

## THE DALLAS POST

## EDITORIALS

## Exercise your most important right, vote on November 5

Even though there aren't real races for many local political offices this year, there is more than enough reason for citizens to exercise their most fundamental right next Tuesday, November 5 is election day and the polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Harveys Lake, Jackson and Lehman townships and the Lake-Lehman School District offer at least some choices for voters, as do most county offices. In the contest for seats on the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas, four of the five hopefuls will be seated. And the lone national office up for grabs, United States Senator, presents two starkly contrasted candidates.

It has been said that in America we get the government we deserve, and in most cases that is probably true. Certainly, if we don't get out and vote, we will eventually be governed by leaders who share little of our experience and aspirations. Don't let that happen this election—inform yourself about the candidates and vote on November 5.

## Economic conditions affect teachers, too

Which came first, the teacher layoffs or the curriculum changes? That seems to be the heart of the question in hearings to determine if five Dallas School District teachers were furloughed in September for economic reasons. But the principle on which this investigation is based—that economic reality should not affect school staffing—is in itself irrational.

Salaries make up more than two-thirds of the Dallas School District's \$15 million budget. That means if the administration and school directors feel it necessary to control cost increases, salaries must be on the table. But since teachers work under a union contract that includes guaranteed annual raises, it is usually impossible to save money by moderating pay rates across the board.

So we are left with the charade that is now taking place in Dallas, as lawyers for the teachers try to show that they were laid off for economic reasons while the administration says the teachers weren't needed because of changes in the curriculum.

An outside observer would have to conclude that the program cutbacks were made at least in part to save money; and why not? Surely the school district has the right—and the responsibility—to respond to the financial condition of its residents in this manner. And taxpayers have every reason to expect all employees of the school district to participate in the belt-tightening, but the teachers' union apparently doesn't share that view. If it did, smaller raises might be negotiated and jobs and programs preserved. But in the case of the Dallas district, representatives of the teachers were asking for 10 percent raises even as the administration was trying to balance its budget during a recession.

The notion that schools should be protected from being whipsawed by politically-motivated budget cuts has great merit. But that protection must be balanced by giving school districts the ability to make appropriate savings when they are needed, even when that means reducing the number of teachers.

## Do you agree? Disagree?

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post. We welcome your opinion on contemporary issues in the form of letters to the editor. If you don't write, the community may never hear a contrasting point of view. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number so that we may verify authenticity. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar.

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Published Weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc.  
P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612  
Telephone: 717-675-5211

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Low water. Huntsville Reservoir shows the effect of this year's drought. Photo by Charlotte Bartzek

## Letters

## Deaf child's mother says he is being hurt by refusal to transfer him to special school

*Editor's Note: The following letter was received from Susan Dutton, mother of Mark Dutton. The Duttons want their child to attend Scranton State School for the Deaf (SSSD), instead of special education classes at the Luzerne Intermediate Unit. Her comments are directed at the Lake-Lehman School Board and Superintendent of Schools Nancy Davis.*

I feel that you ignored the requirement to have an interpreter at the I.U. meetings and other events. The people need an interpreter and should have one.

Suppose we were to put Mrs. Davis's child or relative in a deaf school for one year with no interpreter to talk to the deaf, how would you feel then? Not well after a year. Well, this is Mark's view towards the Hearing Impaired

children and towards the English-signing teachers.

It's hard to learn a foreign language. In doing so, you lessen some of your own language skills and deteriorate when the environmental language is all foreign.

The hearing classes have no benefit whatsoever. Remember, most deaf people can't read lips. So what's the point of a hearing class?

Mark can't communicate in each class or with the students. You have violated his rights to learn by mentally abusing him by putting him in the I.U. I saw on a poster a sign and that sign stated, "The greatest unexplored area lies under your hat." By sending him to the SSSD, you will unlock the door to leadership, higher academics and most importantly, the freedom to communicate and speak freely.

The walls are closing in and

trapping Mark's mind. His imagination and creativity, are being contracted to small amounts allowing him not to add new ideas, or features new proportions. Mark's interests are for the SSSD, not for the I.U.

Mrs. Davis stated that the law requires the school to mainstream students to benefit learning. Mark is not benefitting from going to the I.U. at all so he should go to the SSSD.

Mrs. Davis makes up her own stories, why are you keeping Mark at I.U.? Why is he still at the I.U.? Did both appeal panels not state Mark should be provided to go to SSSD? I strongly support the change in schools from I.U. to SSSD. You know nothing about deafness, period!

Susan Dutton  
Harveys Lake

## Bypass could aid Back Mountain traffic flow

*Editor:*  
The sudden apprehension over the increased volume of traffic on Route 309 may cause some of us to wonder why officials have waited until the eve of the Cross-Valley opening to discuss problems everyone knew would occur. While I claim no expertise in traffic control, I am surprised that no one has offered the traditional method of construction in these parts - the bypass.

Instead of a turning lane at Carverton Road, Route 309 could be taken around the Back Mountain to the north and east to connect with itself again above Dallas or at Kunkle. Access roads could be improved to connect with the traditional Back Mountain and it would provide an approach to Harveys Lake through Alderson, while furnishing a direct route to Tunkhannock.

Intensive studies of this pro-

posal, as always, would have to be done and there would be many strong and heated points of debate.

Yet I believe that a "Back Mountain Beltway" would be a better long range plan than to channel traffic from one already obsolete road to others that are obviously more worn by time.

William G. Dawe  
Lehman

## Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Oct. 30, 1931  
Association for the Blind celebrates 13th year

The political situation in the borough has taken a decided turn during the past week with all factions swinging into line behind Dr. G.K. Swartz for one of the berths on the school board.

13th Anniversary of Wilkes-Barre Branch, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind will be observed Nov. 2-7 with a Booster Week staged at the Workshop for the Blind, sponsored by the Lions Club.

Interest in election matters have increased Letters to the Editor making it necessary to print some of them on the front page.

The Costello Case with Tom Moore, playing at Himmler Theatre.

50 Years Ago - Oct. 31, 1941  
Dallas has its first Halloween parade

Sales of defense savings stamps and defense bonds have decreased at the Dallas Post Office according to Postmaster Joseph Polack.

Dr. F. Budd Schooley, was guest speaker at the meeting of the Brotherhood of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Shavertown, speaking on the proposed community building for the Back Mountain area.

Second Class Township Association of Pennsylvania will sponsor an essay contest for local students on "The Importance of Home Rule and Local Government." First prize will be \$200.

Youngsters have been invited to enter and compete for prizes at the 1st Annual Halloween Parade sponsored jointly by Dallas Borough and Township Parent Teacher Associations, with free cider and doughnuts for all.

40 Years Ago - Oct. 26, 1951  
Land purchased for Grand View Estates

David Jenkins purchased 80 acres of ground known as Grand View Estates between Center Hill Road and Memorial Highway from Col. Thomas Atherton and others for a housing development.

Thieves entered Davis Cleaners, Trucksville through a rear window and rifled the cash register of a small amount of cash.

Harveys Lake Camp #274 United Sportsmen plan turkey shoot for Sunday at 10 on the club grounds at Alderson.

Westmoreland defeats Tunkhannock 39-0 on Trucksville gridiron.

Dallas Township handed Factoryville a rude surprise with Factoryville going home on the short end of a 35-6 score.

30 Years Ago - Nov. 2, 1961  
State Correctional Institution dedicated

Great American Industries of New York has acquired Linear, Inc. with manufacturing facilities in Dallas and developing laboratories in Philadelphia.

Dedication of State Correctional Institution at Jackson Township is scheduled for today with Governor David Lawrence officiating.

All second and sixth grade students of Dallas School District will receive a tuberculosis patch test during the week of Dec. 11.

Barbara Tag and Barry Slocum, Dallas Senior High School students took 1st place prizes in Safe-T-O Driving Contest.

Engaged - Violet May Higgins to Emmett Milbrodt.

Lake-Lehman upsets St. John's 27-12 during Parent's Day game.

Dallas defeated Luzerne with less than a minute remaining on third down only to have linebacker Tommy Dorosky crash through and block the punt with the ball going out of the end zone for a safety and a 2-0 victory.

20 Years Ago - Oct. 28, 1971  
Thomas Bagley named chief operator at DAMA

Thomas J. Bagley was named chief operator for the sewer system at the October 21 meeting of Dallas Area Municipal Authority.

A petition was signed Oct. 20, by 69 Back Mountain residents seeking an investigation by Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission on proposed rate increases by U.G.I.

A sea plane took off from Harveys Lake last Thursday and in doing so violated a regulation of Pa. Aeronautics Commission which prohibits use of any body of water for air traffic unless it is designated as a sea base.

Wed - Elaine Kraynak to Joseph J. Hudak, Maryalice Knecht to J. Albert Williams Jr.

Black Knights of Lake-Lehman lost to Wyoming Area Warriors, 23-8.

Dallas lost its first home game of 1871 season as Nanticoke rallied from a first half 14-0 score to defeat the Mountaineers 34-24.

## Library news

## Pennsylvania's first lady will visit library on November 6

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is anxiously awaiting the date of Wednesday, November 6. It should be a very exciting day at the library and in the community as well. Ellen Casey, wife of Pennsylvania Governor, Robert Casey, is expected to arrive at the library at 10 a.m. on that day with two members of her staff. The visit from Mrs. Casey centers around the cookbook, "Chefs and Artists" the cookbook published by the library in July. A special recipe for "Governor Casey's Chocolate Cake"

which appears in the cookbook will be featured on the festive brunch table during the reception.

Mrs. Casey will spend one hour at our library with the first 20 minutes being used for a story time with preschool children in the children's room. The reception "Books and Brunch with Ellen Casey" will follow in the main reading room of the library with coffee, tea, punch, cookies and cake. The refreshments will be made from recipes taken from the cookbook. Members of the Friends of the Library will be preparing the recipes which will include apple cake;

ricotta cake, tomato herb bread, flan cake and special cookie recipes. The cookbook will be available for sale during this time.

Members of the library Board of Directors and Cookbook Committee will act as hosts and hostesses for this gala occasion. We invite the members of the community to visit our library and meet Ellen Casey, the first lady of Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

The Friends of the Library will hold their next meeting in the reading room at the library on Friday, Nov. 1, at 1 p.m. Shirley Forney will chair the meeting and

plans will be made for the annual luncheon to be held in April. Anyone interested in serving on the Friends committee is invited to attend the November meeting.

New books at the library: "Boy's Life" by Robert R. McCammon is a marvelous novel of mystery and unforgettable storytelling power set in the American South. The year is 1964. Cory Mackenson accompanies his father on his milk delivery route and without warning a car appears before them and plunges over an embankment into a lake some say is bottomless. Cory's

father tries to save the driver, but winds up with a vision that will haunt and torment him.

A new Book Club purchase is "Poison Pen" by George Carpozi which is the unauthorized biography of Kitty Kelley. The author has spent years tracking her origins and her mysterious and often hasty departs from colleges and homes even as accusations were made. He embellished her background and her writing credits and tries to separate fact from fantasy and here, at last, is the true Kitty Kelley story.