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Parents, friends hopeful lifeguard's spirit will bring him back

By HEATHER B. JONES
Post Staff

JACKSON TWP. - The walls of Eddie Halloran's bedroom are painted the blue/green color of water. On the walls hang posters of rock legends Jimi Hendrix and Jim Morrison. As a native New Yorker, he of course has Yankee memorabilia hanging on his wall. On top of his dresser lie hats he likes to wear at swimming pools, and on the floor in the corner are his slightly worn, but comfortable sneakers.

Eddie was the New York Catholic

High School Athletic Association 100-yard backstroke champion in 1999, and the November 1999 Wendy's Athlete of the month from College Misericordia. He was awarded College Misericordia's Most Valuable Swimmer for 2001 and chosen by his fellow swimmers as captain of the Misericordia swim team for next year.

As Ed Halloran, Sr., proudly tells of his son's accomplishments, the sadness in his eyes tell a much deeper story. On June 13, life for Eddie Halloran, Jr., changed forever with one unfortu-

"One of his friends was there and noticed Eddie go into the pool, but never saw him come up."

Ed Halloran Sr.
Jackson Twp.

nate dive into the swimming pool at Francis Slocum State Park.

As he dove into the pool on the warm June day, just to cool off after sitting

on the lifeguard stand in the hot sun, Eddie accidentally hit another swimmer. The other swimmer was uninjured, but Eddie suffered a serious spinal cord injury.

"He only remembers floating to the bottom of the pool and not knowing why he couldn't move. He didn't even know that he hit anyone. He was just looking up saying 'what am I going to do, drown down here.' He was scared and hoping someone would come along and get him," Ed, Sr., said.

"One of his friends was there and no-

ticed Eddie go into the pool, but never saw him come up. He yelled to another lifeguard, 'My friend went down but I didn't see him come up.' So she jumped in and pulled him up," said Ed Sr.

The accident was an ironic fate for a young man who took to the water with enthusiasm the first time he was exposed to it.

"When he was 3 years old we took him to the Y and he just jumped right in. At 3, he was going off the diving

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55th Auction provides fun, good finds

By HEATHER B. JONES
Post Staff

DALLAS - As a light rain began to fall on the opening night of the 55th Annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, seeking cover under one of the tented areas sounded like a good idea.

At the back of the long rectangular tent that housed the "Odds 'n' Ends" flea market, were three boxes filled with treasures for music lover Rick Polney, Harding. He has just started collecting old LP albums and thought the auction would be a good place to pick up a few more LPs for his collection.

He peered into the first box, searching through the tattered and worn covers of the donated LPs. The outer paper actually, browned by age, read "Columbia" in bold letters across the back. "The earlier, the better," Rick said as he continued his search.

He moved plastic bunny and pumpkin decorations on the table next to him to make room for his finds. Has he found a treasure? "Only time will tell, when I get home and play them," he said.

As the rain slowed, and the water rolled off the sides of the tent above, Rick only took notice of the LPs from the 1940's he had come across. A few more LPs are added to his pile. He didn't even notice the bottleneck he created in the crowd of people browsing through the flea market.

As a beginning collector, Rick said

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POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Meeting 'Maria'

Sonia Manzano, known to a generation of Americans as "Maria" on the Sesame Street television program, presented a signed book to Kimberly Fowler, whose father was high bidder for the item at the 55th annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction. Kim said "Maria" had inspired her to study Spanish in high school, although she confessed her favorite Sesame Street character is "Snuffy." More Library Auction photos on page 6.

Kids try hands at painting the natural world

Nearly 20 children were on hand for the painting class held recently at Frances Slocum State Park in Wyoming. The program was geared for the three to five-year-old age set and they thoroughly enjoyed the leaf-printing and finger-painting activities.

"We've been coming here for years, ever since I was little," said Lori Barrington of Edwardsville. Her daughters, Katie and Jane, participated in the painting program and several other programs offered at the park this summer. "We're camping here for two weeks and we really enjoy the programs."

The programs are not limited just to campers at the park and many parents take their children out for a day trip. "This is our first trip out this year but we were here a few times last year for the programs," said Christine Mash of Wyoming who had her three children with her.

Kathy Kelchner, the park naturalist at Frances Slocum, showed the children how to do leaf painting while explaining the types of leaves they used. The program took place in the Amphitheater at the campground which is surrounded by many different types of

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A trunkful of history opens at the Meadows

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent



POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

Julie Manorek (left) and Helen Gavigan are glad to see each other again.

DALLAS - Tom Traver's fourth grade class from the Dallas Elementary School visited the Meadows Assisted Living Center at the end of the school year to give the residents a very special gift. The children had been there last February to meet their resident pen pals, and returned to perform their spring play, "A Trunkful of History."

The play opens with children playing in an attic. They find a trunk containing historical documents about the town of Middlebury, Connecticut in 1905. Several scenes flash back to events of that year. Many of the residents smiled as they seemed to identify with the era; several in attendance were born shortly after the turn of the century.

"The students did all the work for the play," said Traver. "They gathered the costumes and props, and conducted the auditions for the parts. They worked on it for three weeks, and the whole class participated in one way or another. This is their second performance. Their first performance was for their parents and the other classes at the school."

Samuel Barbose, the school principal, came by to watch the play and extend his congratulations to the stu-

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Counselors say special ed time shortchanges other students

By HEATHER B. JONES
Post Staff

DALLAS - In a presentation to the Dallas School Board during the July 9 meeting, Guidance Department Chairperson Raelene Olszewski admitted, some students fall through the cracks.

"I do think we are losing some of our students along the way," Olszewski said.

One reason for 'losing students' is the amount of time elementary and middle school counselors need to spend with special education students.

Anthony Martinelli, Middle School principal, said he estimates about 70 percent of the counselors' time is spent with special education students and paperwork.

Even more time is spent on the elementary school level with special education students, Olszewski said.

With counselors spending the majority of their time on the smaller amount of the student population, Frank Natitus, school board member, asked, "Is there a way to use the website for services for students and parents?"

Olszewski said there are so many possibilities in ways the district could use the website as a guidance tool. "It really would be a great help to expand that area of the website," she said.

Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, superintendent,

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