

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Let's change our approach to alcohol

As the issue of underage drinking has been brought to the forefront of our attention by an unfortunate event, isn't it time we began to address the causes and not the symptoms of this problem?

Underlying the harm that excessive alcohol consumption brings to so many American households is a fascination with overdrinking that exists here, but not in many other developed societies. Through a mature approach and strict enforcement, many nations have all but eliminated most of the dangerous consequences of intoxication.

Perhaps our young people's fascination with drinking alcohol is a direct result of the double standard we apply so obviously to this activity. How can a young person help but notice the advertisements that link drinking with healthy, vigorous people depicted in appealing social situations? And how can they square the rigid age limit that we have placed on alcohol use with their own perception of the abuse that occurs among those who are "of age?"

We think that they can't, and they shouldn't be made to. America once tried to ban alcohol altogether, in the misguided belief that the substance - and not our abuse of it - was the problem. That unsuccessful experiment should have taught us that not only is it impossible to control people to that extent, it's inadvisable.

Responsible behavior is not enforced, it's learned. In most European countries there is no age at which drinking alcohol becomes legal. Instead, parents allow their children appropriate portions of wine or liquor in a matter-of-fact way that eliminates any youthful fascination. One need only read the comments of exchange students to learn the difference between European attitudes and our own toward alcohol use.

Coupled with this enlightened approach is unyielding enforcement of laws against aberrations such as driving while intoxicated. In most of Europe and in several other nations around the world, severe penalties are meted out for drunken driving. These include mandatory short-term jail sentences for a first offense, and much longer ones for a second, along with instant loss of driving privileges.

Of course, to give our youngsters a healthy attitude toward alcohol, we must have one ourselves. It's not enough to ask them to be responsible while abusing alcohol ourselves. "Do as I say, not as I do" has never been effective advice. But it is still given too often, particularly when the subject is alcohol use in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Is underage drinking illegal? Of course it is. Do laws prevent it? Obviously not.

Maybe it's time to adopt the European approach; it could prove healthier for both children and adults.

Have a safe Independence Day

The Independence Day holiday is approaching, and with it the danger of injury to those who celebrate with fireworks. We urge everyone who plans a miniature version of the Revolutionary War to do so carefully and while in full command of their faculties.

Fireworks are fun, and a traditional part of this holiday with many families. Keep the fun in it by being sure to supervise children properly, and by being careful to avoid the kind of accident that in a moment can leave a person crippled permanently.

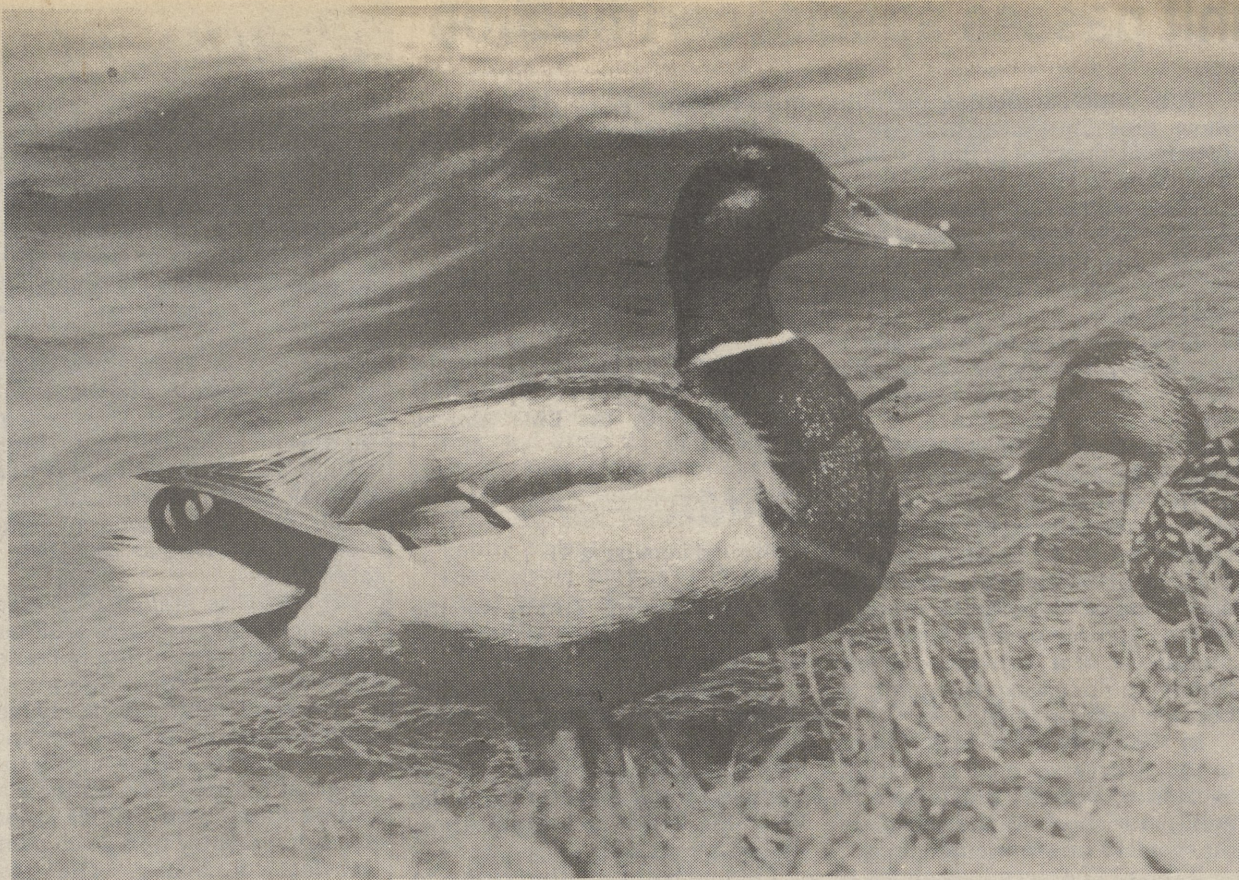
According to the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, 3,500 of the estimated 14,000 injuries that will be caused by fireworks accidents this year will be eye injuries, and 1,000 cause some degree of blindness.

Let's take precautions to see that none of these occur here.

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Ducks a lot

Residents of Harveys Lake are amused and delighted by pairs of mating mallards like this outstanding couple at the public boat launch. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Letters

Urges support for local blood drive July 6

Dear Friend,
The American Red Cross Blood Services, located here in the Wyoming Valley, meets the blood needs of all patients in area hospitals. Many of us living here in the Back Mountain area have friends and relatives who have benefited from transfusions of blood, donated by volunteer donors.

The volunteer donor is the key to the American Red Cross's program, and the Back Mountain in particular has a long and proud history of supporting local blood drives. Over the past two years, however, there has been some loss

of support - not only here, but across the entire area served by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Region of the American Red Cross. This loss of support has resulted in blood being imported from Europe to meet local needs. My colleagues and I, who are volunteers residing in the Back Mountain, are convinced that many people do not know that it has been necessary to import blood. We also feel that if more people knew, those who are not donors would volunteer, and those who are would give more often.

Through this letter, I ask you to

join those of us who give to help those in need. The next blood drive supported by the Back Mountain Blood Council will be at the Trucksville United Methodist Church on Church Street, in Trucksville (the little white church on the hill) on July 6, from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

If you are responding to this letter, please tell the volunteer worker at registration.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Townsend
Chairman
Back Mountain Blood Council

Only yesterday

50 Years Ago - June 30, 1939 POLACKY APPOINTED NEW POSTMASTER

Dallas Water Company awaits arrival of new pump to eliminate water shortages in the Dallas area.

Deborah Jeter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Jeter, Dallas, and a John Hopkins graduate, has joined the American Air Lines.

Joseph Polacky has received word of his permanent appointment as postmaster at Dallas Post Office and Nicholas Staub has received word of his appointment as postmaster at the Trucksville Post Office.

Wed - Martha Keller and Leroy White; Helen Himmler and Alvah Eggleston; Florence E. Carey and H. Orval Averett; Doris Reilly and Paul E. Rice; Evelyn York and Hugh Templeton.

Dallas Arrows bow 6-5 to Mehoopany in the Bi-County League.

40 Years Ago - July 1, 1949 LOCAL CHURCH GETS APPROVAL OF DIOCESE

There will be a hearing before the PUC, July 6 on the complaint filed by residents of Druid Hill against the Dallas-Shavertown Water Company.

The Bethlehem Diocese has approved the construction of a new Prince of Peace Church at the intersection of Pioneer Avenue and the old Main Highway.

Noxen will hold an all-day celebration July 4 beginning at 10 a.m. and continuing until dark climaxed with a fireworks display.

William E. Hodgson of Bloomsburg has opened an egg packing plant in the basement of Dixon's Market.

Wed - Norma Van Tuyle and James C. Hutchinson; Betty Shields and Dr. G. Douglas; Joan Sarah Vanderburg and Bud Joseph Dieffenbach; Doris Mae Hontz and Harry Hughey.

Engaged - Alice Austin and C. Edwin Lumley; Marjorie E. Elkins and Victor E. McCarty.

30 Years Ago - July 2, 1959 FOUR BOATS AND POOL HIGHLIGHT AUCTION

Construction on Route 115 to be constructed this Fall.

Four motor boats and a swimming pool head list of new goods at the library auction.

Dallas Borough has a population of 1,977 according to the recently completed school census.

Senior scouts Bonnie West, Marilyn Eck and Pegg Hall left for the National Round-up at Colorado Springs.

Dallas to meet Beaumont in exhibition game Saturday.

Back Mountain YMCA completes swim course for 49 local boys.

20 Years Ago - July 3, 1969 LIBRARY AUCTION MODELS HOUSE

The Dallas Branch of the Miners National Bank will become United Penn Bank, a subsidiary of the United Penn Corporation, newly formed holding company.

One of the new and unusual

features at this year's library auction will be a model of a house which was to have been built in the Back Mountain but was never built.

The Lehman Horse Show will be held July 3, 4 and 5 on the horse-show grounds.

Mrs. Arline Rood to retire as Coordinator of Kindergarten and Elementary Grades of the Dallas School District.

Wed - Mary Beth Garey and Michael Brady; Joyce Elaine Husted and James Lee Sabol; Elizabeth Alice Oatridge and Roger Stephen Brobst; Cynthia Barrington Townd and Gordon A. Donaldson Jr.; Diane Marie Hodgson and David S. Wojciechowski.

10 Years Ago - June 28, 1979 DALLAS POST OFFICE PLANS EXIT INTO ACME

Dallas to plan a new post office exit into the Acme parking lot and onto Foster Street.

Chief inspector of North Wales constabulary visits his sister and her husband at Harveys Lake.

Luzerne County Fall Fair Chairman Don Rood begins plans for the Fair to be held September 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 at the Lehman Horse Show Grounds.

Engaged - Mary Ann Pantucci and Allen Brague.

Wed - Dorothy Withey and William Carroll; Marlene DeBrino and Lewis Clark; Patricia Kelley and Joseph J. Stella.

Hawks split over the weekend losing 3-2 to Roaring Brook but winning 10-5 over Orangeville.

Library news

Library thanks auction volunteers

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

VOLUNTEERS! We love them! The first week of summer vacation and the first week of our library's summer reading game are the busiest times at the library and this past week was no exception. At one time on Wednesday, Kathy Downs was slipping books and Kristin Gurdin was filing new borrower cards at the front desk. Someone said, where is the staff? The answer, busy doing many other things to keep ahead of the tremendous rush of business this time of the year. Two faithful sisters, Dorothy Cawley and Eleanor Staub were shelving books in the main reading room and Heather Meade one of our junior volunteers was also busy shelving books. On Thursday, Helena Bosses was typing new book cards, Edward Transue was shelving in the main room and Kristen Gurdin was working on books in the children's room. These wonderful volunteers make the routine work of the library much easier to keep ahead of. In three days last week, 1,437 books were checked out of the library. That is a lot of books in a short period of time. Our volunteers mean so much to the staff and we appreciate so much the work and support they give to us.

Our Ham 'n Yegg contributions to date have reached \$2,070 which is a good start on the 43rd auction financial goal of \$90,000 gross. Last year's gross amount was \$75,000 making a net profit of \$40,000 for the library which is about one third of the library's annual operating budget. Mrs. Gertrude Moss, our replacement Ham 'n Yegg chairman for her husband, William Moss one of the original founders of this project, concluded her term as chairman with the 1988 auction. The library staff is now handling the paper work on the project, which is quite involved, considering the fact that each person donating to the club receives a thank you from the auction committee. I have to say thank you to Jane, our willing staff member, who has become a substitute, fill-in 'Mrs. Moss'. The generosity of our community in supporting their library is always very gratifying.

The library Book Club held its final meeting until September last week with 27 members and guest attending. The program was a delightful rendition of "A Winter's Tale", by William Shakespeare presented by the Shakespeare Readers of the Back Mountain. The club membership has reached 212 which represents \$1,900 in funds to purchase books for the Book Club shelf in the library. The special Book Club personal bookplates have arrived and are selling for 50 cents each and are available at the library. Eleanor Fleming and Jean Alexander presided at the tea table. Mrs. Crump, Book Club president, has conducted another successful book club year and is a super person at the age of 94.

Sabol named to state drug abuse panel

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol was honored recently by a request from State Attorney General Ernest D. Preate, Jr., asking Sabol to serve on the Attorney General's newly-formed Medical/Legal Advisory Board. The board will address the medical and legal issues surrounding drug abuse and will focus on how the medical and legal systems do or do not work together.

The board will include a select number of physicians, district attorneys, law enforcement officials and related professionals. The members will meet four times annually with the first meeting set for Thursday, August 17, in the office of the Attorney General in Harrisburg.

Chief Sabol also received a letter from Governor Robert F. Casey, expressing appreciation for Sabol's display of citizenship, providing money, resources and company service to assist Police Officer David Wehrer in purchasing a talking police car to help in teaching Luzerne County children what to do in an emergency situation.

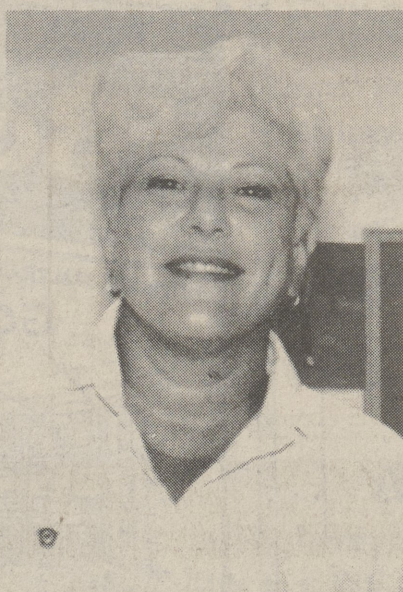
Christine Sheridan, executive director of the Luzerne County Association for Retarded Citizens also expressed appreciation to Sabol and the Back Mountain Police Association for their efforts in successfully raising \$2,392 through the Back Mountain Ham and Egg Breakfast. The money was donated to the ARC.

The Post asks: "What do you like best at the library auction?"



Sarah Robinson
Aide
Sweet Valley

"I'm going to look for a bargain."



Andrea Molski
Receptionist
Dallas

"I like the food especially when they have potato pancakes, my son likes the book booth."



Maryanne Ochman
Student
Shavertown

"The booth I like best at the auction is the food booth."



Cathy Loucks
Florist
Back Mountain

"I like the antiques best and also some of the new items auctioned over the block."