



The Dallas Post

50¢

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

Vol. 108 No. 26

Dallas, Pennsylvania

June 25 thru July 1, 1997

L-L board struggling to bring down tax increase

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN - The Lake-Lehman school board continued to wrestle with budget numbers at a special meeting June 23. The district must pass a final budget by June 30. Taxpayers turned out at the meeting, concerned that a millage increase might resemble last year's 23 mills. After starting with a budget that would increase taxes by 14.3 mills, board business manager Kathleen Williams presented a revised budget with a 12.5 mill

increase. The almost 2 mill cut came from reductions in elementary school staff, as well as a reduction in specific itemized expenditures.

Superintendent Dr. William Price explained elementary school staff reduction would mean cutting slots and reassigning teachers, not cutting teachers. The estimated savings from this step is \$46,000. Price warned board members that there was no "long-term planning incorporated into the budget." Some of Price's suggestions for the upcoming years were to "institute a plan for preventative

maintenance of the buildings and grounds so that we're not facing the problems we're facing now." The district's middle school is in such poor condition that it must be replaced or rehabilitated in the next couple of years. Price also urged the importance of adding to the fund balance.

Kathleen Williams thinks the budget can be trimmed more. The general supplies area of the budget is currently at \$58,000. Under this category falls items such as industrial arts, graduation awards, and newspapers. "If we work a

little harder, I think we can cut this number in half," she told board members. Williams believes that with more cuts, the millage increase could be reduced to 8, about \$232,454 in expenditures over present revenue.

Board member Lois Kopcha objected to the lack of conversation about cuts to sports. "Not one penny has been cut from this," she said, in reference to the budget area for athletics. Price responded to Kopcha's concerns. "We are looking at the portion that is \$12 million out of a \$17 million budget. Only 2.5 percent to

2.8 percent of the budget is student activities," he said.

Karen Whipple felt that eliminating central copy would cut costs. "Paper is an expensive item and a way to control it is to give less people access," Williams explained.

Board members asked Williams and administrators to look for even more cuts. Williams will give school board members budget revisions before the weekend and a special meeting will be held Mon., June 30 at 7:30 p.m. to pass a final budget.

The newest member of council is youngest

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

HARVEYS LAKE - Harveys Lake Borough Council voted at their June meeting to appoint Dennis Hogan to the council, but the decision did not go unquestioned. Hogan was chosen to replace council member George Gwilliam who resigned last month.

Council member George Andrews, who abstained from the vote, said he objected to the way the decision was handled. "Mr. Hogan's name was mentioned along with several other community members," he said. "I was under the impression that we were going to have another executive session to discuss this."

The rest of the council members voted to appoint Hogan, making the 26 year old the youngest member of the council. Hogan, a 1988 graduate of Lake-Lehman High School, is employed by Trade Eastern Inc. A lifelong resident of

See NEW MEMBER, pg 8



SWINGIN' SISTERS

Music from Sister Act was on the list during last weekend's bazaar at Gate of Heaven Church in Dallas Borough. Marcia Matthews

led an enthusiastic Marcie Brennan and the rest of the choir in one number. More photos on page 3.

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

College prof named ass't super

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Dr. Michael Speziale is the new assistant superintendent for the Dallas School District. The school board voted unanimously Monday to hire Speziale for a four-year term with an annual salary of \$65,000.

"Dr. Speziale brings to Dallas a background in technology, staff development, grant writing and an ability to work with the administration, staff, parents and students of the district," said Dr. Gil Griffiths, superintendent. "He comes to the district from College Misericordia where he spent the past several years developing the distance-learning lab technology and child accounting programs."

The board also appointed Jack Wolensky, currently high school guidance counselor and baseball coach, to the position of school district athletic director, replacing Bob Cicon, who retired.

Speziale has been an assistant professor of education at College Misericordia for the last eight years. He worked at the Luzerne

See ASST SUPER pg 8

New pastor reports to Gate of Heaven Church July 2

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - As of July 1 Reverend John C. Lambert, 46, will be the new pastor at the Gate of Heaven Church. He will replace Reverend David P. Cappelloni, who will become pastor at the Church of Resurrection in Nuncy. Lambert is currently an administrator for the Church of St. Luke in Jersey Shore, west of Williamsport.

Lambert is excited about his new assignment. "I'm looking

forward to being at Gate of Heaven. It's both exciting and frightening," he said of moving to a new congregation. "It's wonderful to meet new people and get to know them." Lambert said not knowing anyone or the system of a place is the only scary part at first.

But, he doesn't anticipate any problems because he is moving into a community that shares his love of God. "I'm moving into a community that's already



REV. JOHN C. LAMBERT

nourished by the word of God. I will just continue to nurture that."

Lambert was born in Hartford, Connecticut, but was raised in Plains. He said he is happy to be back closer to his family. He attended Sacred Heart School and Plains Memorial High School. Lam-

bert then attended the University of Scranton and completed his preparatory studies at the Theological College of The Catholic University of America in

Washington D.C.

He was ordained a priest in 1984 in St. Peter's Cathedral. Lambert has had appointments in Wilkes-Barre, Williamsport and Lycoming County. Priests are ordained for service in the Diocese of Scranton, which includes 11 counties. Assignments usually take place annually.

The soon-to-be new priest on the block is looking forward to discovering the people of Gate of Heaven's hopes, dreams and expectations and becoming a part of the congregation.

State says Dallas school enrollment will drop 20%

Local officials disagree, say student count stable

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - The state projects enrollment in the Dallas School District will drop by about 650 students in the next 10 years, but Dr. Gil Griffiths, superintendent, isn't worried.

The Department of Education Data Services division projects total district enrollment to decrease from 2,998 (including the new elementary school) to 2,340

within a decade. Griffiths does not foresee such a significant drop.

"For the last seven years, the district has stayed within the 2,500 to 2,600 range. We gain and lose approximately 50 students every year," said Griffiths, who refers enrollment numbers as a "static growth pattern."

The Dept. of Education takes the past five year historical data

See ENROLLMENT, pg 8

The players are smaller, but it's still the Major League

By JENNIFER KLAIPS
Sports Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. - The tension mounted as the White Sox and Athletics moved ahead in their playoff games. Victories will place them face-to-face in the final game of the World Series. But this wasn't Major League Baseball. It's the Major League Girls' Softball Little League playoffs.

After being postponed by rain Sunday, the girls competed Monday evening for a place in the all-important final game. The Yankees met the White Sox in the first game. The White Sox took the win by a final score of 16-6. The second game, between the Athletics and the Red Sox was more competitive. The Athletics came away with a 10-8 victory.

The White Sox and Athletics will now play each other Thursday at 7:45 p.m. to determine who will be the league champion.

See MAJOR LEAGUE, pg 9



Jamie Flack fielded a grounder, backed up by Heidi Simko during the playoff game between the Yankees and White Sox. Kelly Corbett watched the action from second.

POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Johnny Oliver

sitting on sidelines as he recovers from a hamstring injury. Pg 9.

Building battle

Neighbors still fighting new fire station on E. Center Hill Rd. Pg 5.

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