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

School choice draws mixed reaction

By CAMILLE FIOTI
Dallas Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — The announcement that a new high school would be built by the 2009-10 school year brought mixed reactions from residents at a special school board meeting last week. The school board voted unani-

mously to build a new 223,373-square foot high school at a cost of about \$38 million, rather than renovate the existing one.

Doug Rohrbaugh of the architectural firm Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates, said renovating the current 105,258 square foot building would involve a lot of demolition and would not be

cost effective because the building is so outdated. He added that most of the classrooms are 200 square feet smaller than state guidelines.

Financially, there isn't much of a difference between renovating and building new, Rohrbaugh said.

"If this school had 12-foot wide

corridors, if this school had been built in a different generation, if it had a different heating system in it, if it had things of value to it, other than one or two spaces in the building, it would be worth renovating, but it doesn't," he said.

Bob Fernandez agreed the high

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TRASH REMOVAL



FOR THE DALLAS POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Jay Banks, a worker for J.P. Mascaro & Sons Co., empties a recycling bin during collection last week. The local trash hauler provides service to parts of the Back Mountain.

Scouting still thrives

By GENELLE HOBAN
Dallas Post Correspondent

DALLAS — Despite sports, video games and loads of other activities available to young boys, Cub Scout Pack 232 still has a growing interest in its organization.

More than 200 people packed into the basement of the Gate of Heaven School last weekend for the organization's annual Blue and Gold Dinner. Gate of Heaven Church is the sponsor of Pack 232.

"The purpose of the Blue and Gold dinner is to commemorate the annual moving up to the next level in rank," Amy Huntington, an organizer of the event, said. "In the last two years we've seen an increase in our Tiger Cub program (the youngest of the Cub Scout ranks)."

The 53 Cub Scouts in the pack participate in a number of diverse activities throughout the year, including citizenship training, character development and personal fitness. Meetings are held twice a month.

"I like that we work together on projects to get up to the next rank," said 10-year-old Eric Stamer, who lives in Tunkhannock. "I liked the tiki poles we made for the banquet, too."

The theme of this year's dinner was "Aloha Cub Scouts." The school basement was decked out with balloons, beach umbrellas, palm trees and leis for the occasion.

"I think most parents are eager to put their children in Cub Scouts because of the values and skills scouting promotes," said Huntington whose sons Michael, Christopher and Anthony are involved in scouting. "My husband is an



FOR THE DALLAS POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Gate of Heaven Pack 232 leader Dave Carichner gives directions to James Schwemmer and Karl Carichner (center) about posting colors and the order of ceremony at the start of the Blue and Gold dinner.

Eagle Scout and (the pack's) Cubmaster. I think Scouting helps boys become better young men and helps keep them out of trouble."

Ryan Ell, 10, has been involved in scouting for the past two years. He says he enjoys the learning experiences. Eight-year-old Cameron Brennan of Harveys Lake, a Bear in rank, said his den does things like plays chess and goes camping.

"I like the camping and talking to my friends," he said. "It's a lot of fun."

Brennan's mother, Irene said her son really enjoys the outdoors especially the camping and hiking.

After his son Brian joined Scouts, Dan Ghezzi became involved in the organization. He's now a Scoutmaster.

"At all of the activities we do the boys learn skills and earn merit badges," Ghezzi said. "We try to take them on an outing once a month. We have 18 active members and two more who just crossed over during the ceremony here."

Members of Cub Scout Pack 232, including Paul Dragon, Tyler Dragon and James Kelly, recite the Scout pledge at the start of the Blue and Gold Dinner.



Is trash fee raise a lot of garbage?

By MATT HANNON
For The Dallas Post

TRUCKSVILLE — Ted Fisher wouldn't have minded a small increase in the cost for his trash removal. But he says a 90 percent increase over a two-year period is much too large.

"I think the least they could have done was ask us if we would have minded such a huge increase," said Trucksville resident Ted Fisher. "I don't mind a five percent increase, but an almost 90 percent increase, that's out of line."

Many Back Mountain residents, Fisher has seen recent raises in trash removal fees from the Dallas Area Municipal Authority. The rates have nearly doubled since 2005, when they were set at \$28 per quarter. Now, that fee is \$55.

DAMA executive director Larry Spaciano says the rates are fair. He said if the rates seem high, it's because DAMA was locked into a rate from the late 1990s to 2005. At that time, states Spaciano, the rates changed to reflect increases that waste haulers were dealing with such as gas prices and larger landfill fees.

"We're just trying to give the residents the best program for

their buck," he said. "We have one of the top programs in the county and I think it's a credit to the citizens."

Spaciano added that DAMA chose J.P. Mascaro & Sons because it would save the residents an average of \$187 over a five-year period.

Mark Cesare of J.P. Mascaro's Wyoming Valley branch said rate increases were necessary to pay for fees incurred by the refuse hauler.

"We had to pay fuel prices going up, disposal and landfill fees, (Pennsylvania Department of Transportation), the list goes on," said Cesare. "There are a ton of fees that go into a business like this, just to keep us in compliance."

Not all residents of the Back Mountain are angry about the increase in fees. Some feel the increase reflects the current times and how much gas prices are.

"I really can't complain about it," said Melissa Sgroi. "It's such a clean community and I feel they had to raise the prices accordingly. Plus, it's not like anyone is taking my can and throwing it across the street."

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THEY'RE OFF... AND HAVING FUN IN KUNKLE



FOR THE DALLAS POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

More than 60 people attended the Kunkle Volunteer Fire Company's annual "Night at the Races" last weekend at the Kunkle Community House. The patrons enjoyed a night of entertainment and food. The event raised more than \$1,000, which will benefit the fire and ambulance company. Above, volunteer Lori Orlando gives the wheel a spin at the event.

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Dallas field hockey stand-outs headed overseas.

