

THE POST

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

Local student chosen to attend prestigious program



Ross Feinstein, a senior at Wyoming Seminary, will attend the U.S. Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C..

FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Getting an inside look into the political world

By GENELLE HOBAN
Post Correspondent

SHAVERTOWN – As one of the pair students chosen to represent Pennsylvania, Ross Feinstein will take part in the 44th Annual U.S. Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C.

Feinstein, a senior at Wyoming Seminary, will join two student leaders from each state as well as the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity during the week of March 4-11 in the nation's capital experiencing the government in action.

"The way it worked was my guidance counselor, Ms. Mason, mentioned it to me," said the son of Dr. Peter and Jane Feinstein of Shavertown. "She told me that there was an opportunity. She is really great at what she does. I wouldn't have known the program existed if it wasn't for her."

Karen Mason, director of college guidance at Seminary, said she has known Ross for at least four years.

"I'm most looking forward to meeting the other kids. I did a summer program last year...and if these students are anything like they were, it will be great."

Ross Feinstein
Wyoming Seminary senior

"Ross is very friendly and very passionate about academics and his interests to the point where he even gets you excited when he talks about them," Mason said. "He has an upbeat attitude. I easily see him being an entrepreneur because of his great creativity and his great mind."

In order to be eligible for the program student applicants had to have a leadership role in an organization. Feinstein is president of the Seminary Government, an orga-

nization that he said is more than just your typical student government group.

"We have a set of administrators and faculty that sit on it," he said. "We do a lot of projects that help the community, and if something needs to be changed at the school we do it. The hardest part is to motivate other kids to be involved."

Aside from the Seminary Government, Feinstein is also a member of mock trial and the tennis team, as well as the editor of the school's newspaper, "The Opinator."

After filling out an application for the program Feinstein was chosen as one of the 10 finalists for Pennsylvania in November.

"I was pretty ecstatic when I found out," said 18-year-old. "The 10 of us went to Harrisburg where I was interviewed and took a test on the constitution and current events."

In mid-December, Feinstein found out the good news.

"My mom called me at school and I

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Bittersweet reunion for Cleary's comrades

Fellow soldiers pay a visit to Back Mountain to meet fallen friend's family, fiancée

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

DALLAS TWP. – The United States Army dress uniforms were replaced by blue jeans and winter jackets. The settings were a rustic outdoor campsite and a tavern, not a church and reception hall.

Several members of the Army's Third Infantry Division had planned to be in the Back Mountain last week, eager to attend the much-anticipated wedding of their friend – and fellow soldier – First Lt. Mike Cleary.

And though there were several smiles and a few laughs, a day of happiness was replaced by introductions and remembrance.

Cleary, a 2000 graduate of Dallas High School, was killed Dec.

20 when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy in Samarra, Iraq. The 24-year-old was engaged to marry his fiancée Erin Kavanagh on Feb. 18 and many of his fellow soldiers were expected to attend the wedding and reception.

Several of Cleary's friends from Ft. Benning, Ga. decided to keep their travel plans and pay a visit to the Back Mountain last weekend. The visit gave the soldiers an opportunity to meet Cleary's parents, siblings, and fiancée.

"I feel I owe to myself and his family to come up here and meet them," said First Lt. Tyler Hernandez, who was Cleary's roommate in Iraq. "This allows me to come full circle in my support for them. But most of all, I think it's important for me to be here for Mike. This was his wedding day."

A group of six soldiers made the day-long drive in several vehi-

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FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

First Lt. Peter Robinson looks at a photo of Mike Cleary in the office of Cleary Forest Products. Cleary and Robinson were friends at Sapper School and Officer Basic School.

PUBLIC MEETING

Council of Governments to discuss development

The Back Mountain Area Council of Governments will hold a public meeting to discuss the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Master Plan at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28 at the Kingston Township municipal building, 180 East Center Street in Shavertown.

The meeting will feature presentations by the planning consultants Kise, Straw, Kolodner, Cahill Associates, along with Edwards & Kelcey for the final draft of the BMACOG Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Master Plan.

The study was initiated in February 2004 and is designed to provide the BMACOG member municipalities – consisting of the Borough of Dallas, and the townships of Dallas, Kingston and Lehman – with an integrated comprehensive plan for future development in the Back Mountain region.

The Master Plan components will focus on the critical issues dealing with increased development in the region, including land use planning, transportation, open space and recreation and environmental sustainability.

Funding for the \$200,000 study was provided by the Pennsylvania Departments of Community and Economic Development, Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, Luzerne County Commissioners and the Luzerne County Office of Community Development, with local matching contributions from the member municipalities.

For more information about the meeting, call Dallas Borough manager Joe Moskovitz at 675-1389 or Kingston Township manager Eddie O'Neill at 696-3809.

Dallas staff describes Kyle Wega as funny, brilliant and a 'young shining star'

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

Director of technology killed in accident

DALLAS TWP. – Kyle Wega walked into the main office at Dallas High School a few years ago with a trumpet to play a song for Mary Yankowski, who was celebrating her 40th birthday.

But Wega didn't serenade the longtime school secretary with a rendition of "Happy Birthday." He played "Taps" instead.

"It was hysterical," recalled Yankowski. "Everyone laughed, including me. That's the kind of

person Kyle was. He was quiet and on the shy side, but he was funny. He was a great kid."

The Dallas School District and members of the Back Mountain community are mourning the tragic and sudden death of the 28-year-old Wega, who was killed in a one-car accident early Monday morning less than a mile from home near Kunkle.

The 1996 Dallas graduate, the son of Jack and Cathy Wega –

two longtime teachers in the district – was laid to rest Thursday morning in Fern Knoll Burial Park, Dallas.

"When I hear the name Kyle Wega, I think happy," said assistant superintendent Jim McGovern, who gave the eulogy for Wega during a memorial service. "He was one of the happiest people I've ever met."

And he was an outstanding employee, says McGovern.

"Being the director of technology is one of the most difficult jobs in the district," he said. "It's similar to being a sports official or umpire. The only time someone notices you is when something goes wrong. If a server or printer was down, Kyle was there to fix it. He was the consummate fireman as far as technology goes. It was comforting to know that if something was wrong, Kyle was going to fix it."

Wega was a 2000 graduate of King's College with a degree in Computers and Information Systems. While he was a student, Wega was a member of the Dallas marching band. He was also helped with the school's drama department, working backstage with scenery, props, lighting and sound systems.

"Kyle was a very nice kid," said Dan Natitus, who graduate from high school with Wega. "He always had a smile on his face. We

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