

# The DALLAS POST

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

## Good 'ole enthusiasm for a new school year

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The playgrounds and swimming pools are empty. Bicycles rest in driveways and garages. The official autumnal equinox may not be until September 23, but summer has ended for hundreds of Back Mountain children.

Students in the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts returned to school Tuesday.

Jeff Shaffer, principal of Dallas High School, says the first day of school went very well.

"There's just a general spirit of enthusiasm here," said Shaffer. The principal credits the successful start to the staff and students.

Enrollment at the high school this year is at 880, just 70 students away from the 950 capacity the school can hold. Shaffer says the student population has been increasing steadily every year. Dallas graduated 198 seniors in 2007 and the 2007-08 freshman class has 240 members. This year, Dallas High School has added an extra lunch period due to its growing student body.

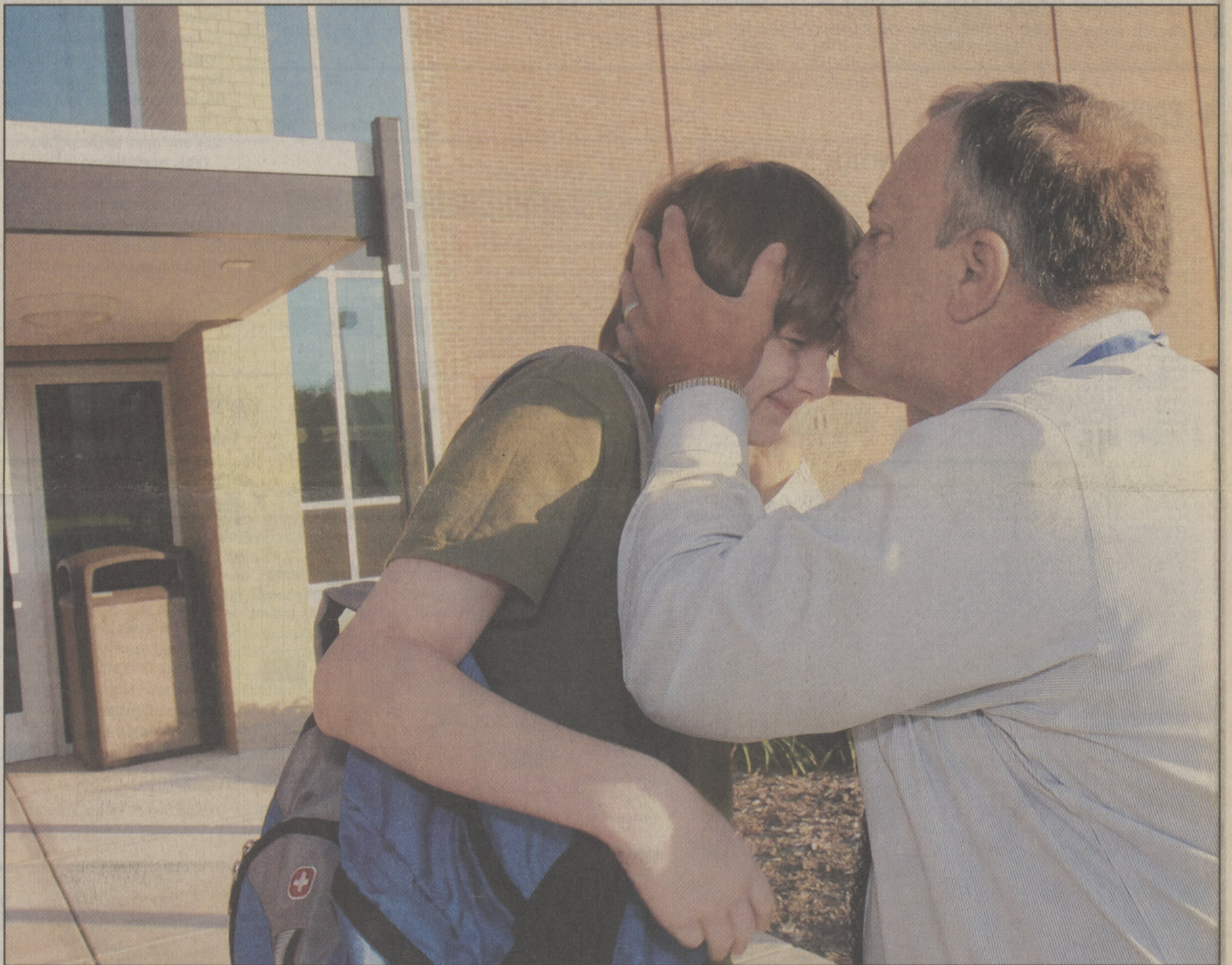
But Shaffer says the district expected to get even more students than they did after several local Catholic schools closed their doors.

Dallas High School has also added two new modular classrooms and a nine-day freshman orientation program. The program was developed by teachers Sarah Kashatus and Kevin West to introduce incoming students to school clubs, activities, and policies.

New teachers at Dallas High School include the following: Morgan Jones, Dan Nestorick and Chris Plaviak, social studies; Jennifer Pokrinchak, English; and Nicole Poluske, math.

The first day of school at Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School also went smoothly. Principal Tracey Halowich attributes the problem-free day to the time spent preparing for it. "There's a lot of work that goes on in the summer behind the scenes," said Halowich. Teachers also had in-services for two days before the students came back to get ready.

Halowich estimates there are 725 students in grades nine through 12. She thinks enroll-



Dallas Junior High School principal Anthony Martinelli gives eighth grader Nick Delmar a big welcome back to school.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

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## Starbucks to open in Shavertown

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If you dread getting out of bed early in the morning and just can't seem to function without caffeine, fear no more. Shavertown is getting in on the Starbucks coffee craze.

The first Starbucks location in the Back Mountain will open on Thursday, Sept. 13, on Memorial Highway next to McDonald's.

A friends and family event with a fall theme from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 12 will give the public an opportunity to stop in, enjoy live music and sample complimentary drinks, including Starbucks' Pumpkin Spiced Latte.

Fifteen employees, all residents of the Dallas and Shavertown area, have been hired to work at the new location. The store has inside-only seating for 15 and no drive-thru.

In July, the future co-workers and others came together for "Make Your Mark," a Starbucks event in which \$10 is donated to a charitable cause for every hour a volunteer puts in toward the cause. "Make Your Mark" is held every time a new Starbucks opens. The Dallas Starbucks employees and volunteers

### IF YOU GO:

Dallas Starbucks  
184 Memorial Highway (next to McDonald's)  
Shavertown  
Phone: 675-7998

worked at the Back Mountain Memorial Library's annual auction for all four days and raised a total of \$1,000 for the library. The check will be presented to library director Martha Butler at the Starbucks friends and family event.

Cordia Braun, a Dallas resident, is the store manager of the Dallas Starbucks. Braun worked for Burlington Coat Factory in Baltimore, Md. and came to the area 11 years ago when a new Burlington store opened in Wilkes-Barre. She was a Starbucks customer and read up on the company so, when she heard a new Starbucks was opening in Dallas, she applied online for the manager position.

Store hours for the Dallas Starbucks are as follows: 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday through Saturday.

## Getting more out of summer: teens giving back

By REBECCA BRIA  
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It's a different kind of teenager that chooses to give back to his or her community rather than spending all their time playing video games and hanging out at the mall.

Seven teenage girls spent time this summer working in the Meadows Nursing Center's volunteer program and, over pizza one afternoon, sat down and told us about their experiences in that program.

The teen volunteers assist with whatever is happening at the nursing home during a particular day. They distribute mail and ice, visit with residents, provide physical therapy escort service, give manicures, assist with crafts and activities and take residents outdoors. Trips to local stores

like K-Mart and Wal-Mart are also popular and, occasionally, the teens will even cast lines, allowing residents can fish in the facility's 12-foot deep pond.

Each year the teen volunteers help out at the Meadows' annual fundraiser Market on the Pond, always held the day before Father's Day. This year, volunteers worked the bake sale stand and manned a beverage cart selling coffee, soda and water. Their day began at 7 a.m. and they raised \$140 from selling drinks.

The teenage volunteer program at the Meadows is open to males and females ages 13-18. A log book is kept in the volunteer office to keep track of all the hours the volunteers put in. This helps verify total completed



Shavertown resident Allison Spencer, a Meadows teen volunteer, reaches to secure the wheel lock on the chair of Anna Zalinski, a resident. Next to them is resident Nancy Groblewski.

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