

# Talent abounds at Trinity Church

By SARAH HITE  
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The Rev. Roger Griffith knows he has talent. He's been part of the band, Eddie Day & the Starfires, as a bass player since the late 1960s.

He knows his church has talent. Trinity Presbyterian Church on Irem Road in Dallas has had a praise band for the past seven years, and the group even revises classic hymns to breathe new life into older music.

But it wasn't until Feb. 17 that Griffith, who has been the pastor at Trinity for seven years after being away from the area, learned that the surrounding community has talent, too.

The church sponsored a talent show, called Back Mountain Has Talent, to give locals a chance to let their varied skills shine.

Auditions were held in five different categories: vocal, instrumental, dance, poetry and Broadway.

Griffith got the idea to host the talent show after judging the open mic nights during Dallas Days before the Dallas Harvest Festival for the last three years.

"Music has been important to me all my life, and it's a big part of what we do here (at the church)," he said. "Music is very therapeutic and it transcends all ages and all barriers, across denominations."

Alecia Evans, 23, of Dallas, anxiously waited in the front pew to perform with her boyfriend, 30-year-old Robert Williams, of Dallas.

Evans has been singing for much of her life, ever since she was a little girl singing along with her father's band.

"I can't even remember the name of the band," she said.

Williams plays the guitar while the pair sings, and they perform covers along with original music, too. The furthest they've traveled for a gig is Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The pair performed "Who Says You Can't Go Home?" by Bon Jovi.

"It's nice that there's finally something around here for people who want to perform," said Evans. "There should definitely

## TALENT WINNERS

- VOCAL CATEGORY**  
Michele Fromel, first place; Sarah Bilby, second place; Wendy Barberio, third place
- INSTRUMENTAL CATEGORY**  
Jessie and Wyatt Steltz, first place
- DANCE CATEGORY**  
RJG Latino Multicultural Dancers, first place
- POETRY CATEGORY**  
Miranda Bauer, first place; Mary Gilbert, second place
- BROADWAY CATEGORY**  
Hanna Kasko, first place



Twenty-three-year-old Alecia Evans, of Dallas, and her boyfriend, 30-year-old Robert Williams, of Dallas, sing "Who Says You Can't Go Home?" by Bon Jovi.



Kendall Mosley, 13, of Wilkes-Barre, performs "How Can I Stop From Singing?" at the first-ever Back Mountain Has Talent auditions Feb. 17 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

be some more outlets for people to show what they've got."

The girls in the RJG Latino Multicultural Dancers group, based in Wilkes-Barre, seek out ways they can express themselves throughout the northeast.

Kimmy Martinez, 13, of Wilkes-Barre, said the group was formed about four years ago to keep at-risk kids off the streets. Nine of the girls performed on Feb. 17, but the group is much larger.

Martinez said the group makes its own costumes for performances. The furthest the girls have traveled for a performance was to Lopez, but they've also performed at the Fine Arts Fiesta in downtown Wilkes-Barre and at King's College.

"It's basically to show our culture," said Martinez.

Kendall Mosley, 13, of Wilkes-Barre, had a bit of trouble when she first got on the stage for her audition.

Technical difficulties kept her silent onstage for a few moments but not long after, she was belting out the Christian hymn, "How Can I Keep From Singing?"

Mosley, who has been singing since she was 7 years old, heard about the talent show through her uncle Stephen Perillo.

Perillo, who's part of Making a Difference Ministries, also performed during the talent show with Barbara Roberts under the name BLEST.

Mosley's mother, Jaclyn, said their family is very musically inclined, but Kendall wasn't always interested in expressing

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Alexandra Rivera, 14, left, of Wilkes-Barre, and Kimmy Martinez, 13, of Wilkes-Barre, lead the RJG Latino Multicultural Dancers during their audition. The group, formed four years ago to keep at-risk youth off the streets, went on to win first place in the dance category.

SARAH HITE PHOTOS/ THE DALLAS POST

# Eagle seekers unite

February 5 was more than Super Bowl Sunday – it was also Eagle Day at the Endless Mountains Nature Center in Tunkhannock. Naturegoers had the opportunity to enjoy a presentation by naturalist Rebecca Lesko called "A Year in the Life of an Eagle." Wildlife photographers Jim and Joan Borden displayed their work and discussed their experiences watching bald eagles. Joe DeMarco, an expert bird watcher, helped attendees spot resident and migrant eagles at the Susquehanna River. Lesko also led the group in building an "eagles' nest," a make-and-take craft.



ABOVE PHOTO: The Endless Mountain Nature Center, Tunkhannock, was filled to capacity on Feb. 5 with people who came out to hear a lecture and see a slide presentation on bald eagles.



RIGHT PHOTO: Nancy Stark, of Lehman, spots seven eagles flying over the Endless Mountain Nature Center in Tunkhannock during a presentation about the birds.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

## DALLAS TOWNSHIP

# Gas line replacement set to begin in July

By SARAH HITE  
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Natural gas issues were at the forefront of the board of supervisors meeting on Tuesday, as officials discussed the replacement of the Transco pipeline and revising its zoning ordinance.

The township office received notice Tuesday from the Williams-owned Transco interstate pipeline that two replacements of the line will begin in July and conclude in mid-September.

Transco will replace a 2,044-foot section that runs underneath Hildebrandt Road and a 193-foot section that runs between Yalick Road and Highland Boulevard.

Resident Jane Tolomello asked the board whether the pipeline's current condition poses a problem to residents.

"I would like to know the reason why, because if it's a matter of some dangers that they're waiting until July to do – if it's a matter of a leak waiting to happen – I think it would be nice for them to notify the municipality as well as the residents living nearby," she said.

Township Engineer Thomas Doughton said the company may be changing the class of the pipe, which determines the thickness.

Supervisor Bill Grant said he spoke to a Williams official about

the project who told him the line was tested with a smart pig, a device that runs through the line to collect detailed information, in 2010 and it was deemed to be in "good condition."

Grant said the Williams engineer also told him the replacement is part of standard maintenance on the line.

"They assured me...there were no problems," said Grant.

The Transco gas pipeline runs from Texas to New York.

In Dallas Township, Williams Field Services LLC recently completed its 33-mile Springville Gathering Line from Susquehanna County, which taps into the Transco.

Another gas company, Chief Gathering LLC, is in the process of constructing a gathering line to connect to the Transco line located in Dallas Township.

Doughton told residents the Springville project is about 95 percent complete and vegetation will be planted on the right-of-way along Sedlar Road and in other areas in late March or early April.

"They're very sophisticated planting schedules, and ... it's strictly for storm water controls," he said.

Solicitor Thomas Brennan said the township must begin restructuring its zoning ordi-

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