

## Mundy

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With state and federal funding sources for railroads nearly dried up, Mundy believes the only way to keep rail service going is to make it public property.

"You don't want to use public money to fund private companies operating for a profit," she said.

Four West Side businesses employing about 1,000 people in her district and many more on the East Side depend on rail service, Mundy said.

Now that Luzerne County officials support a rail authority, some of these businesses may consider expanding and adding more jobs, she said.

• Educating a skilled workforce. "We need a well-skilled workforce to attract prospective employers," Mundy said. "It's as important as highways and airports."

She says including local residents in strategic planning gives them more input and makes the educational system more accountable to the public.

Mundy believes many people don't understand the revisions to the public school code, also known as Outcome-Based Education, which she supported.

"It should really be called Performance-Based Education," she said. "It changes the focus of education from how long you sat in class to what you must know and be able to do in order to graduate. It's designed for more community involvement and parental control."

Mundy doesn't think that implementing the new educational guidelines will cost local districts large amounts of money.

"Districts have already budgeted for new books and staff development," she said. "What else they spend is up to them. Local districts don't have to change a single thing if they believe that what they're already doing improves student performance."

During her term in office,

Mundy has emphasized constituent service, taking staff members on the road several times a month to different municipal buildings to help people complete property tax/rent rebate or PACE forms and learn the people's opinions on state-related issues.

Mundy is also proud of her work in helping local elected officials and other legislators to solve local problems, such as obtaining funding for highway improvements in the Back Mountain, installation of a water line from the Ceasestown Reservoir to the State Correctional Institution at Dallas and convincing Department of Corrections officials to use the new SCID water line once it was hooked up.

She is also proud of sponsoring legislation to help prospective new homeowners with down payments and closing costs, to be funded by a \$10 fee on each document filed with the county Recorder of Deeds.

"Never before has a self-funded housing bill focusing only on down payments and closing costs been introduced," she said.

Mundy said her past two terms have been a learning experience, working 12-14 hours a day, six to seven days a week to represent 58,000 people.

"It's a monumental task," she said. "I never realized the vast amounts of time and energy needed to do this job properly. You must have a strong commitment to serving your constituents. You don't do it to get rich - I make only \$47,000 a year."

If elected for a third term, Mundy said she plans to continue to work for economic development and quality education, give housing bills a high priority and work toward making the state government more accountable by reforming the Legislative Initiative Grant process and helping to pass a "sunset bill."

"Legislative Initiative Grants are a great help to constituents, but

## Who serves where

After redistricting in 1990, the 120th district includes these Back Mountain communities: Dallas Borough, Kingston and Exeter townships, and the middle and south districts of Dallas Township.

The following are in the 117th district, now represented by George Hasay: Lake, Ross, Franklin, Lehman and Jackson townships, Harveys Lake Borough, and the north district (Kunkle area) of Dallas Township.

they're not a line item in the budgets," she said. "We need to know which legislators are using them and how the money is being spent."

The so-called Sunset Bill would also make state government more accountable by reviewing state agencies and commissions, which presently are created and not monitored.

"We need to know if they're doing their jobs, spending money wisely and paying for themselves," she said. "Reviewing their work every five years would help us decide whether or not they should continue."

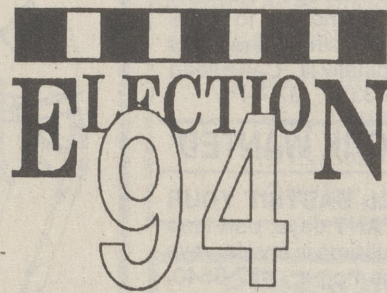
Mundy also vows to work harder towards education reform, to see what school programs have been implemented and what changes they might need.

Relishing an issue-oriented campaign, Mundy said so far she is "a bit disappointed" in her opposition.

"I have stressed positive issues, what I intend to do, where I stand and what I have done," she said. "The level of debate has been disappointing. My opponent seems to be concentrating on a campaign of stealth and deception. He has distorted, misrepresented, misquoted and outright lied about what I have done and how I have voted. It's cowardly, a charade."

She credits her "army of dedicated volunteers" for the success of her campaign to date.

"They have unselfishly donated their time and are very committed," she said.



## Register to vote by October 11

The Luzerne County Election Bureau has released the following schedule for the November 8 election:

- October 11: last day to register to vote. Applications must be clocked in at the Bureau of Voter Registration by 4:30 p.m.

Mail-in voter registration applications are available at *The Dallas Post*.

- November 1: applications for civilian absentee ballots must be turned in to the Bureau of Voter Registration office by 5 p.m.

- November 4: completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Luzerne County Election Bureau by 5 p.m.

- November 8: election day.

## Gavlick

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way to work with the PSEA (Pennsylvania State Education Association) so the children don't suffer."

In order to have the best education possible, Gavlick wants to get the teachers organizations and parents working together.

- Accountability of elected officials.

Gavlick favors initiative and referendum on governmental questions and recall of elected officials "for legitimate reasons."

"Actually, you should use the term 'revote' instead of recall," he said. "I would like to see the voters have the power to change their minds about elected officials, as long as it's not during the officials' first or last terms. If the voters don't like what their elected officials are doing, they should be able to place the officials' names on the ballot in the next election and vote either for or against them again, regardless of how much of their terms have been served."

If elected, Gavlick's goals are to:

- Obtain enough support for initiative and referendum legislation to have it made into law.

- Change the way that school district budgets and teacher contracts are negotiated.

"Let the voters decide on teachers' packages," he said. "For example, let's negotiate contracts

every three years and have them put to a vote by the people who are paying for them. The vote would be on the total package, not a line-by-line decision."

- Amend Act 88 to make teachers' strikes are illegal.

"It's happened in other states - New York, New Jersey and Delaware - and they're doing very fine," he said.

Gavlick believes teachers' strikes hit families with young children the hardest, disrupting day care and work schedules.

"The inconvenience should be made to the school board and the teachers, not the families," he said.

- Eliminate the "last best offer" in teachers' contract negotiations.

Gavlick says the "last best offer" which arbitrators now consider doing, they should be able to place the officials' names on the ballot in the next election and vote either for or against them again, regardless of how much of their terms have been served."

"The arbitrators are selected by the state Labor Relations Board and, in order to be impartial to both sides, are never from the area where the contract is being negotiated," he said. "The arbitrator's only choice is either the school board's or the teachers' last best offer. Residents don't have any say in it."

Passed two years ago, Act 88 severely limits the teachers' right to strike and sets a mandatory timeline and set of steps for contract negotiations.

## Spectacular

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candlesticks and a tavern table will also be available for bidding.

The items will be available for public inspection at 10 a.m., with bidding starting at 11 a.m. and continuing until everything is sold, Ashbridge said.

Registered auctioneers Marva and George O'Gorman have volunteered their services for the event. Bill Gable is the event co-chairman.

Flea market vendors and food vendors also are expected.

## Graduates from basic training

Air Force Airman Richard T. Banks has graduated from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX.

During the six weeks of training, he studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relationships.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Banks is the son of William R. Banks of Dallas and Dorothy Banks of Shavertown.

He is a 1993 graduate of Dallas Senior High School.

## 911

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will still be required to pay \$1.25 per month per telephone number for county emergency services, or about \$15 per year per telephone number.

"We estimate that the \$1.25 monthly fee will generate about \$194,295 per year, based on 12,953 telephone numbers," O'Brien said. "It will cost about \$2.8 million to buy equipment, set up answering points and back-ups and go on line."

The Back Mountain's share of the \$2.8 million would be \$43,000 per year for the next five years, O'Brien said.

The Back Mountain's yearly operating budget is \$152,806, with member municipalities contributing between \$12,150 and \$32,798 per year. Member fire and ambulance companies contribute \$1,500 per year.

Under the county's plan, when an emergency call comes into its center, it will be automatically traced and the following information will appear on a computer screen in front of the dispatcher: caller's name, names of family members, address, location of the home on a grid map, local police and fire departments which serve the area and any special medical conditions.

This information will be partially supplied by the telephone company's database and partially by local police and fire chiefs, O'Brien said.

The only hitch is that the database will come unverified from the telephone company, O'Brien said. It will cost an additional \$45,440 to have the information verified.

## What local Comm Center costs

According to the Back Mountain Communications Center's 1994 operating budget, contributions from five municipalities, the Nesbitt Memorial Hospital and nine volunteer fire and ambulance companies make up the center's \$152,806 annual budget.

Kingston and Dallas townships are expected to contribute \$32,798 this year, while Jackson and Lehman townships contribute \$12,150. Dallas Borough's share is \$27,464, while the Nesbitt Hospital contributes \$21,946.

Volunteer fire and ambulance companies from Trucksville, Shavertown, Kingston Township, Dallas, Kunkle, Lehman, Jackson Township, Idetown and Lake Silkworth each contribute \$1,500.

Franklin Township, which is dispatched partially through Wyoming County, doesn't contribute. Harveys Lake Borough is not a member.

A total of \$79,135 is spent on three full-time and part-time dispatchers and overtime. Dispatchers earn between \$7.66 and \$8 per hour.

by Grace R. Dove

O'Brien said that if the Back Mountain becomes a secondary answering point, the county will:

- Provide all dispatching equipment, including FAX machines or printers in each police and fire station. Eventually the county would install printers in all police cruisers, eliminating the need for police radios and scanners.

- Pay for all grid maps and data bases with verified information.

- Provide a computerized incident reporting system for each

shift and shared computerized records.

- Train and certify all dispatchers.

- Reimburse secondary answering points for each emergency call answered, based on the time needed to handle the call and how much the dispatcher earns. O'Brien estimated the total reimbursement at about \$14,000 per year.

- Provide emergency medical directions and procedures to

emergency personnel.

- Provide personnel for callers who don't speak English and equipment for hearing-impaired families to make calls.

- Eventually upgrade the equipment to include fiber optic telephone lines and special radio frequencies.

Back Mountain officials still have questions on how certain unique situations will be handled: communities using different telephone exchanges and different emergency services, mutual aid areas overlapping county boundaries and communities which rely on the Pennsylvania State Police for law enforcement.

Although the state police will not have the same equipment as the county's system, they will have special telephone lines installed to take emergency calls for these municipalities.

Every police chief in the county will be required to establish criteria for what constitutes an emergency call, O'Brien said.

O'Brien said that there is no guarantee that sometime in the future, Luzerne County won't come back to the member municipalities for additional funding beyond the \$15 per year telephone line charge.

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