



THE DALLAS POST

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



SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

Spring is here! It's time to get busy around the house.



SCHOOL

Skylar Braun wins spelling bee. Pg 9.



COMMUNITY

Lake-Lehman students show off their artsy side. Pg 3.

Dallas cancels school field trips to high-threat areas

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS — In light of the heightened terror alert, the Dallas School District has cancelled all field trips to Washington D.C. and New York City. Administrators say students' safety is more important than any possible loss of money.

Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, Superintendent, said he and the rest of the administrative staff spent two days going over

whether the district's students should go on field trips before deciding, finally, that seven trips to the two cities have to be cancelled.

"On Tuesday, Times Square became a real interesting place to watch on CNN," said Griffiths about the decision to not send students to the city. "They had a hazmat unit there, armored personnel carriers, a SWAT team and on every corner they had two armed police officers with submachine guns; not a place

"This was looked at on a basis of student safety, not in any financial way."

Dr. Gil Griffiths
Dallas Superintendent

that we'd like to put our students." Griffiths said the district is looking at alternative places and programs to re-

place now-cancelled trips.

He said decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis for trips that are not to those two locations.

Before making decisions on those trips, Griffiths said district administrators would consult parents, students and faculty.

For all future field trips, Griffiths said Ben Jones, district solicitor, has drawn up a "sign off sheet," or release form for parents to sign. He said the form will

make parents aware of possible ramifications of going outside of the area.

The form contains information about the terror alert level for the area each field trip is planned for. It also absolves the school district from responsibility for any problem that may occur due to terroristic activities.

Trips for children at nearly every school in the district have been affect-

See TRIPS, pg 6

Owners preserve land's beauty

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

JACKSON TWP. — Thirty two land owners in Jackson Township recently elected to renew their participation in the township's Agricultural Security Area. The area will continue to maintain the rural character the township deems its most important attribute.

"Everybody who owns any amount of land wonders how long they can hold on to it," said Beatrice Ray, a founder of the special land designation.

"Farm security was passed to help people to hold on to the farms and property that they have," she said.

A total of 1,853 acres of farmland make up the security area first created in the 1970s. Back then, Ray, along with another property owner,

See LAND, pg 3



Jackson Township landowners Beatrice Ray and Paul Niezgoda look at a map of the acreage in the recently renewed agricultural security area. The area was formed more than 20 years ago to help preserve farmland in the township.

Dallas chief back at work

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS — After more than three months, Dallas Borough's police chief is back on the job. Kathy Kupstas, borough council president, says it was a matter of paperwork that kept him on leave.

According to John Oliver, council vice president, Chief Jack Fowler returned to work two weeks ago after providing the borough's lawyers with his health records. Fowler had been out since going on sick leave November 4.

Joe Moskovitz, borough manager, confirmed at the January 15 council meeting that Fowler's sick leave was extended indefinitely until a fitness evaluation, asked for by the borough, was completed and the borough received the results.

Oliver and Kupstas said Fowler's records were not released to the borough's lawyers until just recently.

"There was a period of time in which he did not give us permission. They (his physicians) needed a specific release from him," said Oliver.

Kupstas said she doesn't have any feelings one way or the other about the chief being back.

"He requested the leave; he got the leave. We let him back when the appropriate paperwork was finally completed," said Kupstas.

Fowler has appealed a three-day suspension, issued last year by Dallas Borough Mayor Tim Carroll, to the Civil Service Commission. Oliver said he doesn't believe a date for the hearing has been set.

"The Civil Service Commission is meeting to determine whether the suspension he received is appropriate," Oliver said.

Young pleads guilty in teen's killing, will testify

By DAVID WEISS
Special to The Dallas Post

WILKES-BARRE — A shackled Tina Young pleaded guilty March 20 to third-degree murder in the slaying of Casey Zalenski.

The plea agreement guarantees her testimony against Larry Tooley, who is also charged in the Nov. 8 death. It also frees her from serving a life sentence in prison on her original charge of second-degree murder.

Police said Young, 33, and Tooley, 46, entered Zalenski's Franklin Township home look-

ing for money for drugs. Young, who was a baby sitter for the family, went into the home to make sure no one was there before Tooley entered.

Zalenski and his younger brother were hiding upstairs. Zalenski was shot after approaching Tooley, police charge. His younger brother jumped out an upstairs window. Young entered the home to see Zalenski shot.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against Tooley, and Young's testimony gives

See YOUNG, pg 6



Susan Shovlin hugged her daughter, who was "a little nervous" before getting her first-ever haircut.

A girl's first haircut will help others

When Susan Shovlin's 15-year-old sister died of cancer in 1985, she had lost all her hair to chemotherapy and radiation treatments. "We took down all the mirrors in the house, so she wouldn't have to look at herself. Hair is very important to teenagers," says Shovlin. Last Saturday Denise Maria Shovlin, Susan's 6-year-old daughter, had her 26-inch-long hair cut for the first time in her young life. She donated a 10-inch braid of hair to "Locks of Love," a program that provides hair pieces to financially disadvantaged children. Shovlin feels her daughter, a second grade student at Gate of Heaven School in Dallas, will look back and have something to be very proud of. Denise Maria's reaction at the moment, though, was simply, "This is cool."

To find out more about this program, e-mail info@locks-of-love.org or call toll free 1-888-896-1588.

More photos on page 6.

Township will scrutinize price tag on lock-in party

By SCOTT VINNACOMBE
Post Correspondent

KINGSTON TWP. — For each of the last few years, the Dallas High School parent-teacher organization has held a senior lock-in for the graduating class and every year the group solicits a variety of sources to fund the event. Much of the funding comes from donated services, while a smaller amount comes directly from cash. Kingston Township has been asked to do-

nate whatever cash they can toward the night, which is considered one of safety and protection.

Mark Albrecht, a township resident who has done some research into the event, believes there is one major flaw with it. According to Albrecht, the party is essentially meant to keep the students from acting out and breaking the law. "We seem to be bribing our children with ex-

See PARTY, pg 3

Help us tell about neighbors who serve

The Dallas Post would like to know how Back Mountain residents are responding to the war in Iraq. We would like to publish articles that cover a wide variety of subjects, including profiles of military and civilian personnel who are in the Middle East.

E-mail your stories about local service men and women, as well as how your group or organization is responding, to dallaspost@leader.net.

INDEX

34 Pages, 2 Sections
Calendar.....14
Classified.....10-13
Crossword.....8
Editorials.....4
Obituaries.....2
School.....9
Sports.....7

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