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THE POST

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

Growth at college cushions local economy

By ERIN YOUNGMAN Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — Enrollment at College Misericordia is up nearly 30 percent since 2000. A strong marketing campaign, changes on campus and a community involved president are cited as reasons for the increase. Leaders of the Dallas Visioning program and Back Mountain Business and Professional Association say whatever the reason, the increase is good

news for the local economy. Jane Dessoie, Executive Director of the college's Admissions and Financial Aid departments, said last week that enrollment has gone up so significantly that at 2,122 students, the college has reached its maximum. It doesn't stop there, though. The number of applications is increasing every year, so much so, said Dessoie, that Misericordia's rejection rate went up 253 percent over last year. "The number even surprised me," she said.

Misericordia, Borough gain tree grants

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The growing numbers are largely due to a marketing plan put in place in 1999 that is advertising the school to prospective students mostly in the immediate vicinity, said Dessoie, but also to states such as New Jersey, New York and Maryland. "We've made efforts to expand our regions." This year

18 percent of the student body is from out-of-state. The number of full-time students enrolled at the college has risen from 1,074 in 1999 to 1,384 this year. Overall enrollment including part-time, graduate and full-time has grown by 456 students in the same time period, or 27.4 percent. Community business leaders say the additional hundreds of students in the area is great news for local businesses and the ongoing Dallas revitalization

effort. "Students are consumers," said Lynn Banta, President of the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association (BMBPA). "They go out to eat, they buy jewelry, they use all of the services the Back Mountain has to offer." For the Back Mountain, such consumerism is welcome. Banta said the area is still reeling from the loss of See ECONOMY, pg 2



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

Yer in Dallas country

Wycallis Elementary School second graders dressed for the occasion of the school's annual Hoedown, held last week. Showing off their western finery before the show are, from left, front row: Alex Klings, Jennifer Cave and Kayla Wanek. In rear are Maria Lombard, A.J. Mazula, and Jacob Howell. More photos on page 3.

Fire & Ambulance

Paid personnel provide speedy midday response

By RONALD BARTIZEK Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN — Adding paid emergency service personnel has helped to offset the detrimental effects of busy lifestyles and increased population on fire and ambulance response in the region's largest townships. Dallas Fire and Ambulance hired two paid emergency medical technicians (EMT) for weekday coverage more than three years ago. They can provide immediate first response from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. "Our goal is to get the ambulances and fire trucks out as quickly as possible," said Brett Slocum, the Dallas chief. He says the department is

"Our goal is to get the ambulances and fire trucks out as quickly as possible."

Brett Slocum

Chief, Dallas Fire & Ambulance

able to leave the station in 1.5 to 2 minutes after receiving a call. Mark Van Etten, treasurer of the Dallas department, said Kingston Township Ambulance also employs weekday responders. Until recently, each department also had one paid EMT at their respective halls between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekends. Starting November 1, the two have paired up, spending Saturday. See RESPONDERS, pg 2

Kingston Twp. budget clears first hurdle

By RONALD BARTIZEK Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. — Many uncertainties remain in the 2004 budget that was passed on first reading last week, not least of which is the rate of increase in township employees' salaries. With a deadline looming for adoption, the first reading was passed November 24 on a 3-2 vote, with Paul Sabol, Carl Goodwin and Neil Allen providing the majority. Chris Yankovich and John Versari voted against the plan. Unionized police personnel have a contract that gives them

a 4.75 percent raise in 2004. The present budget calls for a 3.5 percent increase for non-uniformed employees such as the road crew and office staff. That discrepancy doesn't sit well with some supervisors, or with employees. Yankovich has been adamant about the need for consistency in raises. "If you're going to give it to one, you need to give it to both," he said Monday. Eddie O'Neill, township Manager, asked the board to consider giving all employees a 4.75 percent increase if the police bargaining unit would accept. See BUDGET, pg 2

Two generations, 100 years' service to Rotary

By SANDY PEOPLES Post Correspondent

"Service above self" has been the motto of the Rotary Club of Dallas since 1927, and over the last several decades, one Back Mountain family has made it a way of life. Spencer Martin joined Rotary on October 1, 1959. This year he and his family celebrate his 44 years as a Rotarian. He recently reflected on those years and how he came to be a member of this service organization.



The Martins celebrate more than 100 years of service to the Rotary Club of Dallas. From left: Eric, Karen, Joan and Spencer.

Christmas Shopping Spree for underprivileged children, book scholarships for college-bound students, leadership camp for area high school sophomores, roadside cleanups, Salvation Army bell ringing, and more.

For Martin and his wife, Joan, Rotary played a major role in the raising of their children. "Every April we would take our five kids to the annual Rotary conference," he said. "They really looked forward to it. And every fall we would literally camp out at the fall fair grounds because the kids were also involved in helping to set things up. The library auction also became part of their way of life."

The Martins are pleased that their son, Eric, became a Rotarian. "Service to the community was instilled in all of our kids and all of them have found ways to give back to their community," Joan Martin said. Spencer and Joan Martin are both proud recipients of the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship Award, which is the highest honor to be bestowed upon a Rotarian recognizing excep-

See SERVICE, pg 3

Volunteers

Making our community strong. If you know someone who might make a good example, call 970-7157.

Martin joined Rotary at the invitation of his neighbor and well-known Back Mountain resident, Dr. Lester Jordan. "Doc Jordan was Mr. Rotary," said Martin. "He led the charge and started the foreign exchange program for students. It was the first such Rotary program in the world, and since then, it

has become a major international program."

"The best part of Rotary is actually two-fold," said Martin. "As a member of a service organization, you are able to do things for the community, and with other Rotarians, you get to do them in the fellowship of good people."

Martin was president of the Rotary Club of Dallas in 1968-

1969 and has seen the club grow in its dedication to the area. "Rotary founded the fall fair, which is now known as the Luzerne County Fair," said Martin, "and was instrumental in the creation of the Back Mountain Memorial Library and the annual antiques auction."

The club has supported many other projects, such as a

Honor rolls from Lake-Lehman Sr. High School, Bishop O'Reilly Jr. and Sr. High School and Lake-Lehman elementary schools.

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New coach, new optimism for Dallas Mountaineers boys basketball squad.

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