

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Do property rights lose out to hunting?

Private property rights seem to have taken a beating in the case of hunters who trespass on land owned by Tom and Joan Byron in Dallas Township. Even the accused trespassers own admission that they had tracked a deer onto the Byrons' property wasn't enough to get them convicted; the magistrate hearing the case found them not guilty.

Judging by the way this incident was handled from start to finish, property owners who don't want hunters on their land are up against stiff odds. The obstacles in the Byrons' case included a magistrate who admitted he doesn't like property owners who oppose hunters and a Game Commission that was unresponsive to their concerns.

There is nothing improper about hunting if the rules of law and common sense are obeyed. But neither has any special dispensation been granted hunters which would allow them to traipse around wherever it was convenient. The rule of law is clear, and it has clearly been trampled on in this case.

Protestors exercise a fundamental right

It is disheartening to hear the comments of those who would deny the right of their fellow citizens to protest America's participation in the war in the Persian Gulf. It's as if they don't understand the fundamental principles that have made this nation a great bastion of freedom in the world.

There is no clearer contrast between open and closed societies than that of the United States and Iraq. In America, any citizen can publicly criticize his government without fear of serious reprisal. That's not to say we're perfect in this respect; stories abound of retaliation against protestors, especially if they are government employees. But contrast that to our foe in the Persian Gulf, where summary execution is meted out not only to those who disagree but even to those who perform poorly in the eyes of their dictator.

It's easy to confuse support for our troops with patriotism, and we are all guilty at times of denying the value of another's opinion. But those who believe war protests shouldn't be allowed might consider how they would feel if they couldn't openly complain about a new tax assessment or abuses of power by public officials. While the situation is different, the principle is the same; American society works best when a diversity of views are aired and the public makes up its mind based on what they know directly.

History is rife with examples of formerly unpopular positions that have turned out to be right and just. Muzzling protestors will hurt, not help, our ability to decide the correct course of action in this and other instances.

Elections should bring out best of us

It seems like only yesterday that voters went to the polls, but it's almost time for the next round of local primary elections. Candidates for local government and school board office can begin to collect signatures on petitions beginning February 19. The completed petitions must be filed by March 12.

Running for an office may seem a daunting task, and certainly holding one isn't a formula for an easy life. But those who run and serve with the best interests of their fellow citizens in mind perform a noble service for their communities. Because of its potential for growth and change, the Back Mountain offers a real and rewarding challenge to those who would chart its future.

Good candidates are all around us. We hope to see their names on the ballot come election day.

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Mundy supports bill for family and medical leave

State Rep. Phyllis Mundy, D-Luzerne, joined other state legislators and public and private supporters at the introduction of the proposed Family and Medical Leave Act at a Capitol news conference.

Mundy, a co-sponsor of the bill, said the measure is being introduced for the third time in the House. It was approved by House members in 1990, but was not considered in the Senate, where it would need to be approved before being sent to the governor for his signature.

Under the bill, employees would be provided with up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave in a 12-month period for childbirth, adoption or to care for a close family member who is seriously ill. Employees also would receive 12 weeks temporary medical leave for their own sickness or injury with the option that an

employer could limit the combined family and medical leave to 18 weeks over a two-year period.

Other provisions of the bill include protections for employers by making workers eligible for this type of leave only after their first year on the job, limiting time off for spouses who are employed by the same company, barring workers using this type of leave from working another job or attending school full time, and requiring reasonable notification by the worker to the employer of an intended leave of this type.

State Rep. Kevin Blaum, also a Democrat from Luzerne County, is the prime sponsor of the bill. He said he hopes to get the bill to the Senate sometime in February so they have more than a year to put it on their calendar for consideration.



Pine stand on Gross Road in Shavertown

(Photo by Charlotte Bartzek)

Letter

Says all soldiers, families deserve honor

Editor,

This letter is to honor our military personnel presently stationed stateside and their families.

War has disrupted many families in many countries, but as we fly our flags and display our yellow ribbons, let's not forget that the men in Saudi are not the only ones who deserve our respect. Many of our men and women are serving their country not by doing the fighting, or risking their lives, but by keeping those troops supplied with necessities.

Without our men stateside there would be no food, no tanks, no ammunition, or even mail available to our overseas troops. I speak for all families with loved ones in the states but not at home.

We don't look for sympathy, only understanding. We share many of

the hardships suffered when families are separated. Our loved ones don't come home at night or help out with the household duties. Some men are left to solely accept responsibility for their children for the first time. Women having children without the support of their husbands. Many of us not only work days, but come home to make supper, clean, help our children with homework, give children baths, food shop and assume the chore of paying the bills. Not to speak of auto and home maintenance. Many are tied to their homes, because of children or just plain tired when there is some "free time".

People seem to think that because of our loved ones are safe in these United States, we haven't got it so bad. I'd like them to deal with

our kids who often cry for mommy or daddy to just come home. To be alone days and nights for months on end.

Our men are working 12 hour days with few cooked meals. They are working their tails off and don't ask (or get) anything in return. Our men get tired and depressed as much as our fighting troops and need our support as well.

So the next time you think or say "so what, at least they're safe" or "that's not so bad", ask yourself if you would like to be in our position.

To our men and women quietly fulfilling their duties for our country and their families I say God bless and we are one.

Joyce Cisney
Dallas

Library news

Library takes steps to battle cut in state aid

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has a new money-making project. It is called "Cut Casey's Cash Crunch", which is in reference to the State Aid to Public Libraries as part of the State annual budget.

The libraries have been informed that the State Aid will be reduced this year by 7.8% and will be received much later in the year. The first payment will be only 50% of the projected amount where it has been paid in January other years and 90% was received.

Because of this cut and later arrival; our library has had to take out a loan to cover the necessary expenses required to operate the library.

The cash crunch donations will be used as they are received to buy current new best sellers for our library shelves so that our patrons may enjoy some pleasure reading of new books. We have made a Four Leaf Clover on green paper with a place for your signature and upon your donation of \$1.00 or more, we will hang this in the library and start buying the new books as soon as enough money is on hand.

The first day sale brought \$26.00 and this will buy at least one book. Come in, donate your \$1.00, sign your name and help your library survive Casey's cash crunch.

Our Friends of the Library Christmas project was a book tree

where patrons were invited to buy a book for \$5.00 and hang a card on the tree. We received \$180 from this project and have purchased some new books with this money.

Books received are: "The Old Contemptibles" by Martha Grimes is a mystery whose strange and shattering end takes on the elements of myth. The story deals with a troubled love affair, a dead husband and a murder suspect.

"Palindrome" by Stuart Woods opens in the emergency room of a metropolitan hospital and climaxes in a hurricane on a subtropical island. The story involves a physically violent relationship and tender passion.

"Flowers in the Blood" by Gay Courter is an exotic, richly textured novel about a Jewish family in Victorian India as it tells the tale of Dinah Sassoon's extraordinary quest for love and justice. A panoramic epic.

"The Assassini" by Thomas Gifford is a novel of international suspense. The story pits a tenacious investigator against a shadowy conspiracy with deep roots in the past. It is 1982, in the Vatican and a nun is murdered.

The Book Club membership for

1991 has reached 163 members, which means \$1,470 has been received to date. This money will be used to purchase Book Club books on a monthly basis throughout the year. Single membership is \$10 and double \$15. The Book Club welcomes new memberships.

New Book Club purchases include: "Battle Ground" by W.E.B. Griffin and is the continuing saga of the Marine Corps. The story combines the best elements of military history and the war story; the telling detail and political tangle of one mated to the energy and sweep of the other.

"Perchance to Dream" by Robert B. Parker is set in the sun-drenched streets and on the lush hillsides of Los Angeles. The story takes private eye Philip Marlowe into labyrinths of crime, duplicity and murder. Marlowe presses for truth in a novel of suspense, action and pure entertainment.

The story of a little boy who stood at the water fountain in the library and called to Mother, "Mom, I'm having a problem here—getting a drink". One of the problems was—he was too short; even standing on a stool.

The Dallas Post encourages its readers to share their opinions with the community by writing a letter to the editor. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number so that we may verify their authenticity. We will not publish anonymous letters. Send letters to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Feb. 20, 1931
LEGISLATORS WORK TO GET BETTER ROADS

Sen. Andrew Sordani and other Luzerne County legislators are actively supporting and sponsoring plans in Harrisburg to have 330 miles of rural roads in Luzerne County Townships taken "out of the mud".

Dallas Borough students give fine exhibit of their work at the PTA meeting in the Dallas School.

District Rally and Concert Saturday in the Dallas High School is expected to attract Girl Scouts.

Meridians defeat Brookside A.C. team 66-13 to continue undefeated.

Lake-Township defeats Noxen 32-11.

Miss Estella Goldsmith was one of 15 students to earn her Master's degree at Pennsylvania State College.

50 Years Ago - Feb. 21, 1941
AREA MEN INDUCTED INTO 109TH REGIMENT

Twenty three local men were inducted with the 109th regiment on Monday.

Evan Brace of Dallas who enlisted in the United States Army a year ago wrote home describing the Black's Christ Fiesta in Panama.

The new Lake Highway will use none of the old route.

Dallas Borough defeats Lake Township 34-29 to hold first place.

Engaged - Claudia Jones and Norton F. Montross; Lois Mosier and Allen Scattergood.

Wed - Gertrude Berlinski and Theodore Levitski.

40 Years Ago - Feb. 16, 1951
FIVE BROTHERS SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Five sons of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Duda, Dallas, are in the Armed Services, the latest to enlist their 19-year-old son Peter who is stationed at Sampson Air Force Base, N.Y. Victor and Leo, twins, saw service in World War II and are now at Great Falls and Tokyo, respectively. Frank, 28 is now stationed at Langley Field, Va., and Jacob, 24, is serving at Fort Lee in the Quarter Master Department.

E.L. Wyant, newly-appointed secretary at the Back Mountain Y.M.C.A. is busy getting acquainted with the kids.

Little League to reorganize Monday night at Shavertown Fire Hall.

Wed - Laberta Shultz and Lyle Merithew.

King Solomon's Mines now playing at Himmeler Theatre with Deborah Kerr and Stewart Granger.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church defeats Dallas Methodist in the Back Mountain Church League 48-42.

30 Years Ago - Feb. 16, 1961
TAX COLLECTORS FACE COMMISSION CUTS

Finalists in the Annual All-Star Tournament for the benefit of the Blind Bowlers were Billye James, Florence Polack, Evelyn Roberts, Lil Pesavento, Grace Sicker, Nello Georgetti, Henry "Doc" O'Connell, Teddy Savelli, Paul Lacomby, Pete Kozloski and Anthony Bonomo, proprietor Crown Imperial Lanes.

Dallas School Directors cut the commission paid to tax collectors in the four municipalities in the district to two percent.

Lake-Lehman cagers top Wilkes-Barre Township 51-46.

Willard Davis of Dallas is named sales head of new Eberhard Faber Division.

Dallas Borough Council for the first time since the establishment of the Back Mountain Library refused to grant it an appropriation of \$300 per year.

Engaged - Nancy Jane Johns and Richard H. Morgan, Jr.

Wed - Betty J. Agnew and Carl Remley.

20 Years Ago - Feb. 18, 1971
NOXEN FACES SMALL STREAM FLOODING

Weekend freeze caused ice chunks and waters from Bowman's Creek to overflow and flood the yards of nearby homes at Noxen.

Plans for Lake Louise sold Feb. 3 to Lake Louise Hills, Inc., Somerville, N.J. for \$300,000 are said to be nebulous at present.

Troup Fund Inc. representatives, developers of Newberry Estates, appeared before Dallas Township Planning Commission to request approval for a club plan.

Judge Albert H. Aston has announced he will run in the May Primary to retain his position as judge in the Court of Common Pleas.

Engaged - Kathleen Farber and Richard E. Gill.

Dallas loses close wrestling match 22-15 to Hanover Hawkeyes.