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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Harveys Lake Police Chief Charles Musial thinks the present police station in the borough is not secure, not up to code and needs too many repairs to save.

HL police move is hotbed issue

By SARAH HITE
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Harveys Lake Police Chief Charles Musial said the current station on State Route 415 has too many safety issues to justify staying rather than moving to the former recreation center on Little League Road.

The borough received a \$78,220 grant from gaming funds in March to proceed with the project, which includes renovating the former recreation building into a police station and moving the borough offices to the current po-

Council voted 4-2 in favor of moving forward with the project at a meeting April 17. Council members Larry Radel, Boyd Barber, Fran Kopko and Amy Williams voted for continuing with the project while Michell'e Boice and Thomas Kehler voted against the motion.

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against the motion.

Council member Ed Kelly abstained from the vote as he wanted to see results from a referendum vote in November about whether the project should be completed.

Boice has raised concerns about the project, including how

it will affect taxpayers and why it was not announced to the public before applying for the grant.

Current building woes

The current police station is housed in a former seasonal bait store, which Musial said was acquired by the borough about 10 years ago "at a good price" from Joe Paglianite, owner of Grotto Pizza.

According to Dallas Post archives, borough officials planned to rent the space and surrounding land for \$400 a month in early

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Rock Solid is moving ahead

By SARAH HITE
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OPEN HOUSE

What: Rock Solid Academy open house

When: Monday, April 30 through Saturday, May 5

Time: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday

More info: Contact Head of School Mark DiPippa at mdippa@rock-solidacademy.org or visit the school's website at www.rocksolidacademy.org.

Rock Solid Academy, a budding K-8 Christian school in the Back Mountain, will hold its first open house this week, and officials announced a more than \$2,000 decrease in tuition rates for the 2012-13 school year.

Head of School Mark DiPippa said Phase I of the school building project, which includes construction of a lobby, front offices and a model classroom, was recently completed.

The school is located in the Twin Stacks complex off State Route 415 as board members signed a 5-year lease with Twin Stacks in December. Construction within the former Inter-Mountain Medical Group location began in February.

Phase II of the project will include more classrooms in the existing space and Phase III, which will not be completed this year, will include a full cafeteria, a multi-purpose room for athletics and high school classes.

An open house will be held

April 30 through May 5 to show off the school to the community and to attract potential students and their families.

DiPippa said the sign on the building will soon be lit at night, identifying the school within the community and making it more visible to passersby.

"This shows us as being different than other schools," he said. "A lot of Christian schools get their start in a church basement."

The model classroom features a large space that will eventually become the kindergarten.

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BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Kindergartener Haylee Engelman picks a flower to give to her 'Mommy' while she weeds the flower beds at Wycallis Elementary School.

Taking pride in their school

By SARAH HITE
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About 80 kindergarteners from Wycallis Elementary put what they learned about Earth Day into action on April 20 by weeding the flower beds in front of their school.

Kindergarten teacher Victoria Flynn said it was the first time the classes had ever done anything like that in observance of the holiday.

"Mrs. Crahall and I kept wondering about the weeds in front of the school, and we just decided what a great idea for the kids to do something for Earth Day," she said.

Students participated in other projects in class, such as saving their extra paper to make Earth Day worksheets, but Flynn said the weeding activity allowed students to get their hands dirty while learning how to care for the environment.

"We did one side with the morning class and one side with the afternoon classes," Flynn said. "This is a great hands-on opportunity for them."

The tykes brought in grocery bags to collect weeds as well as gloves to protect their hands.

Kindergarten teacher Susan Crahall gave the kids a quick debriefing before they started ripping roots from the ground.

"You see these flowers? They're dandelions," she told the kids. "Even though they look pretty, they're weeds, too. And look how many of them there are!"

"Holy smokes!" shouted 6-year-old Paul McMillan, of Dallas, when he noticed all the yellow flowers in front of the school.

Jordan Porasky, 5, of Dallas, helps pick weeds at home with her parents. She enjoys weeding because "you get to help the Earth," and it's important because "the Earth makes water and air."

Six-year-old Ciana Cruz, of Shavertown, never weeded before, but liked digging in the dirt and being outside.

"It's fun to clean and pick up things," she said. "(Weeding) helps flowers grow."

Samuel Comitz, 6, of Dallas, wandered around the front of Wycallis Elementary, trying to find the perfect spot to weed.

"You have to keep the planet clean because the Earth has to be healthy," he said of the importance of Earth Day.

Five-year-old Landon Daney,



Wycallis Elementary kindergarten teacher Susan Crahall shows her students what to look for as they weed the school flower beds as part of an Earth Day project.



Wycallis Elementary kindergartener Alex Corley joins his classmates in weeding the flower beds in front of the school during an Earth Day project.

of Dallas, said though he recently moved, he liked helping his dad weed the family garden.

"It's fun because you get to pull things out of the ground, and I like that if it's too hard,

you get to dig," he said. Daney said Earth Day is an important reminder to keep the Earth clean and green.

"You have to take care of the planet," he said. "We don't want it to be dirty."

MU pres retiring but staying here

By SARAH HITE
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Misericordia University President Michael MacDowell may be a Los Angeles, Calif., native, but he said the Back Mountain feels more like home.

That's why the 65-year-old will maintain residence in Harveys Lake with his wife, Tina, once he retires on June 30, 2013.

"While we enjoy the west, we decided we want to retire here because the people have a sense of community about them; they care about one another and that's different than in most big cities," said MacDowell. "And we've



Misericordia University President Michael MacDowell announced he will step down when his current contract expires on June 30, 2013.

made so many good friends here."

The 12th president of Luzerne County's oldest college announced his retirement on April 19 after 14 years in the position — the first of many accomplishments he mentioned in a recent

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