

**IN THE SERVICE**

**Senior Airman Sonja D. Bell**, from Plattsburg, NY, was recently assigned to the U.S. Air Force Recruiting Office 695 Kidder Street, Pine Mall, Wilkes-Barre. Bell is a recent graduate of the Air Force Recruiting School near San Antonio, TX, where she was trained in various areas of study, including the Job Classification System, testing and enlistment processing procedures and public speaking.

Bell earned top honors in her class and was awarded the Distinguished Graduate Award for her efforts. Bell was selected for this special course and recruiting duty as a volunteer with an outstanding Air Force record. Before Bell's assignment here, she was stationed with the 95th Supply Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base, CA.

**Peter L. Casterline** has recently completed the cadet basic training program at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY. The training is designed to form new academy cadets into disciplined soldier-officers possessing personal pride, confidence, obedience, to command orders, and dedication to duty.

After completing the basic training program, the cadet is accepted into the U.S. corps of Cadets at the academy. Consequently, upon graduating from the academy, the cadet receives a bachelor's degree and is commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army.

Casterline is the son of Peter F. and Charlotte L. Casterline of Dallas.

He is a 1998 graduate of Wyoming Seminary, Kingston.

Dr. **Juan J. DeRojas** from Dallas, a partner in Surgical Specialists of Wyoming Valley, was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserve Medical Corp. Dr. DeRojas has completed basic officer school and advanced officer school at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX. Dr. DeRojas was assigned to the 314 Station Hospital during Desert Storm. His last assignment was with the 4210 U.S. Army Hospital in Erie, PA. He resides with his wife and five children in Dallas.

**Army National Guard pvt. Robert E. Gallagher** has arrived at Fort Sill, Lawton, OK, to begin One Station Unit Training (OSUT). The training includes completion of basic military training and advanced individual training (AIT). During basic training, the trainee receives instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid and Army history and traditions. Gallagher is the son of Diane M. and Brian J. Gallagher of Shavertown.

He is a 1998 graduate of Lake-Lehman High School, Lehman.

# Dallas 8th graders fare well in college science class

By **KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER**  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - Their feet do not quite touch the floor as they figure the velocity of two soda cans. Their lab mates are almost 10 years older, but find themselves asking the two 13-year-olds questions.

This is because Steve Losh and John Gilligan are not your average middle school science students. They recently won a scholarship through Johns Hopkins University to take a physical science course at College Misericordia, a class taken by second-year education majors.

Steve and John take it all in stride. Last year, as Dallas Middle School seventh graders, they took the SAT and got a score that earned them an Academic Advancement of Youth Award (IAAY) from Johns Hopkins University.

Steve and John received the scholarship for college course for their performance in the 1998 IAAT Talent Search. The scholarships are given to encourage academic growth, foster excellence and develop identified talent in highly able students.

Steve wanted to dive into the college course from the start, while John was not sure he wanted to miss some of his classes at the middle school. Both were nervous at first.

"It's easier than I expected," said John. "We're all just students in the class. I like science and I think this class is a lot of fun."

Dr. Lynn Aldrich, who is teaching the course, thinks the class is perfect for the students because of all the lab work. "They really like the experiments and most of the math is basic algebra," explained Aldrich.

She also thinks Steve and John are not only personally benefiting from the class, but helping others. "Most of the students in here are elementary education majors. Since (Steve and John) are really interested in science, it motivates the other students because they want to be teachers. The two add a level of seriousness for the college students because they (college students) are thinking about how they're going to be teachers," she said.

They pay attention to Aldrich's instruction intently and hold their own in the lab group. "They know their stuff. More than some of the college students," said Aldrich.

Jerry Usher, a second-year education major, finds himself asking the middle school students for help. "When I first saw them I was puzzled. But, after talking to them I realized they're not your average kids. They answer certain questions we have," said Usher. "It's a little weird. Sometimes we ask them more questions than they ask us."

Renee Kotz rounds off the four-person lab group. "I was really surprised to see them at first. But now I just think of them as normal students. I think, 'Wow, I should be going back to eighth grade,'" she said with a smile.

Anthony Martinelli, Dallas Middle School principal, thinks the college course is a



Steven Losh and John Gilligan work on their lab assignment. The two 13-year-olds are taking a college science course at College Misericordia.

good experience for the students. "I think it's a wonderful opportunity for those two students to intellectually expand themselves with that type of program," said

Martinelli. This is the first time Dallas Middle School students have participated in the program. Steve and John will get three college credits for the physical

science course. Steve is the son of Michael and Diane Losh of Dallas and John is the son of Marty and Mary Barbara Gilligan of Dallas.

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