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Seatbelts monitoring ends today, patrols continue

Program targeting driving-age students got its start day after DHS senior was killed in vehicle accident.

By SARAH HITE
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Though the Dallas Township Police Department's monitoring of seatbelts among minors is technically ending today, Chief Robert Jolley said officers will still patrol around the Dallas School District campus.

"We're doing our seatbelt program until March 4, then we start our aggressive driving campaign, but we'll still be patrolling for everything," said Jolley.

The department began patrolling the district campus on Feb. 14 to enforce aspects of Lacey's Law, which was signed into law late last year.

Lacey's Law states drivers under the age of 18 can be cited for not wearing a seatbelt. For adults, not wearing a seatbelt is a secondary offense.

The program, which included a presentation to driving-age students, got its start the day after 18-year-old Thomas Lynch, of Harveys Lake, a senior at Dallas High School, was killed in a crash on Kunkle-Alderson Road.

"We contemplated not doing the program," said Jolley. "But we decided that we had to do it."

Lacey's Law states drivers under the age of 18 can be cited for not wearing a seatbelt. For adults, not wearing a seatbelt is a secondary offense.

Jolley said it still has not been determined whether Lynch was wearing a seatbelt at the time, but he said incidents such as this can make young drivers pause and reflect on their own driving habits.

"It definitely has an effect," he said. "It brings things home." The project was made possi-

ble through a \$1,000 grant for the state police's Buckle Up PA program.

Dallas School District Superintendent Frank Galicki said the high school's Emergency Response Team, a club in which students are taught emergency preparedness and safety skills, also aided in getting the pro-

gram started.

Jolley said officers wrote 17 citations in three weeks.

"We were trying to hit times that persons under the age of 18, those covered under Lacey's Law, would be driving," he said. "Maybe this will get young drivers more attuned to buckling up."

Jolley said the statistics on teen driver accidents are staggering, and he hopes programs like this across the country can

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Jack Farrell scores 44 points in DYB victory

By SARAH HITE
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When 9-year-old Jack Farrell steps on the court to play basketball, he means business.

The Dallas Elementary student plays for the Knicks in the Dallas Youth Basketball third and fourth-grade league, and last weekend he had a whopper of a game.

The team won, 44-39, in the semi-finals last Saturday against the Celtics, and Farrell scored all winning points.

"He had no idea," Chad Lojewski, the Knicks' coach, said of Farrell's performance. "My daughter fills out the score book, and with two minutes left in the game she said, 'Dad, look at this.'"

Farrell's father, Mark, said basketball is in his son's blood. Mark Farrell played ball in high school and college, and still reminisces about the time he scored 34 points on his own when Dallas High School made the district championships in 1985. Despite Mark Farrell's efforts, that game ended in a loss for the Mountaineers.

"A family member made a CD

IF YOU GO...

What: Dallas Youth Basketball third and fourth-grade boys' league championship game
Who: Knicks vs. Suns
When: Today at 1:15 p.m.
Where: Dallas High School gym

of the radio broadcast of that game, and he listens to it all the time," said Farrell's wife, Donna.

But Jack Farrell's sights aren't set on the glory of the game. Lojewski said the young player often asks to be placed in the game so he can pass the ball to others on the team.

Last Friday during the quarter-finals against the Hornets, Farrell scored 18 points and, near the end of the game, continued passing to Lojewski's son, Drew, who scored 12 points of his own.

"Drew wouldn't have had 12 points without Jack's help," said Lojewski. "But believe me, Drew won't stop talking about his 12 points."

And last Saturday's record-breaking game for Farrell was the one his parents weren't able to attend. The couple was visiting friends in Maryland on a trip they

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Phyllis Bullock shows one of her handmade placemats featuring an Elvis Presley theme at a workshop at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

Old cards make new placemats

By SARAH HITE
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Phyllis Bullock's favorite pastime is cutting circles from old greeting cards while sitting in front of the TV.

"American Idol' and 'Dancing with the Stars' is how I pass my time," said the Dallas resident.

But it's not in vain. Bullock's cutting skills only aid her when she's making homemade placemats from those recycled images.

And others find Bullock's artwork so interesting they wanted to learn the craft themselves.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library held a class for those wanting to learn the art of placemat-making - just a month after Bullock's placemats were on display in the library.

Bullock, who's been making the decorative placemats for more than 20 years, led the class and displayed examples of her work, including snowmen, Elvis Presley and angel-

"There are so many nice pictures; it's a shame to throw them away."

Phyllis Bullock
About homemade placemats

themed settings.

"I never thought about showing them at the library," said Bullock. "I asked a woman from the library to save the cards they receive for me. She asked me why, and now I'm teaching a class."

Bullock never saved greeting cards before she started making placemats after a friend gave her a tutorial. Now, she said, it's a great way to recycle those cards sent from friends and family.

"There are so many nice pictures; it's a shame to throw them away," she said.

Bullock even immortalized the greeting cards for a friend's 90th birthday. She cut the cards along with the notes inside them to make a set of six placemats out of the more than



Yvonne Marshall, of Dallas, uses an oval pattern to make her card cut-outs during a craft class at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

80 cards her friend received.

"She cried when I showed them to her," said Bullock.

She said cutting the images is a relaxing way to spend time before working on the designs of her placemats. She lays the card cut-outs onto a piece of poster board before covering the whole project with contact paper.

Yvonne Marshall, of Dallas, had some Christmas cards lying around the house when she heard about the class.

"It's a way to be creative, and to give these beautiful cards some practical use," she said.

Ellen Whipple, of Laceyville, makes ornaments and other decorations out of greeting cards, and thought the class would be another way to utilize the images on the cards sent to her through the years.

"My theme for the placemats is flowers and butterflies," said Whipple. "I'm thinking spring."



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Dallas Youth Basketball player Jack Farrell, 9, left, stands with Knicks Coach Chad Lojewski.



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