

# The DALLAS POST

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## Auction art fetches \$7500, stays in Hand's hands

By REBECCA BRIA  
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Sue Hand tries not to get personally attached to her works of art. But this year, Hand's annual painting of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction was something she knew she would have a hard time giving up. With the help of Bernadette Martin, Hand's daughter Heather Madeira and the community, Hand was able to keep her beloved painting.

On Sunday night at the auction, Martin sat in the crowd and bid on Hand's painting with do-

nated money from friends of Hand. She was the winning bidder for an astonishing \$7500. Martin handed over the painting to Hand's son-in-law Tim, who explained to the audience that the community - which included donations from as far away as Massachusetts and Arizona - contributed the money so the painting could stay with Hand. Tim presented it to Hand and, overwhelmed, she began to cry.

"I don't think there's a word in the English language that would cover it all," said Hand at a later date. "I just couldn't believe it. I couldn't believe it went over \$5000; I was just thrilled to

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death. I was just totally clueless; I had no idea."

After reading a recent article in The Dallas Post about the old Risley barn that was once home to the auction, Hand was inspired. Reminiscing about her times at the auction led her to paint about her experiences at past auctions. In fact, she named her painting "Then and Now: The Spirit of the Event Lives On" after part of the article's head-

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Always on edge when her painting is auctioned off, Sue Hand was especially overwhelmed when the Back Mountain community chipped in to buy her painting for \$7500 giving the money to the library but returning the painting to Hand. With Sue her husband, Joe, who framed the painting.



DON CAREY/ THE TIMES LEADER

Back Mountain emergency responders were the recent recipients of two GPS systems from the Geisinger Health System. From left, are Josh Hilstosky, Richard Bartholomew, Franklin Northmoreland Ambulance; Ed Gromelski RN, Life Flight Nurse; Scott Briggs and Jack Dodson, Kunkle Fire and Ambulance.

## Geisinger donates GPS units to locals

By REBECCA BRIA  
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It's easy to get lost while driving in a rural area - especially when the weather is adverse and the night is dark. Imagine attempting to find such a destination in these conditions by helicopter with a crew trying to reach someone who is critically injured.

In an attempt to make the task a bit easier, two global positioning systems were donated by Geisinger Health System to the Franklin Northmoreland Ambulance Association and Kunkle Fire and Ambulance June 21 at the Franklin Township Fire Station. The GPS units will give the pilot exact coordinates of the locale they're seeking and will assist helicopter pilots in finding landing zones.

The Cobra GPS 100s were funded by grants from the Emergency Medical Services Program through the Pennsylvania Department of Health, said

Anne Green, media manager for the Greater Geisinger Wilkes-Barre/Pocono Area.

Geisinger Life Flight is a regional helicopter service used to transport patients who need to reach a specialized hospital quickly, or those who are too sick to be moved by ambulance. Helicopters are based at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport, Avoca; Geisinger Medical Center, Danville; and University Park Airport, State College. When flying to a secluded area, ambulance personnel often give the pilot a visual reference point. But they are not always helpful. With a global positioning system, however, rescue teams can relay an exact location by coordinates to Life Flight. The result is that precious time - time that can make all the difference in an emergency - is saved.

Life Flight pilot Scott Walters has only been on the job for

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Aaron Hogan gets a hug from his mom, Diane, as he leaves on a 10-day trip to Spain.

## Off they go to Spain for 10 days

By REBECCA BRIA  
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In scorching heat and humidity, families gathered in the parking lot of Dallas High School to say goodbye to their children. But this goodbye was a joyous occasion.

Seventeen students from Dallas High School left Tuesday for a trip to Spain. Spanish teacher Chesla Ann Bohinski and geography and history teacher Daryl Williams, along with four parents, are chaperoning the bunch that departed on a bus to the Philadelphia International Airport. From there, they were scheduled to fly to Paris and then board a final plane that will take them to Madrid, Spain. Though the students and teachers

are from Dallas High School, the group is traveling through the International Students Abroad Program and the trip is not affiliated with the school district.

Trip organizer Bohinski has taught Spanish at Dallas High School for two years. She studied in Spain for a period during college, has taken other student trips to the country before and has traveled extensively in Europe. Joining her is Daryl Williams, a geography and history teacher of five years. The educators hope the students will learn from being in Spain.

"I just think traveling abroad is great for the students," said Bohinski. "It shows them a whole new world."



Dallas High School parents and students board the bus for a 10-day trip to Spain organized by International Students Abroad.

Williams added, "When you travel abroad, it gets the kids outside of the box and gets them thinking."

The group will tour with the National Education Travel Counsel and enjoy the luxury of a tour guide 24 hours a day. Students from other areas will meet up with the group to form one larger tour. They are scheduled to see Madrid, Toledo, Grenada, Sevilla, Cordoba, and Barcelona. Traveling across Spain will be done by bus except for one overnight ride on a train.

Adam Zupko was excited to be going on the trip. It is the first time he's left the country and he is looking forward to seeing new people and places. "I want to learn how

they live," Zupko said of the Spaniards.

Though Zupko has taken Spanish classes, he does not plan to attempt to actually speak the language while in the country and hopes his teacher is not expecting him to speak it, either.

Sixteen-year-old Zupko, who is entering his senior year this fall at Dallas, was wished off by his mother Lori Cogswell but Zupko does not anticipate becoming homesick. "I'm glad to be away," he said.

Meghan Pietraccini was eager to board the bus. "I've been waiting for a year so I'm really excited," she said. Pietraccini has never been to Spain but once visited

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S. JOHN WILKIN/ THE TIMES LEADER

Members of the Bob Horlacher All-Star softball team celebrate their win over West Pittston on July 10 in Beaumont. For story and additional photo, please turn to page 9.

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Daryl Williams  
Dallas High School history teacher