

The DALLAS POST

50¢

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



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

First graders at Dallas Elementary School participated in the "Make A Promise" program against drugs. From left, first row, are Abby Zolner, Nathan Macansky, Thomas Marsola, Ty Madden, Kim Manganello, Kendra Saba, Adam Borton, Ryan Nelligan, Jacob Yakus and Mikail Krochta. Second row: Michael Collins, Erica McGovern, Cassidy Buda, Erika Wintersteen, Garrett Pall, John Macery, Zane Price, Brandon Fox, Scott Alexander, Logan Tompkins Justin Brown. Third row: Tom Traver, principal; Maureen O'Remus, program coordinator; and Kimberly Smith, teacher.

Kids know to say 'No!'

By DOTTY MARTIN
For The Dallas Post

The tulips are red because stops signs are red. And students at the Dallas Elementary School want to stop drugs and alcohol from making their way into their schools and into their lives.

Motivated by parent coordinator Maureen O'Remus, first graders planted tulip bulbs outside the school on Hildebrandt Road back in October during a program entitled "Planting a Promise." At that time, they wore red and recited a promise to do whatever they can to keep drugs and alcohol out of their school.

In April, which is Alcohol Awareness Month, the tulips came up bigger and brighter than the children imagined.

Not only are the flowers nice to look at, they carry with them a very powerful message to the students.

"The color red is a natural," said O'Remus, project chairwoman for the state president of the Greater Federal of Women's Clubs. "A stop

sign is red and the red tulips outside the school provide a natural barrier to stopping drugs from coming into the school."

The planting of the bulbs was supervised by owner Bill Sprau and employees of Personal Touch Landscaping who donated both labor and materials. Dads lent manpower, moms gave a hand digging holes in the ground and first grade teacher Heather Pitcavage led the way for each girl and boy to plant their own flower.

After the tulips bloomed, Luzerne County Commissioner Greg Skrepenak visited the students and spoke about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Skrepenak reported that there have already been 59 deaths from drug overdoses in the county this year.

To further drive home that message, Skrepenak watched as 59 students stood up, providing a visual effect of how many lives have been lost to drugs.

O'Remus, a volunteer firefighter with the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department, visits the Dallas Elementary School on a regular basis and continues to



First graders Garrett Pall and Kedra Saba hold up signs in front of the red tulips they planted earlier this year at Dallas Elementary School as part of the "Make A Promise" anti-drug program.

make the students aware of the dangers of drugs.

During a recent visit, she questioned the students as to why the tulips are red and, in unison, first graders said the tulips are a stop

sign for drugs and alcohol and that they will "never" let drugs and alcohol come into their school.

The students also said that if their friends want them to do bad things, they will always say "no."

Monday is last chance to view local artwork

Fifteen area artists are currently exhibiting their artwork at the 10th Annual Theme Show Invitational Art Exhibit at Sue Hand's Imagery, 35 Main Street, Dallas.

The exhibit opened Thursday morning and continues through Memorial Day. Anyone interested in viewing the art work may do so from 2 to 4 p.m. on Monday, May 28.

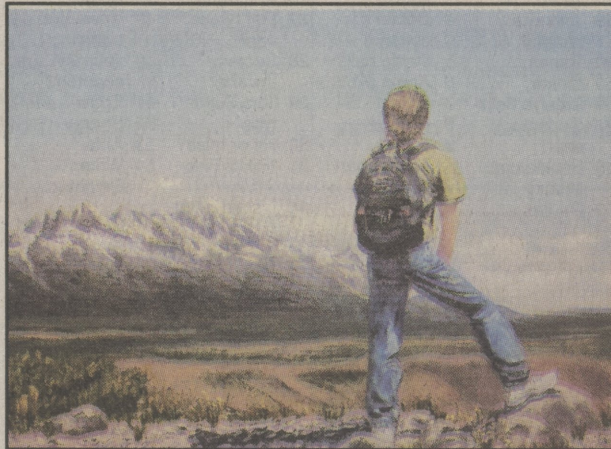
Each artist is exhibiting six to 12 pieces of art showcasing their chosen subject, media and style.

Guest artists and their subject themes include: Sue Hand, Dallas, En Plein Air; Marcie Jones, Sweet Valley, Papermaking & Nature; Joyce Langan, Shavertown, Blooms in Blossom; Helen Leimbach, Huntington Mills, Purple Mountain's Majesty; Anthony Lumbis, Sweet Valley, Vines, Petals and Leaves; Jan Martinchak, Dallas, Sweet Seasons; Aisuko McHale, Falls, A Brush with the Orient; Roberta Schmied, Dallas, Out of My Kitchen; Ann Searfoss, Carverton, Colorful Canines; and Ruth Sizemore, Noxen, Kit Kats.

Various artists, including gallery owner Sue Hand, will be present to greet gallery guests during the Memorial Day exhibit hours.



"Fishing for Cat-fish" is the title of this art piece by Ruth Sizemore, of Beaumont, on display at Sue Hand's Imagery.



Helen Leimbach, of Hunlock Creek, painted this portrait of her husband, Dean, during a trip to the Rockies.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Donna Cherundolo, of Taylor, painted this portrait of her first grandchild. The painting is on display at Sue Hand's Imagery on Main Street in Dallas as part of the 10th Annual Theme Show Invitational Art Exhibit.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Denise Reschauer, of Shavertown, shows the audio tape with battery she has borrowed for her MP3 player from the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

Listening, rather than reading, is way to go

By GENELLE HOBAN
For The Dallas Post

Curling up with a good book might not be as popular a catch phrase in years to come as it was in the past.

Playaways, an audio version of a book that can be played on an MP3 player, are the latest trend now offered at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

"We started back in December with downloadable audio books, which are great, but a lot of people were having compatibility problems with their MP3 players," said Martha Butler, director of the library.

The library now not only rents the audio discs, but also loans out the MP3 players and batteries to its readers.

"I came across the Playaways and I thought they were very conducive for the visually impaired or for those who are at a point that they can no longer read even large print books," Butler said of the new service, which the library began offering roughly two weeks ago.

The audio books, which are preloaded and easy to use, are rented out to patrons for a period of two weeks.

"They are so easy to use," Butler said. "You can bookmark where you left off and start right up again. People can use them while walking on a treadmill or in their cars with a simple adaptor."

The library is offering a plethora of titles, including "Marley and Me" as well as the latest James Patterson novel.

"We also take requests for titles," Butler said. "We do have some copyright limitations but, hopefully, we can get the titles our patrons want."

Currently, the library has seven MP3 players for loan and will be adding nearly 20 more shortly.

"The Playaways are a little expensive at about \$55 a piece, but we wanted to keep current with the latest technology," Butler said. "We used some budget and grant money to fund the \$700 project."

Another goal of the new library service is to make the older generation more familiar with new technology, according to Butler.

"The Playaways are good starting ground," she said. "We want to offer our patrons the ease of use with all of our materials."



You can rent a very compact audio tape of this book, an MP3 player and a battery at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

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