



The Back Mountain's

Newspaper Since 1889

# The Dallas Post

50 Cents

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

Vol. 112, No. 23

Dallas, Pennsylvania

June 6 to June 12, 2001



The Morrow mansion at 160 Lakeside Drive, Harveys Lake, as it appeared until last week, when it was demolished.

## Now you see it, now you don't Harveys Lake mansion taken down last week

**HARVEYS LAKE** - The most notorious home at Harveys Lake is nothing more than a memory.

Where once stood a 13 room mansion with six bedrooms, seven baths, sauna, jacuzzi, olympic size indoor swimming pool and a 10-car garage, all that is left, is a neatly landscaped lawn.

The home, on approximately 1 1/2 acres including a 218 foot lakefront and 125 foot dock, was

built over the past 20 years by Al Morrow, a reputed dealer in pornographic materials.

On April 30, a permit was issued in the name of Kathy Willauer for Pole 160, P.O. Box 103, Harveys Lake, for the demolition of the house on the property. Brdaric Excavating is named as the contractor for the demolition work on the permit issued by Harveys Lake. See HOUSE, pg 5



An empty lot was all that remained on Monday afternoon.



POST PHOTO/PETE G. WILCOX

## They're tops!

The Dallas Mountaineers baseball team won the District 2 championship last week, topping Meyers 3-1 with daring play in the bottom of the sixth inning. Sharing the joy along with the championship plaque, from left, first row: Ben Coslett, Ryan Bolton, Josh Katyl, A.J. Harris, Mike Smith, Jeremy Harris, Ryan Gryskevicz. Back row: Collin McHale, Mike English, Darryl Evans, Josh Bryant. More photos on sports page.

## 9% increase projected for Dallas school taxes

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - Taxpayers in the Dallas School District will be paying 9 percent more next year if the tentative budget for 2001-2002 is adopted.

The budget, which must be finalized by June 30, projects \$21.7 million in spending and \$20.7 million in revenues, leaving a shortfall of nearly \$1 million. As a result, the estimated fund balance would shrink from \$4.6 million to \$3.6 million. The balance decreased by nearly \$600,000 in the present budget year.

To support the plan, the real estate tax millage rate would increase from 174 to 190. Last year's rate was a 4 mill increase from 1999-2000.

Salaries and benefits for personnel account for \$12.9 million, or 59 percent of the spending. Debt service and fees add up to \$2.7 million. The district has been on an aggressive renovation program in recent years, with the construction of a new athletic fieldhouse and the Wycallis Elementary School, and renovations to the football stadium. A massive project to renovate the middle school is to start this summer.

Local tax sources provide 64 percent of the district's funding, the vast majority of it from property taxes. Other taxes are an earned income tax of 1 percent, shared equally with municipal governments, and a \$10 per capita tax.

## Bookkeeper admits stealing over \$100,000 from employer

By HEATHER B. JONES  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - A Dallas woman stole more than \$100,000 from her employer, a general construction firm, over nearly two years.

On March 8, Doris Fitch, wife of Drew Fitch, vice president and secretary of R.N. Fitch and Sons, Inc., Dallas, noticed something out of the ordinary on the desk of secretary Donna Marie Yachim's desk. It was a check laying face down. When Fitch flipped the check over and saw

the check was made payable to Donna Yachim in the amount of \$2,500, almost two years of theft had been uncovered.

Yachim was hired by as a general secretary at R.N. Fitch and Sons on September 21, 1998. Eventually her duties were expanded to include creation of the payroll and addressing accounts payable. She was also responsible for the daily balance ledger.

Approximately two years ago Ronald Fitch, president, authorized Yachim to sign his name to contracts in the office. Yachim

also started signing Ronald Fitch's name to other documents, including checks.

When Doris Fitch found the check on Yachim's desk she told her husband, which led to an internal audit. The audit revealed the daily balance ledger was not always added properly, short-changing the firm's funds. It was also discovered that certain cancelled checks, dating back to July 22, 1999 were nowhere to be found.

Drew Fitch contacted Mellon Bank and asked for copies of 44 missing account payable checks

which had been made out to Yachim in the amounts of \$2,000 or \$2,500. Four other checks had been made out to Yachim in the amounts of \$500, \$3,200 and two for \$3,000. The total of the 44 missing checks was \$103,700.

But it did not end there. Further investigation into the payroll account revealed since around August of 2000, Yachim was paying herself \$1 an hour more than her hourly rate of \$9.50. The total amount from the payroll account was \$1,600.

Yachim admitted to writing

the checks out to herself. She said she would call up the accounts payable screen of her computer, fill in her name as the payee and list office supplies as the reason for payment. She would then print out the check and then delete the screen. She would always print the checks with other account payable checks.

Yachim completed the handwritten ledger without listing her checks but always included them in the running total so the

See THEFT, pg 8

## Next step for Act 50 group may be last

By HEATHER B. JONES  
Post Staff

**LEHMAN** - Frustrated and bewildered members of the Act 50 Commission are questioning what their next steps will be.

At the May 29 meeting of the Lake-Lehman School District Act 50 Commission, school director Moderno Rossi, a commission member, questioned if the commission was formed legally on April 17. "My opinion

See ACT 50, pg 8



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

Charles Stajewski is pictured with nine scouts from his original Cub Scout troop who have become Eagle Scouts. From left, front row: Peter Van Loon, John Gilligan, Brian Cornia, Dan Piccollo and Chuck Stajewski. Back row: Matt Katyl, Michael Yenason, Peter Yurchision and Sean Smith.

## Trusted Scoutmaster hands over the reins

By M.B. GILLIGAN  
Post Correspondent

**TRUCKSVILLE** - "Mr. Stajewski is the man!" Those five words, so eloquently chanted recently by several Eagle Scouts, speak volumes about their feelings for their Boy Scout leader. Charles Stajewski retired on May 1 as Scoutmaster of Troop 155 of Trucksville United Methodist Church. He started as a Cub Scout leader in 1992 and became Scoutmaster in 1996. He felt the time had come to pass the torch.

"We've found an energetic, in-

terested new Scoutmaster, Robert Welnski, who has a son in the troop," said Stajewski. "I plan to hang out and help the troop for a while yet. There are a couple of scouts who are close to becoming Eagle and I'll definitely stay around for that."

Stajewski's association with Troop 155 began when he helped with his then first grader's Tiger Den. The following year he accepted the role of Cub Scout leader and hasn't looked back since.

"At some of our Cub Scout den

See SCOUTMASTER, pg 8

### INDEX

16 Pages, 2 Section	
Calendar.....	16
Classified.....	12
Crossword.....	10
Editorials.....	4
Obituaries.....	2
School.....	11
Sports.....	9

CALL 675-5211  
FOR HOME DELIVERY,  
NEWS OR ADVERTISING  
E-mail: dalpost@epix.net

The Dallas Post

Please enclose this label with any address changes,  
and mail to The Dallas Post P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612-0366