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## REMEMBERING COREY



BILL TARUTUS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Dallas High School junior Patrick Newhart, center, joins other members of the Dallas High School Mini-THON's "Candlelight Walk for Cancer in Loving Memory of Corey Ehret" on Sept. 30 at Mountaineer Stadium. For more photos of the vigil, please turn to page 11.

## New Senior Center opens

After months, Back Mountain seniors celebrate new center in Twin Stacks Building.

By MEGAN SCHNEIDER  
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Seniors from the Back Mountain greeted one another with excitement and hugs at the opening of the new Senior Center on Wednesday morning.

The new center, located in the Twin Stacks building in Dallas, has long been anticipated by the area seniors, many of whom have traveled to other center locations since March. The previous senior center closed earlier this year due to safety issues.

"It's the first thing everyone notices," said Doris Hughey, as she joked with other members about how level the floors are in the new center and explaining that the floors in the old center were warped and unsafe.

The center offers hot meals, activities and computer classes for seniors 60 years of age and older. But the members offer one another so much more. Ladies exchanged recipes and stories over coffee and greeting



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Temporary center director Toni Mathis, left, greets Edward Williams at the new senior center at the Twin Stacks Center in Dallas.

friends, some of whom they hadn't seen since the previous center closed.

"It's been a long haul for all of us to get here," said Trula Hollywood from the Area Agency on Aging, "but we are finally here."

Hollywood said it was expected that more than 30 meals would be served on opening day and many new attendees

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## REMEMBERING THOMAS LYNCH

# Carrying on the memory of a fellow Eagle Scout

By MEGAN SCHNEIDER  
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Members of Scout Troop 281 in Dallas have had a difficult year. They have had to deal with the loss of a friend, classmate and fellow Scout Thomas Lynch who died in a car accident on his way to school on Feb. 3.

An Eagle Scout from Dallas, Lynch continues to positively affect his peers, his troop and Scouting.

To achieve the rank of Eagle, a Scout must meet three qualifications. He must have tenure, he must have met the badge requirements and he must complete a leadership-based community service project, all before he reaches the age of 18.

Thomas Lynch accomplished those tasks. Casey McAndrew from Boy Scout Troop 155 in Trucksville had not.

McAndrew considered dropping out of Scouting after spending months trying to decide on an appropriate project to take him to the next level. With time running out, he was discouraged. "I had a lot of trouble finding an Eagle project," he said.

When McAndrew learned that his childhood friend Lynch had left behind an unfinished Scouting project, he knew what he had to do.

The project was to build information kiosks at three locations on the Back Mountain Trail. Lynch had completed the planning, approvals and fundraising. "You couldn't say no to Tom," troop leaders joked about Lynch. Lynch had also designed the

kiosks prior to his passing and successfully installed the first at the Trucksville Fire Hall entrance to the Back Mountain Trail.

Troop leader Bob Pilger, whose son, Dylan, was a fellow Scout of Lynch's, assisted Lynch with the project. When Dylan learned that McAndrew was having difficulty finding an Eagle project, he suggested his father talk to McAndrew about the project Lynch had left behind.

McAndrew whole-heartedly took over Lynch's project and dedicated his share of the project to Lynch. McAndrew admitted the project was a lot of work, but he knows it was worth it.

"Just knowing Tom, you get to know these kids in a special way," said Pilger. "And knowing that someone else picked up

where he left off is huge."

McAndrew and helpers completed the second kiosk at the Carverton Road entrance. The third is planned for a section of trail not yet completed.

In a special dedication ceremony on Sept. 15, the first site, completed by Lynch, was dedicated to the leaders of Boy Scout Troop 281. The second site, completed by McAndrew, was dedicated to the memory of Thomas Lynch.

"I was very happy and I think Tom would have been very happy," said Liz Lynch, Lynch's mother. "Casey will always have a special place in my heart because he did this."

Troop leaders and Scouts agreed that Thomas Lynch was a person of great character. "Even

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Shown here during the presentation of an information kiosk on the Back Mountain Trail are, from left, Marty Wise, Hunter Hackling, Lewis Hackling, Kyle Gruzynski, Bob Pilger, Christian Wargo, Casey McAndrew, Stephen McAndrew, Dylan Pilger and Corey McAndrew.

LEFT PHOTO: This shirt displayed by Liz Lynch has been made the official Boy Scout Troop 281 uniform shirt in memory of Thomas Lynch who always wore tie-dyed pajama pants when the Scouts went camping.



RIGHT PHOTO: Mark Albrecht, left, of the Back Mountain Trail Association, and Casey McAndrew discuss the information kiosk McAndrew placed on the Back Mountain Trail.

