

By ERIN YOUNGMAN

# Controversy flares over rain site for graduation

Post Staff

DALLAS — Several parents, angry about the alternative location for the Dallas High School graduation, showed up at the June 2 school board meeting to voice their concerns.

Mary Ellen O'Brien told the board that although there weren't the 40 or 50 parents present that she predicted, she had a list of 25 names of parents opposed to graduation being held at the middle school in the event of rain. The board voted in a special meeting Thursday, May 29, to use that location.

She told the board she and other parents do not believe the middle school will provide adequate room for attending family members. She requested graduation be held at College Misericordia so that unlimited tickets are available.

O'Brien said the parents' reasoning for the request was that six weeks earlier, all parents of graduating seniors received a letter that on one page stated the rain location would be at the middle school, while on the other page, it stated the ceremony would be at Misericordia.

In addition, O'Brien said the letter was not the only occasion on which parents were led to believe graduation would take place at Misericordia.

"I talked to Mr. Galicki 14 months ago about what would happen if it would rain and was told at that point in time that it would be at College Misericordia."

"I think it's appalling that we're four days away from graduation and we're still batting this around."

O'Brien also said that parents were told at a meeting three weeks ago to not worry; that their feelings would be taken into account.

Some board members said they were not aware of the par-

ents' feelings until they started

receiving phone calls from O'Brien last week.

Dr. Gil Griffiths, Dallas Superintendent, said when he heard of the parents' concerns last week, he called Misericordia to investigate the option.

"He (Michael MacDowell, President Misericordia) said they would do everything within their power to accommodate us," said Griffiths.

He said one factor in the decision-making process is the cost. In other years the cost to hold graduation at Misericordia was \$4,000. He said this year, because of the late notice, that cost would nearly double to \$7,000.

Griffiths said as it stands, with the balcony out of commission, the middle school auditorium has 816 available seats, enough to accommodate four tickets per family and 50 faculty. He said it is believed that 200 folding seats could be added to bring that number up to 1,016, enough to add a fifth ticket for each family. He said any overflow would be able to sit in classrooms and watch the graduation via television.

In other business, the board and administration congratulated the Dallas Middle School softball team who with a 17-0 record, finished the season as district champions.

Also congratulated were Jordan Thimot and Peter J. Tomczyk. The seventh-grade members of the Stock Market Club placed first in the "Stock Market Game" against nine other teams in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area. In the game, run through Temple University's Department of Economics and sponsored locally by the University of Scranton, students invested a hypothetical \$100,000 in the stock market. After playing the market for 10 weeks, Dallas' team won with an ending portfolio of \$112,765.



## Convenience on Carverton

A new convenience store has opened at the intersection of Carverton Road and Manor Drive in Trucksville. "It's A Lifesaver" is the first in what its owner plan to be a group of stores offering a wide range of products.

The new store features Sunoco gasoline products outside and the Majestic Lunch inside, where customers can pick up hoagies, pizza, hot dogs, hamburgers and fresh-made desserts. Seating is available for anyone wanting to take a break. The store also has coffee, soft drinks, milk, snacks and other needs. There's even an ATM machine and fresh bait for fishermen headed for nearby Frances Slocum State Park.

The store is the first portion of what will be a mini-mall when two more buildings are added to house retail and office space. It's A Lifesaver is open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week.

## Meadows Auxiliary needs cooking items

The Meadows Auxiliary, Dallas, is in need of new or used cookbooks, cooking magazines, aprons, table linens, and other kitchen items to be used for a new booth at their "Market on the Pond" flea market scheduled for June 14.

Donations can be left at the Reception Desk at the center. If pick up is required, please call the Volunteer Dept. at 675-8600, Ext. 195.

## Budget

(continued from page 1)

By next year, expenses are projected to increase by over 1.1 million, while the increase in revenue is projected to lag behind at only a \$219,000 gain. By the 2006-07 school year, the expense increase is projected to be \$1.3 million, as opposed to a \$225,221 revenue increase.

About one-third of the shortfall is tied to sharply increased contributions to the teachers' retirement fund, from a rate of 1.89 percent next year to 9.83

percent in 2006-07.

Melone said despite collection rates of 94 percent, local sources of revenue, which include income and property taxes, are somewhat down, a change that he said reflects the recent state of the economy.

The breakdown of revenues for the coming year are as follows: 63 percent from local taxes, 34 percent from state sources, 2 percent, or \$500,000 from the federal government.

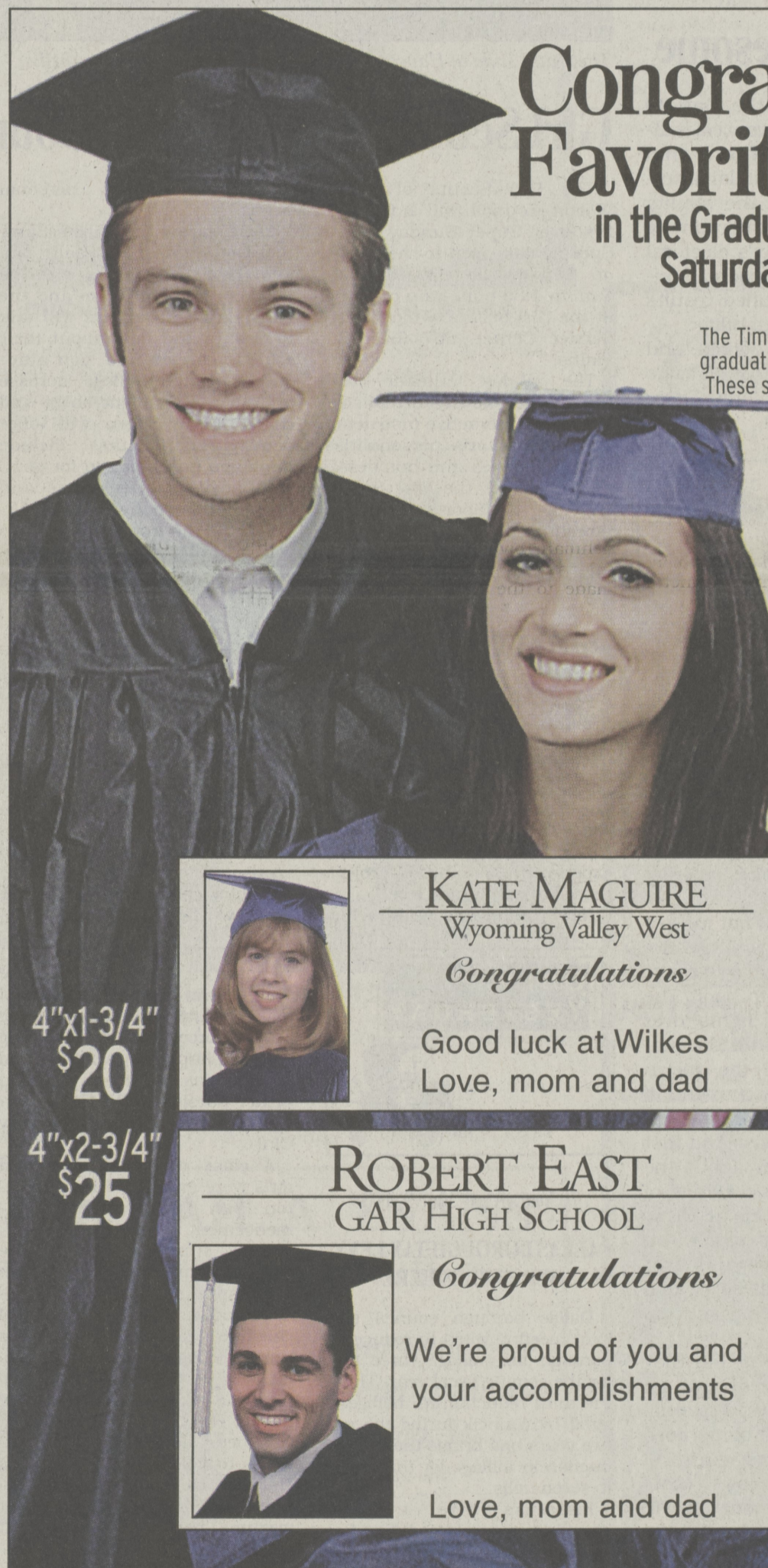
# Congratulate Your Favorite Graduate

in the Graduate Keepsake Edition  
Saturday, June 28, 2003.

The Times Leader will publish special full color keepsake graduation editions Saturday, June 28, 2003. These schools will be featured:

Bishop Hoban  
Luzerne Intermediate Unit  
Bishop Hafey  
MMI Prep  
Northwest Area  
Coughlin High School  
Pittston Area  
Scranton State School for the Deaf  
Crestwood  
Seton Catholic  
Dallas

Wyoming Area  
Bishop O'Reilly  
Tunkhannock Area  
Ebenezer Faith Christian  
West Side Technical  
E. L. Meyers  
Wilkes-Barre Area Technical  
GAR  
Greater Nanticoke Area  
Wyoming Seminary  
Hanover Area  
Wyoming Valley West  
Hazleton Area  
Scranton Prep  
Lake-Lehman



**KATE MAGUIRE**  
Wyoming Valley West  
*Congratulations*  
Good luck at Wilkes  
Love, mom and dad

4"x1-3/4" \$20

**ROBERT EAST**  
GAR HIGH SCHOOL  
*Congratulations*  
We're proud of you and  
your accomplishments  
Love, mom and dad

4"x2-3/4" \$25

**KERRY JONES**  
Wyoming Valley West  
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I'm so proud of you  
Aunt Emily

2"x2-3/4" \$15

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Send to: Times Leader Grads, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711 no later than Thursday, June 19.

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Drop off or mail a photo of your favorite grad along with a personal message of congratulations. Neatly print the grad's name and school along with the name and phone number of the person submitting the ad on the back of your photo. Don't forget to include the completed form and a check or money order made out to the Times Leader.

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