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



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Cyclones win U-12 Travel championship. Pg 11.



SCHOOL
Coat drive underway at Dallas High School. Pg 13.



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'Locks of Love' aids cancer victims. Pg 7.



POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

Crowds of people reached into parking areas at the Disque Funeral Home all through the viewing service for 16-year-old Casey Zalenski Monday night.

Community mourns loss of beloved teen

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS - People attending the viewing for Casey Zalenski on Monday said they weren't surprised so many turned out to show support for the Zalenski family and to say good bye to a friend. Several hundred classmates, teachers, friends, teammates and members of the community lined up to pay their respects to the teen who was murdered in his home Friday, November 8.

"It's great to see how everyone cared about him," said Stephanie Yachim, a Dallas junior classmate. "But I'm not surprised," chimed in Dallas junior Cassie

"He cared a lot about everyone. He was everyone's friend. He had no enemies."

Cassie Miller
Dallas junior



Casey Zalenski

Miller. "He cared a lot about everyone. He was everyone's friend. He had no enemies," said Miller. Friends stood in line waiting to get into the viewing for hours in some cases, talking about who Casey was, the shock of his murder and how he'll be missed. They painted the picture of a talented, hard-working teen with a good sense of humor. "He was really quiet, but once you got to know him, he was a re-

See CASEY, pg 10

Robbery gone sour said to lead to shooting death

From Staff Reports

FRANKLIN TWP. - A botched robbery appears to have led to the death of a 16-year-old Dallas High School student, who was shot and killed November 8 after a man and woman stormed into his home demanding money, police said. The teen's 14-year-old brother, who told police he recognized the woman, jumped out of an attic window to escape and called 911, but by the time they arrived, his brother had been shot three times and died. Police said Casey Zalenski and his brother,

Thomas, were home alone Friday when Tina Marie Young, 33, and Larry Daniel Tooley, 46, stormed into their wood-frame home on Demunds Road. Thomas Zalenski, who was unhurt in his escape, provided police with information about the intruders, said state trooper Tom Kelly. Police said Young and Tooley entered the Zalenski home at about 10:20 a.m. Thomas told police he saw Young and a man he didn't know pull into the driveway then enter the home minutes before his brother's altercation with the man. The brothers ran to hide in the attic when the pair entered the house, but Casey left the

hiding spot to find out what was going on, according to an affidavit filed with state police investigators. Hiding in the attic, Thomas Zalenski heard a loud male voice tell his brother, Casey, "I want your money." Thomas heard his brother say he didn't have any, but the man kept repeating the same phrase "I want your money. I want your money." Thomas told police he then heard a "loud noise" and Casey scream then start to cry before the man said "If you don't give me

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Eagles lift off from Troop 155

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS - Could it be something in the water? On average 2 percent of Boy Scouts make it to Eagle rank. Why is it, then, that Troop 155 has made 10 for 10? To get to Eagle rank, each boy has to go through six ranks, 21 merit badges, an Eagle scout service project and pass a board of review. Ask Scoutmaster Charlie Stajewski where the success of his troop comes from and he'll say it's the parents and kids. Ask the parents why their troop had such great success and they'll credit Stajewski. Either way, the road to Eagle started early. The majority of the kids got together in first grade as Tiger cubs. "We made it a family affair," said Anne Marie Stajewski. "Everyone from siblings, moms, dads would get involved. We always had extra projects for the brothers and sisters." The group said Charlie and Anne Marie have been pivotal to the group's success. "The two of them were such a good team it was like we were along for the ride," said Nadine



POST FILE PHOTO

Charles Stajewski is surrounded by Eagle Scouts from left: Peter Van Loon, Matt Karyl, John Gilligan, Michael Yenason, Brian Cornia, Peter Yurchison, Dan Piccillo, Sean Smith and Chuck Stajewski. Missing from photo is Chris Young.

Young, scout Chris Young's mother. Charlie Stajewski said he couldn't have asked for a better group of parents. "They weren't afraid to get their hands dirty," he said. He believes that, in the end, the parents had just as much fun as the kids. Many of the parents agreed. "All of the parents just got

along so well. The parents would go along to help. It was just like a wonderful family," said Jean Piccillo, mother of scout Dan Piccillo. All of the parents and Stajewski talk about how wonderful the kids are. Mary Barbara Gilligan, mother of John Gilligan, called the boys "the leaders of tomorrow" and said many are already

leading the way. Within the group there is an EMT, a volunteer firefighter, a licensed pilot, a class president and class vice president. The boys have also won numerous academic scholarships and awards and many are active in sports. Stajewski said that his scouts

See EAGLES, pg 3

Dallas Middle school project now on time, under budget

Staff report

DALLAS TWP. - Renovations at the Dallas Middle School project will be done before new furniture arrives. That's what Len Gallo, representing Reynolds Construction Management Company, told school directors at the November 11 meeting of the Dallas School Board. Gallo went through a list of items that are in the works, then said, "We're looking to get everything back on track and complete it by April, as originally scheduled." Anthony Martinelli, principal of the school, said a shipment of new furniture would arrive in July, and wanted to be sure the work would be done. One school director joked that Martinelli should have said the furniture was coming sooner, to keep the pressure on the contractors. Among the facets of the project yet to be completed are the library, auditorium, industrial arts room and home economics room. The natatorium, which had been a thorn in contractors' sides, is in the final stages of finish work. "We're very happy and proud of finally getting it

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