

First dog search of high school finds no drugs

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - The high school recently had the canine drug patrol out for its first visit. "They showed up five minutes into the change of class, so everyone saw the police and dogs as they pulled up. The veil of secrecy was pulled off," said Gil Griffiths, superintendent of schools. "At least the students knew they were there and that we were not fooling around. It gives us credibility."

The dogs went through the school in 15 minutes and did not find anything, Griffiths reported. A new anti-drug policy allows searches of the school and parking areas, and random drug testing of student-athletes. The first of those tests is expected in the spring.

The Dallas School District has installed new alarm systems in all four schools and administration building. ADT Security Systems Inc. installed the systems, which were planned before a recent break in at the middle school.

"This is just one step in making the district and the buildings secure," said Griffiths. Each system will be set up and activated as they go on line, he said.

Most recently, the Dallas Middle School was broken into between 11 p.m. and 6:15 a.m. two weeks ago. The suspects smashed numerous exterior and interior glass windows and doors and stole approximately \$20 from a soda machine, in the process causing several thousand dollars in damage.

Attempts to rob a safe were not successful. Griffiths said the

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Dr. Gil Griffiths
Superintendent of Schools

thieves would have been disappointed as there was only some candy, soda and light bulbs in the safe.

Board members asked if other security measures should be taken. Currently the high school is the only building with a third shift security guard. The other schools are monitored until 11 p.m.

Ernest Ashbridge, board member, asked if someone could be hired for the third shift on the remaining three schools or canines could be used. Karen Kyle suggested lighting and special glass could also help.

The construction process of three athletic fields is postponed until further notice from the Dallas Township Zoning Board. "We are waiting for the zoning board to have a second hearing," said Griffiths.

People who live in Orchard View Terrace off Westminster Dr. are contesting the township's decision to allow a 15 ft. setback instead of 100 ft. The zoning ordinance states that a recreational field requires a 100 ft. setback, but that the zoning officer has the right to change it to 10 percent of that figure.

Dress code

(continued from page 1)

cies closely.

"Teachers have always dressed professionally as it is. We believe in having some accommodations because there is no air conditioning in the school buildings. We'll study the policy to make sure it's fair to everyone involved," said Wagner.

In regards to the drug policy for employees, Wagner said, "It has always been the National Education Association's position that drug testing of students and professionals raises constitutional questions. We believe in it if there is probable cause."



John Heinz Institute honors student volunteers

Coordinators of the annual Riverside Rumble race, sponsored by the John Heinz Institute, awarded volunteers from Dallas High School with a plaque expressing their appreciation. More than 300 students showed up on race day to help with a variety of duties. From left, seated, Jayson Pope, Matt Kertesz, Karen Klavuhn, Ecology teacher. Standing, Kelly Reinhart of John Heinz; Sarah Podehl, Tim Herbert, Ann Bishop, Kathy Raub, PTSSO secretary; and Tom Shalata of John Heinz.

POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER

DISTRICT COURT BRIEFS

INEPT CROSS BURNERS CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Hunlock Creek resident Jamie Joe Krochta, 18, was arrested Oct. 30 by Lake Township patrolman John Masloski after police learned of a cross burning at Bruce Bandish's residence.

A juvenile told police that he and Krochta made the cross in his garage. They used an old walking stick and a sawed off limb to make the cross and then wrapped toilet paper around it.

The two went to the Pump and Pantry for soda and pizza. Krochta drove his car to the rear of the Pump and Pantry where he proceeded to throw corn, potatoes and apples at road signs.

Krochta and the juvenile then drove to the Bandish residence and put the cross in their lawn and lit it on fire. After lighting the cross the two drove to a church on Loyalville Rd. where they exchanged places and drove back past the cross that was barely lit.

Then they drove back and threw more food at road signs and came back home.

Krochta was charged with criminal trespass and ethnic intimidation.

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF VEHICLE

Kingston resident Stella Laurel, 48, was charged Sept. 25 by Dallas Borough patrolman James Drury for renting a car from Dallas Auto Rental Inc. and not re-

turning it.

According to police reports, Laurel rented a car on Aug. 29 from Dallas Auto Rental using the name Laurel Starr. Laurel was supposed to return the car on Sept. 11, but did not. Numerous calls and attempts to reach her at the address given on the rental agreement were fruitless.

Laurel was charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. A related charge of theft of leased property was dismissed.

She waived her right to a preliminary hearing before District Justice James Tupper.

THEFT OF SKI EQUIPMENT

Dallas resident Karen A. Zier, 23, was charged Dec. 15 by Kingston Township patrolman Michael Moravec after she told police that she sold her friend skiing equipment from Rave's Ski Loft and pocketed the money.

Police were initially notified Nov. 12 that skiing equipment had been stolen from Rave's Ski Loft. At the time Zier said that a white male with dark hair presented her with a Rave's sales receipt for merchandise valued in excess of \$1,165. She said she recalled the boxed items had a name written on it that ended in "ski" or "sky."

Tom Shalata, store manager, called other ski shops in the area and asked them to be alert for those items entering their stores. The next day a clerk called from the Country Ski Shop in Wilkes-Barre and told Shalata that she had the items at her store. Christian Hampel was the person who

took items to Country Ski. Shalata positively identified the items.

Police had Hampel's address, but could not get an interview with him. On Nov. 17 Zier told police that she gave the items to Hampel for \$450 and took the money for herself.

Hampel confirmed Zier's statements.

She was charged with theft by deception. She waived her right to a preliminary hearing before District Justice James Tupper.

WOMAN CHARGED WITH MAKING FALSE REPORT

Dallas resident Maryanne Pausch, 47, was arrested Dec. 26 by Lehman Township patrolman John Young for reporting false information to police.

On Dec. 15 Dave Carey, a Domino's Pizza employee, delivered a pizza to Pausch's residence. Carey said she seemed upset and he asked her if she was okay. She told him that she was okay and handed him money with a note that stated that she needed help and had Matt Van Pelt's name and address written on it.

Carey called the communication center and reported the incident. Police arrived at Pausch's residence and told the communication center to call her and ask question about what was going on.

Pausch told the dispatcher that Van Pelt was in her residence on the couch and was threatening to kill her. Police approached the residence and tried to open the door, but it was locked. They

asked the communication center to call Pausch again and ask her to open the front door. Police could see through a window. They saw Pausch unlock and open her rear sliding glass doors and then open the front door.

Police asked her who opened the back door and she told them Van Pelt did before running out the back. She told police Van Pelt forced his way into her house and threatened to kill her with a Colt 45 revolver.

Police found her statements to be inconsistent with one another and left her residence. After further questioning and interviewing, police determined that she was attempting to implicate Van Pelt in several offenses that he did not commit.

She was charged with false reporting to law enforcement. A related charge of harassment was dismissed.

D.U.I. CHARGES

Harveys Lake resident Randy Davidson, 41, was arrested Oct. 23 by Kingston Township patrolman Frank Buckler after police observed him driving erratically on West Eight St. and Mt. Olivet Rd.

Davidson was taken to the Luzerne County Processing Center where his blood alcohol level was determined to be .158.

He was charged with driving under the influence, operating a vehicle without a valid inspection, failing to keep right, driving unregistered vehicle and driving without a license.

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