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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Painting the town

Dallas High School art students were out and about last week, doing their annual holiday painting of windows on stores and offices. Students painted at several bank offices, supermarkets and the

Meadows Nursing Center, where their work brightens the atmosphere on several floors. Working at the Meadows, from left: Jenny Yurkon, Dana Artsma and Gia Biscontini. More photos, pg 5.

Mush!!

Lake-Noxen students share with Alaskans

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

LAKE-LEHMAN - The Iditarod Project, an in-depth, eight-week study of the annual dogsled race, enables third grade students from Lake-Noxen Elementary School to forge friendships with children from Golovin, Alaska while helping their own community and learning math, reading, social studies and language arts.

This segment of Lake-Noxen's curriculum is the brainchild of Jud Holdredge, a Title 1 teacher at the school. "A couple of years ago, I went to Alaska and I found a book in the library called an *Iditarod Handbook for Teachers*," he said. "I bought it and that's how this whole thing got started."

Now in its third year, the Iditarod project has grown to be very popular among teachers. "The kids love it and I love it," said Susan Young, a third grade teacher at Lake-Noxen. "I look forward to the Iditarod every year."

This enthusiasm is contagious, as the project's diverse activities and innovative teaching techniques produce eager students. "It's great because we are able to integrate everything into the class," said Holdredge. "The students develop graphing skills, they write letters to other students and to businesses, they learn about Alaskan geography and culture."

The students acquire most of their information about the 49th state from pen pals living in a tiny town along the Bering Sea coast in western Alaska. Golovin Elementary School students regularly correspond with Lake-Noxen students through letters and e-mail.

The classes also exchange packages filled with goodies and other items representative of their respective cultures. "In October, we sent a box to Golovin with disposable cameras and beanie babies that McDonalds had given to us," said Holdredge. "Most of the kids at that school

See IDITAROD, pg 7

Recruiting fair brings players, schools together

By JUSTIN SHAFFERN
Post Correspondent

KINGSTON - High school football players and college coaches were able to take a closer look at one another during a recruiting fair held last week at Wyoming Seminary.

"It's a great place to take a look at college life," said Ben Coslett, a Dallas sophomore who is beginning his college planning early. "You get to meet the coaches. I think it gives you a good view of what the colleges have to offer."

This is the second year the recruiting fair has been held at Sem. A number of coaches from Division 1, 2, and 3 colleges and universities took the opportunity to talk to local players. "It really helps the smaller colleges, and their budgets. It gives them an opportunity to see a lot of kids at one place, when normally they would have to travel," said Gary Vanderburg, Wyoming Seminary's Athletic Director, and fair organizer.

What determines if a certain ball player will get a scholarship? "It's a tough situation, because it all depends on the athlete's academic ability, but all of our scholarships are based on academics, not on sports, like most of the other colleges here," said Derrick Jackson, head coach at Ithaca.

Matt DiBernardo, a coach at Hobart College said it's important for high school athletes to keep sports in perspective. "Some people don't realize that not many players, a select few, get to play in Division 1. To get to the best possible school

See RECRUITING, pg 8



Firefighters Bill Shaffer, left, and Brett Slocum listened as Margaret Baney described the fire. Anastasia held her new Furby toy.

Mother, daughter unharmed by midday fire

DALLAS - At least Margaret Baney hadn't done her Christmas shopping yet. Baney and her daughter, Anastasia were home at 139 Franklin St., near the library, at about 12:30 p.m., when, "I heard an explosion in the attic," she said. When she went outside to investigate, smoke was visible and she called 911.

A neighbor, Erica Nicholas, saw the smoke and came by to be sure everyone was all right. She returned later to give

Anastasia a Furby toy, which the little girl gleefully displayed as he mother held her while describing the incident to firefighters.

Baney said the attic was used for storage, and she was planning to straighten it up later in the day. But she had not done her holiday shopping, so no presents were lost. "That's one of the benefits of procrastination," she said.

Add'l photo on page 2.

Parents: Bus driver ignores safety devices

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

DALLAS - Transportation was again a topic of conversation at the regular monthly meeting of the Dallas school board, which was conducted following a re-organization session.

Joe Habersky, of Church Street, Dallas said the school bus driver who transports his daughter home from third grade each day is not taking appropriate precautions when allowing students to exit the bus. "My wife or I, and sometimes both of us have seen the bus driver fail to put on the red warning lights, the yellow caution lights or use the stop signs on at least five occasions over the last couple of months," he said.

The visual indicators, which are designed to warn other motorists of the bus driver's intention to stop along the road, must be manually engaged. "The driver has to turn on the yellow caution lights and then the red warning lights and stop signs are automatically triggered by pulling the lever which opens the door," said Ernest Ashbridge, board president.

Failure to employ the lights and signs at stops causes confusion for other drivers and puts the students at risk. "God help the person who doesn't see the bus stopping," said Habersky. "We're getting to the time of the year when we have to be concerned about twilight, snow and ice. This is a tragedy waiting to happen."

Ashbridge elected president of board. Story, photo on page 7.

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