

# The DALLAS POST

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## Invention will serve the disabled

Noxen man's kit will measure whether public facilities are in compliance with law.

Noxen resident Denis Anson, M.S., O.T.R., has worn a lot of different hats in his professional career.

Each one - from construction worker to researcher and professor to occupational therapist - has moved him one step closer to achieving an altruistic goal.

"My goal is to change the world," says Anson, director of research and development for the Assistive Technology Research Institute (ATRI) at Misericordia University. "And make our environment accessible to everyone through objective standards that

are easily determined through a series of yes-no, pass-fail answers that just about anyone can employ."

By utilizing the expertise he's acquired during his 30 years of practice and application of assistive technology and occupational therapy strategies, Anson has devised and brought to market the Americans with Disabilities Act - Compliance Assessment Toolkit or ADA-CAT to measure whether public facilities are in compliance with the federal law.

"Because the ADA guidelines and checklists are written by engineers, they are not always in language that non-engineers can understand," says Anson. "And, some of the concepts are difficult to explain. By utilizing the toolkit, it is easy to determine if a

doorway or light switch or a handicap accessible ramp meets that federal guidelines."

The ADA-CAT is a screening tool that allows people without advanced technical training to assess the architectural barriers of the built environment, according to Anson.

The kit is composed of two parts - the audits and measurement kit. The audits define the characteristics of an accessible and usable environment and feature a scoring system that produces a numerical score for accessibility and usability compliance. The measurement kit is a set of 11 instruments that have been developed to allow individuals to quickly determine whether or not features of the environment meet the standards of the

ADA and audits, like a turning radius for a wheelchair or height requirements for outlets, grab bars and shower seats.

The ATRI-designed kit costs about \$500 and has been developed and manufactured for market by the Augmentative and Alternative Communication Institute of Wooster, Ohio and Pittsburgh, Pa., a non-profit organization. The cost includes one-year access to the website which is maintained by ATRI and costs \$70 annually after the introductory year. Proceeds from the sale of ADA-CAT are shared evenly between ATRI and the AAC Institute.

The concept for the ADA-CAT

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Denis Anson, M.S., O.T.R., of Noxen holds the Americans with Disabilities Act - Compliance Assessment Toolkit or ADA-CAT, which features 11 instruments to measure whether public facilities are in compliance with the federal law.

## Megan's Law to be researched

By EILEEN GODIN  
Dallas Post Correspondent

On the heels of a new resident moving into town, Jackson Township supervisors are taking a hard look at Megan's Law to see what they can do to protect township residents.

On Monday night, supervisors authorized attorney Jeffery Malak to research the state-enacted Megan's Law to see what rights the municipality has to protect children and other residents.

Recently, Daniel Howard Rice, a convicted sex offender, moved into a home at 91 Gates Rd., Shavertown. Police began to notify surrounding residents immediately.

Supervisor Chairman John Wilkes Jr. said, under the state-enacted Megan's Law, a municipality cannot restrict a convicted sex offender from residing in the township through the use of zoning laws.

The law does restrict how close to schools, parks and other recreational areas a sex offender can live. Malak has been asked to find out if a fire hall can be included under places of recreation due to the number of public events held there, Wilkes said. Malak plans to have his response prepared for the supervisors' approval by September.

Wilkes said Rice has registered with the local authorities. Police Chief Jerry Leedock said officers have been knocking on doors of residents who live in "the immediate area."

Also, in an attempt to soothe residents' bumpy rides, supervisors announced a paving project will begin in September. Field Crest Road, Holly Bush and Chase Manor will be milled down, repaired and repaved.

Wilkes said Field Crest is one of the worst roads in the township. Supervisor Al Fox said it took a while to prepare financially for the half million dollar project.

"By consolidating the three roads, we are saving about \$2,000," Fox said.

Materials, such as gravel and blacktop, for the project have been purchased through the state-run COSTARS program,

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## SAILING THE DAY AWAY



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Paul Callahan, of Dallas, takes his first solo a-wind trip on Harveys Lake, thanks to his tutor Dr. John Rothschild, of Harveys Lake. For more boating photos, please turn to page 9.

## Carrying out duties in abnormal situation

Lt. Col. Kenneth Williams might just tell you he was doing his job as a nurse anesthetist for the U.S. Air Force, but the circumstances were far from normal.

On duty with the Joint Task Force Bravo in Soto Cano, Honduras, the Dallas native was among the first medical personnel called to respond when the 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti on Jan. 12.

The Misericordia University graduate's 23-member team of Air Force, Army and Navy personnel arrived at the Admiral Killick Coast Guard Station in Haiti to find hundreds of people strewn throughout the compound waiting for medical care, some there since the quake seven days earlier.

"The situation was absolutely horrendous," says Williams. "Unfortunately, one of our three planes was diverted, so we were missing critical anesthesia equipment as well as all our personal belongings."

With no running water and working under two tents - one set up as an operating room, the other to sleep in - the team began surgery on table tops and desks. The cases were some of the most challenging Williams had ever seen, even during war duty, including gangrenous limb amputations and death-defying scalp wounds. There were times when he needed to place his hand on the patient's chest to make sure they were breathing.

The chaotic setting and heroic medical efforts attracted

"The situation was absolutely horrendous."

Lt. Col. Kenneth Williams  
Speaking about earthquake in Haiti

the attention of reporters from both the Associated Press and Time magazine. Williams was featured in a special report, "Medics Scramble to Save Quake Survivors," that appeared at www.Time.com on Jan. 21.

With no anesthesia machine, Williams was forced to use the more primitive TIVA - Total IV Anesthetic - method to administer sedation intravenously and had to pump a blue Jackson-Reese breathing bag by hand to control the oxygen flow to the patient. He had learned the method in class but had never needed to use it before since modern machines offer gas anesthesia.

Assisting on 11 surgeries in the first two days, Williams was happy to have clean clothes and anesthesia equipment arrive on the third day just in time to move the OR into a nearby building deemed safe by engineers. The team was able to complete 10 surgeries that day, thanks to the improved conditions. He was also required to do shifts of guard duty and often slept in the OR just to make sure the equipment was safe.

Williams' team worked in conjunction with the U.S.N.S. Comfort hospital ship and

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Making the best of a classroom turned makeshift operating room, Lt. Col. Kenneth Williams, a Dallas native, is surrounded by wires while administering anesthesia to a 6-year-old Haitian earthquake victim.

## Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition will meet on Aug. 11

The Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition (GDAC) will host an informational meeting for all interested residents of Dallas and other communities at 7

p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 11 at the Dallas United Methodist Church, Parsonage Street (off Church Street), Dallas.

The evening will include a

presentation by Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition founder Dr. Thomas Junta and will be followed by a question and answer session.



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