



United We Stand

Vol. 113 No. 51



THE DALLAS POST

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



COMMUNITY

Saying goodbye to the man who waved at Dallas. Pg 3.



SCHOOL

Middle School students collect food. Pg 15.

DOWN ON THE MAT

Hundreds of wrestlers coming to Dallas for TL Invitational meet. Pull out section inside.



Local artisan's ornament graces White House Christmas tree

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

When Marianne Bump-Lurie goes to sleep Christmas Eve, she won't be dreaming of sugar plums or fairies. The vision she'll have is of one special Christmas ornament hanging on the White House Christmas tree, the one that she made.

A Franklin Township artisan who designs ornamental "Pysanky" eggs, Lurie was selected as one of nine Pennsylvanians to create an ornament for the official White House tree, which is erected in the Blue Room.

Pysanky is a traditional Ukrainian egg-decorating technique, using beeswax to draw designs and dyes to add color. Lurie learned the craft from her mother, Mary Ann Bump, originally of Swoyersville, and her late Russian grandfather, John Bronsberg. She professionally sells and exhibits her eggs and egg shell jewelry and is a juried member of the Pennsylva-



This Pysanky egg ornament, made by Marianne Bump-Lurie of Franklin Township, is hanging on the official White House Christmas tree.

nia Guild of Craftsmen.

The artisans were feted at two gatherings; a luncheon given by First Lady Laura Bush at the White House on December 4, and a tea given by Pennsylvania's First Lady, Kathy Schweiker, at the governor's residence in Harrisburg September 26.

In July, John K. Robinson, the press secretary of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, approached Lurie at a craft show and asked her to create the ornament. "Well sure, absolutely," she replied casually. But she hardly believed him. "He was a very nice and well-dressed man, but many people come up and promise lots of things at art shows."

Two weeks later she received a letter from Robinson with guidelines, a list of birds, and the theme for this year's Christmas decor. "All Creatures Great and Small."

See ORNAMENT, pg 11

Achievement pays off for Dallas schools

Wycallis, Middle School win \$\$ for state test scores

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — For the second year in a row, the Dallas School District has been awarded School Performance Funding monies for increasing its Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

scores.

Established in 1998, the incentive program awards money to schools that improve their PSSA scores 50 or more points. This year Wycallis Elementary raised its math score 20 points to 1400 and its reading score 30 points to 1440. The middle school raised its scores by 10 points in math to 1360, and by 40 points in reading, to 1410.

According to Dr. Michael Speziale, Assistant Superintendent of Dallas, last year the senior high, Wycallis Elementary and

Dallas Elementary collectively earned approximately \$80,000 in award money that was used for a variety of uses. This year Wycallis Elementary and the middle school earned a combined \$24,792. Wycallis was awarded \$9,672 and the middle school \$15,120.

Kathleen McCarthy, principal of Wycallis, said the award reflects well on the school and its teachers.

"It's a reflection that we have a good

See TEST SCORES, pg 11



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Christmas is coming

Ian Williams played Joseph and Anna Layaou was Mary in the Gate of Heaven School production of "Shepherds, Stars and A Savior" presented December 15. Michael Stachnik played a shepherd at Joseph's right. Standing behind Joseph and Mary were three stars, played by Michelle Ash, Michele Fromel and Lucia Walkowiak.

Early publication for Christmas

Because Christmas falls on a Wednesday this year, next week's issue of The Dallas Post will be printed early, so that local subscribers can receive their copies on Christmas Eve. The Post will also be available at newsstands Tuesday, December 24.

As a result, all submitted news and community items for the next issue must be received by 2 p.m. Friday, December 20. Display advertising should be ordered by 5 p.m. Thursday, December 19, and classified advertising will be accepted until 4 p.m. Friday, December 20.

The office of The Dallas Post will be closed all day December 25. The following issue will adhere to a similar publishing cycle.



POST PHOTOS/SANDY PEOPLES

Lori Kowaleski, Bill Cuff and Heather Wertman filled baskets with toys for tots, purchased with tip money gathered throughout the year.

Deli employees exchange tips for toys

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - The employees and management of J&J Deli in Dallas could do anything they want with the tips they receive from dine-in customers, take-out orders, and office deliveries. What they have chosen to do with the money they have received in the past six years is a heartwarming

Christmas story.

John and Heather Wertman, the owners of J&J Deli, joined the Toys for Tots project in 1997 and asked their employees if they wanted to participate. "Bar none," said John Wertman, "all of them wanted to then, and the tradition has continued with all of our new employees throughout the years. Some of them are young people who could just as

easily put the money aside for college, a car or for gas, but these kids from Dallas and Lake-Lehman high schools really get a good feeling by putting their tips in the jar when they get them."

"We really enjoy helping the kids out," said Bill Cuff, one of the deli cooks. "We've seen the

See TOYS, pg 3

Accident rate down despite huge increase in traffic

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

Although a rash of accidents, including two resulting in fatalities, have recently besieged the area, a closer look at accident statistics in the Back Mountain reveal that over a 10-year period, collisions are down in both Kingston and Dallas townships. Local officials and the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT) say a series of road improvements is the reason.

According to PennDOT, the Back Mountain is experiencing more through traffic and higher overall volume than ever, but since 1996, accidents have de-

clined an average of 9.3 per year in Dallas Township and three per year in Kingston Township. Local officials and PennDOT credit a string of road improvements throughout the late 1980s and 90s for the decrease.

In 2001, an average of 41,598 cars were counted passing along Route 309 in any 24 hour period. "That's almost a 100 percent increase," said Tom Ochal, PennDOT Traffic Study Supervisor. The average number of cars entering the Back Mountain in 1988 was 27,000.

"The area is growing and the

See TRAFFIC, pg 10

Deadly strip draws attention

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN — The area of the deadly November accident that killed the drivers of both cars involved is being studied for possible road improvements, said James Balavage, Kingston Township Chief of Police.

Deborah Evans and Joyce Sickler, both Back Mountain residents, died of injuries resulting from the November 26 accident. Evans's car was struck by Sickler while attempting a left turn out of the Texaco gas sta-

tion across from Rave's Garden Center on Route 309.

Because that area of Route 309 has historically been prone to accidents, including other fatalities, Balavage is currently in the process of gathering accident statistics, from 1996 on, to send to the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT) for review.

Chuck Mattei, PennDOT District Engineer, said he would be happy to look at the data to see if possible road re-engineering is

See DEADLY, pg 10

INDEX

24 Pages, 2 Sections	
Calendar.....	24
Classified.....	21-23
Crossword.....	14
Editorials.....	6
Obituaries.....	2
School.....	15-16
Sports.....	13-14

CALL 675-5211
FOR HOME DELIVERY,
NEWS OR ADVERTISING
E-mail: dallaspost@leader.net

The Dallas Post

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