



Public has spoken: Back Mountain is hotbed for great pizza, wings Restaurants compete, readers vote

Boy, do you like pizza! Hundreds of entries were received in the three-week Pizza Wars contest, sponsored by The Dallas Post and nine local restaurants. Entrants were asked to pick a favorite in each of nine categories, and the voting was fast, furious and close in many cases.

To no one's surprise, Pizza Perfect ran away with the top spot for best square pizza, garnering 204 votes. Things were much closer in other categories,

and every spot clearly had a strong following.

Not every restaurant could compete in each category — wings, for example — but there were plenty of votes to go around anyway.

Entrants were winners, too. Each week, an entry was drawn at random, and that person won a \$35 gift certificate to the restaurant of their choice.

The winner for the third week of the contest is Rudolf Schleich, of 80 Oak Dr. in Dallas.

Here are the winners and runners-up in each category, with the vote totals for first place. When the runner-up was close, both restaurants are listed:

	First	Second
Round Pizza	Grotto (106)	Hogan's
Square Pizza	Pizza Perfect (204)	Colarusso's
Plain	Ill Guys (66)	Dino's and Red's
Pepperoni	Ill Guys (59)	Red's and Grotto
White	Colarusso's (84)	Dough Co.
Veggie	Dino's (50)	Grotto
"The Works"	Grotto (53)	Hogan's
Wings	Pizza Perfect (91)	Red's and Ill Guys
Delivery Service	Grotto (83)	Hogan's and Desi's



POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

Barbara Eisenhart, owner of the Blue Hydrangea Gift Shoppe in Dallas, displays an Adirondack throw similar to the one she donated to the FSAWV dinner dance and auction.

Elementaries

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dent of Schools, explained that an elementary task force has been meeting since early October to discuss the possible direction of the two elementary schools. The group is made up of about 25 parents, teachers, and members of the community.

"They have information shared with them about enrollment, building configuration, and programming and curriculum, special education, transportation," Griffiths said. He said the group is looking at all the different aspects of the district to make a determination about whether to restructure, or not restructure as well as consider the addition of full-day kindergarten.

He said they are also considering adding additional rooms. "They are considering) Whatever we might need in the district to have the district function and function well," said Griffiths.

"It's not going to be a back door move to the public."

Anthony Barbose
Dallas school director

Fannick asked if task force meetings are open to the public. Griffiths responded that they are not.

"I'm more concerned about parents who have absolutely no idea that this is even being considered," said Fannick.

He said he was concerned the same type of situation might happen that occurred at the beginning of this year when an additional first grade class was added before parents had any opportunity to voice concerns.

"A major concern is that parents be given the opportunity to voice pros or cons," said Fannick. He added that he thought

the process should be done more openly.

Maureen Matiska, board member, agreed with Fannick. "I think we should allow a venue where parents should at least be able to voice their opinions," said Matiska.

Griffiths agreed. He suggested sending a letter to parents.

Michael Speziale, assistant superintendent and chairman of the parent advisory board, said the task force was formed as a response to interest from parents. He said over the last few years, on take-home forms, they had received a lot of input from parents specifically asking why

the district has two elementary schools.

He said the district didn't do anything about it the first two years, but with the school now at 100 percent capacity, it seemed the appropriate time to address it.

"I suggested to Dr. Griffiths and the board to put together a task force to look at this. There are now a lot of things happening educationally with the state and mandates within the district that now make it a reasonable discussion," said Speziale.

"So as I understand it, it is not a report to you and then you vote on it and then it's a done deal?" asked Fannick.

"No," responded Anthony Barbose, board member. "The public is going to have a chance to have input on it. It's not going to be a back door move to the public," said Barbose.

Family Service

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which include mental health concerns, child abuse or neglect issues, transportation and emergency housing requests, contact and guardianship resources for runaway youth, energy assistance, drug and alcohol programs, the needs of the homeless, Special Kids Network which assists families of children with special needs, family education and literacy programs, rural community outreach, and more.

The event will take place Saturday, March 1, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Waterfront Banquet Center on River Street in Plains. "Across the country throughout February and March, Mardi Gras balls raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for local charities, and we hope to make this gala a successful annual event," said Gourley. Black-tie is optional and carnival costumes or masks are encouraged. There will also be a diamond hunt and a pearl dive.

The valley's own New York Times Band will provide the music for the evening, and tables for 10 are still available. Tickets are \$50 per person and may be purchased by calling Maureen at FSAWV at 823-5144 ext. 320. Reservations must be made by February 21.

Board again withholds payment on middle school project

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — School board members at Monday night's meeting heard what sounded like promising news from Reynolds Construction Management Company about progress on the middle school renovation. It wasn't enough, however, for the board to approve more than \$45,000 in payments to the company.

Len Gallo, representing Reynolds Construction Management Company, reported the middle school building is 96 percent complete. "The good news is we should finish ahead of schedule," he said.

Gallo reported that last month's hot issue, the incorrectly installed auditorium seating, has been nearly rectified. Gallo said Miller Brothers Construction Inc. sent American Premier, the original installation company, to re-install the seating. Gallo added that he felt the company fulfilled their obligation and did so well. He said with the exception of one chair, "they look a thousand times better."

Anthony Martinelli, middle school principal, said he couldn't confirm their condition without taking another look.

Motions to pay four separate bills related to the middle school project failed, including two separate motions to pay Reynolds the combined amount of \$45,256. December's invoice failed to gain a second, while the motion for January's payment failed by a vote of 3 to 3. Frank Natitus, Dave Usavage, and Anthony Barbose voted against the

motion.

Payment to Matheson Transfer Company, for moving services related to the middle school project, was also denied by a 3 to 3 vote. Barbose, Maureen Matiska and Natitus voted against the motion.

An \$87,000 bill from Institutional Furnishings for shelving and table work was tabled on the advice of Gallo, who said he was waiting for a revised bill.

In addition to the failed bills, a \$10 million bond issue from PNC Bank didn't gain a majority vote. The amount proposed was for work on the upcoming high school project. Needing five of the nine board members to gain a majority, the motion failed by a 4-2 vote. Usavage and Ernest

Ashbridge voted against the motion.

Matt Stretanski, high school swimming coach, proposed the addition of a public family swim program in the middle school natatorium for the spring.

The idea was part of a proposal handed to the board for review that also included the addition of a middle school swimming and diving course and Dallas employee/family swim night.

Stretanski said the pool is fully equipped for a public program, pointing out that it has full locker room facilities. The program would cost residents of the school district \$2 per visit and be supervised by two life guards.

If passed by the board, middle

school students interested in preparing for varsity competition could start to learn fundamentals of diving and swimming, water safety, and nutrition in an introductory swimming and diving class. Classes could start as early as March 24.

The board will review the entire proposal and vote on it at a later date.

Jackson Township recycling Feb. 18

A recycling trailer with a divider separating two sections will be at the township municipal building Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Each section will be clearly marked either co-mingled (co-mingled is plastic, glass and metallic bottles, jars and cans) or newspaper/cardboard. Recyclables must be placed in the specified section. Residents are asked to bring their recycling materials in reusable containers to the Jackson Township Municipal Building, 2211 Huntsville Rd. Please take the container home with you. No recyclables can be in a plastic bag.

For plastic bottles and jars, remove lids, rinse and flatten. For glass bottles and jars, remove lids and rinse. Do not break. For tin, aluminum and bi-metallic cans, rinse cans and flatten. For paper, place newspapers and cardboard together.

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- "HAIRSPRAY" June 7, "MAMMA MIA" June 7
- PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW Latin Theme, Daily trips March 2 thru 8
- SIGHT AND SOUND March 15 "Daniel"
- HUDSON VALLEY CULINARY INSTITUTE April 4 Mansion Tour, Meal
- LILY LANGTRY'S DINNER THEATRE April 5 "Tribute to America"
- 3 LITTLE BAKERS DINNER THEATRE "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" April 6
- ELLIS ISLAND April 12, May 17
- WASHINGTON July 9 DC Sighting, Arlington National Cemetery, Union Station

MULTI-DAY TOURS

- WASHINGTON, DC CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL April 4-6 Night and Day Tours, Festival Parade, Mount Vernon, Arlington
- CAPE COD "SHIP AHOY" May 15-18 Martha's Vineyard, 10-Mile Ocean Drive to Newport, Battleship Cove, Hyannis
- MYRTLE BEACH AND CHARLESTON May 18-24 Full Tours of both cities, Shopping, Paddlewheel Boat Cruise, 3 Musical Shows
- BOSTON POPS AND FUN June 19-21 TV's "Cheers" Pub, Stage Play, Pops Concert, Boston Tour, Cambridge Tour, Fenway Park
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Fatal crash

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ney's office.

According to Balavage, state police determined that Kecip was traveling 43 miles per hour in a 35 mph zone. Although over the limit, according to the parameters of the District Attorney's office, the margin was not high enough to warrant a "gross negligence" determination. A gross negligence determination could have brought homicide by vehicle charges.

"Nobody could say anything other than he went through a red light," said Balavage. Witnesses coming from the opposite direction saw Kecip run the light, but, he said, no one was close enough to his vehicle to ascertain whether he was doing something else — like "talking on the phone" — that could have also brought a "gross negligence," determination, said Balavage.

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