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Boy Scout spruces up Legion building

Brian DeLuca is working toward completion of his Eagle Scout project.

By REBECCA BRIA
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Brian DeLuca, 17, is renovating landscaping in the front of the Daddow-Issacs American Legion Post 672 in Dallas to fulfill the community service requirement of his Eagle Scout project.

The son of Phillip and Denise DeLuca, of Dallas, DeLuca is a Boy Scout in Pack 281 Dallas sponsored by the Dallas United Methodist Church. He is currently at the rank of Life Scout and was approved an Eagle in progress by Scoutmaster Ronald Santora.

"It's the highest honor in the Boy Scouts and I worked for it for years," said DeLuca, who has been a Boy Scout since he was in the third-grade. "It helps you with college and whatever you want to do in the real world."

"We're going to have the nicest looking legion around."

Clarence Michael
Past commander of American Legion Post 672.

As part of his project, DeLuca will add a water feature, sprinkler system, focal point, pathway lighting and craft a new sign with a lighted message board. He will also plant a Weeping Blue Atlas Cedar Tree, a Butterfly Japanese Red Maple Tree, Knockout Roses, Boxwoods, a Neon Flash Spirea, Hamlin Grass and Stella de Oro Daylilies.

DeLuca completed a blueprint of his plans with the help of Donald Appleby from Rave Landscaping and Design in Dallas. Groundbreaking for the project was held on August 8 and the work is almost complete.

DeLuca got the idea for his project while looking at an old sign his parents have behind his

house. DeLuca knew the Dallas American Legion was in need of a sign and initially hoped to give his parents' sign to the Legion; however, he had a new sign made instead with the help of a carpentry class at West Side Career and Technology Center.

"We're going to have the nicest looking legion around," said Clarence Michael, past commander of the American Legion Post 672. "When he first started this, I had no idea the depth of it. It's just something that's going to brighten up the post and the entire community. The waterfall and the stone work and the plants have uplifted the entire building and we appreciate that because it all goes back to honoring our veterans."

According to Michael, the Boy Scouts, especially Pack 281, have been very helpful to the legion over the years. Scout Andrew Santora has done several history projects, including D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge, on panels and hung them in the legion's foyer. Santora also attended legion meetings and explained his projects.

Another Boy Scout once refurbished the cannon in front of the legion as part of his Eagle Scout project. A third scout restored a veteran's memorial sign on Memorial Highway near the entrance to Elmcrest.

Michael says scouts from Pack 281 and Pack 232, Gate of Heaven, are also active with helping the legion put flags on gravestones and they attend flag

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Rallying to help a friend in need

By REBECCA BRIA
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The Rev. Drew Cottle is used to praying for and visiting the sick. That's part of his job as pastor of Center Moreland United Methodist Church.

But Cottle wasn't expecting illness to strike his own family. His wife, Donna, is currently battling a brain tumor.

Donna Cottle, 44, underwent a brain biopsy on July 6 at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center in Philadelphia. She was diagnosed with a stage three malignant brain tumor that is inoperable.

Following complications after the biopsy, she was a patient at the John Heinz Rehabilitation Center in Wilkes-Barre and is now a patient at River Street Manor, Wilkes-Barre. She is currently undergoing radiation and chemotherapy treatment.

The Rev. Drew Cottle says from all of the literature that he has read about the tumor, "a one-year anniversary is a major victory." He says his wife is expected to finish radiation on September 30 and their goal is for her to return to her home.

"There are good days and bad days," said the Rev. Drew Cottle. "I've been constantly redefining

IF YOU GO...

Chicken and biscuit dinner to benefit Donna Cottle
Friday, Sept. 11
Northmoreland Township Volunteer Fire Co. Hall, Center Moreland
Takeouts start at 4:30 p.m. Dinner will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. Reservations are required and must be made by Monday, Sept. 7, by calling Meg Venn at 333-1016. The cost of the dinner is a donation.

what hope is now that it is entirely apparent that hope does not include full recovery. It hurt to see Robert Novak die last week because Donna has the same tumor that he did. And I watch Teddy Kennedy very carefully right now because he also has this tumor." (Senator Kennedy passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 25, after Cottle was interviewed for this story.)

Members of the Center Moreland United Methodist Church and the community will hold a chicken and biscuit dinner to benefit Donna Cottle on Friday, Sept. 11, at the Northmoreland Township Volunteer Fire Co. hall. Takeouts will begin at 4:30 p.m. and dinner will be served from 5 to 7 p.m.

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FIRST DAY JITTERS



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

The first day of school can be frightening for a kindergarten student. But a big smile, especially when that smile is on the face of a teacher, can make things a lot easier. Here, Dallas Elementary School kindergarten teacher Lucy Callahan gives Hannah Blazure, of Franklin Township, a big hug as Hannah arrives at school on the first day. Looking on is classmate Maggie Ropietski. For more first day of school photos, please log on to www.mydallaspost.com.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ DALLAS POST FILE PHOTO

Allison Sebolka, Caitlyn Metz and Megan Mancinelli decide to travel together in a routine from "Tales from Around the World" during the 2008 Arts at Hayfield festival.

'Arts at Hayfield' celebrates 25th anniversary

By REBECCA BRIA
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IF YOU GO...

25th Annual Arts at Hayfield
Today from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus
Off of Old Route 115, Lehman Township

Several decades ago a committee called the Back Mountain Cultural Center formed and searched for a place to hold community activities.

Alice Niskey, of Dallas, was an original member of the group. Niskey says the group, started by Howard Grossman, found a home for numerous arts festivals at College Misericordia, including a large bicentennial event complete with a parade in 1976. But, eventually the events went downhill because enough volunteers were available to make them run smoothly.

According to Niskey, Priscilla Allison was institutional in bringing the group to Penn State Wilkes-Barre. Cultural events were possible there because the

university provided faculty and staff to do much of the necessary work.

The Arts at Hayfield Summer Festival was born and, in its first year in 1984, 25 crafters and several performers participated.

The 25th Annual Arts at Hayfield, set for 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. today on the campus of Penn State Wilkes-Barre, will feature more than 100 artisans, musicians and crafters as well as multiple food vendors.

"It's huge compared to what it started with," Niskey said. "We

probably had 25 to 30 crafters and thought we were doing great. We have over 100 now. We had a few food booths, but we really have a full menu of different kinds of foods now. The whole thing has grown tremendously."

A \$2 donation is requested from adults to support various non-profit arts causes. They include an annual achievement award to an arts-oriented Penn State Wilkes-Barre student, donations to public performances offered by the F.M. Kirby Center, Misericordia University, the Fine Arts Musical Program at the Shavertown United Methodist Church and to Great Books at Penn State Wilkes-Barre as well as occasional support for arts-oriented projects at local libraries and programs at Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

"It's just to underscore the fact

the whole purpose of the festival is to highlight the creativity of the college environment and their individual enthusiasm," said Janis Winter, event chairperson. "It's just basically to celebrate American ingenuity and craftsmanship and expression."

New for this year are special demonstrations from various artists, including wood carver Dan Levitsky, of Dallas; Project DJ quilting group from the Trucksville United Methodist Church, lute maker Martin Korchnak, of

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