

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Board learns of yet more change orders for school

By SARAH HITE  
shite@mydallaspost.com

The Dallas School Board heard a new batch of construction change orders for the recently-opened high school Monday evening, just an hour before a formal dedication and public celebration was held for the facility.

Bob Nesbit, of Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates, told board members four change orders will need approval at next week's regular meeting. Those change orders reflect issues that have been addressed by the building's inspec-

tor, and some relate to compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Before he listed the change orders, Nesbit also discussed a contract clause the district has with subcontractor Charles Corby & Sons Excavating, which states the district would pay for the cost of asphalt and other materials and services during paving. That total came to \$158,264.

The change orders included adding maximum occupancy signs to certain areas, adding handrails to areas on the roof and in the auditorium, and the cost for renting dehumidifiers to reduce

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moisture in the auditorium so work could be done to the flooring.

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Board member Russell Bigus asked Nesbit whether the board can begin to seek damages if the total cost of change orders exceeds \$1 million. Nesbit said, be-

cause of the contract clause with Corby, the \$158,264 is not considered a change order and the cost of change orders still remains below the \$1 million mark.

In other business, Superintendent Frank Galicki also announced the board will consider the purchase of a new truck and other equipment for snow removal on campus.

Superintendent of Buildings

and Grounds Mark Kraynak said he didn't feel the district was adequately equipped to handle snow removal on the expanded campus without purchasing newer, larger equipment.

Kraynak said he was also unsure where the snow would be taken once it was plowed from the parking lot.

"You could pile it in those islands but you can only pile it so high before it becomes a danger," said Kraynak.

Business Manager Grant Palfey estimated the new equipment to cost approximately \$130,000, which would be paid for using the

remainder of the district's fund balance, akin to a savings account.

Kraynak also had worries about whether the equipment would get to the campus on time, as the machinery would be purchased through a state contract that could mean a month-long delay for delivery.

Board member Catherine Wega said the issue will be seriously considered at the next board meeting.

The board also honored a retiring employee. Margaret Wright, a 20-year reading specialist, retired on Oct. 7 and the board and Galicki offered Wright a gift to thank her for her service.

## This presenter sure knows his material

By SARAH HITE  
shite@mydallaspost.com

Local history buff Frank Conyngham has logged many hours preparing for his presentation for the Back Mountain Historical Association this Tuesday.

However, the Jackson Township resident has been surrounded by the topic at hand all his life. His family, the Conynghams, owned and operated the farm where The Lands at Hillside Farms is situated now for more than a century.

Conyngham and Hillside volunteer Chip Morgan will speak during the event, "From Letterkenny to Hillside: A Conyngham Family Story," at 7 p.m. on October 11 in Misericordia University's Lemmond Theater.

Michael MacDowell, founder of the Back Mountain Historical Association and president of Misericordia University, said Conyngham was chosen to speak at this month's event for a few reasons, but none more important than his ancestry.

"He loves local history and knows a great deal about it. He has a special interest in the Back Mountain's history. And who would know more about the Conyngham family than a member?" said MacDowell.

Morgan will focus on what The Lands at Hillside Farms offers now, including information about what the historic cottage where Conyngham family members resided for years is used for today.

Conyngham became interested in history as a young boy. His passion was sparked early on by his father, a genealogist by hobby.

"We spent a lot of time in the summer walking through graveyards looking for relatives and finding exact dates," he said. "I've been interested in history since I was reading and writing."

IF YOU GO...

**What:** "From Letterkenny to Hillside: A Conyngham Family Story," presented by the Back Mountain Historical Association  
**When:** 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11  
**Where:** Lemmond Theater at Misericordia University, 301 Lake St., Dallas Township  
**Details:** Cost is free, but reservations are encouraged. The event will feature a taste of ice cream from The Lands at Hillside Farms.  
**Info:** Call 674-8036 for more information.

The presentation will cover the Conyngham farm history, which started on a different continent. Conyngham's ancestors traveled from Ireland to Philadelphia and then to the Wilkes-Barre area to plant their roots.

But it wasn't exactly planned. Conyngham said his great-great-grandfather, John Nesbitt Conyngham, was a bit of a romantic. After Conyngham graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a law degree, his heart led him to the land where generations of family members later called home.

"On a stage coach to Wilkes-Barre, he fell in love with a girl who he married and that was in 1820," he said. "He came up and opened an office here, never to return (to Philadelphia). The family's been entrenched in the Wyoming Valley since that date."

The talk will cover the history of the current Lands at Hillside Farms, where Conyngham and his family raised dairy cattle since the 1880s and opened the popular dairy store in 1977.

"You might say one of the legacies of my brother and me is Hillside Farms chocolate milk and black raspberry ice cream," said Conyngham. "Those were our concoctions. Hillside Farms has

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ROSS TOWNSHIP

## Storm damage closes road, postpones project

By EILEEN GODIN  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Debris from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee has a portion of a road closed and postponed a road resurfacing project, according to township supervisors.

A debris and sediment removal project scheduled to move a tributary of Huntington Creek back to its banks and off Green Valley Road was canceled. The road is closed.

Stan Davis, supervisor chairman, said debris is blocking the creek from flowing under a bridge on Green Valley Road. Water has diverted itself through a wooded area and is currently running across the road, causing erosion.

Initially, an agreement was reached with the landowner to allow the township and a contractor to enter the property and

clean out the debris. The township received a permit from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to complete the work.

The landowner, whose name was not released, contacted Shawn Rybka, watershed coordinator, with the Luzerne Conservation District, for advice on the best way to remove the debris.

The landowner has since had a change of heart and refused to let the work crew enter his property, Davis said.

Contacted after the municipal meeting, Rybka said he was at the site for about 10 minutes and advised the work crew about what can be done under the DEP permit.

"The work had to be done from the top of the stream bank," he said, adding that the contractor wanted to drive the excavator into the stream to do the work.

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Jamison Tudor uses a magnifying glass to read ingredients on a cereal package at Weis Markets in Dallas during an outing for Gate of Heaven Cub Scout Pack 232.

## Snacking sleuths invade Weis Mkt.

By SARAH HITE  
shite@mydallaspost.com

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about how your group can participate in a Weis Markets Mystery Tour, visit [www.weismarkets.com/mystery-tours](http://www.weismarkets.com/mystery-tours), e-mail [mysterytours@weismarkets.com](mailto:mysterytours@weismarkets.com).

A night at the grocery store never seemed as mystifying as it did on Monday, Sept. 26.

Eleven snacking sleuths from Cub Scout Wolf Den Pack 232 out of Gate of Heaven Church crept through aisles with a magnifying glass in search of sustenance during a Mystery Tour at Weis Markets in Dallas.

The goal of the evening was to find nutritionally-balanced food to reinstate the energy levels of the typically vivacious imaginary character N.R. Getic George.

The fluorescent hat-clad gumshoes attended informational sessions led by two Weis employees at each section of the grocery store and then had the trying task of putting their newfound knowledge to work by searching out certain ingredients.

As a reward, the mini-detectives were able to sample some of their finds after choosing the proper foods for N.R. Getic George's new nourishment.

Tracy Manzoni, den leader, said she was interested in the tour after seeing a photo of students on a similar event in the newspaper.

"It seemed interesting and this is actually part of their requirements as Cub Scouts," she said.

Scouts must study the food pyramid and help their families prepare meals as part of earning the Wolf Scout ranking.

In their first task, the investigators had to identify fruits and vegetables in various colors. Weis Markets Mystery Tour leader Liz Cusma, of Dallas, said the program is helpful for

young students who may not be exposed to so many different types of foods on a regular basis.

"It's interactive - we're not lecturing them," said Cusma. "They get to go out and find things for themselves."

Scouts clamored for the strangest produce - some carried mustard greens, others chose yellow wax beans - but in the end, the perky private eyes were more married in their choices than they thought.

"What did the yellow group pick?" asked Cusma.

"Peppers!" shouted scout Tan-



Kyle Langan samples kiwi at Weis Markets in Dallas as part of an outing for Gate of Heaven Cub Scout Pack 232.

ner Manzoni.

Cusma asked another group, the ones with the bright orange hats, what they retrieved for poor N.R. Getic George's lively lunch.

"Peppers!" yelled Scout Jameson Tudor.

The studious snoops seemed to learn quite a bit during the

tour, but the cereal aisle was a tough cookie to crumble.

The inspectors needed to find cereals with whole grains as the primary ingredient, but 7-year-old Tudor just couldn't resist one of his feel-good snacks.

"I found one," he said, clutching a box of Fruity Pebbles, while chaperones laughed.



Jacob Baldrice, Tanner Manzoni and Will McCarroll from Gate of Heaven Cub Scout Pack 232 check their lists twice as good food detectives at Weis Markets in Dallas.