

# The DALLAS POST

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## Expo to showcase Back Mountain businesses

By REBECCA BRIA  
rbria@timesleader.com

It was 2006 when the Back Mountain Economic Development Council was born.

The council is an outgrowth of the Back Mountain Business Association and consists of four committees – infrastructure, beautification, communication and recruitment – to attract people and businesses to the Back Mountain.

The council will hold "Experi-

ence the Back Mountain 2010" on Thursday, April 22, on the second floor of Insalaco Hall at Misericordia University.

Lynn Banta, a former president of the Back Mountain Business Association, serves as president of the Back Mountain Economic Development Council.

"We formed because we really believe we have a little jewel in the Back Mountain and a great place for businesses to start and grow and we wanted to be able to get that message out," Banta said.

### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** Experience the Back Mountain 2010

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 22; Workshops: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Business Expo – 3 to 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** Second floor of Insalaco Hall, Misericordia University

"And we also understood, unless we took some of that in our hands, it wouldn't happen by accident."

"Experience the Back Moun-

tain 2010" was created to boost awareness of local retailers and provide discounts for residents and students, promote business-to-business opportunities through networking, expand the Back Mountain Business Association, retain and recruit businesses in the Back Mountain and expand community awareness of local events and buying opportunities.

There is no cost to attend the event.

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## Schools take part in expo

Back Mountain school districts and universities have committed to helping make "Experience the Back Mountain 2010" a success.

Christine Stevens Slacktish, director of financial services education and outreach project at Misericordia University and a member of the Back Mountain Economic Development Council's recruitment committee, said

both Misericordia and Penn State Wilkes-Barre will have tables at the event.

According to Slacktish, representatives from the universities will be on hand to provide an overview of the universities and what they offer, as well as to provide information on their student internship programs.

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## Women's conference the focus of Scout project

Women's Firsts and Other Women of Distinction will be held April 24

By REBECCA BRIA  
rbria@timesleader.com

Two years ago Andrea Carr was assigned to write a research paper about something that happened on her birthday.

Carr, 18, of Dallas, who was a sophomore at Dallas High School at the time, discovered from a headline in newspaper dated April 17, 1964 that Geraldine "Gerry" Mock was in the process of completing the mission as the first woman to fly solo around the world. That was 28 years to the day before Carr was born. Mock completed her journey on April 18, 1964.

Carr was surprised she had never heard of Mock, so she looked up a phone number for Mock, now in her 80s and living in Florida, and called her.



Carr

### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** Women's Firsts and Other Women of Distinction

**WHEN:** Noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 24

**WHERE:** Lemmond Theater at Misericordia University

**COST:** \$3

Mock served as the inspiration for Carr to form a women's conference to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award, the equivalent of the Eagle Scout Award in Boy Scouts. Carr's women's conference, called Women's Firsts and Other Women of Distinction, will be held from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 24, in the Lemmond Theater at Misericordia University.

The conference is open to the community, including men. Carr recommends that children be at least in the sixth grade to attend.

The cost is \$3 per person to defray the cost of refreshments, which include Girl Scout cookies.

"We have been in contact ever since," Carr said of she and Mock, who now talk on the phone several times a year. "I just needed basic information to write my paper and I said, 'Who are you and why don't I know anything about you?' That really kind of stuck with me that there are women out there who are not recognized and they really should be. It's sad that people like her are lost in history."

Carr, now a senior at Dallas High School, is the daughter of Leo and Maria Carr. She entered the Girl Scouts as a Brownie in the first grade and is a member of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania Council Troop 2661. The troop, which includes three girls, is led by Carr's mother and meets at the Carr home.

Maria Carr became the assistant leader of the troop when her daughter joined Girl Scouts. When Andrea Carr entered the second grade, Maria Carr took over as troop

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## Circle of Friends changes lives of many



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

The "Circle of Friends" program at Misericordia University will end after this semester due to lack of funding. Students in the program interact with typical students on campus. From left, are Brittany Adair, Selena Waters, Tanya Lang, Helen Cranch, Melissa Templeton, Jeff Salvatore and Maura Musial.

## IMPACT HAS NO END

By REBECCA BRIA rbria@timesleader.com

Helen Cranch says the Circle of Friends changed her life. • The Circle of Friends program at Misericordia University is an on-campus residential program that teaches independent living skills and provides educational and social activities in a college setting to young women with developmental disabilities. The women must be between the ages of 18 and 23 when they begin the program.

Cranch has made friends on campus and looks forward to swimming with Melissa Templeton, an occupational therapy major, who teaches social and life skills to the participants.

After an nearly eight-year run, however, the Circle of Friends program will disband in May.

"Being here changed my life because I learned a lot of new stuff," Cranch said. Templeton has also learned a lot from

working with the women in the program. She and fellow occupational therapy major Maura Musial teach the women about friendship, strangers, healthy eating and more.

"I learn a lot from them," Templeton said. "They learn from us. It's a give and take process."

Circle of Friends began when Dr. Susan Sordoni, of Harveys Lake, approached the college president about the need for

such a program. Sordoni and her husband, Andrew, provided a grant from the Sordoni Foundation plus a private donation as seed money for the program back in 2002.

That fall, Circle of Friends began as a pilot commuter program and the Sordoni's daughter, Laura, was one of the first participants in the program.

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## Students, parents hope to revitalize Dallas marching band

By REBECCA BRIA  
rbria@timesleader.com

Students in the Dallas High School Marching Band and their parents packed the Dallas School Board meeting on April 12 hoping to get help.

Vincent Carolan, the father of an eighth-grader in the band, presented the board with a petition with hundreds of signatures to revitalize the band.

According to Ellen Hunter, president of the Dallas Band and Guard Booster As-

sociation, the marching band is open to all students in grades seven through 12, yet it only has 19 members.

Several parents and students spoke in support of the band and the need for its revitalization.

Hunter said her son, who is a junior, has decided not to play in the marching band or concert band next year.

"I'm concerned about the direction the music program is taking at Dallas," Hunter said. "We must make changes before the new school becomes a reality or we'll

have no band to fix."

The school district administration hired David Smith in the spring of 2008 to revitalize the marching band which had been suffering from low student participation.

Superintendent Frank Galicki said Smith's position was opened for applicants. Although Smith was eligible to reapply, he did not, Galicki confirmed.

Galicki said the district has received seven applications for the position.

"We have to take a multi-faceted re-

sponse to this problem," Galicki said. "Some of it has to deal with the personnel. Some of it has to do with the philosophy and the requirements of the program."

"I don't think we need a strategic approach to realize the arts are important," said board member Charlie Preece, prompting a round of audience applause. "I think it is this board's responsibility to fix the problem."

Board members agreed to schedule a

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