

Shadow

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ness for half a day to get a taste of what each entity is about.

At Commonwealth, the students will begin their day with an orientation of the telephone company, meet with long-term employees in different divisions, including corporate community, public relations, marketing and accounting. They will end their visit with a talk from Michael I. Gottdenker, Commonwealth president and CEO.

At College Misericordia, the group of five students will be paired with professionals in their specific areas of interest. This is College Misericordia's first year participating in shadowing day. Judy Ellis, placement specialist in career services, said the students will be shadowing two faculty members, the athletic director, student activities director, admissions counselor and the computer division director.

The businesses and college are happy to participate in the education of the Dallas high school students, but also have somewhat selfish interests in mind.

"We draw our workforce from regional schools. We take the long term view about people we take on board. We also have a higher than average interest in the education process. We try to communicate to youth (what a career setting is)," said Mike Burnside, CTCO director of public relations.

Ellis said this is great way to showcase the school. "It's a recruiting tool and marketing tool. It's a chance for students to see we have more employment opportunities than the very needed faculty. We are a corporation here. We are trying to broaden their understanding of a college, in that it runs like a business," she said.

Ken Okrepkie, executive director for JA of Northeastern Pennsylvania, said the shadowing program is a collaboration and "truly regional program with Chambers of Commerce, School To Work, school districts, businesses and Junior Achievement." The Luzerne County Commissioners even officially named Feb. 2 Groundhog Job Shadowing Day.

"It benefits the companies to show the future workforce what they have to offer. It also teaches kids that what they are doing is important and that a number of skills are needed. It validates what teachers do and opens their eyes to different opportunities," said Okrepkie.

Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania is a non-profit organization that connects schools with the business community to "give children a competitive edge on life." For more than 30 years JA has introduced experienced professionals into the classroom to serve as volunteer role models who help students understand business concepts and thinking skills.

Ray Boyle of Harveys Lake is one such person. He has worked with the sixth grade at Lake-Noxen Elementary every spring for three years. Boyle, the director for community relations and development for Mercy Health Partners, first got involved with JA by becoming a member of its board of directors.

"I have a high regard for business and school partnerships," explained Boyle, who no longer

"We try to get the students to understand that their education has to go on beyond 12th grade."

Ray Boyle
JA volunteer instructor

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 - Magazines
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Delinda Adkins

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Delinda offered many ideas based on her experiences in Maryland, and local scouts benefited from that experience.

"There wasn't probably a single time when she didn't have a great idea," says Serfass.

In addition to extensive work in Girl Scouts, Delinda also coached Back Mountain Mini-Cheerleading. "I knew it was fall when I saw her car at the school," says Geri Gitlin.

"She coached A and B squads in Back Mountain Mini-Cheerleading, and took all three to competitions," says Trojan. Daughter Jesse participated in everything, and as her gymnastics skills grew, Delinda was often driving to Bloomsburg for practices and elsewhere for competitions.

Despite all of her volunteer activities, Delinda never lost sight of what remained most important to her. "Family and friends were her focus," says Trojan. "Her kids always came first," says Stredny. Many friends remember Delinda bringing her younger daughter to all of her older daughter's activities, seemingly unbothered by dragging the baby carriage up stairs or across fields.

"She loved working with kids and was absolutely devoted to her two," says Swebston.

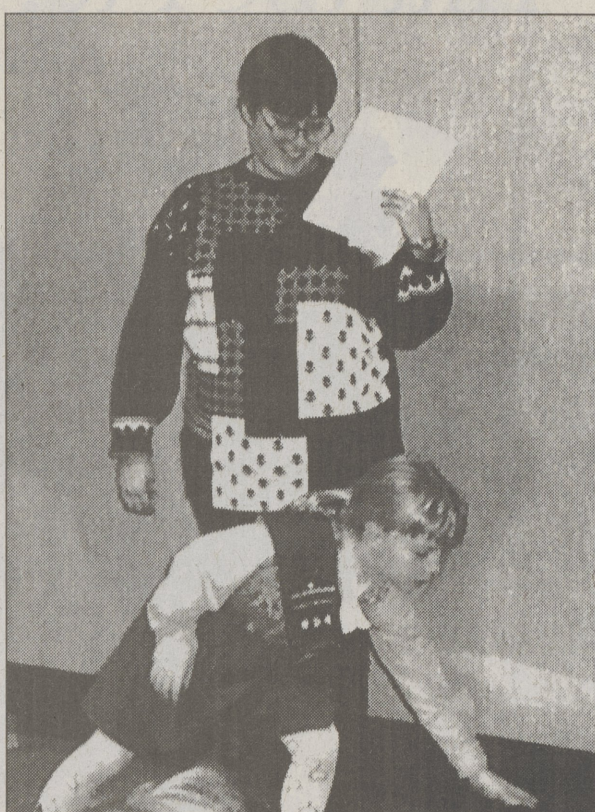
"She brought out the real creativity in people," says Mary Blanc. "She was like a tractor — she really turned the soil here. She turned everything fertile and beautiful."

NEPA Landscape seminar Feb. 17

The Northeast Region Landscape Seminar, sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension will be held Wed., Feb. 17. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn at Bartonsville in Monroe County. It will start at 8:15 a.m. for registration and finish at 4 p.m. The 1999 program will focus on landscape design, installation and maintenance, and will include information on diseases, insects, weed control and pesticide updates.

An excellent roster of speakers includes: Dr. Jim Sellmer, Dr. Bob Nuss, Dr. Gary Moorman, and Greg Hoover from Penn State University; Vinnie Cotrone from Penn State Extension; and Chris Santore from Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Training credits for pesticide applicator's recertification will be available.

Reservation (including lunch) is \$25 and must be returned by February 10, to Monroe County Cooperative Extension, 4499 Route 611, Stroudsburg, PA 18360.



Delinda Adkins kept a close eye on Kira Szulborski during a Brownie meeting last year. She was a tireless volunteer with the Girl Scout organization.

"She was like a tractor — she really turned the soil here. She turned everything fertile and beautiful."

Mary Blanc

Delinda Adkins, the wife of Dr. Robert Adkins Jr., died January 17 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. She is survived by her husband and daughters Jessie and Nancy.

Her death, attributed to complications from the flu, is being investigated by the Luzerne County District Attorney and the Dallas Borough police and the state police. Dr. Adkins' first wife died under similar circumstances in 1990.

School board

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Lake-Lehman board member Ronald Payne is shown to have missed six meetings out of the 19 attendance sheets the district provided The Dallas Post. Payne said when he missed work sessions, he knew the information discussed concerned items that had already been gone over.

"We have another work session before all of the regular meetings," he said. As far as the separate first work sessions go, "they don't count anyway," he said. After saying most of his absences were work sessions, Payne declined any further comment on his record.

Frank Natitus, Dallas school board member, said showing up is expected. "All board members at Dallas take it seriously. They have excellent attendance including all of the extra meetings we have," explained Natitus, who also missed only one meeting, due to surgery. "You should try to make as much time available as you can for a variety of things."

Anthony Barbose and Maureen Banks each missed four and five Dallas meetings respectively. Barbose said he missed two meetings due to illness and the other two because of commitments to one of his four children or his work at American Asphalt. "It's not usually difficult to make meetings," said Barbose, who has made every regularly scheduled school board meeting, the second of two each month where votes are usually taken. His four absences were all from work sessions.

"I try to make every work session, but sometimes things come up and I can't do it all the time. Sometimes work has to come first. It puts food on the table," he said.

"Believe me, there are a lot of nights I don't want to go out in the rain or snow."

Karen Whipple
Lake-Lehman school board member with perfect attendance in 1998

Most meetings Banks missed have also been work sessions. The fifth year board member works as a nurse and has been on call much more this past year than in previous ones. "My job has made it very difficult, but it's going to change," she said.

Banks believes it is important to know what is going on with the board at all times and that many times one less vote does not make a difference unless the vote is sure to be a close call.

Gil Griffiths, Dallas School District superintendent, said the absences have not affected the quality of the board. "I think attendance is very good. All members make a concerted effort to be here. You can't say how many absences is right or wrong," he said.

According to the Pennsylvania State School Board Association, if a school director misses two consecutive regular meetings they are automatically ousted, unless detained by illness or another necessary event. No one at Dallas or Lake-Lehman missed two regular meetings in a row.

"People have personal reasons for not being here. They have good reasons, illness or commitment of work. We take that into consideration," said Griffiths.

SCHOOL BOARD ABSENCES 1997-1998

(including work sessions and regular meetings)

LAKE-LEHMAN*		DALLAS	
Robert Allardyce	1	Ernest Ashbridge	2
Rosemary Howard	2	Anthony Barbose	4
Edwin Kern	0	Maureen Banks	5
Lois Kopcha	0	John George	1
Gary Miller	1	Karen Kyle	1
Ronald Payne	6	John Litz	0
Moderno Rossi	0	Ellen Nagy	4
Karen Whipple	0	Frank Natitus	1
Thomas Williams	2	Thom Russ	3
Total	12	Total	21

* from attendance list of 19 meetings compiled by district

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