

# The DALLAS POST

50¢

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

## Despite getting shot, Chielli learns a lot

**Wyoming Seminary students participate in filming of movie about life of Frances Slocum**

By DOTTY MARTIN  
Editor

It may be a little unnerving to Jake Chielli - or to his parents, for that matter - that he fits the profile of a young boy who was killed. But, it's that profile that earned Chielli a part in the documentary film about the life of Frances Slocum.

The 14-year-old Chielli is just the right age, has just the right color hair and just the right length of hair to play the part of Nathan Kingsley who, along with his brother Wareham, lived with the Slocum family while their parents were away.

The son of Jack and Deborah

**IF YOU GO ...**

"Frances Slocum: Child of Two Americas" Sunday, Dec. 16 3 p.m. - Sold out 7 p.m. - Tickets (priced at \$5) available Wilkes-Barre Movies 14 Northampton Street

Chielli, of Emily Lane in Dallas, Chielli is an eighth grade student at the Wyoming Seminary Lower School in Forty Fort. Although he has never acted before, he spoke a few lines in the movie but will be best remembered for falling over a meat grinder after being shot.

"I only had to instruct Jake once," said Bill Bachman, a resident of Dallas and a full-time professor at Penn State Wilkes-Barre who wrote the story and produced the film. "And he played the part perfectly."

The feature-length project, which was scheduled to debut last night at Wilkes-Barre Movies 14, details the time line of when Frances Slocum was kidnapped in Wilkes-Barre on November 2, 1778.

Eventually, she was taken to Ohio where she lived with a family of Delaware Indians. When Slocum got older, she married a Miami Indian chief and, from that point, went on

to live a comfortable and prosperous life in Indiana until the time of her death.

Chielli was joined in the movie venture with three other Wyoming Seminary students. Joseph Ridilla, of Shavertown, played the part of Wareham Kingsley while Malcolm and Duncan Lumia of Dallas portrayed Benjamin and Ebenezer Slocum, brothers of Frances Slocum.

Admitting to knowing nothing about the life of Frances Slocum prior to his participation in the movie, Chielli now has a better understand-



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST  
Jake Chielli, of Dallas, plays the part of Nathan Kingsley who is shot in a film re-enactment of the life of Frances Slocum.

See SLOCUM, Page 5

## writing to Santa Claus



Cassandra Swingle writes some wishes down for Santa to consider this Christmas.



Second-grader Mikayla Kidd holds up her Dear Santa letter for consideration at the Lake-Noxen Elementary School.

They're waiting for the jolly, round man with rosy cheeks to fill their stockings and leave presents. Second-graders at Lake-Noxen Elementary School have written letters to Santa Claus to inform him of what they would like for Christmas.

The letters are printed exactly as each child has written them, complete with spelling and grammatical errors. After being published in The Dallas Post, the letters are being sent directly to the North Pole for Santa Claus to read. **PAGE 6**

## May the best holiday tree win

By REBECCA BRIA  
rbria@timesleader.com

"Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree, of all the trees most lovely."

Christmas trees and holiday decorations are quickly disappearing from public schools across the country, but not in the Dallas School District.

Students in all six first-grade sections at the Dallas Elementary School recently helped decorate one of 28 Christmas trees in the 12th Annual Parade of Trees at Grotto Pizza at Harveys Lake. The students held a penny drive November 8 and 9 and raised \$125 to enter their tree in the contest, needing only two days to raise the necessary money.

Heather Pitcavage, a first-grade teacher and the organizer of the project, says the children painted pine cones and sprinkled them with glitter. At night, the six first-grade teachers went to Grotto Pizza and decorated the tree.

Grotto Pizza patrons can vote for their favorite trees by making a monetary donation in the amount of their choice. Each tree has a charity associated with it that will benefit from the vote money. From each entry fee, half of the money goes toward the or-



The Dallas Elementary tree

ganization designated by the decorators of that tree. The other half will be split among the charities of the top three winning trees.

The Dallas Elementary Christmas tree at Grotto Pizza will benefit autism awareness.

The teachers chose autism awareness because several children in the school have autism, although Pitcavage is unaware of any first-graders with autism.

"We do a lot of charitable things around here and we just thought this would be a great thing to do with the kids," Pitcavage said.

Voting for the 12th Annual Parade of Trees at Grotto Pizza at Harveys Lake began November 22 and will continue through January 1.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST  
Blake Cunningham, left, and Michael Putnam suit up at the Dallas Fire and Ambulance station. The company has received a grant to buy new helmets and equipment for its personnel.

## Grant will buy equipment

By REBECCA BRIA  
rbria@timesleader.com

Firefighting equipment isn't cheap. But with the help of a federal grant, one fire company in the Back Mountain will be better suited and prepared for fires.

Dallas Fire and Ambulance recently learned it will receive \$70,480 through a Fiscal Year 2007 Fire Grant. The grant is ad-

ministered by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

"These fire prevention and safety programs will help protect the citizens of Pennsylvania and the firefighters who risk

See GRANT, Page 8