

David Williams was featured on the cover of the Bloomsburg University magazine's fall 2001 issue. At the time, he was executive vice president and chief operating officer for Habitat for Humanity International.

MAKE-A-WISH

(continued from page 1)

"Hopefully, there will be some expansion," he said. Williams will move to Phoenix to start his new job January 10. His wife Martha and two children will remain in Americus, Georgia until the school year is over. Until then, "I'll be doing a fair amount of back and forth," he said.

The son of John and Mary Williams of Dallas, he is a 1977 graduate of Dallas High School. His sisters also live in the region, and Williams tries to visit at least once each year. Now he can mix business with pleasure on those trips, since Joe Milazzo of Pittston sits on the Make-A-Wish national board of directors.

With his experience and education — he earned an MBA at the University of Houston — Williams knows he could make more money working for a profit-making company. But he doesn't think he's missed much. "My family and I have been very blessed. Our needs have been met over the years."

Legion invites oratorical, essay contest entries

High school students and home-schooled students of the Black Mountain have been invited by Dallas American Legion Post 672 to compete in the 66th annual National High School Oratorical Contest. The contest has been arranged with the full cooperation of the local school districts who will assist with the contest arrangements. The subject of the prepared oration portion of the contest must be some phase of the Constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties

and obligations of a U.S. citizen. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must be 8-10 minutes in length. The three national finalists receive scholarships of \$18,000, \$16,000 and \$14,000, respectively. In addition, contestants who win their state finals contest and represent their state at the national contests will receive no less than \$1,500 in scholarship funds. The American Legion will pay the expenses of state winners at the national contest.

The Post is also sponsoring an essay test. The topic this year is "America — Sweet Land of Liberty." All essays must be no less than 600 words and no more than 1,000. The local school must determine its own winner by Feb. 5. Prizes will be awarded locally and at the state level. Students interested in either competition may find complete rules at their respective schools or by contacting Clarence J. Michael at 675-0488.

Public swimming at Dallas pool

Dallas School District has announced the public aquatic programs for fall and winter 2004-2005 at the district natatorium in the Dallas Middle School.

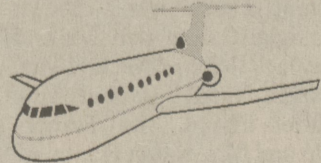
Public swimming sessions are Wednesdays and Fridays, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m. The pool is open to the public for lap and recreational swimming during those times. No one under 18 will be admitted without a parent or guardian. Proof of residence and \$2 daily fee apply.

Jackson Twp. building permits required

Jackson Township Zoning officer reminds all residents that the Township has an ordinance that requires a building permit for any new construction, repairs, alterations, etc. being done to any building or property. Building Permits may be applied for at the Zoning office in the Municipal Building, 2211 Huntsville Road. Zoning Office Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to Noon. For information call 674-4554.

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NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S HOME PAGE

MARINE

(continued from page 1)

of the way in late September, but was stymied by a requirement to serve six months after training. He asked for a waiver, only to be told a "stop-loss" policy, in which tours of duty are extended in time of war, disallowed any premature separations. Even an appeal to a friend's father, a Lt. Col. in the Guard, didn't work.

His uncle, George Dunne of Dallas, got into the act, writing an open letter — without Laskowski's knowledge — to President Bush. The letter was published in the Times Leader on Dec. 27.

"He's always been willing to help me out," Laskowski said. That is apparent in the thick stack of letters and fax mes-

"I'd actually like to go over to Iraq and help out."

Michael Laskowski
Dallas

sages Dunne has written since March, some highly critical of the way his nephew was treated by his superior officers.

Now, his Guard unit is about to be called up to active duty, and Laskowski is expecting to report later this month, first for Humvee training and then desert training, with an anticipated deployment to Iraq in July, although he expects that will be moved up.

"I'd actually like to go over to

Iraq and help out," Laskowski said. But he'd rather be going as a Marine, and with his buddy.

At this point, he's resigned to his fate. "Even if the stop-loss was lifted, I'm not sure I would get it (the discharge)," he said.

Meanwhile, his friend, Malone, is scheduled to head for Iraq in February. That has led Laskowski to travel back and forth to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, a 10-hour drive, as often as possible before both of them head out.

Laskowski still plans to join the Marines when his Guard enlistment ends. That will mean enduring another 13 weeks of hard training, even if he's an experienced combat soldier.

GINGERBREAD

(continued from page 1)

students.

Boyer is proud to say that all the fun, Christmas spirit and giving has the additional purpose of stimulating the German language program in the Dallas School District.

Boyer, the child of German immigrants to America, grew up in Edwardsville and earned her bachelor's degree from Wilkes University. She hopes the district will continue the two advanced German lan-

guage classes she helped initiate and taught at the senior high school.

"We have tried to increase the enrollment and hope it will continue. We have 26 students enrolled in German 111."



Councilwoman Kathryn Kupstas, Mayor Timothy Carroll, Dr. Griffiths and Council President John Oliver.

Griffiths receives key to Dallas

Dallas Borough Mayor Timothy Carroll and Borough Council President John Oliver presented the first-ever "Key to Dallas" to former Dallas School District Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gilbert R. Griffiths. Griffiths was hired by the district on January 12, 1987 as the Junior High School Principal.

He was appointed Assistant Superintendent in 1991, then Superintendent in April 1997. He retired December 1. During his tenure, Griffiths managed three building projects including Wycallis Elementary, renovations to Mountaineer Stadium and the middle school including the natatorium and

the new lighted tennis courts. A proclamation read: "Dr. Griffiths' contribution to our community and our youth will remain a legacy and serve as a standard by which all future Superintendents will be measured."

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