

**VETERAN**

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Baghdad," Lipo told the class. He was assigned to the military police and acted as an escort for the Brigade Sergeant Major. "I got to sleep a little later because we didn't go out until he went out and he usually had meetings every morning."

When they did go out it was always in a convoy and they were always on the lookout for car bombs. "We drove down the center of the street to avoid the sides of the road, which is not paved and can hide bombs," Lipo said.

The third graders were ready with a litany of questions for Lipo. In answering, he explained that he wanted to be a soldier since he was a young child playing Army. He also told them that the food was good, the summer was hot, and that when things got boring he went for a run or played video games. Lipo also told the children that even though they may not always like school, they should be happy to be there since many children their own age are working on the streets in Iraq.

"It was really nice to hear from kids from home. I got mail from other groups that I never heard of and that was good, too," said Lipo. "Letters from young kids are the greatest things to get because they are so honest. I even got one that just said, 'Don't get killed.'"

FOR THE POST/M.B. GILLIGAN

Top photo: Matthew Saba, left, and Noah Welch check out Spc. Lipo's helmet and empty holster.

At right, Michael Viglone and his third grade class at Dallas Elementary School enjoyed a visit from Spc. Matthew Lipo, who served 11 months in Iraq.



**FLOSSIE**

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ever gone," Finn said. "I cherish those times. I just thought they were the best moments in my life."

Those who worked with her recall Finn's dedication to the students, both on and off the field.

"As a guidance counselor, she went above and beyond the call of duty," said John Oliver, retired Lake-Lehman High School Principal and the current president of Dallas Borough Council. "She was there for all the kids. They absolutely adored her."

She was a teacher who emphasized writing in her curriculum, so her students were better prepared for college, he said. As a guidance counselor, she developed an extensive group of contacts at colleges around the country. "I can't even venture to count how many kids she got into college, but it was a ton," Oliver said.

About 10 years ago, when their children, Lauren and Joey, needed help with school work, Dr. Francis and Susan Collini called Finn, who lives nearby. She's been the children's tutor and Lauren's softball coach ever since.

"Basically, Flossie's been like a second mother to our kids," said Francis Collini. "She recognized Lauren's pitching ability and fostered it." Last summer, Lauren, a senior at Dallas High School, attended a program for prospective softball players at

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John Oliver  
Retired Lake-Lehman High School Principal

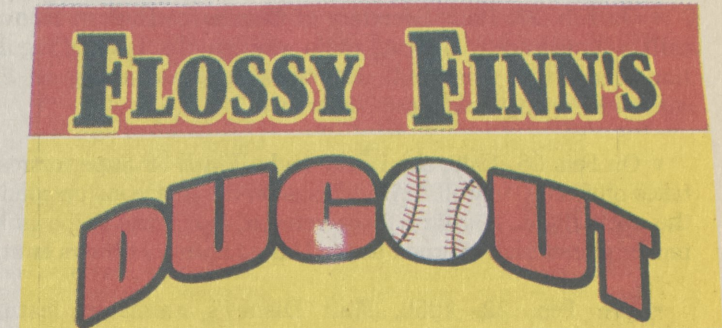
Drew University in New Jersey. "She came home and said she loved the school and the team." She applied early, and was accepted. "Flossie was instrumental in setting it all up," Collini said.

Susan Collini said the concern Finn has for children goes far beyond the Collini family. "She has been a great asset, not only to my kids, but she's helped so many other kids get into college."

A lifelong Dallas resident, Finn and her husband Jim have been married 39 years and are expecting their second grandchild in April. She must receive antibiotic injections every day, which Jim administers.

"I can't say enough about him," she said. "He has been with me every step of the way. He really takes care of me."

With so many years of experience working against the odds, Finn isn't about to let her problems get in the way of helping more kids achieve their goals. "If I'm gonna get put down, they better put me under," she said. "I have too much going on."



**UPCOMING SOFTBALL CLINICS**

Flossie Finn's Dug-Out will hold a "Hands-on Softball Skills Clinic" for parents and coaches next month. There will be two sessions, March 13 and 20, 2-4 p.m., on hitting, base running, fielding, throwing, catching and practice plans. The cost is \$35 for one session, or \$50 for both. A pitching only session will be held April 3, 10 a.m.-noon, with guest instructor Denise Davis, Lake-Lehman graduate and owner of Planet Fastpitch. The cost for that session only is \$45. Call 675-5129 for reservations and prepayment.

**Public swimming schedule at Dallas**

Evening Public Swim is offered at the Dallas Middle School pool on Wednesdays and Fridays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m. The pool is open to the public for lap and recreational swimming. No one under 18 will be admitted without a parent or guardian. Proof of residence and a \$2 daily fee apply.

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**Chilly contest raises \$3,000**

**Golfers take to frozen Harveys Lake for benefit**  
Staff report

HARVEYS LAKE — "Greens fees" and other donations were collected at the Harveys Lake Protective Association at its second annual Ice Golf Tournament. Association president Mark Sobek said the proceeds totaled about \$3,000.

About 40 golf fanatics waddled, shuffled, slipped and slid across a frozen Harveys Lake Feb. 13, competing in the tournament.

The ice on the part of the lake being used for Sunday's tournament, near Sandy Beach, was 7 to 12 inches thick, said Matt DePrimo, one of the organizers and sponsors of the tournament.

Sand was spread at tee sites to provide traction.

The first eight holes were split evenly between pars of three and four, while the ninth hole was a par five.

Caroline Yockavitch, one of the few female golfers on the ice, said she and her three Sweet Valley teammates intended to win the tournament this year after coming close last year. Teammate Mark McNealis said strategies included "keeping the ball low" to reduce bounce. Yockavitch said "avoiding open water and ice fishermen" would also be key.

DePrimo said a lack of snow cover made this year's tournament more difficult than last year's because snow stops the

balls from rolling too far. But it was the water hazard Yockavitch warned of that DePrimo should have worried about, considering his very first drive sank in open water near a boat launch.

The team of Jim Sperling, Damien Kaye, Rick Morgan and Jerry Finnerty shot the low score of 27, six under par.

A variety of prizes, including coffee mugs, 12-packs of beer and athletic gear awaited the victors inside Grotto Pizza, an event sponsor and the site of a post-tournament dinner.

The Protective Association uses proceeds to fund programs designed to "keep the lake healthy," such as efforts to reduce algae production and eliminate the use of phosphorus-based fertilizers, run-off from which can harm the lake, Sperling said.

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**'Flex' period is stiffened**

By MARK GUYDISH  
For The Post

DALLAS TWP. — "Flex time" for Dallas High School students was getting a little too flexible, with some kids turning the two 35-minute periods into one long lunch, so administrators have devised a computer program that tracks who goes where and why.

Acting Principal Jim McGovern unveiled the program during the Feb. 14 monthly school board meeting. It replaces a paper registration system that left too many kids unaccounted for during flex period.

Students typically use one flex period for lunch and the second for clubs, remedial learning or other options, but they can brown-bag it and use both periods for activities.

Some kids, McGovern said, tried to take advantage of weaknesses in the paper registration system by signing up for two lunch periods before anyone noticed. With the new comput-

er program, the kids must register online by 10:30 a.m. daily. Registration takes only a few minutes.

The program then creates a variety of reports for teachers, letting them know what kids registered for, if any tried to register for two lunches, and if any failed to register. The software also can show which kids are taking remedial courses during flex time, thus helping teachers track academic weaknesses and efforts to improve.

School district technology coordinator Kyle Wega designed the program.

The board also had a brief discussion about the search for a superintendent to replace Gilbert Griffiths, who retired Dec. 1, seven months early. Board member Maureen Matiska repeated her concern that the district administration is stretched thin.

Board President Russell Bigus said eight applicants have sent information packets. The application deadline is March 1.

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