

BUSINESS IN THE BACK MOUNTAIN



Architect's rendering by BBIX, Wilkes-Barre and Boston.

New look, facility at the Renaissance Center

The new building at the Renaissance Center in Shavertown is taking on shape. Dr. Francis J. Collini is creating a new start-of-the-art, state approved surgery center, which will rival any hospital in the area. A 3,200 square foot expansion will contain complete operating rooms and recovery suites. Dr. Collini, who is a board certified plastic surgeon, will be able to perform all outpatient and cosmetic surgeries at the office.

For the past 15 years Dr. Collini has performed a wide variety of cosmetic and reconstructive surgery. He also donates his expertise to a charitable

organization, "Hands Healing Hearts," which brings medical services and training to disadvantaged citizens of the Third World.

The new Surgery Center for Plastic Surgery at The Renaissance Center, which also already includes a full service salon, skin care clinic and day spa named Age of Innocence, is expected to be completed in June. Dr. Collini and The Renaissance Center and Age of Innocence are located at 113 N. Memorial Hwy., Shavertown. The web address is www.collini.com, or call 674-6525.

Shops open side-by-side in Shavertown

Joanna Siegel of Dallas, and Sarah Roberts of Kingston, recently returned to the region to open their stores, buka and BATHOLOGIE, located at 120 North Main Street, Shavertown.

Named for a childhood nickname, Joanna's buka is a contemporary clothing boutique that offers a variety of unique lines, including well-fitting denim, tees, handcrafted jewelry, accessories and a sampling of Putamayo's world music. As an addition to the store, Joanna also designs her own jewelry line which mainly consists of semi-precious stones and sterling silver.

Sarah's BATHOLOGIE offers a selection of bath and body products ranging from soaps, scrubs and lotions, to bath salts, body butter and fragrances, as well as specialty items such as pregnancy and baby care products. Gift giving is made easy with pre-made baskets, or you can create your own. Sarah also makes her own line of hand-made soap sold by the slice.

Joanna and Sarah were friends in



Joanna Siegel of Dallas, and Sarah Roberts of Kingston, recently opened buka and BATHOLOGIE.

high school. After college, Joanna spent time in Florida working in the field of jewelry merchandising along with some product design for a screen printing and embroidery company. Sarah worked for several years in the accounting field in Washington, DC and most recently in New York.

Harveys Lake resident Kim Pepe has opened an office at 550 Memorial Highway, Dallas, providing first and second mortgages, home equity loans, lines of credit and other financial instruments. Pepe is licensed by the Pa. Department of Banking. The office has programs for those with varying levels of credit history.

During March, the firm is offering a free financial analysis. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 1-866-366-2574.

mercial and investment properties in Luzerne County and the surrounding areas.



Slacktish brings nine years of mortgage banking and financing expertise to the business, and is a member of PA Association of Mortgage Brokers and the Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors.

Jean Innamorati established the real estate firm in 1987 with a staff of 15 realtors. She will continue her professional relationship with Century 21 Signature Properties as a certified appraiser.

The new office can be reached at www.C21signature.com.

CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 1

been a sticking point in many districts. "I have a co-pay," said McLaughlin-Smith, who at one time was vice president of the union. He thinks teachers should step up and share the growing expense. "They should show some sense of responsibility."



Richard Coslett

He calls the role of school director a "big picture" job, and not one that involves day-to-day operation of the schools. "That's what we pay administrators for."

And he thinks board members should not be champions of particular job applicants. "I am not coming on this board to get a job for anybody."

Over in the Dallas district, Coslett will be seeking a return to the board, where he served from 1991 to 1995. He was president in 1994-95.

Coslett said he did not run for reelection at that time to remove pressure from his older daughter, who was then at Dallas Middle School. She is now a freshman at St. Joseph's University, and Coslett says his younger daughter, 10, supports his candidacy.

"Dad, that's great," she said when he

Challenges to ballot listings

Both Dave McLaughlin-Smith and Rick Coslett cross-filed on the Democratic and Republican party primary ballots. Charles Crane, a competing candidate, challenged McLaughlin-Smith's appearance on the Republican side, alleging that he collected nominating signatures himself rather than having someone in the Republican Party collect them, as required by state election law. The challenge was upheld by Luzerne County Judge Joseph Augello, and McLaughlin-Smith will not appear on the Republican ballot. His position on the Democratic ballot is not in question.

A challenge by Dallas School Board incumbent David Usavage against fellow board member Maureen Matiska was overruled. Usavage claimed that because Matiska's nominating petitions did not state the length of the term she was seeking, they were invalid. Four 4-year terms and one 2-year term are open in the Dallas School District. Matiska will be listed as seeking one of the 4-year terms.

expressed interest in running again.

Coslett twice threw his name into the ring when vacancies appeared due to resignations, but was not chosen either time. He thinks this election gives him better odds at a seat.

"Instead of having eight people vote on me, I'd ask the whole Back Mountain to vote."

He is bothered by the tone of recent board meetings as reported in newspapers. "We have to learn how to work together," which he said past boards were able to do. "We had a very collegial atmosphere" even though there were differences of opinion.

Coslett is also concerned that the current administrative setup, with the three top jobs being held on a temporary basis, creates a perception that there is no plan for the district.

"It's like having an aircraft carrier without the admiral," he said. With a major renovation project looming for the high school, "I would like to give my input, as a person who lives here, employs 15 people and whose children have gone to the schools."

Another important issue on the horizon is a state proposal promising to share future slot-machine gambling revenues with districts, in return for holding tax increases to the inflation rate or less.

"This Act 72 just doesn't make sense to me," Coslett said, since there is no way to accurately predict how much money gambling will provide. He thinks local school boards should pool their resources and ask the state to clarify the legislation before forcing a commitment.

PRE-EASTER FROLIC



Kids and their parents took advantage of a sunny Saturday last weekend, turning out for the Easter egg hunt at Burndale Park in Dallas. More than 50 children took part, getting their cue to begin picking up eggs from the Easter bunny, in the person of Dan Neff, from College Misericordia's Education Club.



At first, Haily Long, Harveys Lake, wanted no part of the face painting at the Dallas Borough Easter egg hunt. After a little coaxing, and sitting on Judy Simon's lap, Haily decides it might be OK after seeing Burgundee Pannell get her face painted by Jackie Borsky.



Davy Janoski, Dallas, holds on tight to the egg he picked up at the egg hunt.



Allyssa Podskoch, Dallas, has a hard time convincing her mother Lynette that she and "Fluffy" only want to eat the cookie.

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NEWS
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