

# The DALLAS POST

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## Amid protests, Chief gets permission for pipeline

By SARAH HITE  
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The Dallas Township Board of Supervisors signed an agreement Wednesday with Chief Gathering LLC, which angered residents who have been rallying for months against natural gas development in the area.

The agreement allows the company to construct part of a 30-mile gathering line in the township. The pipeline will tap into the Transco interstate pipeline at a site off Hildebrandt Road about 1,300 feet away from the Dallas School District campus.

The terms are similar to that of an agreement the township

## UP NEXT

The next Dallas Township Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 19 in the municipal building.

entered into with Williams Field Services LLC last month. The Williams pipeline tap-in site is about 500 feet away from the Chief site. Solicitor Thomas Brennan said the only difference

between the two documents was that Chief was party to the agreement "under protest."

Both companies have an agreement in place with stipulations. Those include providing

at least a 25-foot setback for the pipeline from adjacent property owners, insisting the companies follow the township's land development approval process, ensuring the companies follow federal regulations in relation to natural gas pipelines and removing components to both companies' metering stations, which still need to be approved by the town-

ship's zoning hearing board, to make them "as benign as possible."

Other stipulations in both agreements include that the companies cannot construct natural gas facilities within a 1.75-mile radius of the Dallas School District campus and a deed re-

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## New high school welcomes students

By SARAH HITE  
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Despite some traffic back-up and lingering construction crews on campus, the new Dallas High School was open for the business of education on Wednesday, Sept. 14.

Administrators and staff were on hand to direct students through the building, though students had an orientation a few weeks ago to familiarize themselves with the school.

"It's awesome - it's so big," said Cohner Rice, 17, of Shavertown. He was one of those who attended the orientation but admitted he still needs to adjust to the new surroundings.

Principal Jeffrey Shaffer has never seen students so excited to come to school in his 20 years as an administrator.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience," he said. "The recent weather events set us back but we're here; we did it. It was four years of work."

Eighteen-year-old Dana Carey, of Dallas, said she wasn't around for the orientation, but walked around the building "in awe" before the school opened just to get a glimpse of where she would finish her Dallas High School career.

Her favorite aspect of the new school was the dining area, which is part of the commons area.

Students pick up their lunches in a buffet-style cafeteria before heading out into the commons to small, round tables with five plastic chairs at each.

The commons area, where the high school concession stand and store are located, is drenched in sunlight during the day due to floor-to-ceiling windows.

"It's gorgeous," she said. "I really like the (dining) tables and how intimate they are."

The \$43 million project has a completion date of Sept. 18, but students entered the new building in droves Wednesday, wandering the halls with smiles on their faces.

## Traffic, construction hold ups

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Jeffrey Shaver  
Dallas High School principal

Traffic patterns have changed drastically for all schools on the Dallas School District campus, but administrators were on hand to direct cars to the correct locations.

All passenger vehicles now must enter the campus through the Hildebrandt Road entrance, while buses will travel through the Conyngham Avenue access road.

Once students and parents get to Pear Tree Lane, the road breaks into entrances to two routes for the middle and high schools. Signs instruct drivers to parking areas and drop-off areas. Pear Tree Lane is still an access route, as well.

Buses aren't organized according to numbers but to designated drop-off and pick-up areas. Students assigned to an area are reminded that their bus number won't always be the same.

For Dallas Elementary School, parents are encouraged to have students ride the bus or car pool with others to limit traffic. Parents drop off their children at the rear of the school using the Hildebrandt Road entrance and pick them up at the front entrance using the Conyngham Avenue entrance.

Some construction crews were also visible on the campus, paving the remainder of the high school parking lot.

At a board meeting Monday evening, Bob Nesbit of Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates, the project architect, said there are still some lingering issues at the high school, but most were cleared up before the building's doors opened.

Other issues related to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act compliance will need to be completed during after-school hours, but cause no disruption to education at the school.

## MAKING NATIONAL NEWS



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

It's not a good sign when national weather personalities converge on your area to do a live television spot. It usually means the weather where you are is pretty nasty. Al Roker on NBC's "Today" show broadcast live from the Huntsville Dam last Friday morning while parts of Wyoming Valley were already flooded and residents in other areas had been evacuated from their homes. Roker, above center wearing a blue baseball hat, and members of NBC's camera crew are shown here at the base of the dam which was reportedly higher than ever before. Extensive flooding occurred in West Pittston, Duryea and parts of Wilkes-Barre as water from Hurricane Lee pushed the Wyoming Valley Levee System to exhaustion and caused the Susquehanna River to crest at a record 42.66 feet. For more flood-related photos, please turn to pages 3 and 13.

## New beginning for Dallas HS Band

By SARAH HITE  
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The Dallas High School Marching Band has the most members it's had in nearly a decade, and students are excited to learn fun music, make new friends and have a winning season.

About 34 musicians are under the direction of Mike Potoeski this year, and the young band (more than half its members are comprised of seventh and eighth-graders) is learning music that's making them see stars.

The theme of this year's

marching band show is "Night at the Movies," with songs from "The Dark Knight," "Gettysburg," "Star Wars" and "Superman."

"I wanted to choose something that would appeal to an audience as well as be appropriate for competing and judges," said Potoeski.

In fitting with the theme, drum major Grace Carolan, of Dallas, dressed as "Star Wars" character Princess Leia.

Carolan's mother, Rita, said the energy of the band is at a high point this year, and she be-

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Allyson Spencer is happy to be part of the Dallas High School Marching Band.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Amandeep Kaur finds herself lost in the new Dallas High School on her way to the office.

## Cast votes for 'Best of ...' today

There are only five days remaining to vote for your favorite in more than 80 categories in the 2011 Best of the Back Mountain Readers Contest sponsored by The Dallas Post.

You can vote by using the

paper ballot which appears in today's edition of The Dallas Post or by logging on to www.mydallaspost.com.

Voting will continue until Thursday, Sept. 22 after which time winners in all categories will be notified and in-

ited to the Best of the Back Mountain awards event scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 25 at fire & Ice on Toby Creek.

A special section announcing the winners in all categories will appear in the October 30 issue of The Dallas Post.

