

Dallas girls get a big win. Page 7



# THE POST

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

## Dallas will boost grading scale

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**DALLAS TWP.** — Dallas School District administrators said last week a simple change in the grading system could mean more opportunities for graduates to obtain scholarships and entrance into choice colleges.

Assistant Superintendent Michael Speziale said students are being unfairly disadvantaged and urged the board to change the sys-

tem as soon as possible.

While other districts churn out seniors with 4.0 averages, explained Speziale, Dallas' grading system makes it nearly impossible for students to achieve the honor. Consequently, Dallas students may lose out on valuable scholarships and admittance to the most prestigious schools — not because they are not qualified, but because Dallas has a grading system inconsistent with those used by universities and colleges.

"Generally, at universities and colleges around the country when you get an A, you get a 4.0. We don't do it that way," said Speziale.

In most districts, students can accumulate a 4.0 average by earning A's in their courses, typically by scoring in the mid 90s or higher. To earn a 4.0 average at Dallas, students have to earn not just A's, but a perfect 100 percent in every course they take from ninth grade on. That is something Speziale said to his knowledge has never

occurred at Dallas.

He said the district sends an explanation of its grading system along with each student's transcript. However, after canvassing universities and colleges including the University of Pennsylvania, Villinova, Pennsylvania State University, Bucknell, Misericordia and others, he was told including the explanation is not enough.

"One admissions counselor told

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## Format now makes us look 'not as smart'

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**SHAVERTOWN** — Had Dr. Debora Miller not moved her family from New Jersey, she believes her daughter who graduated from Dallas High School last year, would have had more college opportunities.

Miller's daughter was one of five students to graduate from the school in 2003 having earned all A's. In the New Jersey district she moved out of, as well as other districts in the Wyoming Valley, her daughter would have had the prestigious honor of

See SMART, pg 3

## The perils of a student director

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK  
Post Correspondent

It's not easy being a student director. Just ask Lake-Lehman High School senior Stephen Lunderman, who is in charge of "The Night Thoreau Spent In Jail," which will be presented next weekend at Lake-Noxen Elementary School.

"It's fun sitting down at auditions, picking and choosing people, but so far nine people have already dropped out, some because they didn't like their parts. Some worked so hard on their monologues, and when they weren't picked they thought I was the worst person in the world."

The play is focused on the night Henry David Thoreau, played by Craig Thomas, spent in jail and the memories and dreams that come from his conversations with his cellmate Bailey, played by Jake Davies.

Selecting actors presented Lunderman with a quandary.

"You have two options casting, either taking people who have acted in past productions or finding new talent," he said. One success was casting Bryan Cardillo, a freshman who had never acted before.

Lunderman enjoys "blocking" plays; that is, telling the actors where to move on stage, to make



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Stephen Lunderman showed Mandy Boyle the right way — his way — to hold an owl at a rehearsal for the play that is Lunderman's senior project at Lake-Lehman High School.

an entrance here or to "do it this way." And Lunderman is proud to have changed one lead character from Edward Emerson to Elizabeth Emerson to allow more women in the cast.

Lunderman began acting lessons in grade school,

and became involved in technical theater while in Texas. He was inspired last year at Lake-Lehman by student director and friend Austin Williams.

See DIRECTOR, pg 3

## Contentious start for supervisors

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

**KINGSTON TWP.** — Judging by the tone at the January 5 reorganization meeting of supervisors, a new board lineup won't completely eliminate the rancor that characterized township affairs over the last several months.

### Meetings this week

**Monday**  
6:30 p.m. - Executive session to discuss personnel matters

**Monday**  
7 p.m. - Supervisors work session

**Wednesday**  
7:30 p.m. - Supervisors regular meeting

Kingston Township," said Jeff Box.

Dave Jenkins wants to "watch carefully over spending" by working with township Manager Eddie O'Neill to postpone expenditures where possible and to make sure spending matches revenue as the year goes on.

Chris Yankovich, the new chairman,

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## Supervisors authorized to seek outside auditing help

By VICKI KEIPER  
Post Correspondent

**JACKSON TWP.** - The township supervisors can go shopping for an outside auditor.

The supervisors unanimously approved an ordinance January 5 that would allow the board to seek proposals for an independent auditor. Elected auditors have been doing the job until now, but they could use some help, said township Solicitor Jeffrey

Malak.

"Everything's much more complicated," Malak said Wednesday. "I think we're getting caught up to the 21st century."

Resolution 1 of 2004 states that the board can enter into a contract with a certified or competent public accountant who will "audit the fiscal affairs of the township independently of elected or appointed auditors."

Malak explained that the resolution allows the board to consider applica-

tions and proposals from certified public accountants; a separate ordinance would be needed in order to accept proposals from the independent auditor.

Chairman John J. Wilkes, Jr. said the township auditors would oversee the outside auditor's work and would be responsible for bringing issues to the board. He also said the arrangement would make it easier for the auditors to double check their numbers.

"We're making sure they have the

proper tools," Wilkes said.

Three auditors were elected in November, 2003; Todd Paczewski for six years; Andrew Salko for four years, and John Bobersky for two years.

The state limits the pay rate for elected auditors to \$7 per hour. Township Secretary Joy Bird said a total of about \$600 was paid to auditors in 2003.

The board also agreed to renew its agility agreement with the Pennsylv-

See JACKSON, pg 2

## Ready to take charge

Greg Skrepenak, who lives in Dallas, shared a laugh with a supporter as he waited to descend the steps at the Luzerne County Courthouse. Skrepenak and Todd Vonderheid were sworn in earlier on January 5, before hosting a public party to kick off their terms as majority County Commissioners.

POST PHOTO/IRON BARTIZEK



## Jeff Pace is a man for all sports and seasons

By M.B. GILLIGAN  
Post Correspondent

**DALLAS** — Jeff Pace seems to be everywhere, yet finds time to give individual attention to everyone he comes in contact with.

"Our paths have crossed constantly over the years," said Florence "Flossy" Finn, Dallas, of Pace. "When I coached softball, he was there. I've seen him coach DYB (Dallas Youth Basketball) and soccer games. When I went to a hockey game recently, he brought me a Coke and a bag of popcorn. Now, he's my physical therapist, and he is always such a nice guy."

### Volunteers

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retirement. She first met Jeff there when he held the first athletic trainer position in the Wyoming Valley Conference. She sang his praises in a recent letter to The Post.

"I remember one time when I was coaching at the Keystone Games and we had an injured

See VOLUNTEER, pg 11



FOR THE POST/PETE G. WILCOX

## Do I hear ... ?

Auctioneer Steve Traver took bids on a piece of art work during the New Year's Day Auction at Traver's Auction in Dallas. The seventh annual event drew hundreds of bidders and buyers with a wide range of antiques, collectibles and other items. Eric Petrow held the item up for all to see.

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### Visioning meeting Jan. 15

Dallas Community Visioning group will hold a meeting for general purposes on Thursday January 15 at 7 p.m. in the Kennedy Lounge of the Banks Center the campus of

College Misericordia. Participants are urged to attend to consider Task Force committee initiatives for 2004, including planning for the 2004 Dallas Harvest Festival, traffic projects, master plan projects and downtown revitalization efforts.

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