

SERV

BACK MOUNTAIN



FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY

# DALLAS POST

Vol. 103 No. 1

Dallas, PA Wednesday, January 8, 1992

35 Cents

## Task force suggests Dallas stay at 8-period class days

By ERIC FOSTER  
Post Staff

If the Dallas School District's education committee has anything to say about it, the high school will keep an eight-class-period day instead of switching to seven longer class periods next year.

On January 6, the committee presented the school board with research and a recommendation against changing the classes.

According to board member Ellen Nagy, the possibility of switching to a seven-period day has been discussed for the past year.

In December the school board voted to change the Middle School's fourth quarter schedule so that it would include two seven-period days, and three eight-period days. Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, called the change a transition step towards having a seven-period day in grades 6 through 12.

In September of 1992, the Middle School will switch to a seven-period day, according to Griffiths, who is also principal of the Middle School.

"We're very concerned about the Middle School kids getting more time in on the basics," said Nagy of the change.

The Education Committee's study, presented by teacher Charles Preece, showed that many high school students are taking more than seven classes a day, some of which would have to be cut if the school day was changed from eight periods.

"You have a much greater percentage of students requesting courses than actually getting them, even with our present 8-period day," said Preece.

The study also showed that in the past five years, Dallas graduates who have responded to a survey ranked the courses they

See CLASS DAYS, pg 12

### Christmas tree collection

Christmas trees will be collected in the following towns:

**Dallas Township:** January 20 to 24 at the curbside weather permitting.

**Dallas Borough:** January 6 to 31 curbside pickup. The borough manager checks every Monday morning and notes house numbers of where trees are so that crews can pick up the trees.

**Kingston Township:** the week of January 13 at the curbside.

### Inside The Post

- Calendar.....12
- Classified.....10-11
- Editorials.....4
- Obituaries.....9
- Police report.....2
- Property transfers..2
- Sports.....9

### Community Events

**VIETNAM VETERANS MEETING-** Wed., Jan. 8, 7 PM, Dallas American Legion, Route 415. All veterans invited.

CALL 675-5211 FOR HOME DELIVERY, NEWS OR ADVERTISING



**CLEAN CARVING** - Terry Rutter shows fifth grade students at the bar of soap. Rutter, of southern New Jersey, is part of Westmoreland's artist in residence program. More photos on page 3.

## Westmoreland students turn soap into art

By ERIC FOSTER  
Post Staff

The air was filled with the scent of Irish Spring soap - practically to an overpowering degree.

But the fifth-grade students at the Westmoreland Elementary School didn't seem to mind as they carved their very own duck heads from the soap, using a wooden popsicle stick to wear away at the bars.

Their teacher this day, Terry Rutter of southern New Jersey, has been carving since just about the time he was their age. Carving since he was 12, he specializes in waterfowl, and four of his works have been accepted by the Smithsonian Institute for its folk art display.

One of them is a goose with its mouth open, which is something that Rutter says to his knowledge, only he carves.

Rutter arrived at the school on January 6, and will be there until the 10th, giving lectures and hands-on carving classes for children in first through fifth grade. His stay is sponsored and funded by the Westmoreland PTO, with Mary Ann Brown as enrichment program coordinator.

"I want to model my philosophy after Joe Paterno's philosophy.

If you listen to the sports announcers, the respect he gets is awesome," says Rutter, clad in a blue Penn State sweatshirt. "I tell

the kids, there are two words I don't want them to say - I can't - because that's negative."

Rutter has been doing school programs for the past three years after getting encouragement from a teacher friend.

"I always had an ability to reach people, especially grade school students," says Rutter. "I didn't know what the teaching system was until I had him for a best friend. Now I know how hard he works."

So why does Rutter use Irish Spring soap? Because it's green he says, and the ducks the children are carving are Mallard Drakes, or male ducks, which have green heads. And it also has a grain, like wood.

## Group home upheld by Federal Court

By ERIC FOSTER  
Post Staff

Five mentally handicapped men can now call 236 Church Street in Dallas Township home - for good.

For the nine months the men have been living there, the township has battled the group home, claiming it is a business and prohibited in a residential area, while the home operator and Association for Retarded Citizens claimed discrimination.

Federal Judge Edwin Kosik put the matter to rest Monday, January 6 by approving an out-of-court settlement which affirms the men's right to live in the Church Street home, and prevents the township from "discriminating or treating differently" the residents of the group home.

"It affirms our belief that you cannot treat people with mental retardation differently," said Linda Ross, executive director of the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) of the settlement.

The ARC, the five men, their landlord, the Institute for Human Services, which operates the home, and its executive director, Robert Kotsull filed a lawsuit in federal court in August alleging discrimination. The settlement also calls for the township to pay \$10,000 to those plaintiffs.

Ross said that the award will go toward covering part of the legal fees of Atty. Kim Borland, representing ARC, and Robert Opel and John Kennedy, representing the Human Resources Institute, while

See GROUP HOME, pg 12

## These students know their way around

### Mike Casey, Jeff Eyet win in National Geography Bee

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Americans are often chided for their ignorance of world geography, but some students in the Lake-Noxen School District are showing that the label doesn't apply to everyone.

Sixth grade students Michael Casey and Jeff Eyet recently won the school-level competitions in the National Geographic Society's fourth annual National Geography Bee. They now have a chance to compete for a \$25,000 scholarship.

Casey is a student at Lake-Noxen Elementary School, while Eyet attends Lehman-Jackson Elementary.

In the school-level competition, students answered oral questions

on world geography, based on information from the *World Almanac* and *National Geographic WORLD*. A field of ten finalists was narrowed down to Casey, who placed first, and Jonathan Bradbury, who came in second at Lake-Noxen. Eyet and Samuel Rhodes, first and second place winners at Lehman-Jackson, competed against students in their homerooms before continuing to semi-finals and finals.

Eyet and Casey won a geography game as first prize, while Rhodes and Bradbury took home an inflatable globe. Armonde Casagrande and Mrs. Cortegerone, social studies teachers for grades 4-6 at Lake-Noxen and Lehman-Jackson, coordinated the competition.

"It was hard! I had to study a lot," Michael commented.

"We had to learn locations of countries, their capitals and specific land formations, as well as their natural resources," Jeff added.

See STUDENTS, pg 12



**GEOGRAPHY WINNERS** - Jonathon Bradley, on left, and Michael Casey, sixth-grade students at Lake-Noxen School, recently won prizes in the school-level competition of the National Geography Bee. Bradley is holding his second-place prize, an inflatable globe; Casey won a geography game as first prize. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

## Jackson police chief threatens suit if he's fired

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

The Jackson Township Board of Supervisors did not appoint a full-time chief of police at its regular meeting Monday night, as originally had been expected. Chairman Joe Stager said that four applications for the position had been received, but no one had been interviewed yet. He could not give a time frame for when the new

chief would be appointed.

The supervisors created the position of full-time police chief, who would work a 47-1/2 hour week at a yearly salary of \$20,000 plus health insurance and holidays, at the December 2, 1991 meeting. The part-time chief's position, which had been held under verbal contract by Donald Jones for the past 18 years, was eliminated. Jones had worked a 12-hour week and was on call 24

hours a day, at a yearly salary of \$9,000.

Evans stated at the December 2 meeting that the supervisors wanted a full-time police chief due to the township's increase in population, which has been calculated at 23% from preliminary estimates from the 1990 Census.

Evans reported that he had received a letter from Jones' legal counsel, Attorney Peter Savage. Savage stated in his letter that

Jones is entitled to a written statement of any charges against him and a public hearing before he can be dismissed. Savage's letter also stated that any attempts to remove or demote Jones will result in litigation against Jackson Township.

The supervisors authorized Attorney Evans to request that Jones and Attorney Savage supply affidavits to support their allegations of political overtones and

abuse of political power in the elimination of his position.

Jones had stated at the December 2 meeting that he was not consulted on the change in the police department, and that the change had not been discussed at a public meeting. Jones said that he had been delivered an ultimatum to either accept or reject the new position without adequate time

See JACKSON, pg 12