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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS



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Mounts fall to tough Warriors. Pg 9.



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\$500,000 trail grant held up for right-of-way

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

TRUCKSVILLE — Until right-of-way issues are settled, a \$480,000 grant awarded three years ago for construction of the Back Mountain Trail cannot be used.

With an August 2005 expiration date on the State Department of Transportation grant, the clock is ticking for the Back Mountain trail to secure final easements or deeds to complete the trail, planned to eventually run from Luzerne to Harveys Lake.

"It's so important because we have two years left. It (grant) will run out — we will lose it," said Judy Rimple, president of the Anthracite Scenic Trails Association.

Rimple said great strides have been made in furthering the trail, because many businesses and property owners have been enthusiastic about granting easements for the project.

Rimple said the association has already gained 16 easements and deeds for about two miles of trail. But to get the trail to College Misericordia, 12 more are needed.

Many types of public entities have granted access to the trail including College Misericordia, dentists Watkins and Medura, Top Value Kitchens and an unspecified church.

However, a piece considered imperative to the completion of the trail is a 500-foot span behind Newell Fuel Company on Memorial Highway in Trucksville. So far, the land owner has been hesitant to grant an easement.

Rimple called the portion "vital" and said "If we can't get past Newell, we're done."

The section of trail behind Newell's would connect two large pieces that have already been obtained by the

See TRAIL, pg 2



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Dallas Mayor Tim Carroll stooped to conquer, sort of, as he prepared to smooch with Frank the Pig Sunday at the Dallas Harvest Festival. Carroll was the winner (?) of a Kiss the Pig contest that was a highlight of the event, at least for those who voted. More photos on page 4.

Harvest Festival reaps big rewards

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

DALLAS — Cooperation and a desire to build the Back Mountain community paid off big on Sunday.

"The success of the harvest festival is a tribute to a lot of hard work done by caring people with the belief that our Dallas and Back Mountain communities would be receptive to coming together and celebrating our heritage," said Rich Fufaro, chairman of the Dallas

"It was such a great day for families to enjoy the festivities and each other."

Mary Manzoni
Festival organizer

Harvest Festival.

And come together they did. It is estimated that four to five thousand people attended what will surely become known as the first annual Dal-

las Harvest Festival. Parking did not seem to be a problem as most people walked to the festival from nearby neighborhoods or left their automobiles to board a free shuttle service.

It is safe to say that this single event will help transform Dallas and the Back Mountain into a true hometown instead of just a dot on the road that leads the rest of the valley to Harveys Lake and home again.

"It was standing room only," said committee member Mary Manzoni. "It was such a great day for families

See FESTIVAL, pg 8

Test scores good, but will never be perfect

□ *Under No Child Left Behind, every silver lining has a cloud*

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS — The scores are good, but attendance could be better, says Dallas Assistant Superintendent Michael Speziale.

In a presentation at the September 8 Dallas School Board work session, Speziale said that PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) scores are good in district schools. But attendance is lagging behind standards set by the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act, and the district may be warned about it.

Speziale said PSSA scores charted since the 1995-96 school year to the most recent scores (from last year), show an upward trend in the district as a whole.

And most 2002/2003 scores show an increase over the previous year.

However, as the Lake-Lehman School District and others in the valley were reminded recently, academic scores aren't all the No Child Left Behind law has mandated. Attendance could also land the district on the NCLB warning list.

"Overall I was very pleased (with the most recent scores)," said Speziale, "I think work we've done with the curriculum is indicated in upward trends in all the areas."

Districts are paying close attention to PSSA scores because the NCLB law requires that all schools nationwide have 100 percent of their students scoring at proficient and advanced levels in math and reading by the year 2014. There are similar requirements for attendance and graduation.

See TESTS, pg 3

Skateboard noise is a nuisance, neighbor complains

By CAMILLE FIOTI
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — Noise from a skateboard ramp in Shrine Acres brought resident Tom Dougherty to Tuesday night's board of supervisors meeting to protest the ramp and the recent zoning board decision to allow it to stay.

The ramp is on property owned by Mike Parsons and is facing Dougherty's family room window next door. He said the decision by the zoning board

was based on an ordinance dating back to 1965 that doesn't prohibit skateboard ramps in neighborhoods. He said he was told by the board that the noise level is no different than that of kids playing in Parson's pool, or swing set.

"It's not the noise from the kids that is annoying, it's the noise of the boards" said Dougherty. He said the constant rolling sound of the skateboard on plywood, then slamming back down to the ground is very irritating.

Attorney Mike Melnick, solicitor for the board of supervisors, said he was not aware of the zoning board's decision to allow the ramp to stay but will discuss the situation with Attorney James Geddes, solicitor for the zoning board.

In other news, Jim Comes, owner of Landview Properties Inc., a land development firm in Roaring Brook Township, requested permission to open a secondary emergency access road in an upscale development off of Lake

Catalpa Road. The board agreed that a secondary road is crucial in the event of an emergency.

The 250-acre development which has yet to be named will accommodate 74, one to 12 acre parcels with the average being 3 1/2 acres. The minimum square footage for homes is 2,400. Purchasers of the parcels can choose their own builder and there is no time frame for building.

Landview also developed the Laurelbrook Estates in Bear Creek and Windsor Hill in Roaring Brook Township.

Shavertown UMC looks to the future by remembering its past

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

SHAVERTOWN — A voice from the past will speak to the congregation of Shavertown United Methodist Church on Sunday, September 21.

The church will celebrate the 100th anniversary of a very generous gift of land given in 1903 by local resident and businessman Theron Ferguson. The community is invited to an old-fashioned tent meeting at 11 a.m. in the church parking lot to commemorate this event.

The service will include a special message delivered by Rev. William Summerhill, dean and chaplain at Wyoming Seminary. Summerhill, a dramatic actor, will portray Ferguson, as a citizen of the late 1800s.

**Service of Celebration
Sunday, Sept. 21
11 a.m.
Shavertown UMC
Pioneer Ave.**

"Part of the service will take place in the sanctuary," said Rev. Janet Clark, co-pastor of the church. "Then the congregation will walk across the street to the tent where they will find Ferguson (Summerhill) waiting for them."

Ferguson, a layperson who earned his living as a butcher, will preach a sermon in a surreal fashion, visiting the congregation in this century from a century gone by. There is not much known about him. He

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POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

Rev. William R. Summerhill, Jr., Academic Dean and Senior Chaplain at Wyoming Seminary in Kingston, prepares to portray Theron Ferguson at a special service of thanks at Shavertown United Methodist Church this Sunday. In 1903 Ferguson donated the land on which the church was built.

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