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



SPORTS

Lake-Lehman girls fall in first-round of state playoffs. Pg 11.



SCHOOL

Rotary donates to support Dallas High Indoor Color Guard. Pg 16.



COMMUNITY

Scouts collect 2,600 food items for the needy. Pg 6.

Dallas High team 3rd in state in 'real-life' competition

BY TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

HARRISBURG — High school is supposed to get America's youth ready for life in the real world.

Five area high school seniors are proof that Dallas is getting the job done.

Dallas students Ricky Branco, Janelle Opello, Ryan Kastenbaum, Ryan Morgan and Erica Swatko recently finished third in the state championships of the

LifeSmarts competition.

"It's pretty neat to be recognized for what I have done in the classroom," said Branco, 18, of Dallas.

LifeSmarts is a national program sponsored by the attorney general of the United States. The top nine schools in the state, out of over 500 Pennsylvania schools, qualify for the state finals. This year was the fourth straight year the Mountaineers have made the state finals.

"It's pretty nice to be in the state finals. We have worked hard, and wanted to do well."

Ryan Morgan
Dallas senior

LifeSmarts team advisor and Dallas High School faculty member Cathy

Wega has been with the team for the three previous trips to the state finals, and said this was Dallas' best team yet.

The LifeSmarts competition tests students with questions that deal with an array of consumer awareness questions.

"The questions are about everything from debt consolidation to mortgages," said Wega. "If it is a consumer question, it is eligible."

Coming into the state finals each

year, Wega feels Dallas is in a unique situation.

"Most of the schools that compete at LifeSmarts have a consumer education class," said Wega. "Dallas does not have one, but the kids have told me that they seem to get all their consumer education information from other classes they take here at the school."

Kastenbaum, the team's computer

See LIFESMARTS, pg 10

Broadway classic swaggers in to Lehman

High school players to put on 'Guys and Dolls'

Oh, the utter joy of watching the students of Lake-Lehman High School in a madcap dress rehearsal days before Frank Loesser's classic comedy musical, "Guys and Dolls," goes live before the Back Mountain community.

If you've never been involved in the production of a play, you just can't understand the long hours of work and effort it takes. And all the details! Pearls and cigarette holders for the "Dolls," red carnations for the "Guys" in their gangster zoot suits, a scripture sign for the mission stage set, and the band can find the paper clips to mark their music books on the top of the piano. The last minute dash for props, electrical outlets that won't work, microphones that feedback or simply quit working. Faculty advisor John Pinenio sighs raggedly (he'll be whimper-

See GUYS AND DOLLS, pg 3



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

Talent on display

Lindsay Szalkowski performs her rendition of "My New Philosophy," a musical pantomime from the production of Snoopy, during last week's talent show at Dallas Middle School. More photos on page 4, this week's Community Photo Album.

Middle school project gets back on pace

Excavation for pool to start in two weeks

BY TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — The construction phase of the Dallas Middle School project is nearing its completion, project manager Len Gallo told board members at the monthly meeting of the Dallas School Board on March 11.

Gallo, of Reynolds Construction, told the board finishing work is nearing completion in the offices and computer rooms in the front addition of the school, and tile work and ceiling blocks must be installed. The computer room and offices are slated for completion in April to early May.

Construction crews should begin digging the hole for the pool March 25, Gallo said in his report. Construction had been delayed in the locker room area for almost eight weeks, Gallo said, because steel reinforced concrete had to be removed before renovations could be made.

Construction of the pool is slated to be finished in late July.

Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, the school district's superintendent, said concrete slabs in the locker room area were thought to be four inches thick throughout. See SCHOOL PROJECT, pg 10



Peter Yurchision stands in front of the plane in which he is learning to fly.

Yurchision earning wings at 17

BY TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN — While many high school students seem to have their heads in the clouds, Peter Yurchision is flying much higher — literally.

At an age when most students are playing sports or mastering a musical instrument, the Dallas High School junior has been taking flying lessons so that someday he may become a commercial airline pilot.

"Flying has always been a childhood dream," said Yurchision. "I definitely think I would like

to make a future career out of flying; maybe as a commercial pilot."

Yurchision, 17, is the youngest he could possibly be to earn his private pilot's license, and is currently working towards earning his instrument reading rating, something that will help him learn how to fly in fog and other weather conditions in which he wouldn't be able to see the ground from up in a plane.

"Peter came to me and said he wanted to take flying lessons," said Yurchision's mother Maria Yurchision. "Although I was as nervous

See PILOT, pg 10

Woman's body found near home

Rescue workers searched a section of the Ross Township woods on Tuesday for a missing woman who was later found dead. The body of Rosemary Daria Shission, 53, who had been missing since Sunday, was found Tuesday afternoon about 1,000 yards from her backyard, said Luzerne County Chief Deputy Coroner Bill Lisman.

Police said she was last seen by her husband in the kitchen of their Grassy Pond Road home at approximately 5 p.m. Sunday. Lisman said she was wearing clothing suitable for Sunday's milder weather, but then temperatures dropped in the evening.

Lisman said the coroner's office has ruled out foul play. He said toxicological tests were performed and the results may help investigators determine how she died. She was pronounced dead at 4 p.m. Tuesday by Luzerne County Deputy Coroner Clarke Piatt.



Tree versus Impala - no contest

Bill Giberson of Hillside Road in Kingston Township stands beside what's left of his 1978 Chevy Impala after a huge tree in his yard was felled by Saturday night's high winds. Giberson lost another car about two years ago to a branch from the same tree. "If I'd gone to the store for that soda when I thought about it, it probably wouldn't have happened," he mused.

POST PHOTO/ELIZABETH ANDERSON

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