

# The DALLAS POST

50¢

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

WWW.MYDALLASPOST.COM

AN EDITION OF THE TIMES LEADER

## Parking fee instituted at Dallas High School

### Students say extra charges are unfair

**CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK**  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Dallas Senior High School students have paid a \$5 fee to park at the high school this year and were told the fee was to cover the increased cost of making plastic parking tags.

Dallas Senior High School Principal Jeff Shaffer explained that the idea for car tags and parking lot improvements came out of a "Safe School Audit" of the secu-

rity committee at the high school after the Sandy Hook incident in Connecticut.

The tags for the cars cost the district \$300 to \$400 and the cost to make them has increased. Since the idea of driving to school is a privileged option for students, this cost was passed on to them as a \$5 parking fee.

Lauren Butruce, a Dallas senior, suggested, "Print up decals on a piece of paper and we'll stick it on our window. It would be cheaper. We don't need to pay

for all these other things. It's unfair. It's not like this is a private school. I don't feel good about this and nobody checks the parking lot anyway."

Shaffer mentioned that the school district pays for bus transportation for students and that it students' choice not to ride the buses provided but rather drive their own cars to school.

Michele Eason Geise, a parent, asks, "Many of the teachers don't live in the school district, don't pay local taxes, and park in the lot. Why aren't they charged a parking fee?"

Shaffer answers, "The teachers who

park in the parking lot have no other option for transportation. They have to park there," he said. Therefore, the teachers are not charged for parking.

He added that this year there were several unexpected maintenance costs for the parking lot - two new speed bumps, a barricade, visitors' area and rock to replace the grass that had been trampled in a median. The cost of all the renovations has left the school in the red, said Shaffer. The \$5 parking fee helped with those costs, he explained.

Haley Wilcox, of Dallas, complained, "I wasn't happy about paying it (the fee)

and helping to pay for these other things."

Senior Frank Hullahen, also of Dallas, said, "They told us the \$5 was to make the parking tickets. Some people are mad about it. The extra cost? What happens when all the lights in the parking lot get burned out? Will we have to pay for that next year?"

Shaffer hopes that next year extra money collected from the fee will be put into the student activity fund for field trips.

An informal poll of 12 area high schools found three other school districts that charge students to pay for parking passes.



Ava Jones and her father, Todd Jones, of Shavertown, were the first ones on the merry-go-round.

### Luzerne County Fair continues

The 51st Annual Luzerne County Fair has been in full swing since Wednesday and continues today from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. with entertainment by Keystone Kids and Rick K and the All Nighters. The \$8 admission price includes parking, entertainment and most amusement rides. The fair is located on Route 118 in Lehman. For more information, call 675-FAIR.



Charlotte Bartizek  
For The Dallas Post

Clockwise from top: Judging essays written for the fair are, from left, Cathy Martin, Marian DeAngelis and Debbie Martin, of Sweet Valley, Kaylie Skovira, of Shavertown, and Tessa Zimmerman, of Dallas, got to pet this 4-day-old calf Jack at the Luzerne County Fair. Ashley Bolt, 4, of Shavertown, encounters a young cow in the petting zoo at the Luzerne County Fair. Olivia Farrell, of Dallas, and her sister, Kaylee, took time for some Italian ice at the fair.



5:30



Bill Tarutis photos | For The Dallas Post

Event volunteer Jaime Colarusso, left, of Exeter, fills out raffle tickets for Tara Greig, of Tunkhannock, and her 15-month-old son, Grayson, at the 'Rally at the River Grille' fundraiser in Plains Township for Tara Hustey Pisano who is battling cancer.

## Giving Tara a fightin' chance

### Fundraiser benefits Tara Hustey Pisano, fighting cancer for second time

**SARAH HITE**  
Dallas Post Correspondent

It has been a rollercoaster ride of a year for the Hustey family.

In December 2012, Tara Hustey Pisano, of Shavertown, discovered she was pregnant. Three months later, she was told she has myelodysplastic syndrome, formerly known as preleukemia, a rare disorder affecting the development of blood cells within bone marrow.

The disease progressed slowly, allowing 28-year-old Hustey Pisano to give birth to her son one month early without having to endure chemotherapy treatments during her pregnancy.

Tara's sister, Deanna Hustey, is celebrating her wedding this weekend, but in two months she'll donate stem cells to save her sister's life.

The family decided to pull together and plan a benefit in honor of Tara to help offset medical costs and lost wages from treatment. A huge crowd gathered at the River Grille in Plains Township on Aug. 22 for food, raffles and live entertainment.

"The only cure for this is chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant," said Deanna, 26, of Brooklyn, N.Y. "No one else in my family could be a match to donate their stem cells and there was only a 25 percent chance that I would be a match. I was tested and I'm a perfect, 100 percent match."

Deanna said this hasn't been Tara's first experience with cancer. In 2011, Tara was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, another rare disease. She had to undergo a complicated surgery to remove her kidney and the tumor which affected several vital organs.

"She had chemotherapy from April through December," said Deanna. "She was on a cocktail of cancer drugs and one of the five drugs' side effect was



'Rally at the River Grille' volunteers welcome guests to a packed house for the cancer fundraiser for Tara Hustey Pisano.

### TO DONATE

To read more about Tara Hustey Pisano's story or donate to the cause, visit <http://gfwd.at/12ZsQ8s>.

this disease (myelodysplastic syndrome)."

When offered the chance to help, Deanna didn't think about it.

"It's always been just the two of us," said Deanna. "Our father died when we were young, and for this to happen to her at such a young age - you have to think positive thoughts."

Tara's mother, Teresa Hustey, said Tara wasn't supposed to get pregnant after her first battle with cancer, but now she calls her first grandson, Everett, "a miracle."

"If it wasn't for him, they would have never caught this as early as they did," said Teresa, of Wilkes-Barre.

Deanna said doctors caught the cancer after performing standard blood tests for pregnant women.

"She had anemia and some women can have pregnancy-induced anemia," she said. "But they did all the necessary tests and she tested negative. Finally, they did



Kelly Connelly, of Ashley, gives a thumbs up at the Tara Hustey Pisano cancer fundraiser at the River Grille in Plains Township.

a bone marrow biopsy and found that she had cancer."

Teresa said Tara refused the idea of a benefit during her first battle with cancer, but relatives rallied together to help Tara and her family.

"When they first started bringing the baskets (to be raffled) over to my house, I was overwhelmed," said Teresa. "I got chills and started crying. And every basket had a story - everyone said they had a sibling or aunt or uncle or cousin who had cancer."

Maria Godfrey, 29, of Forty Fort, said her cousin Tara is "an amazing person" who has persevered through difficult times before.

"Her father was killed about 15 years ago in an accident (Route) 118," she said. "(The family) has overcome a lot, and she's always

come out strong. She's always positive. She's not sitting around saying, 'Oh poor me.' We're just going to take it one day at a time."

Tara's sister-in-law, Katie Gerrity Pisano, of Nuangola, became emotional when talking about planning the benefit in Tara's honor.

"I was in her wedding and we both love to organize so this is something I definitely wanted to do," she said. "If it was me, I know she would do it for me. Her sister gets to give her a new life, so this was the way we could give back."

