

The Dallas Post

50 Cents

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

Vol. 110 No. 23

Dallas, Pennsylvania

June 9 thru June 15, 1999

Students feted at awards breakfast

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

DALLAS - Hillary Rodham Clinton, were she not so busy in New York these days, would have been impressed by the crowd assembled at the Dallas School District Administration Building Friday morning for an awards breakfast honoring this year's Students of the Month.

Representatives from area businesses, churches and civic organizations gathered along with State Senator Charles Lemmond, students, parents, and school administrators for the annual celebration. "This group is evidence that it does take a community to raise a child," said Sharon Bartolini, President of the Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO).

The program began as a way to recognize students who have distinguished themselves from their peers in any of four categories. The *Student Achiever Award* is presented to the student who demonstrates exceptional performance of a task and achieves his or her personal best. The *School Spirit Award* is presented to the

See AWARDS, pg 3



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTZICK

Art for the auction's sake

Students at Sue Hand's Imagery in Dallas have been busy sprucing up items that will be sold at the 53rd annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, July 8-11. The students and other

volunteers hand paint images on furniture and other pieces that are "nearly old." Above, from left, Helene Jayne, Sarah Williams, Ryan Tranell and Tara Dymond. Auction kickoff dinner photos on page 5.

Dallas sees extra \$400,000 in budget

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

DALLAS - Good news was on the agenda at the Dallas School Board Committee of the Whole meeting June 7.

Paul Melone, CPA, who is acting business manager, informed the board he is anticipating a positive budget variance of approximately \$400,000. "The money comes in the form of wind-falls," he said. "The district is the beneficiary of fortuitous differentials."

The positive balance is from the budget for the 1999-2000 academic year. It includes a higher than anticipated transportation subsidy, interest earned on a cer-

See BUDGET, pg 2

District may place cops in schools

The Dallas School District is currently investigating programs which would increase police involvement in the schools. "We are waiting to hear about a grant which would allow us to put an unarmed officer in the schools as a fail-safe piece of our security protocol," said Dr. Griffiths. "The officers would wear a Dallas blue shirt which indicates his or her name and police department, khaki pants and a badge."

The proposal, which aims to increase police presence in the Dallas schools, is conditional upon receipt of funding and the cooperation of local police departments. "Where policing is effective is when kids have a respect for officers and gain a sense of security from their presence," said Dr. Griffiths.

Maureen Banks, school board member, suggested the board consider inviting area police departments to eat lunch at the Dallas schools on a regular basis. "It's a great idea that would build relationships," said Kingston Township Police Officer Frank Ziegler. "I have seen some big, tough, rugged police officers who are absolutely terrified of little kids, so something like that would be good for everyone involved and I think if you mention free food to a police officer you are guaranteed participation."

by Kasia McDonough

Business group will get taste of Martha Stewart

Members of the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association will learn perhaps more than they wanted to know about Martha Stewart when the group gathers for a meeting Thursday in Hayfield House on the campus of Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

The featured speaker is Linda Goldstein, an associate professor of English and Women's Studies at the campus, who is researching the impact on American life of the home decorating and cooking icon. She and Virginia Smith, a senior lecturer on the English faculty at the Penn State main campus, are working on a book about Stewart, exploring both her influence around the home and her business expertise.

As they have researched the project the past 1 1/2 years. See STEWART, pg 5

Back Mountain Trail's first mile of many is open

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

LUZERNE - A peaceful walk in the woods is now possible thanks to the unwavering commitment of hundreds of volunteers who were rewarded with seeing the first mile of the new Back Mountain Trail opened Friday.

Judy Rimple, President of the Anthracite Scenic Trails Association (ASTA), thanked everyone who worked to make the trail a reality. "Our goal is to create links to destinations," she said. "This trail marks the first section of a greenway that provides safe, scenic and continuous recreational opportunities to area residents and it would not be here today without the hard work of so many people."

ASTA members worked for five years to secure design and blueprints for trail construction and they raised in excess of \$240,000 dollars in funding from local, state and federal sources. The Pennsylvania Conservation Corps was hired to assist with building the 10-foot-wide path and many vol-

"The work that has gone into this is just amazing."

Chris Borton
Trail architect

unteers worked alongside them clearing debris, shoveling, raking, and cutting weeds. "We had to remove tires, gasoline tanks, and trash when we first came in here," said trail architect Chris Borton. "The work that has gone into this is just amazing."

Local government officials also joined the effort to make the trail a reality. Tom Makowski, Luzerne County Commissioner, told the crowd assembled at the ribbon cutting ceremony that he thinks the greenway project will have a positive impact in the community. "We are committed to a new quality of life in the region and this is a big step in the right direction," he said.

Makowski also credits Rimple

See TRAIL, pg 12



POST PHOTO/KASIA McDONOUGH

Judy Rimple, left, executive director of the Anthracite Scenic Trails Association, showed the trailhead sign for the Back Mountain Trail to State Rep. George Hasay and Lisa Baker, of the Governor's Northeast Region office. The first mile of trail opened officially Friday.

Friends, students, family gather to honor Bob Belles

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - Bob Belles may have started out on the wrong foot, but in the end his 56-year association with education was remarkable. Now his name graces the school at which his teaching career began.

Like most children, in the days before kindergarten caught on, Belles began school in the first grade. He was there for a day. "My mother found out I had gone to school in the back of a truck and she didn't think that was proper," said Belles. "She vowed I would not be returning to school and for two years, I didn't."

Following a stab at teaching Bob on her own, Laura Belles relented. "My mother was home-

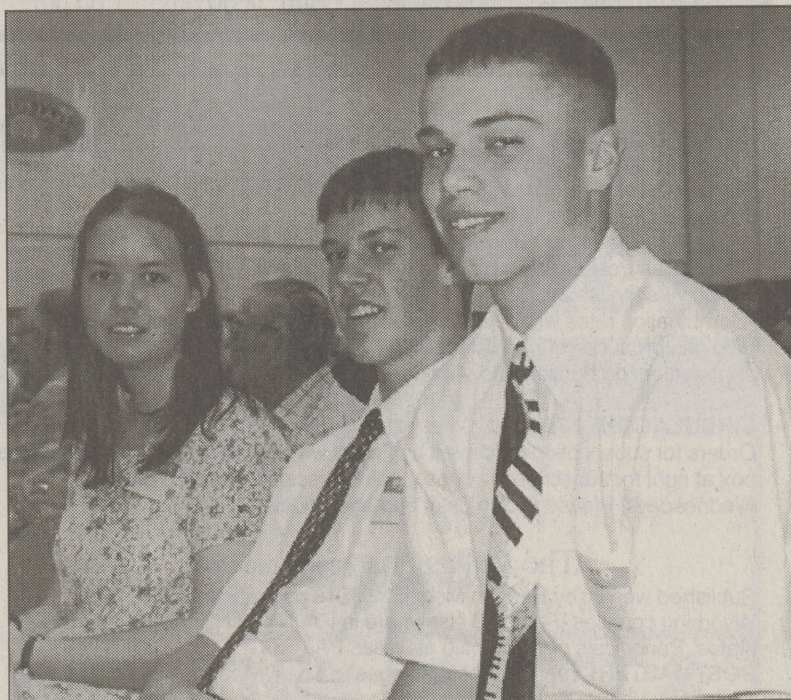
"As an administrator, he set the high standards which have distinguished our district."

Lois Kopcha
School board member

schooling me, although she really didn't know what she was doing," he said. Belles attended first grade in the morning and second grade each afternoon in order to make up for lost time.

Having learned an important lesson, his education proceeded smoothly from that point. "At-

See BELLES, pg 12



POST PHOTO/KASIA McDONOUGH

Bob Belles' grandchildren, Amanda, Todd and Bobby, were among many people who attended a ceremony at which the Lake-Noxen Elementary School was named for the long-time Lake-Lehman School District teacher and administrator.

■ Biker wedding

Donna Bower, Joseph Roman, were married Saturday, then roared off the the reception on their Harley. Pg 3.

■ Soccer scholars

Dallas boosters hand out book scholarships. Sports.

INDEX

20 Pages	2 Sections
Calendar.....	8
Classified.....	10-11
Crossword.....	8
Editorials.....	4
Obituaries.....	10
School.....	7
Sports.....	9

CALL 675-5211
FOR HOME DELIVERY,
NEWS OR ADVERTISING
E-mail: dalpost@aol.com

The Dallas Post

MAILING LABEL - Please enclose this label with any address changes, and mail to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612-0366