
 100
 BRIGHTON HINDERY
 BOX 535
 BRIGHTON, PA 15014

 UNLIMITED STATES
 45
 52540

SEP

THE BACK MOUNTAIN



FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY

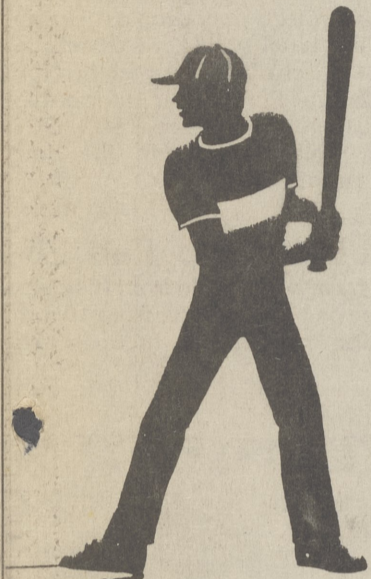
THE DALLAS POST

Vol. 103 No.

Dallas, PA Wednesday, February 12, 1992

35 Cents

Inside Story



Back Mountain Baseball

registration will be held Thursday, Feb. 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Dallas American Legion. Sports page.

Mike Guerin

chalks up 100th wrestling win. Page 14.

Dallas High Class of '71

holds reunion. Page 8.



Red Cross Blood Drive,

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dallas United Methodist Church. Page 8.

Payne Printery

finishes undefeated to win Dallas rec basketball title. Sports page.

Design change

In response to complaints from subscribers about labels overlapping the headline and story at the top left of the front page, we have created the Inside Story column. This change will hopefully correct the label problem while providing a quick reference to items that appear on inside pages. Please let us know whether or not you like the change.

- Calendar.....18
- Classified.....16-17
- Editorials.....4
- Obituaries.....13
- Police report.....2
- Property transfers..2
- Sports.....11

CALL 675-5211
 FOR HOME DELIVERY,
 NEWS OR ADVERTISING

Stalemate: no contract, no strike

By ERIC FOSTER
 Post Staff

Steve Werner, president of the Dallas Taxpayers Forum, called it "democracy in action."

William Wagner, president of the Dallas teacher's union, called it "a carnival."

About 1,100 people packed the Dallas Middle School auditorium Monday, February 10, to show their concern, and sometimes anger over the state of contract negotiations with the teachers.

On February 4, the school board offered the teachers a 4 percent raise for their

choice of two or three years.

On Friday, February 7, the district's teachers voted 113 to 14 to reject that offer.

The rejection was the latest in a series of rejected offers and counter-offers. When negotiations began in January, 1991, the teachers requested a 9.85 percent average raise for each year of a five-year contract.

A state fact-finder issued a report in December recommending a four-year contract with an 8.75 percent average pay increase. The school board rejected the report. Their offer of a two-year contract with a \$2,450 yearly increase was turned

down by the teachers.

During Monday's meeting, board member James Richardson said that the board now will start from scratch in negotiations, but called a 3 to 4% increase "palatable."

The Dallas Taxpayers Forum, formed in the fall to protest what they call outrageous teacher salary demands, has gathered more than 3,000 signatures on a petition urging a two-year teacher wage freeze and the implementation of a merit pay program.

"We're asking them to wait two years and see how the economy is," said Werner,

president of the Forum, restating the demand for a pay freeze. To show support for the freeze, Werner dumped a basket of coupons sent to the Forum on the floor, all demanding a wage freeze.

"I know that the general public is going to be upset, but I feel that we can justify what we have done," said Richardson, who was met by a few boos from the crowd.

According to superintendent Gerald Wycallis, each percentage point increase means an approximately \$55,000 increase in the district's payroll. Board member

See STALEMATE, pg 10

Replacing strikers is an option

By GRACE R. DOVE
 Post Staff

If teachers in the Dallas School District call a strike, one option open to the school board is to hire replacement teachers. That tactic has been used with increasing frequency in Pennsylvania this year.

Dallas teachers have been working without a contract since August 31. While no job actions have been taken, the Dallas Education Association has authorized its negotiating team to call a strike at the team's discretion. If it did so, it would be the first strike in the district's history.

Two other districts in the state, Tri-Valley and Upper Dauphin, began the 1991-92 school year with similar predicaments which degenerated into strikes within two or three weeks after school opened.

According to Superintendent Robert Franklin of Tri-Valley, the strike there began after school had been in session one day. He said that 12th grade students were concerned that the strike would delay graduation, affecting summer jobs and summer college courses.

In order to keep classes running smoothly and insure that the school year was not disrupted, the school board authorized the administration to call in replacement teachers for seniors only. After one day, the regular teachers decided to return to work.

Upper Dauphin's teachers walked the picket line for 13 days at the end of September. Superintendent Dr. Andrew Hills said that the school board called in replacement teachers on the advice of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. After eight school days most schools were operating with

See REPLACEMENTS, pg 5



Giddy-up

Heather Fostock, a senior at Lake-Lehman High School, apparently gave up on using gentle persuasion to motivate her mount in the donkey basketball game at the school February 7. The seniors play the faculty each year in the fundraising event. (Post Photo/Charlotte Bartizek)

Salaries beat other careers

By ERIC FOSTER
 Post Staff

The Dallas Taxpayers Forum, formed in the fall to protest what they consider outrageous demands by the teachers union, has gotten a lot of mileage comparing the average Dallas teacher's salary of \$38,646 to the average Luzerne County annual income of \$19,000.

The comparison has helped the group gather more than 3,000 signatures on a petition urging for a two-year teacher wage freeze and the implementation of a merit pay program.

William Wagner, president of the Dallas teacher's union, says they're not comparing apples to apples.

"Compare us with professional people in the Back Mountain.

Let's find people with 22 years service, master's level plus 36 credits," says Wagner.

Of the 142 teachers in the district, Wagner says at least 125 of them are at master's level plus 36 credits.

"As far as ethics go, if a teacher is convicted of drunk driving you lose your job," said Wagner. "It's written in the state code. There's no one else held to that. I don't care if you're a doctor or a dentist."

Wagner also points to the educational requirements to be a teacher - holding a bachelors degree and earning 24 credits beyond that within six years.

"Everybody in this district is rated twice a year. To my knowledge, everybody is rated satisfactory," said Wagner. "There is no such thing as outstanding. You've only got satisfactory and unsatisfactory."

A comparison of wages

So what do other professionals

See SALARIES, pg 10



FOOD COLLECTION FOR RUSSIA - Members of six Back Mountain churches met Friday, February 7, to plan "To Russia With Love," a food collection for Russia. The committee includes, front row from left: Jason Blandford, Karla Narkiewicz and Jean Brennan; second row: Cindy Ursiak and Morag Michael; third row: Rev. Michael Bealla of Dallas UMC, Rev. James Shillabeer of Trucksville UMC, Deb Blandford, Dotti Markoski and Linda Festa. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

Local churches collect food to send to Russia

By GRACE R. DOVE
 Post Staff

Trucksville United Methodist church is sponsoring a food collection for Russia on Sunday, February 16, to help with that nation's current food crisis.

"Prices are skyrocketing and many people simply do not have the money to buy food," explained Rev. James Shillabeer. "We're not collecting luxury items. Our basic word is survival."

Food lines in the former Soviet Union are very long even for those who can afford the high prices. Due to age, illness or handicaps, many people cannot wait for hours in food lines, according to a press release from the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

"Can you imagine how frustrating it must be to stand in the cold for hours in line, only to learn that they're sold out once you finally reach the store?" Shillabeer asked.

Morag Michael of the church's Mission Society added that donations must follow strict packaging descriptions so that all the foods arrive intact. And only specific food items have been requested. (See box accompanying this story.)

Donations may be brought to either the 9 a.m. or the 11 a.m. worship services Sunday, February 16, or to the church's education building by Wednesday, February 19 for packing.

Cash donations are also welcome, Ms. Michael said; money is needed to buy special shipping boxes. Checks should be made out to Trucksville United Methodist Church.

"You don't have to be a member of a church to donate," Ms. Michael added. "We appreciate everyone's help with this project."

Called "To Russia With Love," the collection is coordinated by the

See FOOD, pg 10