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Dallas Elementary second grader Mason Calvey plays a turkey in the school's Thanksgiving program held on Friday in the gymnasium.

PETE G. WILCOX | THE TIMES LEADER



Submitted photos

Her white hair blowing in the breeze, 90-year-old Mary Knecht enjoys a skydiving experience.

Never too old to fly

90-year-old Mary Knecht jumps to a dream come true

SUSAN DENNEY
Dallas Post Correspondent

Ever want to jump out of an airplane? Mary Knecht did but she had to wait a while. The 91-year-old, of Yardley, finally parachuted from a plane this past August to fulfill a long-held dream. She was 90 at the time.

"I had wanted to do it for years and years," Knecht said. When a friend of her granddaughter's said he was going to parachute from a plane, he offered to take her along. Knecht jumped at the chance.

She said there are hardly words to describe the jump. "It was a wonderful experience being up there and looking around."

Knecht said that even the flight was a thrill and nothing like riding on a commercial airplane.

"I was sitting on the floor of the plane," Knecht said. She explained that she had always wanted to see what it looked like outside a plane. "When they open the door, there's no plane in your way."

Knecht said there is no special training involved and her age was not a factor.

"I wasn't alone at any time," Knecht said.

She was harnessed to an experienced parachutist during the entire jump and on landing was instructed to keep her feet up and just sit down to avoid injury.

She said those in charge made sure she knew what



Mary Knecht was never alone during her skydiving adventure as she was strapped to an experienced parachutist.



Look Ma, no hands! Mary Knecht and her sky diving partner leave the plane.

she was doing. "They interview you. You know you're going to do something dangerous, she said. "Airplanes are flying all the time and people are parachuting all the time."

As for the jump, Knecht didn't mention any fears or worries. "I enjoyed it a whole lot," she said.

Knecht has lived for the past few years in Yardley with her daughter but spent most of her life in Dallas.

"I was born and raised

in Dallas. We lived on a farm," she said. Her maiden name was Eipper and she and an older brother and sister went to Dallas schools.

According to Knecht, her life on the farm wasn't that exciting. "I was just a little country girl. I didn't get to go out and do a lot of things."

After she married James Knecht, the couple moved to Harveys

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What am I doing here?

Dallas Elementary second-grader Mason Calvey scratches his head while playing a turkey in the school's Thanksgiving program held on Nov. 21 in the gymnasium. For additional photos, please turn to page 8.

Fired-up Student Council has big plans for Lake-Lehman

Large group of students works together for a better community

SUSAN DENNEY
Dallas Post Correspondent

Cecelia Candelario's chemistry classroom filled with students after a school day at Lake-Lehman Junior Senior High School. Soon it was tanding room only.

The reason? The students were gathered for a Student Council meeting. The size of the group was surprising as none of the students had participated in Student Council the year before. Last year, the group was made up of a small group of seniors. This year's group represents all classifications.

The new group of students has ambitious plans for making its school and community better.

Alyssa Talacka, 17, of Lehman, president of the council, stood by a whiteboard and followed her agenda. She and the council discussed a long list of future projects.

The council started its plans for a December babysitting service day. The event will raise funds for Student Council projects and give parents an afternoon off to go shopping or take a break from parenting. Children dropped off by parents will watch a movie, do a craft and eat lunch during the four-hour Saturday activity.

The Student Council also discussed its part in the holiday celebration assembly and discussed support for a high school service project which provides warm coats and toys for needy children.

"No kid should do without a coat this winter," Candelario said.



Members pack Lake-Lehman Student Council Advisor Cecelia Candelario's classroom for a meeting.

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The Student Council will see that any children not sponsored by others are taken care of. As part of the project, Student Council will also host a dinner for the children.

At one point in the meeting, Candelario exclaimed, "Phones out!" Students whipped out smartphones to enter an activity's date into their calendars.

After the meeting, several students explained their feelings about the Student Council.

Nick Albertson, 15, of Hunlock Creek, was asked why he joined the group. "I joined Student Council trying to find an outlet to work with my fellow students to help my school," he said.

"I'm excited about all the ways we have planned to benefit the students of Lake-Lehman and the community," said Hannah Cross, 16, of Sweet Valley.

Zachary Corey, 15, of Harveys Lake is most excited about the holiday assembly which consists of skits. He explained that, as a freshman last year, he couldn't attend. "It's my first year participating," Talacka said planning

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Lake-Lehman Student Council Secretary Jenna Mortenson writes ideas for future activities on the white board during a group meeting.



Lake-Lehman Student Council Advisor Cecelia Candelario, right, brainstorms with members during a meeting at the high school.



Members of the Dallas Rotary, (from left) Art Peoples, Todd Buckley and Jerry Reisch, put up their holiday greeting sign at the intersection of Rts. 309 and 415.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

'TIS THE SEASON

It's that time of year again and members of the Dallas Rotary Club have erected their holiday sign at the intersection of Routes 309 and 415 in Dallas. From left, are Art Peoples, Todd Buckley and Jerry Reisch.

