



# The Dallas Post

50¢

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

Vol. 107 No. 35

Dallas, Pennsylvania

August 28 thru September 3, 1996

## California firm plans TV station for Dallas, sort of

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - A group of California investors has filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission to start a new television station, ostensibly serving Dallas.

According to papers filed July 22, Pappas Telecasting of America is requesting permission to construct and operate Channel 62,

which would be an affiliate of the new WB Television Network, launched last year by Warner Brothers Studios. The filing includes a request for waiver of some FCC regulations, primarily relating to potential interference with television signals at the same frequency emanating from Allentown and Kingston, New York.

The papers make frequent reference to the investors' desire to serve the public interest by bring-

ing Dallas its first local television service. But the estimated market area is nearly 5,000 square miles with a population of 884,226. The transmitter would be located on Haystack Mountain in Hanover Township, and a legal notice published in *The Dallas Post* states the location of the studio has not been determined.

Among the arguments for a waiver, the application states: "The public interest benefits of autho-

rizing the proposed new station far outweigh any potential detriments. First, the community of Dallas would gain its first local transmission television service ... of more far-reaching importance, however, the proposed new station is part of a larger plan to allow the development of The WB Television Network as a competitive fifth national network."

The application states that WB Network will offer a 30-minute

educational children's program every morning beginning in Sept. 1997, and one hour of prime time family programs from 8 to 9 p.m. each weekday evening.

The station would be one of a series of proposed new WB Network affiliated stations in the top 100 broadcast markets. In a footnote, the investors say that national advertisers want to reach at least 80 percent of the country, but WB affiliates now reach only

65 percent.

According to the application, Warner Brothers invested \$300 million to launch the network and lost \$50-\$75 million the first year of operation. The company does not expect to break even for four years. The filing estimates that \$3,885,000 will be needed to construct and operate the local station for three months, and lists a

See TV STATION, pg 8



POST PHOTO: CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

### IT'S GOING TO BE OK

Bryan Weaver, an incoming kindergarten student at Gate of Heaven School, begins to think things may be all right after all.

His parents, Glenn and Sharon Weaver of Kingston Twp. introduced Bryan to his teacher, Mrs. Kozick. More photos, pg 5.

## Arson charge shocks fellow firefighter

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP** - A fellow firefighter doesn't understand the arson charges against assistant fire chief Joe Strazdus. Joe helps a lot of people, he says.

Strazdus was charged with three felony counts of arson, two felony counts of criminal trespass, two summary counts of criminal mischief and one felony count of burglary August 16 in connection with a fire May 25 which did \$100 in damage to a vacant home on Village Road in Orange.

"I don't know what's going on. I wasn't there that night," said Richard Bartholomew, a fire company member and temporary crew chief of the Franklin-Northmoreland Ambulance. "Joe spends all his time volunteering - he's also on the Luzerne County Emergency Management team, is

*"All I can say is he's innocent until proven guilty in a court of law."*

Howard Smith  
Franklin Twp. asst fire chief

a rescuer at Proctor & Gamble and drives the ambulance. Whenever he's called out - even in the middle of the night - he always seems to have his act together."

Being the first person at the fire hall or a fire scene doesn't mean he started it, Bartholomew added. "I'm often at the fire hall doing work, and I live nearby, so it doesn't take me long to answer a call. Joe's the same way. He has spent a lot of time up there working on the shed and doing other

See FIREFIGHTER, pg. 8

## Borough bars skateboards from streets, sidewalks

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - Skateboarders have only a month to continue considering the borough as their playground.

In response to a growing number of complaints from residents and business people, the borough council is expected to pass an ordinance banning skateboarders from all public streets, alleys and sidewalks at its September 17 meeting.

The council approved the first reading of the ordinance August 20.

Police will impound skateboards belonging to first-time offenders for up to 15 days and, in the case of minors, call the parents and mail them a copy of the ordinance. Subsequent offenses will result in the impoundment of the offenders' skateboards for up



to 30 days and a fine of \$15 to \$300. If the offender is a minor, his parents will be responsible for the fine.

Police will also enforce the ordinance in shopping centers, which are considered public thoroughfares even though they are pri-

See SKATEBOARDS., pg 8

## Polish bobsled team starts '98 Olympic quest here

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

**SHAVERTOWN** - You may have noticed the five clean cut, muscular young men wearing neat white t-shirts. You might think they are incoming students at College Misericordia or Penn State, at least until you hear them talk among themselves. When you overhear their conversation in Polish, you could easily assume they are exchange students, here for a semester of study before returning to their homeland.

But you would be wrong. These are five young men on a mission, and the path to their goal has brought them through the Back Mountain on their way to the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagana, Japan.

The quintet, all former track and field stars in Poland, make up the Polish National Bobsled team.

They are here to train and to raise funds for their team, which will attempt to qualify for the Olympics during the coming winter's racing schedule. Louis Pugh of Dallas, their manager, hopes exposure in northeastern Pennsylvania will generate donations that can be used to offset the estimated \$50,000 minimum amount needed to compete beginning in November.

"Nobody helps these kids," in Poland, Pugh said, because the emerging democratic government simply can't afford niceties like training facilities. Even with the help, this will be a bare bones team, down from a normal contingent of a dozen athletes. The five will have to race two sleds, a four-man and a two-man, so there's precious little room for error or injury.

See BOBSLED TEAM, pg 9



POST PHOTO: RON BARTIZEK

T-shirt sales will help raise funds for the Polish National Bobsled Team. Team member Jaroslaw Grzyb showed off one. The shirts are on sale at Ernie's Fitness.

## Planners send ordinances for supervisor approval

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP** - At their Aug. 19 work session and Aug. 26 regular meeting, the planning commission unanimously voted to send the drafts of two proposed ordinances to the supervisors for their approval.

According to a proposed itinerant merchants ordinance, mer-

chants who don't live in the township will be required to pay \$300 for a license, which entitles them to do business in the township for a maximum of 100 days. Itinerant merchants will also be required to have a Job Johnny on their sites if no sanitary facilities are accessible.

The ordinance doesn't apply to township residents setting up yard sales or small stands on their own

property, although these persons will also be required to have some sort of sanitary facilities available.

A proposed nuisance ordinance will prohibit the storage of rubbish, trash, waste, car or equipment parts or vehicles with expired license plates or inspection stickers. Residents may not burn garbage, tires or tar products.

Property owners may not allow

buildings to become dilapidated or unsafe, must cover wells or cisterns and may not build dams across waterways unless they have the proper state authorization. Any vacant structure which could become a fire hazard, home for rodents or attraction for people to congregate or play is also prohibited if the ordinance is passed in its present form.

### ■ Fixin the Lady

Alda Maturi is bringing an old boat back to life at Harveys Lake. Pg 3.

### ■ Biz kids Three

Lake-Lehman seniors learn about free enterprise. Pg 2.

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