

Forensics team brings home trophies



In the absence of unity, success is an impossible feat. A united front proved the method to success for many of Dallas High School's academic teams over the past few weeks.

Last weekend, on January 19, Dallas High's forensics team traveled to Meyers High School to participate in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Open Speech and Debate Tournament. After a 13-hour marathon of speaking, acting and performing, the team sent some members home with trophies.

Lauren Kelly placed third in dramatic performance, Rosemary Shaver placed fourth place in student congress, David Hunter placed fourth in extemporaneous speaking, the team of Michelle Banta and Emily Baut achieved fifth place in dramatic duo, Susanna Parmelee placed fourth in novice dramatic performance and the team of Shannon Brobst and Alyssa Dolman took home a fifth-place trophy for novice public policy.

Each of these individual victories, combined with the team's overall astounding performance in the tournament, earned the forensics team a sixth-place finish in the Dr. Martin Luther King Open Speech and Debate

DALLAS HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

ROSEMARY SHAVER

Tournament.

The individual effort of each and every member of the team was woven in to the final product.

Forensics sculpts ordinary students into confident and experienced communicators and, in doing so, creates an invaluable asset for a student's future college and career endeavors. Through a unified effort and with the help of coaches Mrs. Candyce Fike and Mrs. Yvonne Mould, the program proved its worth last weekend.

Team members present at the tournament, and thus responsible for the success, were Peter Blanchard, Shannon Brobst, Alyssa Dolman, Hanna Grube, Anna Kammen, Rosemary Shaver, Erica Miller, Lauren Kelly, David Hunter, Susanna Parmelee, Emma Pfeiffer, Emily Baut and Michelle Banta.

FBLA does well in regional contest

Dallas High School's FBLA (Future Business Leader's of America) Team attained similar success at its January 4 regional contest. Again, the efforts of the

entire team gained the team great recognition.

Coached by Mrs. Schrader, numerous team members qualified for the state competition.

Bryan Darling, Morgan Kunkle, AJ Thomas, Paul Van Loon, Derek Martin, Jared Kern, Drew Clouse, Scott Daube and Andrew Edgar placed well in the contest and will attend the state competition.

Among the state qualifiers at Dallas, Preston Balavage received the honor of being elected regional president.

FBLA has been a constant avenue for business-minded Dallas High School students to channel their passion over the past years, so congratulations to all those students who qualified for states.

Students accepted to State Band

Congratulations should also be extended to Dave Balmer, Cara Olson, Anthony Roppa and Elizabeth Martindale of the Dallas band for being accepted to the Region IV State Band.

Each of these students qualified for the contest through auditions and participation in

the District 9 Band Festival at Montrose Area High School last week. Clearly, these band members grasped this success through superior talent and relentless work.

Battle of the Bands set

Working together, Dallas High School seniors are also hoping for some success in their fundraising venture, the Battle of the Bands. Please come out to support the seniors by auditioning for this year's contest. Tryouts are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2.

All bands eager to participate in the Dallas High School Battle of the Bands should contact Cliff Pisaneschi, Kevin Buckman, Caitlin Rhodes or Cory Conrad for registration information or send an e-mail to DHSbattleofthebands2008@gmail.com. Six bands will be selected to play at the March 1 competition and the best will walk away with a monetary prize. First place will receive \$250, second place will earn \$150 and third place will walk away with \$50. All willing bands are encouraged to participate.

Rosemary Shaver is a senior at Dallas High School. Her column appears every other week in The Dallas Post.

CIVIC BRIEFS

Legion plans Pig Roast

Daddow-Isaacs Post 672 Dallas American Legion will hold its 47th Annual Pig Roast on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Post Home on Route 415 in Dallas. Dinner will be served from 5 to 8 p.m. and there will be dancing from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The menu includes roast pork, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, dessert and beverages.

Tickets are \$7.50 per person and should be purchased from any committee member or at the Post Home. Limited tickets will be available at the door. Take-outs will also be available.

For additional information, contact Clarence J. Michael, Commander, at 675-0488 or the Post Home at 675-6542.

Contra dance scheduled

A New England Contra dance sponsored by the Chichory House and the Folklore Society features music by "Dr. Twamley's Audio Snakes" and caller Ted Crane at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Church of Christ Uniting in Kingston, Sprague Avenue, Kingston.

No partner or previous experience is necessary. Admission to the dance is \$8 for adults and \$20 for families.

For more information, call 333-4007 or log onto folkloresociety.org.

Alzheimer's Support Group meets

The Dallas Alzheimer's Support Group will meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7, in the board room of the Meadows Nursing Center, 55 West Center Hill Road, Dallas.

Civil War Round Table sets meeting

The Wyoming Valley Civil War Round Table will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 14, at the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion, Route 415, Dallas.

Glenn LeBoeuf will present his program on "Ten Moral Moments in the Life of Abraham Lincoln: His Lifelong Quest for the Better Angels of His Nature."

A lifelong resident of New

Jersey, LeBoeuf is a re-enactor and has participated in films such as "Glory" and "Gettysburg." He is a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association, The Lincoln Group of New York and the Historical Society of Somerset Hills.

Music Box to present "Hello, Dolly!"

"Hello, Dolly!" will be presented at the Music Box Diner Playhouse, 196 Hughes St., Swowersville, February 14-17, 21-24, 28, 29, March 1 and 2.

The show is presented at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 3 p.m. on Sundays. A buffet dinner will be served 90 minutes before curtain.

Tickets are on sale for dinner and show/only with discounts available for children, students and senior citizens. Group rates are also available.

For more information, call 283-2195.

'Go Red' Fashion Show set for Feb. 16

Scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 16, at noon at the Woodlands Inn and Resort in Plains, the Fifth Annual "Go Red" Fashion Show will feature models who are directly involved in the struggle against heart disease—all wearing the latest in everyday fashions available at and donated by local retail stores.

Tickets cost \$20 per person and proceeds will benefit The Heart and Vascular Institute at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and the AHA. Reservations can be made by calling Wyoming Valley Health Care System at 552-7408.

Victorian Dinner will benefit CCK

The Wilkes-Barre Women's Organization for Networking (W.W.O.N.) will sponsor a "Victorian Dinner" to benefit "Community Cares for Kids" (CCK), an all-volunteer organization operating on children with severe birth defects and disfiguring injuries, at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, at Tribeca Center (formerly Victoria Inn), Route 315, Pittston.

For tickets, contact Mary Ann Rubin at 298-2616.

VOLUNTEERS

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work in politics. The girls' father, Chris Hackett, is currently running for United States Congress in the 10th Congressional District and both Alexandra and Madeline Hackett volunteer in his campaign office.

The Hackett family also includes 3-year-old sister, Ruby, who came from China. An English Mastiff dog named Calvin is the family pet.

Alexandra played field hockey for Wyoming Seminary for one year, but switched to her school's cross country team. She has won districts for cross country, is a captain and was an All Star. She also participates on the school's women's rowing and swimming teams, Blue Key (admissions at Wyoming Seminary) the Media Club, which she and Madeline co-founded, Peer Group and plays the flute.

Madeline is an outdoor and indoor field hockey player. She has won the Junior Olympics for field hockey in both the outdoor and indoor divisions and has played in the USA Field Hockey National Futures U16 Tournament. She plays field hockey and women's lacrosse for Wyoming Seminary. At school, she is a member of the Media Club, Blue Key, the school play. She is also head chair of the Suzuki School for Strings Chamber Orchestra.

Gabrielle plays goalie on her school's field hockey team. She also plays the viola, drums and is a singer.

Alexandra and Madeline have participated in Homes of Hope, a program where participants build houses for underprivileged people. The girls built houses in Mexico where they learned to shingle a roof and drywall a house. They also had the opportunity to hand the keys to a new home over to the family that would occupy it.

"It was such an amazing feeling and we got to see truly how lucky we are," Alexandra said.



Corey and Kayla Kasa have no choice but to trust their older cousin, Erin Ellis, who hoists them up on the donkeys during halftime at the Lake-Lehman donkey basketball game.

DONKEYS

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been played for an unknown amount of years, taking place at the old Lake High School before the construction of the current high school building.

The evening kicked off at 6:30 p.m. with an animal-free basketball game between senior boys and girls. The catch: boys had to wear boxing gloves. Teams of five kept switching off so everyone could play. At about 7:30 p.m., the donkeys were brought out and the seniors were forced to play against each other.

"It's sad for both sides; both sides really enjoy it," Morgan said, speaking for both the senior students and members of the faculty. Morgan was present at the donkey basketball game because the position of senior class advisor is a paid one.

"They say they want to settle the contract for the kids," said senior Carl Burns, a partici-

pant in the game. "Then, why aren't they here now?"

The annual donkey basketball game raises funds for the yearly senior class trip in May to Washington, D.C. The trip has also been held since the days of the former Lake High School. All profits from ticket sales and refreshments at the donkey basketball game benefit the four-day trip to the nation's capital. If teachers are still without a contract at the time of the senior trip, the administration will chaperone the students.

According to Morgan, donkeys used in the basketball game come from Shaw Brothers Donkey Ball Company in Sayre, Pa. and are specifically trained to be used in basketball games. It costs Lake-Lehman about \$900 to rent the donkeys for the evening.

"This is a big tradition for Lake-Lehman and it's important for the seniors," said junior Ruth Whitesell. "I think even though the teachers are having difficulties; they should be there for the seniors."

Rebecca Bria, a staff writer for The Dallas Post, may be reached at 970-7436.

REACHING

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She also discovered an oven with a cake still in it. When Shriner was cleaning up where a church and rectory used to be, she came across items that belonged to the priest. The priest happened to stop by that day and, when Shriner handed his belongings to him, he cried.

"I came back and I appreciated everything I had so much more than when I left," she said.

Shriner is earning credits from the trip through a class called "Theology in the Church." About half the students going to Sacramento will also receive credits while all of the students heading to Birmingham are volunteering their time.

Rebecca Kania, 22, of Wallingford, Conn. is also grateful for what she has. The fifth-year physical therapy major has been on three alternative spring break trips and has also been to Jamaica and Guyana with Misericordia University.

On last year's trip to Laredo, Texas, Kania visited an area called The Colonials where there is no electricity or run-

ning water and residents still use outhouses. Kania's experiences on the trips have caused her to be more conservative of resources.

"You think about the resources you used because each night you ran out of water in the house in Guyana," Kania said. "I've become more aware to use things more sparingly."

Spring break alternative trips aren't cheap. According to Christine Somers, Director of Campus Ministry at Misericordia University, this year's journey to Alabama will cost about \$600 per person. The California trip is about \$900 a student. Each participating student is required to pay \$350. The rest of the money comes from five fundraisers and donations collected throughout the year. Fundraisers include appeal letters, final exam baskets, a raffle, a flea market and penny wars where people compete to gather change.

Somers, who has been going on the trips for several years, says each time she watches the students transform their lives.

"I think they have life-changing experiences," she said. "They start to look at the world differently. And they start to look at themselves, too."

HELP SUPPORT THE STUDENTS

A flea market to support the alternative spring break trips will be held from noon to 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1, and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2, in the Banks Student Life Center's Kennedy Lounge at Misericordia University. Over two dozen vendors have signed on for the event. All proceeds benefit the students attending the service trips. To reserve flea market space or for more information, call Campus Ministry at 674-6495.

Danielle Cino, 19, of East Meadow, N.Y., is going on an alternative spring break trip for the first time. A sophomore speech language pathology major, Cino wants to see how people's lives are different than her own. She will work with the homeless in Sacramento and earn credits from the trip.

"I'm looking forward to the experience because it's something totally different for me," Cino said. "I've never experienced anything like that on that level."

What is it that makes the students want to participate in these trips every year?

DeStefano says for him, it is helping



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Misericordia University student Nick DeStefano of Chesapeake Beach, Md., shaves a Jamaican man as part of the Jan. 3-10 service learning trip to Lionel Town, Jamaica. The trip is part of the three-credit course, "Theology of the Church."

people and having fun. He admits it has been easy to make friends on the trips he's participated in.

"I think it says something about our school because you're going to have a

good time and feel accepted even if you don't know anybody," DeStefano said.

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