

United

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attack and its effects have been the main topic of conversation in the halls and classrooms for the last few weeks. Many of their spirits have been lifted by the display.

"I think it's (the banner) great," said Nicole Carey, a sophomore. "I was at a 'punk' show the other day, and the kids who normally wear the band 'Anti-Flag,' who's logo is an upside down USA flag, had them on their cars right side up. All of the unity is really great, but it's too bad it wasn't there before."

Erin Swepston, a junior, agreed. "It's unfortunate that it takes this to make everyone love their country." She also agreed with the banner. "I think that everyone is united, in their own way."

"It's great to see banners on

schools and 'God Bless America' on every business marquee and to see how a strong nation can hold together," said Laura Raczkowski, a junior. "It is absolutely amazing to see citizens of our country fight back using our words and prayers, and to express them to the whole world."

In a similar, smaller, but more widespread show of national pride, the United States Postal Service is expected to release a United We Stand stamp on Tuesday.

The sign on Dallas High School is an inspiration to everyone who passes. The students expressed their feelings in one of the most prominent ways possible. And just how long will the banner stay up?

"Until it falls down," said Stretanski.



Dallas High School students made this banner, which will hang on the building "until it falls down," according to teacher Matt Stretanski.

Police

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contract, newly hired police officers pay half of their health care costs. The police want the township to pay full health care costs. The police have also asked for a 15 percent salary increase, which equals approximately \$4,000 for the first year, then \$1,000 every year after under the new contract.

"Where do you see anybody getting 16 percent across the board?" Wagner asked. "They're paid a fair share or they can be replaced." Wagner's remark infuriated the crowd.

The new contract will affect seven full-time police Dallas Township police officers. The township has 8,179 residents and is 20 square miles. The average salary of a police officer is \$31,040 a year.

"It's not as if they're asking for the world. They're asking to be brought up to where it is fair," said Jane Morris. "They have been treated unfairly. Their salaries are unfair. And the fact that any one of these officers has to pay health benefits when their own lives are put on the line every time they put a uniform on is not fair."

"I have lived in Dallas for 30 years and am proud of it," Morris continued. "I am not proud of the fact that we treat our policemen despicably. With what's going on in the world we need the best possible policemen you can afford, we can afford."

"Dallas is the largest municipality in this area and they are the lowest paid, I know that for a fact," Morris said.

In neighboring Dallas Borough, there are 2,557 residents and the borough is three square miles. The average Dallas Borough police officer's salary is \$33,180. In Kingston Township, there are 7,145 residents and the township is 13 square miles. The average police officer's salary there is \$35,073.

"We are not asking for an astronomical amount," said Fred Rosencrans, Dallas Township police officer.

The salary of a Dallas Township police officer with a bachelor's degree and three and a half

"It's not as if they're asking for the world. They're asking to be brought up to where it is fair."

Jane Morris
Dallas Township

years experience is \$29,504. The officer also pays \$134 a month for health care benefits under the current contract.

Young officers with experience are keeping their options open, said Doug Higgins, a 10-year veteran of the police force. He knows at least three police officers who are contemplating leaving Dallas Township depending on the outcome of the new contract.

The supervisors didn't come to the bargaining table in good faith from the beginning, Rosencrans believes. He said negotiations do not have to go as far as arbitration. This is the first time in over 30 years the police contract will go to arbitration.

Until the arbitrator sets the hearing date, the township and police department can negotiate without incurring arbitration costs. Once the arbitrators meet, the decision is final.

Residents urged the supervisors to try to negotiate with the police officers before incurring arbitrators' costs.

"It's costing us to fight. But we feel it's right and that's what we are going to go with, our gut instincts," said Rosencrans.

The police have been preparing for the contract negotiations for the past year. The seven officers under contract have been saving money to cover lawyer's fees and arbitration costs. The officers estimate they will incur between \$3,000 to \$5,000 in legal fees to negotiate this contract. Taxpayers pay the township's legal fees and arbitration costs.

The board of supervisors will meet again on Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 7:30 at the Dallas Township Municipal Building.

Running

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part of the "Team In Training" program which raises millions of dollars annually for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America. Since its establishment in 1949, the Society has awarded more than \$200 million to research.

"The Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, consisting of 14 members and ranging in age from 19 to 43 years old, is just over a year old," said Hall. "The team is looking forward to running for a second time in the an-

nual Steamtown Marathon on October 7." This will be Hall's first year as the team's coach.

They will also travel to Washington, DC on October 28 for the annual Marine Corps Marathon. This will no doubt be an emotional weekend for all of the runners from around the country who visit the Nation's Capital. The 26.2 mile course, nicknamed the Marathon of Monuments, enables the runners to pass many of our nation's most prominent sites, including the recently dam-

"It's nice to run with other people and to support such a good cause."

Dawn Leas
Shavertown

aged Pentagon.

Each team runs for a local person who is trying to win the battle against leukemia or lymphoma. This year the local chapter is running for their 57-year-old team hero, John Gula, from Harveys Lake. He is currently in treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"It's nice to run with other people and to support such a good cause," said Leas. "We are all honored to run for John. He's such a fighter. The exercise keeps us going, but knowing that we are making a difference in John's life and in the lives of others, gives us the additional incentive

we need."

Other team members from our area include Louis Blaum, Jason Petulo, Eva Ofcharsky, Jane Dial, Ken Keiser, Ron Divallus, Marianne McGroarty, Michelle McGettigan, Mikael Trapper, Robin Sledzinski and Laura Kravitz.

The Team in Training participants, using long distance running as a symbol of endurance and hope, have four goals in mind as they dedicate themselves to the sport and the cause. They seek, through sponsorship, to raise money for research of leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, to raise money for local patient service programs, to honor area patients and their families through the local hero program, and to bring all of this effort to the most important goal — a cure.

Tax-deductible donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America may be sent to: Laurant Hall, 420 Cross Creek Road, Shavertown, PA 18708.



Shavertown residents who run for those you can't: from left, Dawn Leas, Laurant Hall (coach), Doreen Dickinson.

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Dallas Twp. police activity

Dallas Township Police Department Log

Jan. 1, 2001 - Sept. 22, 2001
1,333 complaints — 190 per officer
519 citations issued — 74 per officer
97 arrests made — 13 per officer
137 accidents investigated — 19 per officer

Three-year totals for 1998-2000

4,292 complaints
1,726 citations issued
404 arrests made
625 accidents investigated

Information provided by the Dallas Township police Department.

Gala performance of 'Jekyll & Hyde'

The 5th annual 'Gala' will be held at the Music Box Dinner Playhouse on Sun., Oct. 7. This special event 'kicks-off' the annual fundraising drive which benefits the Music Box Player's 2002 season of six plays and musicals and the children's shows.

Patrons will be treated to a performance of Jekyll & Hyde at 8 p.m., an open bar and hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m., and a dinner of either lobster tail or prime rib of beef at 6:30 p.m. The donation is \$50 per person. Reservations are required.

For information and reservations, call 283-2195 or 1-800-698-PLAY.

GS Troop 665 campfire & sing-along Oct. 20

Girl Scouts in Service Units 118 and 119 are invited to the 4th Annual Girl Scout campfire and sing-along at Frances Slocum State Park on Sat., Oct. 20. Senior Girl Scout Troop 665 will host the event. For more info. or to RSVP call 696-2450.

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