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BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Harveys Lake Borough Council member Michelle Boice describes the space constraints in the area surrounding a baseball field and the former Harveys Lake Recreation Center off Westpoint Avenue near Lake-Noxen Elementary School, the proposed site of the new borough police department building.

HL police station might move

By SARAH HITE
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Members of Harveys Lake Borough Council have expressed concerns about plans to relocate the police department to Little League Road, and a public hearing will be held on April 17 to further discuss the issue.

The borough received a \$78,220 grant from gaming fund revenues last month to move the police department from its current location on Route 415 to a former recreation building on Little League Road near the public boat launch and Lake-Noxen Elementary School.

Mayor Clarence Hogan said this is the second attempt council has made to apply for a grant

to fund the project. He believes the new location will be more secure for the police department and will offer more space for officers to complete their work.

Police Chief Charles Musial presented information to council at its last meeting in support of the move, saying the current building is structurally deficient and will need to be replaced within five years.

Part of the plan is to move the borough secretary from the municipal authority building to the current police department building after the move.

Musial also said the current building is unsafe for officers and is too visible to the public.

"Criminals can easily see all police vehicles at the station," he wrote. "People check often before leaving the three local

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Charles Musial
Harveys Lake Police Chief

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Council member Michelle Boice disputes Musial's claims and believes moving the police department will do more harm than good within the community.

Boice, who was elected to council last year but has served

in the past and regularly attends council meetings, wasn't even aware of the project until she read about the grant award in a local newspaper.

"The community didn't know a thing," she said. "I go to meetings, and this has never come up."

She said the recreation building was built in the late 1970s

See POLICE, Page 14

Religion class is about acceptance

By SARAH HITE
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An elective class at Dallas High School allows students to discuss a topic most public schools try to avoid - religion.

Dallas High School students learn about the history of various spiritual beliefs in the comparative religions class, and some students said the class indirectly has affected their own personal beliefs.

Jason Rushmer, Dallas High School history teacher, said the goal of the Comparative Religions class is to keep the class focused on historical principles of each religion taught, and how religion affects the world today.

He sought guidance from college professors who teach the class on a higher level, and after three years, the class at Dallas averages about 170 students per year.

"The main thing is to teach religion historically, not to preach," said Rushmer. "I always say the students shouldn't know what I do or don't believe."

Rushmer said the class focuses on the major faiths of the world, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. The class also features discussions on cults, animism and other belief systems.

Students recently visited

"We live in a world of seven billion people, and we have to try to make it through without hurting each other."

Jason Rushmer
Dallas High School history teacher

three local religious facilities to take their studies to a new level. They visited Temple Israel, a Jewish temple in Wilkes-Barre; St. John the Baptist Church, a Russian Orthodox church in Edwardsville; and the Northeast Islamic Association, an Islamic mosque in Wilkes-Barre.

Rushmer believes the class is useful for younger students because it teaches them to be more understanding of others.

"We live in a world of seven billion people, and we have to try to make it through without hurting each other," he said.

Seventeen-year-old Paige Cuba, of Dallas, said she wanted to take the class because of the opportunity to explore other belief systems besides her own, which is Christianity.

"I just want to know what other people think and what is out there," she said.

She said the class has given her plenty to think about, too.

"I found that Muslims are very



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

The Rev. Raymond Martin Browne, priest at St. John the Baptist Church, an independent Russian Orthodox Church in Edwardsville, explains to a group of Dallas Senior High School students the meaning of the many icons and decorations in the church during a Comparative Religions class field trip.

interesting - everyone has them stereotyped," said Cuba. "A few people make them look bad."

Emily Prater, 18, of Dallas, said the Comparative Religions class is "not typical."

"You're not usually exposed to all the different religions, and

it's getting all the facts about something you didn't know anything about," she said.

Prater said there are so many assumptions in the media about certain religions, and the class at Dallas High School has helped her to gain a better un-

derstanding of what's real and what's not.

"A lot of stereotypes are cleaned up," she said. "It makes everything more fair. When you're exposed to the facts, it's helpful."

Aubrey Gryskiewicz, 17, of

Wyoming, said the class has also made her more understanding of her own religion, Catholicism.

"Sometimes you don't know what it all means or why you do it," she said. "This class makes you think like no other class."

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ecumenical group wants to honor DHS graduates injured in military

By SARAH HITE
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The Dallas School Board heard from representatives of the Back Mountain Ecumenical Group on Monday about a potential project for Dallas graduates injured or killed during service in the armed forces.

Eugene Kelleher, leader of the men's group, said funds are being

raised through the First Lieutenant Michael Cleary Fund to purchase plaques to honor those from Dallas High School awarded purple hearts or gold stars.

John Brougher, a retired colonel in the military and a member of the men's group, hopes to have a group or individual from the high school take over the project, but the men's group designed the plaques and established rules for the program.

The 14-inch plaques would include a seal from the branch of the military in which the person served, along with their name, rank and date of receiving the award.

Brougher said more research needs to be done to determine how many Dallas graduates

would be honored through this program.

He said anyone wishing to make a donation to the project could do so through the First Lieutenant Michael Cleary Fund, which is operated through the Luzerne Foundation.

Superintendent Frank Galicki said the project is important to the district because it helps students realize the importance of community volunteerism.

"I know it is important how community and volunteer groups fit into our thought process and educational process for our students because role modeling is critical," said Galicki.

The board also unanimously voted to eliminate a full-time maintenance position in favor of

a part-time one.

Last month some board members had concerns about abolishing the laborer position in the maintenance department due to the increased needs of campus maintenance since the completion of the high school building last year.

The board tabled the motion to remove the position, which was open due to the resignation of an employee, until Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds Mark Krainack could provide documentation about how the department would be affected by the change.

Krainack said, after discussing the issue with the board, he found that the groundskeeper staff was lacking.

The board approved a motion to add a part-time groundskeeper position to help ease the workload.

Krainack said the groundskeeper position duties include

plowing snow, cutting grass and tending to outdoor areas of the campus.

The board also approved a

See HONOR, Page 14

Business Expo set for April 18

The newly-formed Back Mountain Chamber of Commerce will hold its first-ever Back Mountain Business Expo on Wednesday, April 18 at Misericordia University and the event will be tied into the bi-annual presentation of the Back Mountain Historical Association.

F. Charles Petrillo, a local historian who has published a book called "Harveys Lake," will be the guest speaker and will present old photographs and personal stories of the former amusement park.

For more information, please turn to page 12.

