

THE DALLAS POST

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DALLAS, PA. TWENTY CENTS



CONCENTRATION-Concentration was the name of the game in the district playoff between the Lady Knights and Carbondale Chargettes last week. The Lake-Lehman girls concentrated and also played extremely well to edge Carbondale 1-0 and advance to the state playoffs. More photos on P. 13 (Photo by Bob Hemmerly)

Prices, dollars go crazy... a local look at inflation

by Tom Mooney
"The dollar is declining."
"Interest rates are higher than ever."
"The stock market is shaky."
"But, then again, it doesn't really affect me."

Or does it? According to Back Mountain representatives of major elements of the business community, such facts of economic life as these have a major effect on all of us at present and indicate that, unless we accept the unpleasant truth and face up to some hard choices in the next few years, our collective future will be bleak indeed.

Most pessimistic is Ken Adams, investment counselor with Thomson McKinnon Securities Inc. of Wilkes-Barre, who said this week that "We'll go to Hell in a handbasket" if we refuse to try to understand the clear warning signals and make the necessary decisions.

Adams predicted "hyperinflation" and "social unrest" as the logical consequences of what he portrayed as general failure to grasp and deal with root problems.

To Adams, everything boils down to the simple fact that government on all levels, but particularly the federal government, is spending too much money and sponsoring too much unproductivity—chiefly in the areas of welfare and bureaucracy.

Foreign nations, continued Adams, are cultivating better productivity and suffering less government intervention in the marketplace while we practice a "welfarism and nepotism" that erodes our economic strength.

High interest rates, according to Adams, not only constrict the economy, but also prefigure economic crashes, with today's discount lending

rate of nine percent a full point higher than the eight that preceded the 1974 recession.

Some investors, he added, are becoming "scared" and are getting out of the stock market, which produces not only turbulence in the market but fear among those who deal in it—a fact that bodes ill for the rest of us.

Peter Weaver, treasurer of Wilkes-Barre Clay Products, Forty Fort, agreed with Adams in most particulars.

He cautioned consumers to remember that a lower international dollar value may make it easier for foreigners to buy American goods, but that it also makes it tougher for Americans to buy from other countries.

With the United States heavily dependent upon foreign imports, as others have pointed out, particularly in oil, a dollar that doesn't go as far abroad threatens to force us to pay more or buy less, and in any case to live less well than we have lived.

Weaver pointed out that the high interest rates that seem so distant from us on TV or in the papers serve to restrict working capital needed by investors if they are to open new plants and begin new projects, providing the jobs needed for tomorrow.

Likewise, consumers will find it more difficult to raise the cash to make the purchases of homes, cars, and other items they need to improve their own lives.

He downplayed the stock market somewhat, though, calling it "a good leading indicator" of how business will be and having little immediate impact in itself.

Like Adams, Weaver predicted hard times ahead, claiming that we are probably headed for a recession early in 1979.

The utilities that we depend on so much, according to Fred Hartwigsen, manager of consumer relations at UGI in Kingston, are likewise deeply concerned by the danger signals.

Although UGI, Hartwigsen said, relies on domestic coal, other utilities may be heavily dependent upon imported energy sources, and so when their prices go up, so do the prices consumers have to pay. Or else the consumers just can't use as much light or heat or power as before.

Tight money is of special worry to UGI, Hartwigsen continued, because the utility is "capital intense" and must borrow at high interest rates (passing costs along to consumers) if it is to modernize, expand, and add new customers.

"The higher cost of money really affects us," said Hartwigsen.

Robert Richardson, commercial lending officer and vice-president of the First Eastern Bank, expressed the belief that federal attempts to combat inflation by keeping the prime interest rate high brings economic stagnation generally.

Business, he said, has less money to work with in purchasing new capital assets and expanding merchants cannot tie up much money in inventory merchandise, and banks have to charge borrowers high interest rates because it costs them more to get the funds in the first place.

"The cost of obtaining lendable funds is a real problem," he affirmed, adding that there seems to be a consumer rush to try to "beat" rising costs by purchasing quickly and going heavily into debt.

Richardson also foresaw a 1979



recession, with some sort of pickup in the later part of the year.

If the men involved in investment, business, utilities, and lending on a day-to-day basis are any sort of guides, general predictions would seem to be that what the daily economic news means to us is that:

1) It's going to cost more to buy things such as oil from overseas, and our standard of living is going to suffer.

2) At least for quite some time, money is going to be tight, meaning that fewer businesses will be starting

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Dallas Church invites Thanksgiving guests

Dear Friends in the Back Mountain,

Thanksgiving Day brings memories of those times in the past when we celebrated with family and friends around the table laden with food. The good times we shared are important to us for they filled the heart even as the food nourished our bodies.

The holidays can be especially lonely for those who are separated from their families. The festive atmosphere of the Thanksgiving feast is difficult to capture when it is for one or two.

Should this be your experience, we invite you to join with us in Thanksgiving Day Dinner as our guest, November 23, 2 p.m. at the Dallas United Methodist Church. Come and let us share together in the spirit of Thanksgiving. Please make your reservation no later than November 20, by calling 675-5701. We will provide transportation for you.

In the richness of God's love,

Sincerely,
Council on Ministries
Dallas United Methodist Church

Medical center could put Lehman Twp. 'in violation' of act

At Monday night's meeting, Alvin Cragle, secretary of Lehman Township read a letter from the Department of Environmental Resources claiming that the Back Mountain Medical Center is in "violation" of the Pennsylvania Sewage Treatment Act because the center is not included in the official sewage facilities plan for Lehman Township.

Clergy Assn.

Thanksgiving service set

The Back Mountain Clergy Association invites everyone to an ecumenical Thanksgiving service to be held on Wednesday, Nov. 22.

The service will be held at Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Dallas with the Rev. Paul R. Bauer, pastor of the carverton United Methodist Church as the preacher. Persons from other churches will also participate. The time of the service is 7:30 p.m.

DAMA to bring delinquents to sheriff's sale

At Thursday's meeting, the board of the Dallas Area Municipal Authority authorized solicitor Merton Jones to bring judgements against the owners of 10 Back Mountain properties, who have failed to pay their sewer assessments. These properties will be sold at the next sheriff's sale.

According to Jones, these property owners have been contacted countless times by mail. They have made no attempt to pay or make arrangements to pay.

Judgements will be brought against the following property owners. Kingston Township residents are John and June Anderson; Beverly and Richard Achuff; Stanley Evans; and Bertha Hontz.

Dallas Township residents are Florence Downend; Lester and Cecelia Campbell; Eugene Lavelle, Jr.; David Griffith; Robert Maharty and Elmer Reese.

Dallas Borough residents are Conrad and Patricia Hislop; and Joseph and Nellie McCarken. California residents, who own property in Dallas Borough,

According to Lehman Township Sewage Enforcement Officer LeRoy Roberts even though the center is still in the planning stages, a letter of intent to build should have been sent to the township zoning board. In order to comply with the sewage treatment

Dallas school board agrees (almost) on meeting decisions

Motions made at the Dallas School Board meeting on Monday night were overwhelmingly approved by the members even though unanimity eluded the directors.

There was at least one "no" vote on most of the decisions. Directors Patricia Gregory, Basil Russin, and Earl Fritzes cast more solo negative votes than at any meeting since the beginning of the fiscal year, each taking turns at being the minority of one.

Fritzes cast the first negative vote when director Harry Lefko made the motion to appoint Charles Preece as assistant basketball coach in the Dallas Senior High School for the 1978-79 year.

Fritzes stated that he had the utmost respect for Preece and considered him an outstanding individual and teacher but he believed the board should appoint someone with more basketball experience.

Russin voted against the appointment of Mrs. Diane Hunt of Dallas as a fulltime senior high school guidance counselor. He prefaced his vote by first stating that he was happy to have an applicant as well qualified as Mrs. Hunt and that he felt sure she would do a good job. He said the screening of applicants came down to two individuals, Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Raymond S. Russin, the latter, Basil Russin's aunt.

Russin said both were qualified and although Mrs. Hunt had four years as a secondary education counselor and Mrs. Russin had experience only as an elementary counselor, it was his opinion Mrs. Russin should be appointed since she was previously employed by the Dallas School District.

He stated that the biggest problem he could see was that the position was in the high school, and that Mrs. Hunt's husband, Brook, was already employed as the assistant principal in

act, a back hoe test pit must be dug to see if the land conforms with this act.

Roberts stated that he had contacted Joe Kileen, member of the board of the Back Mountain Medical Center, to make the board aware of this problem.

After the meeting, a spokesman for DER clarified the claim by explaining that technically the township was in "violation" of the state act because it had not yet fulfilled the procedure for modifying the sewage facilities plan.

The spokesman said that every time

the age of 70 unless such contracts are mutually extended; and the second to amend the personnel physical examination policy No. 4114 to require employees to submit a written statement from a physician indicating that they are physically sound prior to assuming their duties; also submit to a chest x-ray every two years and submit a report to the school nurse and submit to a special medical examination if the board requires it.

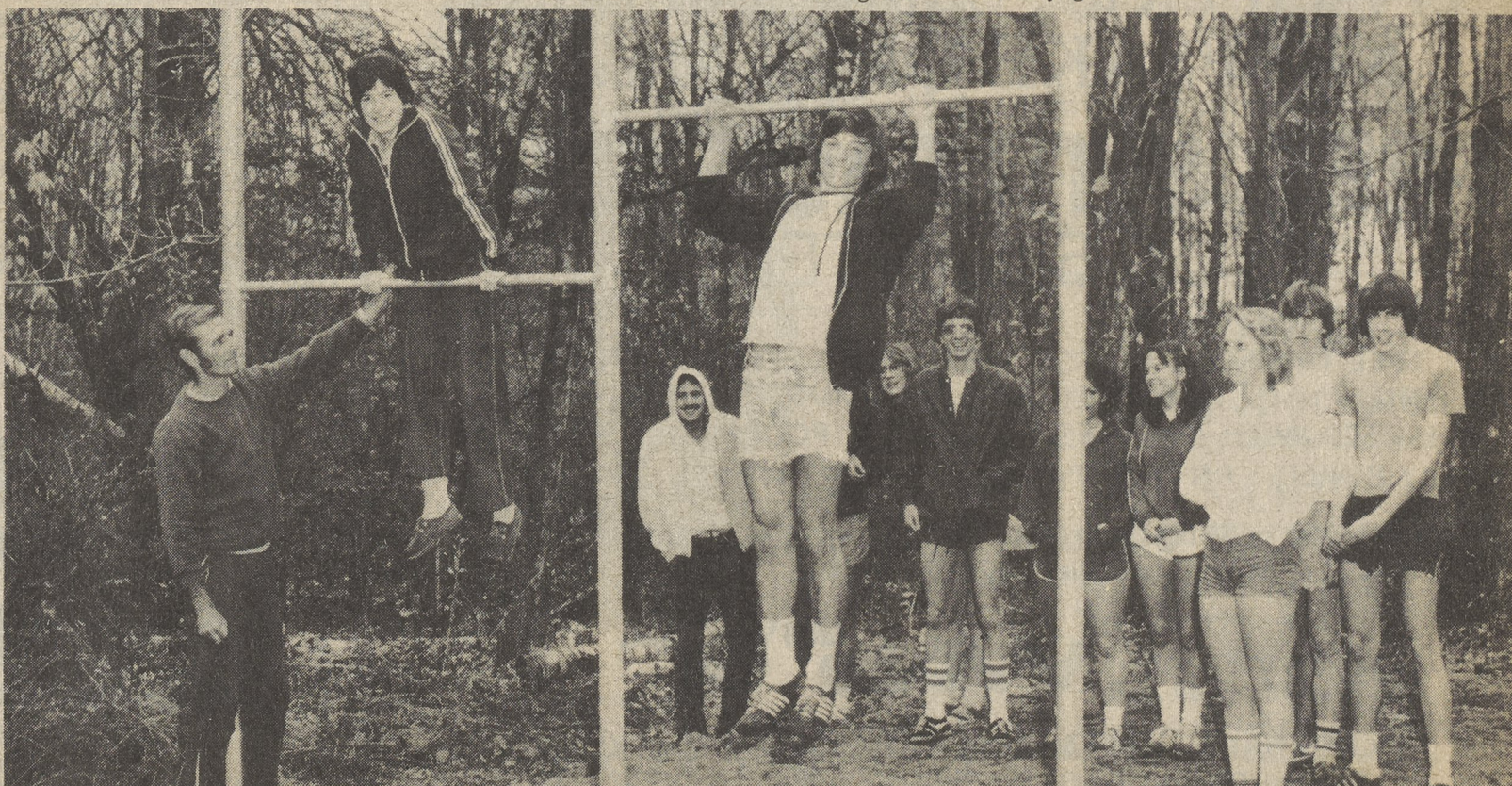
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PHYSICAL FITNESS—A jogging and fitness path has been opened on the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus in Lehman. It extends around most of the campus and includes exercise equipment along the way. Above, two

students, Perian Cohen, at left, and Dave Fine, at right, try the chin-up bars, as Charles E. Boughton, assistant professor of physical education, watches from the front. (Photo by Alex Rebar)