

Spring sports finally kick off.

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# THE POST

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

## Veteran teacher prepares to call it a career



Emily Carey shows Ross Elementary School kindergarten teacher Susan Thomas her project. Hailey Kubiski is in the background. Thomas is retiring at the end of this school year.

After 33 years, Susan Thomas will retire from kindergarten at Ross Elementary School.

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK  
Post Correspondent

SWEET VALLEY — She calls it "a soft landing."

The kindergarten children come into Susan Thomas's room at Ross Elementary School and roam over to

one of the many learning centers or stations in the class. Some go to breakfast. It's a relaxed atmosphere that lets kids enjoy the classroom setting while learning.

Thomas, a veteran teacher, prides herself on keeping a low-key, easy atmosphere in the class. "Boys and girls will sometimes call me 'Mommy' or 'Grandma,' but I take this as a compliment because it means they are comfortable with me," she says.

Thomas has specialized in class-

room learning centers, where kids can make pattern beads, listen to tapes, or build with Legos and Lincoln Logs. All the children find something to occupy themselves and are relatively self-directed.

A teacher's duties have evolved since Thomas graduated from Bloomsburg University and started teaching 33 years ago, with all-day kindergarten the biggest change.

Also different is that most children now come to kindergarten well pre-

pared; many know their letters and can read and write their names, says Thomas. "I used to spend an entire year on learning numbers, but now we do adding and subtracting."

The requirements for kindergarten teachers are changing too. Act 92 requires all lesson plans to be activity coded. "We need to have an objective, a procedure, a test and evaluation included in the lesson plan." This

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## Development will get its first review

Proposed Goodleigh Manor will occupy 485 acres of land, with two entrances.

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — If you've listened to radio during the last few years, you've probably heard the commercials, and remember the phone number: 1-800-THELAND.

Soon, those ads may be for a new development, named Goodleigh Manor, on nearly 500 acres in the township.

Developer Jim Comes said recently the project will be a combination of 145 building lots, a conservation area, walking trails and brilliant views.

At this point, Comes' company, Landview Properties, has had to satisfy several agencies' concerns, including the Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of

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## Flood study meeting slated for this week

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. — If the weather cooperates, the public will get a look at recommendations in a study of possible flood protection measures along Toby's Creek and its tributaries. The presentation, originally scheduled for March 23, was cancelled due to snow.

Gannett Fleming Inc., which conducted the study, found only two projects that it deemed economically justified according to the study parameters. Those are enlarging the bridge over Lower Demunds Road at Fernbrook and removing a historic stone-arch bridge near Pizza Perfect in Trucksville.

The easiest and most economical recommendation is that the three

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## Dallas teens tackle cancer

Four Dallas High seniors organize dance marathon, with a \$10,000 fundraising goal.

By JENNIFER JUDGE  
YONKOSKI  
Post Correspondent

Dallas High School teacher Michael Cherinka finds it difficult to write letters of recommendation for students like Coral Stredny, Samantha O'Brien, Samantha Decker and Nikki Gelso. It turns out the four high school seniors are just involved with too much.

"I honestly don't know where they get the time," Cherinka says. "I thought there were only 24 hours in a day."

The quartet of friends are the co-founders of the THON club, a group that will culminate its cancer research fundraising activities with Dallas High School's own

### WASH CAR, RAISE MONEY

The Dallas THON club will host a car wash at Newell Fuel, Memorial Highway, Shavertown on Sunday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds will go to The Four Diamonds Fund at Hershey Medical Center, to help cancer patients.

"Mini-THON" on April 22. The event is a 12-hour dance marathon modeled after a larger event that is held at Penn State University's main campus in State College. Student volunteers are either "dancers" or "moralers." "Dancers can't sit down for the whole 12 hours," Stredny explains. "And the moralers just get the dancers pumped up."

Penn State's THON is the largest student-run philanthropy endeavor, raising over \$4.1 million this year alone for cancer treatment

and research. Dallas High School is already off to a good start with their program. Their target goal is \$10,000, and right now they've raised \$7,000.

"I wasn't sure we'd pull it off since this is our first year, but they're that good," club advisor Cherinka says of the four co-founders. "I don't need to do much. I just sign paperwork. They do it all."

Doing it all has meant many late hours and much prioritizing. Together the friends have spent an average of 40 to 50 hours a week on the project. Though all four talk about learning time management skills, Decker admits, "A lot of it is late nights."

Stredny has taken to juggling family time and work time, enlisting family members to lick

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Posing in front of a banner for the Four Diamonds Fund are, from left foreground, Samantha O'Brien and Nikki Gelso. Back, Samantha Decker and Coral Stredny.

## Rug rat racing

Kaeli Samuels, Paige Pyskoty and Josh Chamberlain picked up their entries after a race during the Awana Grand Prix, held last weekend at Grace Community Church in Dallas. More photos on page 3.



FOR THE POST/  
CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## Dallas superintendent expected by May's end

Staff report

DALLAS TWP. — According to a timetable presented at the Dallas School Board's April 4 work session, a new superintendent should be on board by the end of May.

President Russell Bigus said the board wants to have an open selection process, and part of that includes soliciting opinions on what qualifications the new superintendent should have.

He said the board had received 303 responses giving 56 qualifications, and that they had been rated by how frequently each was mentioned.

The top five were: good communicator, multiple-level experience in the classroom, administration expe-

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