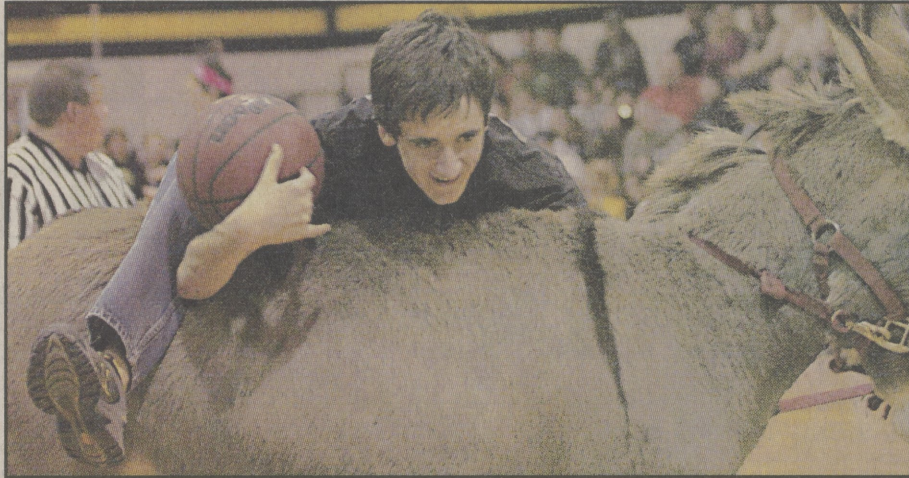


The DALLAS POST

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

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/
FOR THE DALLAS POST

Michael Caffrey, Lake-Lehman senior class president, attempts to mount his donkey during the school's annual faculty versus seniors basketball game. This year, the faculty did not play in the game because they are without a contract. Caffrey attended the Lake-Lehman School Board meeting on Monday, Jan. 14, and spoke out against the contract disagreements on behalf of the senior class.

DONKEYS, BUT NO TEACHERS

By REBECCA BRIA
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For the first time in the history of Lake-Lehman High School, teachers did not take part in the annual faculty versus seniors donkey basketball game, leaving many senior students and spectators disappointed.

"It's kind of a mixed blessing because it does give us more time with the donkeys, but we don't think it's going to be as fun as in past years," Michael Caffrey, Lake-Lehman senior class president,

said before the game.

The teachers did not show at the game on Friday, Jan. 18, because of an ongoing contract dispute between the teachers' union and the Lake-Lehman School Board. Because they have no contract, the teachers refuse to participate in any unpaid, volunteer activities or positions within the district.

Teachers in the Lake-Lehman School District were on strike, closing schools, for 19 school days from October 15 through

November 9 of last year until they were forced back into their classrooms by the state. The teachers have been working without a contract since August 2006.

Caffrey attended the Lake-Lehman School Board meeting on Monday, Jan. 14, and spoke out against the contract disagreements on behalf of the senior class.

"It just reached the point where we had to say something," Caffrey said. "We're very frustrated. We feel ignored and marginalized."

Dick Morgan is the senior class advisor and has been a teacher at Lake-Lehman High School for 33 years. He says the faculty versus seniors donkey basketball game was the very first event to be held in Lake-Lehman High School's old gym in 1962. The game had also

See DONKEYS, Page 8

Beth Carey, a member of the Lake-Lehman girls' basketball team, has an easy time shooting the ball as the referee holds the donkey during the school's annual faculty versus seniors basketball game.



Reaching out and aiding the less fortunate

By REBECCA BRIA
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As he and his peers drove into Gulfport, Mississippi, Nick DeStefano noticed the trees were bent and beginning to thin out. Then, he saw the golden arches of a McDonald's restaurant. But DeStefano knew he wasn't going to get a Big Mac and fries at this particular McDonald's. It was the only structure still standing after Hurricane Katrina had devastated the entire area six months earlier.

That was DeStefano's first alternative spring break trip.

Each year for at least the past 25 years, Misericordia University's Campus Ministry sends students on service trips during the schools' spring break. Students also travel to Jamaica during the first week of January and to Guyana for five weeks at the conclusion of the spring semester.

From March 1 through March 8, 25 Misericordia University students will travel to Birmingham, Ala. by vans while 15 students will fly to Sacramento, Calif. In Birmingham, students

will work on local Habitat for Humanity projects. Those going to Sacramento will work with the Sisters of Mercy at Loaves and Fishes Ministry, a homeless outreach for Latino and Hispanic immigrants.

A 20-year-old junior interdisciplinary studies major from Chesapeake Beach, Md., DeStefano also went to Hilton Head, S.C. and Jamaica on the school's service trips. This year, he will go to Alabama. As a coordinator for the alternative spring break trip, DeStefano assists in selecting locations, performing interviews for select students and planning for fundraisers, expenses and food.

Fallon Shriner, of Frackville, will be attending her fourth alternative spring break trip. The 22-year-old fifth-year physical therapy major has not forgotten what she saw in the hurricane-ravaged areas of Mississippi two years ago. While working in a neighborhood where houses once stood, Shriner found wedding photographs scattered across the ground.

See REACHING, Page 8



Misericordia University student Joelle Rhayem '07 gets her hair done by students at St. Margaret Mary Preschool in Jamaica during the annual January service learning trip in 2007.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Back Mountain sisters Gabrielle, 12, front, Madeline, 15, left, and Alexandra Hackett, 16, of Shavertown, are volunteers for the United Way of Wyoming Valley.

These young volunteers aid UW

Hackett sisters volunteer their time with United Way of Wyoming Valley

By REBECCA BRIA
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With more in common than just their last name, the Hackett sisters all share a desire to volunteer within their community.

Sixteen-year-old Alexandra, 15-year-old Madeline and 12-year-old Gabrielle, of Shavertown, are all involved with the United Way of Wyoming Valley.

Alexandra and Madeline both attend Wyoming Seminary where the older sister is a junior and the younger sister, a sophomore. Gabrielle is a sixth grade student at Wyoming Valley Montessori School.

Alexandra and Madeline first got involved with the United Way in 2006 when their parents, Ramah and Chris, who were already involved with the organization, introduced them to Executive Director David Lee.

"He was so nice and warm-hearted and we were immediately drawn to it," Alexandra said of Lee.

Soon after, Alexandra and Madeline went to a Head Start location, playing and interacting with the children there.

"I think time is the most important thing you can give, especially to children," Madeline said.

During the summer of 2007, the girls spent time at Head Start and visited the Red Cross, learning about volunteers and the canteen. They also took an elderly woman shopping and spent time with her.

"She was in a wheelchair and lived alone," Madeline said of the woman. "We took her out and went to the Bon-Ton with her."

That summer, the sisters were followed by a camera person who taped them while volunteering as they recorded voiceovers and served as spokeswomen in a video for the organization that was shown at a benefit for the United Way last fall at Mohegan Sun.

Gabrielle started volunteering for the United Way in 2007 by spending time with children at Head Start and plans to become even more involved with the organization. She hopes to some day be an elementary school teacher.

"I think volunteering is really important and it's really important to help kids," she said.

Madeline would like to be a television anchor for a major network such as NBC or ABC while Alexandra Hackett aspires to

See VOLUNTEERS, Page 8