

GOH parents given just few days to make choices

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

A meeting was held at Gate of Heaven School in Dallas on Tuesday night to discuss how the 197 registered students, from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, will be transferred to other Catholic schools.

The Diocese of Scranton announced on Monday night that Gate of Heaven in Dallas, along with St. Mary Assumption School in Pittston, Sacred Heart School in Carbondale and Marian Catholic School in Scranton will be closed for the 2011-2012 school year.

Gate of Heaven Principal Abe Simon greeted the concerned and upset parents with sympathy, noting this is a very emotional time for everyone. Simon said the school has a great group of students and the spirit of Gate of Heaven will live on in their actions and memories.

Simon said that Bishop Joseph Bambera, who is dedicated to providing Catholic education, used specific criteria, such as funding, location and the current capacity of the school, when choosing which schools to close.

"There is not much to do with the decision to close," he said. "But I can assist with the choice of school."

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At a meeting held at Gate of Heaven School on Tuesday evening, Gate of Heaven principal Abe Simon distributed forms to parents to fill out with their first and second choice schools. The forms were to be returned by Friday, April 15 for consideration and Simon hopes to be able to notify parents of their children's placement by Easter.

them the forms needed to be returned by Friday, April 15 for consideration. Simon added forms would be sorted and students would be assigned to their new school. He hopes to be able to notify parents of their children's placement by Easter.

If parents want their children to remain in the Holy Redeemer Regional System, they can choose from St. Nicholas-St. Mary in Wilkes-Barre, Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston, Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter and Our Lady of Peace in Clarks Green.

"We will try to accommodate your first choices," Simon said.

Many parents were floored by such a strict time frame, stating three days were not enough time to determine which school was a suitable fit for their children. Several asked for "at least a week" to research schools, accommodations, curriculum, class sizes and bus transportation.

Simon said the tight time line was an effort to alleviate stress on families waiting to have their child placed. Teachers will be transferred to the remaining Catholic

schools as well, he said.

Marge Dewees, of Dallas, asked if representatives from other schools could come and give a presentation on the academics of their facilities. Simon said he did not know if that was possible but could acquire pamphlets from the other Catholic schools to make available for parents.

Dr. Justin Eggleston, of Dallas, commented that St. Nicholas-St. Mary's school had its curriculum posted online while Wyoming Area Catholic School was very willing to schedule visits.

Principal James Jones from Good Shepherd Academy was in attendance for moral support and found himself fielding questions as well. He said the current class size at Good Shepherd is between 25 and 30 students but there is room to expand and accept new students from Gate of Heaven.

Parents of younger children asked if Good Shepherd Academy offered before and after care plus pre-kindergarten and Jones answered yes.

Many parents were also concerned with longer bus rides and if



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Students at Gate of Heaven School were comforted by their parents the day after it was announced the school will be closed next year.

elementary school children would ride a bus with high school students.

Simon said the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts will help

with providing transportation locally while the Tunkhannock School District will assist with students attending Our Lady of Peace. Bus routes and schedules will be

provided by the school district but parents should contact their respective district to inform it of a transportation need for next school year, he said.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Proving that rummaging is for men, too, Wayne Felty, of Shavertown, picks through the goodies at the Lehman-Idetown Methodist Church annual rummage sale.

RUMMAGE

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cause of what he might find.

"One time I found Buzz Lightyear," he said. Yakimo added Cameron found the Disney "Toy Story" character Buzz Lightyear backpack while on the hunt at a church rummage sale in Dallas.

"I mostly come to find kids' stuff," said Stauch.

Yakimo had at least two bags filled near her feet as she browsed the racks at the sale. Other items she found, including a pink foam mat, wouldn't fit into bags.

"It's an exercise mat," she said, taking a break from "the search." "I wasn't going to get it, but then they said it was free, so I couldn't pass it up."

\$1,919; Amy Rome as assistant cross country coach with a stipend of \$2,045; Meredith Ohl as assistant volleyball coach with a stipend of \$664; Dominique Ross as girls tennis coach with a stipend of \$2,217; and Tom Kilduff as golf coach with a stipend of \$2,217.

The following middle school fall sports coaches were hired within the district: Tony Chiarucci as football assistant-in-charge with a stipend of \$3,295; John Saba as assistant football coach with a stipend of \$2,725; Marjorie Adams as assistant-in-charge of cross country with a stipend of

CONTRACT

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Students of Sue Hand will display work

Adult and teen artists who study with Sue Hand will exhibit their "Tiny Treasures" and miniatures (small art works in drawing and painting media) on April 21, 22 and 23 at Sue Hand's Imagery, 35 Main St., Dallas, during the studio's Spring Exhibit.

Miniature art is one of the oldest and most respected art techniques of the Western world, originally used as the forerunner of today's digital camera to produce portraits and capture memories.

This year's theme for the exhibit is architecture constructed prior to 1940. Over two dozen of the artworks include small works and miniatures of Hillside Farms, Wyoming Seminary and other local landmarks painted by Sue Hand in oil, acrylic and watercolor. A wide range of additional subjects and media will also be exhibited by additional teen and adult artists.

The largest artworks are a mere 7x10 inches in size. The smallest are one-inch square. Visitors may wish to bring along a magnifying glass to view the display.

Sue Hand will demonstrate and explain the miniature painting process to interested visitors during the exhibit.

The public is invited to attend the exhibit from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 21; from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, April 22 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 23.

WILLIAMS

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ations, a subsidiary of Williams, recently announced its plans for the Dallas Township area, which include a 33-mile gathering line from Springville Township in Susquehanna County to a site off Hildebrandt Road in Dallas Township where a metering station is planned about 1,800 feet from the Dallas School District campus.

The gathering line will tap into the Williams-owned Transco interstate pipeline which runs from Texas to New York. Gas go-

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Students display talent at Sem

The Performing Arts Institute (PAI) of Wyoming Seminary will present a special performance at 7 p.m. today, April 17 in the Amato Auditorium of the Wyoming Seminary Lower School, 1560 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort.

The gala will feature the talents of six high school musical theater performers competing for three scholarships to attend this year's PAI summer program. Singer Carrie Manolakos of New York City will also perform and television star David Canary of "All My Children" fame will be one of the competition judges.

The production is open to the public.

Tickets are \$10 for students and senior citizens, \$15 for adults and \$40 for the pre-

performance reception and performance. For more information, call 270-2186.

Dance program set

"Ensemble Evening: Dance" featuring student dance performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 18 in the Lemmond Theater at Walsh Hall on the campus of Misericordia University.

The program is open free to the public. For more information, call 674-6719.

Lock-In Committee meets April 20

The Dallas High School 2011 Graduation Lock-In Committee will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20 in the high school library.

Grocery certificates for Mr.

Z's and Thomas' Family Market will be sold in increments of \$50.

Book Fair will benefit DHS Lock-In

The Dallas High School 2011 Graduation Lock-In Committee will hold a Book Fair on April 21, 22 and 23 at Barnes and Noble Bookstore in the Arena Hub Plaza, Wilkes-Barre.

When a voucher is presented prior to a purchase in the store or the cafe, a percentage of the sales will be donated to the Lock-In. Vouchers can be obtained from any senior student or patrons can simply mention Dallas Lock-In at the register. There will also be a free gift wrapping table at various times on those dates for those interested.

Purchases can be made online also from April 21-23 by entering the Bookfair ID code # 10445823.

CODE

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are opposed."

He said while the township could have drafted an ordinance that was "emotionally correct," legal fees would end up costing taxpayers in the end. He added that, if the township had tried to further restrict the industry outside of municipal planning code guidelines which are mandated by law, the township would incur hefty legal fees brought on by lawsuits from natural gas companies. Reino estimates the board reviewed more than 30 ordinances within the state to come up with a document that will, for now, hold up in court. "This may need to be amended every year," said Jones.

The most important aspect of the ordinance is enacting it, said Reino. He said the township had

nothing prior to Wednesday's meeting, which would put citizens' health and safety in jeopardy.

In other business...

The board approved a proposed water main replacement in Sunrise Estates by Aqua PA under the condition that the board obtains a highway occupancy permit for PennDOT's right of way on Carverton Road in order for Aqua PA to pave a portion of the entrance to the development.

The board approved the installation of four fire hydrants in Sunrise Estates by Aqua PA.

The board approved a proposed water main replacement on Roushey Street and Perrin Avenue by United Water with the condition that if the water lines can support fire hydrants, bases will be set.

The board awarded a bid for Terrace Avenue storm drainage improvements to Franzosa Trucking Co. Inc. for a total bid

of \$91,486.

The board approved the Luzerne County Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance and set a public hearing on the issue for Wednesday, May 11.

The township will purchase and replace the police department's holding cell door from Frank N. Henry, Inc. at a cost of \$990.

Joe Youngblood will resign from his position as the Dallas Area Municipal Authority representative for Kingston Township and Township Manager Kathleen Sebastian will serve as his replacement until Dec. 31, 2011.

The board approved a donation to the Dallas High School 2011 Graduation Lock-In Party in the amount of \$250.

The township Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 1 p.m. today, April 17 at the Center Street Park in Shavertown. All Kingston Township residents up to age 12 are invited to participate.

ing through the line will come from various wells in the state after passing through the Lathrop Compressor Station in Tunkhannock Township.

Communications Specialist Helen Humphreys said the number and location of the wells are unknown at this point in time because the company has a 25-year contract with Cabot Oil & Gas to provide natural gas transportation.

Ryan Savage, general manager of Midstream Operations in the Appalachian Basin, said the Transco pipeline provides "100 percent of Back Mountain residents' gas" if their provider is UGI.

The metering facility planned

will feature a metering building, a 100-foot communications tower, two 3,000-gallon tanks of the odorant mercaptan, various pipes and valves and condensate tanks to collect mostly water from the natural gas.

The location of the proposed metering building has drawn much concern from parents and residents in the area. Chief Gathering LLC is also pursuing plans to build a metering station near the Dallas campus - about 500 feet from the proposed Williams site.

A hearing began April 4 for Chief's zoning application for special exceptions and hundreds of residents in opposition of the project voiced their con-

cerns. Duke Barrett, of Dallas, believes the watchful eyes of the community are aiding in the preservation of the Back Mountain.

"I would say these oil and gas companies are used to coming into small towns and rural communities with minimal effort to get zoning and necessary changes," he said. "In this circumstance, the community is comprised of educated residents who are concerned about their community ... and therefore companies applying for industrial uses in agricultural zoning districts should be better prepared to make their case, if they can make it."

Openings exist for BMBA workshops

Seats are still available for two workshops that will be held prior to the Back Mountain Business Expo on Wednesday, April 20.

The following free workshops will be held at Misericordia University's Mary Kintz Bevevino Library, in the McGowan Room (3rd floor), 301 Lake St., Dallas:

10 a.m. to noon: "Liability Risks Businesses Often Don't Under-

stand" will help those responsible for managing a company's risks. Topics to be reviewed will include credit default, workers compensation and independent contractor liability.

1:30 to 3:30 p.m.: "Healthcare Reform and Your Choices" will review key elements that employers need to know and be prepared for. Register by calling 675-9380.