

# Merry Christmas

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# The Dallas Post

50¢

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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Dec. 21 thru Dec. 27, 1994

## Exxon is cleaning gas from Rt. 309 lot

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Exxon of America is paying for cleanup operations at the site of the former Dallas Exxon station on Route 309, purchased in April, 1993, by Edward Orloski and the future location of a combination convenience store, gas station, bank and car wash.

According to Mark Carmon, media contact for the PA Department of Environmental Resources (DER), the gasoline components benzene, toluene and ethyl alcohol had been found in a well at the site. Benzene is a volatile cancer-causing gasoline component, he said.

The cleanup hasn't affected plans to develop the site into an Orloski's Quik-Mart, bank, gas station and car wash.

"Sometimes we run into this when buying former gas stations," said Edward F. Orloski. "Some sites are clean, others aren't. It can be handled with the right consultants and cleanup procedures. The cleanup hasn't changed our plans for the site as of yet."

A small white trailer surrounded by a stockade fence at the rear of the site contains equip-

See EXXON, pg 10



## There, there

Santa Claus comforted John Charney during his visit to the Dallas fire station last weekend, just in case his stocking didn't have everything he asked for.

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## Final Lehman budget has higher revenues, spending

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

The Lehman Township supervisors adopted a final \$528,724 budget for 1995 at their regular December 19 meeting.

According to treasurer Alvin Cragle, several figures have changed in the township's favor since the supervisors approved the preliminary budget in November.

Property tax income is expected to be \$90,000, or \$1,000 higher than the preliminary budget had estimated. The earned income tax is also expected to be \$1,000 higher, or \$166,000.

Adding an extra \$100 income from the firemen's pension fund of \$13,400, the township expects to receive \$376,000 in general fund income, or \$2,100 more than had been anticipated.

Anticipated expenses have also changed: \$1,000 each has been trimmed from legal services (\$6,000) and general expenses (\$3,500).

The secretary-treasurer will receive \$14,000 instead of \$12,000, the police chief will receive \$20,000 instead of \$18,900 and police salaries will total \$45,000 instead of \$44,000.

The two-mill special tax for road equipment is expected to gener-

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP BUDGET			
Item	1994	1995	Chg.
Total budget	\$493,605	\$528,724	7.1%
Property tax income	\$86,000	\$90,000	4.7%
Taxable properties	1,899	1,909	10
Millage rate*	14	14	---
Avg cost per household	\$45	\$47	\$2

\* Two extra mills have been added to pay for road equipment

ate \$13,000.

The supervisors heard a report from Kathy O'Donnoghue, who has volunteered to contact county and state agencies to explore the feasibility of setting up a voluntary township recycling program.

She and Doug Ide will meet with county recycling coordinator Ed Latinsky to find out what such a program would cost to set up and what state grants are available.

Dave Sutton noted that the township has received a \$3,500 Legislative Initiative Grant for a computer and photocopier for the police station from Senator Charles Lemmond.

The supervisors will hold their annual reorganization meeting January 3 at 7 p.m.

Starting in February, all supervisors' meetings will be at 7 p.m. the third Monday of the month.

## L-L plan seeks smaller classes

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Lake-Lehman school board president Jeff Fritzen summarized the district's recently completed strategic plan, which the board approved at its regular December 13 meeting.

"According to our information, the parents don't want any radical changes in the curriculum," he said. "The parents like it. In keeping with their wishes, we plan to continue using the same grading system and curriculum, keeping an eye to improving them."

The strategic plan suggests that class sizes in grades kindergarten through three be reduced from 29-30 students to between 22 and 24 students. Facilities at all three

elementary buildings may have to be enlarged to accommodate extra classes, Fritzen said.

Although the plan doesn't make specific recommendations for new buildings or additions, Fritzen noted that the three elementary schools and the middle school are operating at 90 percent of capacity, with the middle school close to 100 percent.

"The board will have to research ways to fund building projects without significant tax increases," he said.

The plan also calls for more use of computers and more technology education in all grades.

"The strategic plan makes good

See L-L PLAN, pg 10

## Jim Wertman, owner of J&J Deli, dies suddenly

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Anyone who has eaten lunch at J&J Deli on Route 415 or taken out a delicious order encountered its jovial proprietor, James L. Wertman, hard at work behind the counter.

Known by customers and friends for his sense of humor and pleasant personality, as well as great food, Wertman, 50, died of a sudden heart attack December 17.

"I just spoke with him and Jan (his wife) on Saturday," said Pauline Roth of Oscar Roth Jewelers, the deli's next-door neighbor for the past 12 years.

"He was having a big laugh teasing Susan, one of the workers. He teased her terribly. I'm glad I had that conversation - that's how I'll always remember him, as a happy person."

Ardeth Dale, owner of Dale's Office Supply two doors away,

described how her children, Andrew and Katie, loved visiting Wertman after school.

"They'd come in from school and say, 'Let's go see Jim.' It was never 'Let's go get some candy from J&J's.' They really liked him," she said. "He was very friendly. It didn't matter who you were - he'd take time to talk to you."

She added that Wertman's roast beef deli sandwich with Russian dressing and cole slaw was one of her favorites.

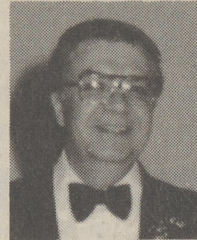
"Nobody this side of New York makes a sandwich like that," she said.

The deli was open Monday to make cold sandwiches and take-outs, but its kitchen and dining room were closed until Thursday morning.

Family members pitched in, making hoagies and filling orders, as customers filed silently in, talking quietly and avoiding the darkened dining room.

"He was a very nice man," said Mrs. Natt, the owner of a farm in Centerville. "He was always good to people."

See WERTMAN, pg 10



JIM WERTMAN

## Mossback's search for Santa

### The journey ends with a Christmas lesson for a frog

By T.T. CRATCHIT  
Special to The Post

Mossback was growing weaker and weaker. He tried eating grass, but grass is rabbit food, not frog food. He was getting tired, too, but he was afraid to go to sleep.

It was three days since Mossback had impulsively given away his little green compass. And it was three days since Mossback had last tasted food. His mind reeled as he thought of flies, each bigger and juicier than the last.

Mossback was no longer able to hop. He dragged himself along, his webbed feet leaving little furrows in the ground behind him. Soon, he couldn't do that anymore, either. He fell to his knees and crawled feebly.

"It looks like I'm a goner," Mossback said to himself in a hoarse, dry voice. "And I never did get to tell Santa Claus what I thought of him."

Mossback finally collapsed and drifted into unconsciousness, convinced he would never see the light of day again.

Imagine Mossback's surprise when he opened his eyes and found he was back in his little bedroom.

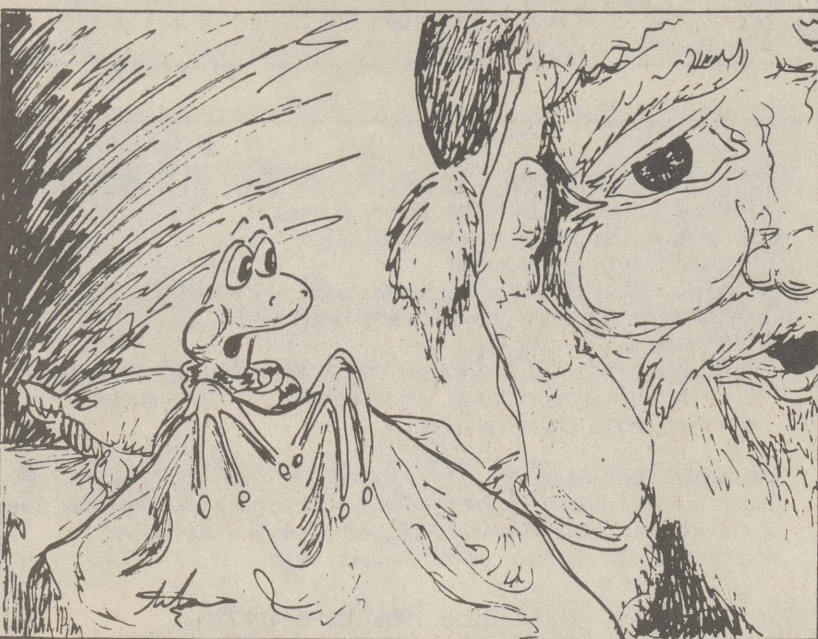
"What happened?" he said aloud. "I know that wasn't a dream!"

"No, it wasn't a dream," a deep, laughing voice said from behind his bed.

Mossback jumped out of bed and saw the biggest person he had ever laid eyes on. He was enormous. He had a long white beard and was dressed all in red. And he had a smile that made Mossback want to laugh out loud.

"Who are you?" the bewildered frog asked. "And what are you doing here?"

"Why, I'm Santa Claus," the big person said. "And I guess I'm here to make sure you're all right. I



found you lying on the ground about half a mile from here. You didn't look too good, so I took you home."

"But how did you know where I lived?" Mossback asked.

Santa bellowed out a deep, rich laugh. "I know where all the good

little boys and girls - and frogs! - live," he said, his ample belly bobbing up and down with glee.

"Hey, that reminds me!" Mossback said, remembering that he was supposed to be mad at Santa.

See MOSSBACK, pg 10

### Students help

homeless people by collecting 124 coats and 37 blankets. Page 3.

### Mat preview.

Lake-Lehman is strong and experienced, Dallas is building its program. Page 11

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