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Delinda Adkins recalled as dedicated mother, youth volunteer

By MEIRA ZUCKER
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - When Delinda Adkins, 30, died unexpectedly in January, she left behind a husband, two children, and a community that had grown to rely on her energy and enthusiasm. Delinda had selflessly volunteered her time to several groups in the Back Mountain, and she developed many lasting friendships after only a few years here.

before she volunteered to be a Brownie leader," says Joanne Stredny. Delinda had been involved in Girl Scouts when the family lived in Maryland, and continued her participation when they moved to Dallas. "She grew up with Girl Scouts and wanted to do the same with other girls," says Barbara Trojan, her assistant scout leader.

Delinda organized and led many innovative and interesting programs for the Girl Scouts. Her troop went to Hersheypark, a dude ranch in New York

"Family and friends were her focus. Her kids always came first."

Joanne Stredny

state, and Harrisburg. They also "adopted" Lakeside Nursing Home, and visited there often. "No matter what she did, it was 110 percent," says Stredny.

Two years ago, Delinda organized an International Festival for the Girl Scouts.

Each troop chose a country, dressed in native costumes, and made foods and crafts. Then each troop did informative presentations. Girl Scouts today still talk about it. Despite all of the work, Delinda was sensitive to the needs of the children participating. "Delinda was the kind of person who agonized over having to charge \$3 per person," says Troop Leader Mary Blanc.

"She was my daughter's Brownie Leader," says Debra Serfass, Ph.D., the registrar for Girl Scouts in the Back

Mountain. "She ran workshops for Brownies who were running up to Junior Girl Scouts." Delinda had just completed training to train others in outdoor activities, and in the past had worked as a counselor in Girl Scout summer camp.

"She loved to do workshops where another troop came in," says Kathy Swepston, Service Unit Manager for Back Mountain Girl Scouts. "She had hundreds of ideas swirling in her head."

See DELINDA ADKINS, pg 7

Attendance not an elective for most board members

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - They make important decisions every month. Your taxes, your children's teachers and curriculum, among other things, are determined by the school board. So what if members do not make it to all of the meetings?

While most do, some have missed as many as six in the past year, including both work sessions and regular meetings. Recently a lack of attendance at negotiation committee meetings by Ronald Payne prompted Lake-Lehman school board president Moderno "Butch" Rossi to take him off the committee.

But, these people are not paid, they spend many hours a week working to benefit the school community and endure public scrutiny with few perks. So, is it a big deal if they miss five or six meetings a year?

Karen Whipple, Lake-Lehman school board member, thinks so. She thinks that if you make the commitment, you should keep the commitment. Whipple, who has a perfect attendance record for 1998, said, "I don't let anything interfere (with the meetings) and I think it would be rude to be late. Believe me, there are a lot of nights I don't want to go out in the rain or snow."

She also is afraid of missing something important. "You never know what is going to come up. Things can get tabled that you do not want tabled," she said.

She cited one incident in 1996 as an example. Rich Gorgone, Lake-Lehman football coach was not re-appointed, in part because two people were absent. Whipple understands family obligations, such as a sick child, or medical absences and said she has been fortunate in both scenarios.

Robert Allardyce, who joined Lake-Lehman's school board last year, missed only one meeting due to surgery. He thinks that if a person accepted the responsibility, the least they can do is show up for the meetings. "All my life I felt if you accepted something you should try to do a pretty good job at it," said Allardyce, who added that he cannot judge other members who have missed meetings.

See SCHOOL BOARD, pg 7



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Body language

Gate of Heaven kindergarten teacher Janet Ghannam tried to find a place for all the "bodies" created as a project during Catholic Schools Week. More photos on page 5.

See MISSION, pg 3

Students 'shadow' employers for a day

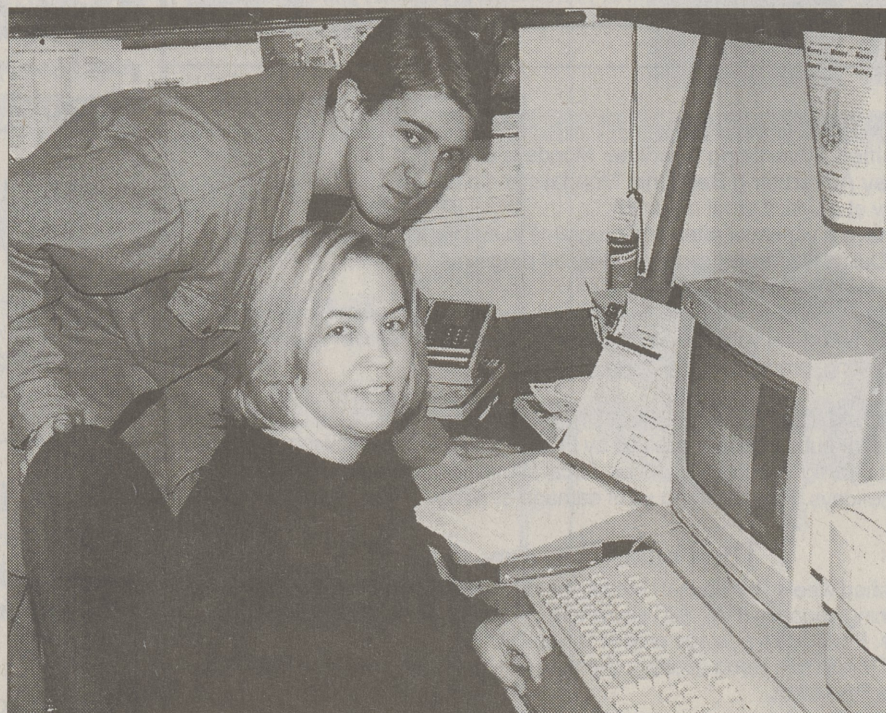
By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - With the help of community volunteers, Junior Achievement (JA) is bringing global economics into local classrooms. Each spring students at both Lehman-Jackson and Lake-Noxen elementary schools are treated to a week-long introduction to trading, basic economics and the relationship the U.S. has with other countries.

On Tuesday, Junior Achievement collaborated with American Association of Executives and America's Promise for Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Although the Dallas School District is not regularly involved with JA, it will send students to Offset Paperback, Inc. and Commonwealth Telephone. A small group of Lake-Lehman seniors will shadow at College Misericordia, Offset Paperback, Inc. and The Dallas Post.

Students will be shown around the places of busi-

See 'SHADOW', pg 7



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Kyle Millet, a Lake-Lehman senior, "shadowed" Ruth Proietto as she composed advertising at The Dallas Post.

Simple things accompany teen to Peru

Clothes dryer sheets, cinnamon raisin bread on list of essentials

By MEIRA ZUCKER
Post Correspondent

TRUCKSVILLE - What were you thinking about when you were 18?

School? Boys? Girls? Cars? Movies? Music? Parties?

What is Becqui Miller is thinking about right now?

Typhoid. Malnutrition. Parasites. Cholera. Terrorists.

Becqui Miller, a senior at Dallas High School, at this moment is in Trujillo, Peru, volunteering her school time and youthful energy to assist in a missionary trip in this equatorial town of 500,000.

"I'm not scared," says Becqui. "I have Christ in my life."

Becqui will teach English to teens and adults, participate in street evangelism, volunteer at the Latin American Child Care Schools, and work in a tent crusade. For this 18-year-old, it's a part of her commitment to social responsibility and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.



BECCQUI MILLER

Sam and Evelyn Klinger run the ministry in Peru. "Sam grew up across the street from my husband," says Deborah Miller, Becqui's mother. Becqui has known them her whole life, and her parents have always supported their mission. The Klingers asked for some special American gifts from their visitor: Bounce dryer sheets, taco seasoning, and cinnamon raisin bread.

The Klingers' simple requests warned Becqui of the changes she would experience. Fast food is over one hour away. She was required to wear closed-toe sandals because of parasites in the soil. Her luggage was filled with medicines, aspirin, Tylenol, and gifts for children such as balloons, and team logo hats and shirts. In the past, the revolutionary group Shining Path has threatened missionaries.

■ Cultured kids

Dallas Middle School hosts first "Cultures Night." Pg 11.

■ He's a hero

Matt Gingo named winner of "Unsung Hero" award from Killer Bees Athletic Club. Pg 9.

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