



# The Dallas Post

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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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## 1997 in review, stories big and small that touched our lives

*Editor's Note: What follows are week-by-week excerpts from issue of The Dallas Post in 1997. It is not meant to be a "top" stories list, but rather a selection that touches all aspects of life in the Back Mountain. In that way, we hope to bring attention to the individuals and institutions that make the region such a good place in which to live, work and raise families.*

**Jan. 8:** After Dallas school directors voted to rescind a vote to place the replacement for Westmoreland Elementary on land used by Back Mountain Baseball, they scheduled a walk on the proposed site on the main school campus. While baseball fans supported the change, some Westmoreland parents were upset the school would not be separated from the rest of the district's schools.

Louis Alar, a 27-year-old Back

Mountain native, won the bronze medal of honor for service beyond the call of duty at the department in Maryland where he now serves as captain. He credited his training with the Shavertown fire company for getting him started in fire fighting.

Blair Haddle, who attended the old Dallas Township school from 1947 to 1958, made an offer to buy the building that is now hardly used. But school board members were cool to the idea, partly because they thought the building and 3 1/2 acres were worth more than Haddle was offering.

**Jan. 15:** A black bear saved a Dallas family's home from damage when it stopped an out-of-control car that was careening toward the house. But it wasn't a real bear, it was a five-foot wooden statue, carved by Fred Rosencrans from the stump of a hemlock tree. The car's drive didn't know that,

apparently, since he was talking to the bear when Rosencrans came out of his house at 1 a.m. to see what all the commotion was about.

Three youths tried to burn down Dallas High School. Michael Adam Miller, 18, and two juveniles hatched the plan, which was designed to get them out of school for a while and do away with the principal and vice principal. No one was hurt and there was little damage when they lit toilet paper in a restroom.

**Jan. 22:** The Back Mountain mourned the loss of Gerald Wycallis, Dallas superintendent of schools since 1984. He died after a year of treatment against cancer. Wycallis began his career at Dallas in 1972 when he was hired as principal of Dallas Elementary School. He was also well known for his involvement with youngsters outside the schools, most as a coach in youth baseball

and softball. "I respected the guy so much for his class and determination," said Richard Coslett, former board president.

The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust announced an agreement that would protect 42 acres of land in Noxen Twp. Dr. Doug Ayers donated development rights to the acreage, which is adjacent to state gamelands.

Lake-Lehman's Dave Milunic was the leading scorer in Division 2 of the Wyoming Valley Conference, averaging 18.5 points per game. But he hoped the team



**Danny and Fran Cornell** showed off their triplet calves born Easter morning on their farm in Lehman. They had never heard of triplets being born in the area before.

would do better in the second half of the season after the Black Knights got off to a slow start.

**Jan. 29:** Frank Henry of Dallas was honored with the Seymour Preston Award, which recognizes

an independent school trustee's commitment and leadership to his institution. Henry is a trustee of Wyoming Seminary, and led the school's 150th anniversary capital campaign, which raised over \$21 million.

School board members and parents were having a hard time agreeing on just where to put the replacement for Westmoreland Elementary. Some favor a separate building located on the district's main campus, others want to connect it to Dallas Elementary, with a shared gym and cafeteria area.

Gov. Tom Ridge presented a \$44,000 check to Lake-Lehman for use in its Link-to-Learn program. The Governor visited the high school to make the presentation, which included certificates of achievement for the state championship field hockey team and the

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## Recycling pickup rates will go down

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - Customers of the trash and recycling program administered by the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) will be getting a belated Christmas present — a reduction in cost.

Tom Bagley, DAMA executive director, said this week the annual charge for the program will decline to \$100 from the present \$112, effective January 1. This is the second reduction since the program began in 1991, when the rate was \$135 per year.

"We've been able to keep expenses to a minimum," Bagley said about the program that serves about 6,000 households in Dallas Borough and Dallas and Kingston townships. Bagley said the number of customers had risen as well, as new homes have been built in the Back Mountain. About 60 new accounts were added in 1997.

While there was some resistance to the program when it was first implemented, most has died down. Bagley said less than 4 percent of accounts are delinquent, "and half of them are delinquent on sewer bills too."

Milton Lutsey, Dallas Borough manager, said he believed the towns had budgeted for 9 percent delinquency when the program started. "I think they've built up a

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## Sno' much fun

Brent Postupak, behind snowman, John Slaby, left, and T.C. Harding had a ball constructing a giant snowman on Norton Ave.

But we have to admit, this photo wasn't taken yesterday, it's from the storm a couple of weeks ago.

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## Intensified schedule going better this year

By JOY MORGAN  
Post Correspondent

**DALLAS** - Dallas Senior High School is now in its second year of intensified scheduling, and things are running more smoothly. Frank Galicki, principal at the high school, feels that everyone now has "knowledge of what is expected of them involving the intensified scheduling."

There were plenty of problems during the first year, many concerning the flex period. But those problems have largely been worked out. John McCarthy, an English teacher at the senior high, said, "The flex period has improved a lot. There's more control. A group of teachers worked all summer to organize it. There are limits and restrictions. Everyone has a place to go and everyone is made accountable."

There seem to have been several improvements in academics, the reason the schedule was adopted. Galicki feels that students and teachers have adapted and adjusted their styles of learning and teaching to accommodate the intensified scheduling. Dallas's average SAT score has increased about 100 points to 1024, although this may not be an indication of how the new schedule is working.

McCarthy, who was opposed to the new schedule during its formation, now feels that it works well with his teaching style. "I can start a scene in Macbeth and work all the way through. It's a lot

See SCHEDULE, pg 3

## 'Men in Black' drop by for Dallas High career day

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - Two Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents visited Dallas High School and showed students they are neither action adventure heroes who get into gun fights or stuffy guys who just want the facts. Their presentation may have dispelled some of the FBI mystique, but it also piqued a lot of interest.

Through the new Speaker of the Month program, sponsored by the Parent Teacher Student Association and the guidance office, the agents visited with 30 students to discuss their profession. They explained what they do and what it takes to make it at the bureau.

The agents, John Gaffney and Kevin E. Shanley let the students in on a little secret early on, that the FBI is not like it's portrayed on

**"You get to see the darker side of life. It's amazing how some people can live."**

John Gaffney, FBI special agent



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

**At the first Speaker of the Month program,** From left, Jen Moser, junior; Jill Kryston, PTSA; John Gaffney, FBI special agent; Kevin E. Shanley, FBI special agent; Robyn Jones, guidance office; and Sam Mikolaichik, senior.

television. "Most people have this vision of law enforcement. They think there is a mystique about the FBI," said Gaffney. "Maybe we add to it," he said with a laugh.

Gaffney has been with the bureau for 27 years and still likes his job. He graduated from King's College with a degree in business administration and worked for Bethlehem Steel in Maryland before applying for the FBI in 1971. He has worked in Boston, Cleveland and Philadelphia, and now is in the Scranton office.

"It's interesting being in a smaller office. You work all different kinds of cases. It is a rewarding career," he told the students who signed up for the program.

Shanley explained the long, rigorous and strict process of getting into the bureau. An applicant must be 23 years old, have a

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### Getting to know you

Pvt. Eduardo Lopez of Dallas trains with former U.S. enemies. Pg 3.

**Hoop dreams** are eluding Lake-Lehman so far this year. Preview on page 9.

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