



The Dallas Post

50¢

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

Vol. 107 No. 32

Dallas, Pennsylvania

August 7 thru August 13, 1996

Neighbors want 'eyesore' fixed up or torn down

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

DALLAS - Twelve Jackson Street in Dallas Borough isn't a bad looking home. The cozy ranch, sheathed in light green aluminum siding with black shutters, shows some signs of neglect; a few windows are out of kilter, some are half open; the storm door is a little rusty.

It's the grass that gives it away — waist high and gone to seed, flowing down to the street like a wave at the shore, about to break.

Without the grass, the abandoned white van parked hard by the deck on one side of the house would be more prominent, reinforcing a shabby image entirely out of keeping with the surrounding homes. And that's the problem.

The house was last occupied by Timothy and Donna Fleig, who lived there with three children for about two years, said Mary Weir, who has lived across the street for 25 years. The Fleigs were the second owners of the home, which was built about 15 years ago, she

"The sad part is it's a half decent house. It could be fixed up and sold."

John Hutchins
Next door neighbor

said.

Like her neighbors, Mary just wants the place either cleaned up or torn down, so it doesn't become more of a mess than it already is. "Please do something," she asks. "That place is a disgrace."

Borough police chief Jack Fowler would like to take action,

but his hands are tied. Timothy Fleig left the area about three years ago, with a trail of charges left behind. Fowler and others think he's in Michigan, and he hasn't dared return. Donna Fleig is still around — in Plains, Allentown or Trucksville, depending on who you talk to — but Fowler

says she claims to have nothing to do with the house.

That won't fly with the Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau, which has listed the house for sale to reclaim unpaid taxes. The owners are listed as Timothy and Donna Fleig, and the "upset price" is \$6,441.75, with sale scheduled for Sept. 12. That is the total of taxes and fees outstanding on the property, but if any legal entanglements pop up, the house will be removed from the sale, said Ed Powlek of the bureau.

Marie Whelan hopes the house

is sold in September. Her mother has had to look at the abandoned van, the maple saplings pushing up through the deck decorated with ripped garbage bags, and the cascading grass for three years. When she comes to visit, she says "I can smell it. I can see it."

She's been trying to get the place cleaned up, without success. She contacted the board of health, but they said it's not their problem. A bank that still holds a mortgage said there wasn't much

See EYESORE, pg 8

Meeting Aug. 14 on prison security

By ANN POEPPERLING
Post Correspondent

JACKSON TWP. - Residents concerned about the proposed closing of the guard towers at the State Correctional Institute at Dallas (SCID) will have a chance to voice their opinions at a meeting Aug. 14 at 6 p.m. in the science auditorium at Penn State's Lehman campus.

State prison commissioner Martin Horn will be present along with Jackson Twp. supervisors and the citizens' advisory commission.

According to supervisors' chairman Walter Glogowski, the prison plans to go ahead with the demanning for financial reasons, yet Horn claims they can still protect the citizens. "We want to know how they intend to do this," said Glogowski. "We've set up this meeting because we're concerned

See JACKSON, pg 2



LUNCH BREAK

Joe Parsons, Shavertown, and John Benning, Wyoming, took a break last week from a roofing job at Hillside Farms

in Trucksville. They are employees of General Roofing, and are redoing a roof on one of the barns.

POST PHOTO: CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Scholars, lay people study at conference

By JACK HILSHER
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - Just as many imposing College Misericordia buildings are not visible when driving on Lake Street, some of their popular summer programs are not fully recognized. Marie Stolarick, coordinator of Non-Credit Programs for the college, says, "I often mention a particular activity and get this reaction: 'Why, I didn't know you had that!'"

Their summer "Fitness and Fun" program which Marie heads up has instructional classes for all ages in subjects from karate and swimming to cheerleading and cartooning. But perhaps the most unusual program is for adults and is going on all this week...the 28th annual "Institute on Sacred Scripture."

The Institute is non-sectarian, billing itself as "for laity, sisters, brothers, and priests," although a pastor or two have been known to

See CONFERENCE, pg. 3

Girl Scouting adds depth, dimension to Jessica Kozemko's life

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

TRUCKSVILLE - For 12 years Jessica Kozemko has managed to combine her two first loves — art and Girl Scouting — and earn the organization's highest award along the way.

The daughter of Jack and Jamie Kozemko, Jessie is a member of Senior Troop 622 and a 1996 graduate of Dallas High School, where she was president of the Art Club and vice-president of the AIDS Awareness Club during her senior year.

She has been in Scouting for 12 years and has worked on many service projects with the Penn's Woods Girl Scout Council. While a day camp counselor, she always manned the arts and crafts stations.

"Scouting has brought me many opportunities," she said. "We went whitewater rafting and learned the value and rewards of hard work by raising money for a trip to Europe last summer."

Jessie has earned many badges and patches and earned the God and Me Award and the Silver Award, a prerequisite to her Gold

"My life is so much easier because of what I've learned from Scouting."

Jessica Kozemko
Earned Girl Scout Gold Award

Award.

"I ran out of room on my sash — I think I have more than 100 badges," she said, chuckling.

Earning the Gold Award isn't easy. Senior Scouts must first

earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge before beginning their projects, which require at least 50 hours of work.

For her project, Jessie designed and taught a series of hands-on art appreciation lessons for senior citizen residents of Wesley Village.

"My art teacher, Sue Hand, suggested the hands-on approach," Jessie said. "Each week we tried a different style, such as Impressionism or expressionism.

I was nervous for the first class because I thought I might not relate to them well. And they were surprised I was so young."

Her fears were unfounded. By the end of the six-week course she had 18 people — a very large class.

"They had a lot of fun," she said. "Word about the class got around and the employees started coming and bringing their children. It was a real challenge to work with all age groups at once and maintain their interest."

Jessie has studied with Hand

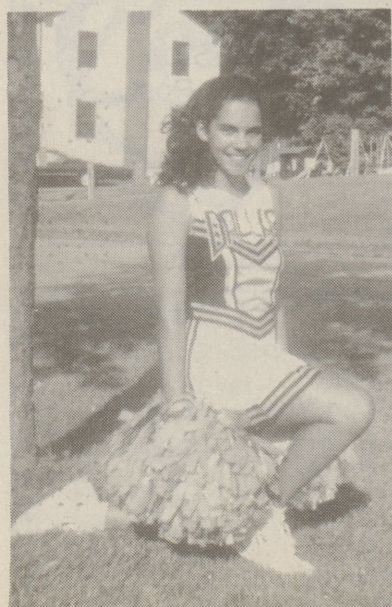
See GIRL SCOUT, pg 2



JESSICA KOZEMKO

Cheerleader earns trip to London, if she can pay for it

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff



KIM KARAVITCH

TRUCKSVILLE - Kim Karavitch has a dream, but she needs some help to make it come true. The Dallas High School senior danced her way into an elite group of cheerleaders, and earned the opportunity to fly to London the day after Christmas. But she has to pay her own way, and the \$2,000 cost is looming large.

Kim, who began her career on the sidelines for the Kingston Township Raiders junior football squad, was one of about 20 high school girls chosen as an All-Star Cheerleader during a competition held at Penn State main campus July 30. She hadn't intended to try out for the spot, but after she arrived and heard that it included a trip overseas, she decided to give it a shot.

"Oh, that would be so awesome," she recalled thinking. And

"I was so excited. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Kim Karavitch
Dallas cheerleader

it was. "It was the best feeling in the world," she said last week. "I was so excited."

Then she found out how much the trip would cost. "It made me sad when I found out. It would be hard for my family to send me," she said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

If she goes, Kim will leave for London December 26, then spend a few days playing tourist until the big New Year's Day parade, in which she and other American cheerleaders will march.

She's not really worried about the flight, but says her parents are, in light of the TWA Flight 800

tragedy. "I like to fly," she said, mentioning that she once wanted to join the Air Force. Her only airborne experience came when the Dallas cheerleading squad went to Florida last year. "I've never really been anywhere else," she said.

Kim was the only one of four Dallas cheerleaders to make All-Star. This will be her third year on the varsity squad, which followed stints on the junior varsity and junior high teams. She began cheering as something to do with friends, and that kind of group interaction still has appeal, along with dancing. "It's like a big family," she said of the team.

When she's not cheering from the sidelines, Kim plays soccer, all positions, she says, but usually defensive fullback. The daughter of Robert and Kimberly

See CHEERLEADER, pg 8

■ Pro baseball is taking a little getting used to for John Oliver. But he's off to a good start. Pg 9.

■ Kid's program wins key award for Mercy Center. Pg 7.

INDEX

16 Pages	2 Sections
Calendar.....	16
Classified.....	14-15
Crossword.....	16
Editorials.....	4
Obituaries.....	14
School.....	12-13
Sports.....	9-11

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