the 14 acres behind the recre-

ation center. The Rock Center will be open to the public six days a week. There is a web site at TheRockRecCenter@epix.net where you can go for more information. Or you may call 696-2769.

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## Visioning

(continued from page 10)

cause if you don't do it, someone else is going to do it for you," said McDavid. Throughout the meeting, participants and visiting experts shared their ideas and already concrete plans about what they want to work to create in Dallas and the Back Mountain.

"Tonight we're going to begin to turn the vision into short-term and long-term action plans — and you're going to be a part of that," said McDavid.

For the first time, the group as a whole heard the vision statement that was the culmination of the previous year's work: "Our Dallas, a flourishing community where we live in harmony with neighbors, nature, and businesses; building upon a proud history."

A brief slogan, to be used for public expression, "Our Dallas: a proud history — a greater tomorrow," was also presented. The group approved the adoption of both.

For most participants, the meeting was the first time they had the opportunity to visualize the quality of life changes the group is working toward for the borough. Vinnie Cotrone, urban forester with Penn State University's Cooperative Extension, gave a presentation that illustrated what municipalities can do by adjusting sign codes, and adding trees and shrubbery. Through before and after photos, participants saw seas of strip mall cement and treeless sidewalks changed into inviting greenspaces.

Cotrone illustrated how changing or adding ordinances, utility poles, billboards and business signs could be regulated to fit more naturally within the community environment.

After a summary of each of four task force's short and long term goals, the groups broke off to create action plans.

*"I think it went well — especially considering the weather; people are enthused."*

**Nancy Eckert**  
Chairperson

"I think it went well — especially considering the weather; people are enthused," said Nancy Eckert, chair of the Downtown task force.

Other task forces deal with master planning, traffic and human services.

Eckert announced that Kevin Buchinski, a Penn State Information Sciences and Technology major, will work as an intern to assist the downtown task force in their efforts. "I'm excited to see what he will be doing," said Eckert.

Eckert said Buchinski will help the task force utilize technology to envision changes in the downtown district such as facade improvements.

"I'm really pretty excited; it's coming together piece by piece," said Joe Moskovitz, Dallas Borough Manager.

### Vision Statement

*"Our Dallas, a flourishing community where we live in harmony with neighbors, nature, and businesses; building upon a proud history."*

## Lake Twp. recycling February 8

The voluntary recycling drop off center for Lake Township will be accepting items on the second Saturday of each month. The next opening is Feb. 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the township building on Rt. 29. The following items may be dropped off: aluminum and bi-metal cans, clear, brown, and green glass, plastic #1, #2 only. No motor oil containers or scrap aluminum can be accepted. No newspaper this month. Please do not drop items off before the center opens.

## Katorkas named to dean's list at Liberty

John Katorkas of Dallas was named to the dean's list at Liberty University for the Fall 2002 semester. Katorkas was one of 1,268 undergraduates who earned dean's list recognition for the fall. Students named to the dean's list earn a grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale and carry an academic load of at least 12 credit hours.

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