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

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## Accused child molester released next day on bail

By HEATHER B. JONES  
Post Staff

**DALLAS TWP.** - A Dallas man was free on bail one day after he was charged with molesting a 15-year-old boy.

Bryan Kocis's parents used real estate as collateral for the \$75,000 bail Friday, according to a source at the Luzerne County jail. District Justice James Tupper set bail Thursday during Kocis's arraignment.

Dallas Township police and investigators from the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office spent several hours Thursday searching Kocis's residence at 60 Midland Drive for evidence. Kocis has lived there for more than 12 years, said neighbors.

Kocis, 39, is charged with rape, statutory sexual assault, aggravated indecent assault, indecent assault, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, corruption of minors, sexual abuse of children, and unlawful contact or commu-

nication with a minor.

According to court papers the 15-year-old victim, of South Whitehall Township, met Kocis through the internet. They met on-line in an AOL chat room called male to male.

Kocis, who operates Cobra Video Company, an adult video company that sells videos via the internet, allegedly promised the boy a modeling job when he turned 18. Kocis asked the boy to send him "dirty" photos which the boy did.

In May, the boy told police Kocis picked him up and took him to the Dallas Township house. Once they entered the residence, Kocis showed the boy his studio in the basement. The two sat on the couch in the basement and Kocis allegedly showed the boy pornographic videos, after which some of the alleged sexual acts took place. Kocis told the boy he had the video cameras on and they were going to do a "little show."

In early June, Kocis again picked the boy up and took him to 60 Midland Drive.

The boy told investigators he was under the impression Kocis had a job for him packaging video cases, and he would be paid for his services.

Kocis took the boy into the living room to show him a tape he recorded from Showtime called "Queer as Folk" and engaged in a sexual act. The boy said Kocis then offered an open can of soda. The boy told authorities that after drinking the soda he felt really tired.

See OUT ON BAIL, pg 8

## Permit laws being ignored

Even large parties should get okay from zoning office

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

**LEHMAN TWP.** - Ignorance is no excuse before the law, even when local zoning rules are violated.

"It has been my experience that when contacting an individual about the failure to secure the proper zoning permit for an item constructed or an event held, his or her usual response is, 'I didn't know I needed a permit,'" said Charles E. Bartlett, zoning officer for Lehman Township.

Failure to obtain a zoning permit is a violation of the zoning ordinances of Lehman Township and may result in the imposing of a fine. Obtaining a permit for construction or for holding an event is not just a revenue item for any municipality. Unapproved and unsupervised work or gatherings may cause health, safety and legal issues that one may not think about in the excitement of doing something new on your property or hosting an annual picnic.

Bartlett points out some scenarios where failure to go through the permit review process may cause a related incident or accident. "Resurfacing on your property may cause unwanted or obstructive drainage on an adjacent property, or you may accidentally cross over property lines. Digging a hole without the knowledge of the location of utility lines and pipelines is not only dangerous, but it may disrupt the flow of power and water in your neighborhood. Placing a sign on your property may affect the visibility of drivers going up and down your street and cause an accident. And last but not least, hosting a large group of people may pose

See PERMITS, pg 8



POST PHOTO/HEATHER B. JONES

## Drumming up business

Lake-Lehman football players and cheerleaders raised money on Saturday with a car wash at Noon's Service Station on the Memorial Highway. Football players, from left, Dave Strenfel, Mike Mully, Jim Mahon, and Matt Galka know have a good time while working hard. More photos on page 6.

## Back Mountain artisans' handiwork on display

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - The Endless Mountains Council of the Arts Gallery in Tunkhannock was the setting recently for the opening reception of an exhibit honoring Northeastern Pennsylvania's master clay and textile artists. Ten artisans are featured at the gallery; two of them, Richard Fuller and Skip Sensbach, are from the Back Mountain area.

Richard Fuller, Dallas, is a master textile artist and retired professor from Wilkes University. "My love for teaching and a fascination with indigo resist dye processes have served as guiding forces in my careers as an artist and educator," said Fuller. "I am a surface designer and pattern artist who enjoys working with three-dimensional fabric forms."

The techniques and materials used in his work are derived from a traditional Japanese resist dye technique called shibori, which means to wring, squeeze or press to manipulate cloth. "I lived and studied in Kyoto, Japan," said Fuller. "This experience sparked my interest in this Japanese process of fabric embellishment. My current work reflects my interest in the nuances of color, light and surface with repeated patterns which shift and contrast against dark and light surfaces."



POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

Richard Fuller worked at his desk in his Dallas home. His shibori prints are on display through July 31 in Tunkhannock.

The finished product takes the form of framed, multi-sectional wall pieces. The beauty found in these indigo patterns, like flowers, requires time to appreciate.

While at Wilkes University for 31 years, Fuller served as a Professor of Art and Chairperson of the Art Department. He holds a BS degree in Art Education from New York University and an

MA from Columbia University. He now holds the title of Professor Emeritus of Art at Wilkes.

His works have been shown and given awards in many regional and state juried exhibitions. In 1994 he was invited to have a one person show at the University of Scranton. His work hangs in private collections throughout Pennsylvania and New York. Many of his latest creations are available for sale at the Endless Mountains Gallery.

Fuller lives in Dallas with his wife, Cheryl. They have two children and one grandchild.

Skip Sensbach, Lehman, is a master clay artist whose interests and talents lay in the multidimensional art form of clay pottery. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Kean University in New Jersey. "I studied painting and other art forms," said Sensbach, "but the forms, textures and dimensions of clay hold my interest the most because it is a functional form of artistic expression."

For the past five years, Sensbach has worked in his basement workshop molding mounds of clay into beautiful vases, coffee mugs, plates, bowls, candle holders and more. "You have to consider the predominant use of a piece of pottery and understand the ergonomic needs of the user in order to make the

See ARTISANS, pg 8

## Meeting will decide fate of Lake Twp. cops

By HEATHER B. JONES  
Post Staff

**LAKE TWP.** - The Lake Township Board of Supervisors have scheduled a meeting Thursday, July 19 to discuss disbanding the township police force.

Inadequate finances are cited as the reason supervisors are discussing dissolving the force, said David Walkowiak, supervisor chairman. He estimates police services cost the municipality \$100,000 each year. Currently, the township police force consists of two full-time officers and one officer who works 32 hours a week.

The issue was first brought up in November and December but never went any further, Walkowiak said. At that time, the township was able to obtain two grants which totaled \$10,000 for the police force.

If Lake Township does disband its department, residents will call the Pennsylvania State Police in an emergency situation. Walkowiak said he talked to officials in Ross Township and Union Township and there has not been a problem with those two municipalities calling the State Police.

Walkowiak said the price of everything has gone up, but the municipality is still operating on the same budget. Lake Township has not raised taxes since 1972, he said.

The thought of dissolving the police force is alarming to Brenda Kittle. She said when she asked the supervisors at a recent meeting why they were going

See LAKE TWP. POLICE, pg 8

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