

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

Let's move beyond fiscal responsibility

It's that time of year again, the season when local governments release their preliminary budgets for the coming year. Most Back Mountain towns won't seek tax increases, thanks to continuing growth that will add to property and income tax revenues. In one case, Kingston Township, the property tax was abolished last year and won't be resurrected for 1995.

That's all to the good, and a tribute to governments that are generally efficient if not terribly forward-thinking. Still, a record of admirable fiscal control isn't the only thing by which we should judge progress, so here are a few ideas that might make the Back Mountain an even more attractive place in which to live and work.

■ **Shared services.** Small towns simply don't have the funds to hire all the expertise they need for some tasks, or to purchase helpful equipment. Sharing both could make it possible for all Back Mountain communities to enjoy a high level of service. For example, Dallas Borough put its leaf vacuum into service this fall, sparing residents the bother of bagging leaves. This system also keeps hundreds of discarded plastic bags out of landfills. But the gadget is needed in the borough only a couple of days a week. A rental or sharing arrangement could be worked out with neighboring towns, as is already done with some road construction equipment.

■ **Regional planning.** By state law, each township and borough must update its planning and zoning regulations at some regular interval. That means each town hires a planner, who works on matters only within the boundaries of his or her employer. Planners surely don't ignore what's going on across the town line, but it would make more sense if a single firm developed a cohesive plan for the entire region.

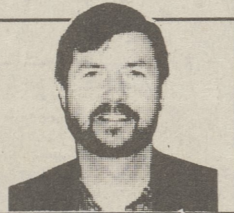
■ **A light industry/commercial park.** Here's where regional planning could really pay off. The Back Mountain offers all the attractions sought by smaller companies; a motivated workforce, physical beauty, lack of congestion, good highway connections, and adequate housing opportunities. But we don't have a ready-made site available for them, while many other places do. The result will likely be more helter-skelter development, gobbling up land that could be used to bring better jobs than are found in strip malls. Planning now could assure that industrial development would take place where we want it, not where an individual developer can find the best bargain.

■ **A regional water authority.** The present crazy quilt of private systems is a costly disgrace. A recent national news article said Scranton had the highest water rates of any city in the nation. Guess what, some people in the Back Mountain pay even more and get substandard water and erratic service for their trouble. When the cost of water approaches the cost of heat, something's wrong. And that's not to mention that no one's paying much attention to the supply. The only logical solution is a regional water authority somewhat like the existing sewer authority.

That's a short list; others would add to it, and over time there certainly are other things that could be done. For now, we'd settle for a start.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Our circulation computer crashed last week. Well, it didn't exactly crash, but it started to act up. I long ago adopted a strict policy for such situations — the instant a computer does anything out of the ordinary, replace it. The new machine is a marvel, at least compared to the 10-year-old technology it took over from. A Comaq 486/66, it performs at blazing speed, which isn't really necessary the way we use it. But that brings to mind another axiom that's handy when dealing with anything electronic — if you can afford to, buy more capacity than you think you'll need, because before you know it, you'll need it.

...
A remarkable catalog arrived in the mail last week. From Delta Press Ltd., it contained everything a paranoid criminal weapons nut could desire, such as manuals showing how to convert a gun to fully automatic operation. Other items showed the true nature of the company's ideal customer, things like a volume titled *How to do Business Off the Books*, or the charming *How to Lose Your Ex-Wife Financially Forever*. Other publications tell how to make bombs, lie, cheat and steal. And, for the reformed draft dodger, there are fake Vietnam i.d. cards. Of course, there were references to patriotism scattered through the catalog. I'm all in favor of protecting free speech, but I think it should be illegal to sell material that informs others how to break the law. Or do most Americans believe it's okay as long as you don't get caught? As for patriotism, these radical wackos obviously are loyal only to themselves.

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 a daytime phone number so that we may verify authenticity. We do not publish anonymous letters, but will consider withholding the name in exceptional circumstances. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar.

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POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

'God bless American veterans'

Past commander Walter I. Galka, commander John Charney, adjutant Tom Reese, members of the Daddow-Issacs Post 672 of the American Legion, and Rev. John Kusick of Gate of Heaven Church join in prayers at the Veterans' Day services at the Honor Roll at Dallas Corners.

Letters

Rusty Anderson inspired interest in the arts

Editor:
At a recent cultural event, we noticed that College Misericordia production manager Rusty Anderson has retired and moved to Putney, Vt.

I had to write and let you know what a wonderful influence Mr. Anderson's productions have had on my family and countless others in the Back Mountain and beyond.

Through Mr. Anderson's effects

and the cultural events programs at College Misericordia, my children have been exposed to plays, concerts, ballet and countless other events.

They feel these early experiences are partially responsible for their success in school and their continued interest in the arts.

Mr. Anderson went well beyond the requirements of his job; seating blind and visually-impaired people close to the stage, so they

could hear better, allowing handicapped students to visit dancers and actors backstage before a performance, and constantly running to insure that each event surpassed the one before.

For all memorable events, we thank College Misericordia, its cultural events department and Rusty Anderson.

Georgann C. Kostenbauder
Tunkhannock

Coaches must be accountable for behavior

Editor:
What role does sports play in a high school setting?

What standards, if any, are coaches expected to adhere to if they represent a high school? Does winning abrogate civilized conduct?

Can a coach win and also instill sportsmanship in the young people under his jurisdiction? As a role model, would we like our young people to emulate the coach's conduct?

The school system is a microcosm of society at large. The barbarism and violence that is becoming more prevalent on the adult playing fields concerns me, and I certainly do not wish to condone them on a high school level. Victory at all costs carries with it an actual defeat — a defeat for civilized society. It then concludes that the means justify the ends, which is intolerable in a democratic society. It results in championship teams and pyrrhic victories. Should the sunnium bonum be transgressed and subjugated to the sole purpose of winning? No one can convince me of that. The basic purpose of a school district is to impart knowledge and teach by example some basic virtues that contribute to a civilized society.

Is a coach an extension of the classroom and thus subject to the same evaluative procedures as any teaching professional in our district, or is his demeanor exclusively his own purview? If a coach has a winning record, is he absolved from acting like a true member of a civilized society, or does winning negate seemingly incomprehensible barbaric conduct that serves as a model for the athletes entrusted to his nurturing? Who can challenge excesses of conduct if it is perceived that said conduct is detrimental to the overall educational climate of an educational community? Is a person above critique if sporting accolades abound or is said per-

son privy to certain rights and privileges not accorded to regular staff members? Is said person still subject to reasonable school board policies? Checks and balances exist in any organizational structure. What is the proper role of a member of a governing body?

In our system of checks and balances, who proctors our coach's domains? Any reasonable request by a duly-elected school board member to attend practice sessions, team meetings and general demeanor should be welcomed as a positive, meaningful visitation. Granted, if communication were effective and the communication was respected and trusted, there would be less need for a direct visitation. If a person is secure in his methods, a non-threatening gesture of a visitation should be taken as a compliment.

Attendant upon the rights established for each coach are certain responsibilities, which include respect for the rights of others, obedience to proper constituted school authority and compliance with the rules and regulations of a district.

One of the major aims of the educational process is to have students develop and maintain acceptable standards of responsibility and to demonstrate the standards of good citizenship expected of members of our democratic society. Students have the responsibility to become self-disciplined and are expected to conduct themselves in keeping with their level of maturity, acting in due regard to all constituted authority. Students share with the administrator and faculty (coaches included) a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.

Unwillingness to fulfill the personal responsibilities and non-compliance with laws, rules, regulations and policies may result in forfeiture of the rights and privi-

leges. Consideration for the rights and privileges of others, cooperation with all school personnel, and basic self-respect shall be guiding principals for the educational process.

High personal standards of courtesy, decency, clean language, honesty, morality and wholesome relationships with others should be maintained. All employees of a district should share the responsibility of providing opportunities for students to become responsible and self-disciplined. Also, employees of the district share the responsibility for supervising the behavior of students and for seeing that they meet the established standards of conduct.

The school district can hold discipline to mean a process by which pupils learn and exercise self-control. An important goal of the educational program is self-discipline for all pupils where pupil behavior shall reflect the standards of good citizenship expected of members of a democratic society.

All students and employees are expected to cooperate in providing a wholesome learning and school atmosphere. Reasonable rules of conduct are established as necessary for this purpose. Students who violate rules and regulations of student conduct are subject to disciplinary action. Corrective discipline is concerned with those actions taken after the occurrence of an offense and should be designed to prevent or deter the re-occurrence of the offense. The procedures for the use of corrective discipline shall be the responsibility of the building principal operating within the policies and regulations of the board.

Teachers as well as coaches are responsible for helping students to maintain proper decorum.

Clarence J. Michael
Dallas

Editor's note: Clarence Michael serves on the Dallas School board.

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(Democrat)
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State Officials

State Senator Charles D. Lemmond
(Republican)
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Address:
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Lemmond's district includes the Back Mountain.

State Representative George Hasay
(Republican)
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Address:
369 South Mountain Boulevard, Mountaintop PA 18707
Hasay's district encompasses: Harveys Lake, Lehman Township, Jackson Township, Lake Township, Franklin Township, Ross Township, and Dallas Township's north voting district.

State Representative Phyllis Mundy
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Telephone: 283-9622 or 655-3375
Address:
Suite 107, 400 Third Avenue, Kingston PA 18704
Mundy's district encompasses: Dallas Borough, Dallas Township except for the north voting district, and Kingston Township.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Nov. 23, 1934 THREE AREA ROADS ARE IN BAD SHAPE

Borough councilmen at their meeting Tuesday instructed Secretary William Niemeyer to notify Luzerne County Commissioners that Huntsville Road, started as a country CWA project and never completed, is in dangerous condition and to notify James Gold, superintendent of State Highway Department, that parts of Main and Church Streets maintained by state are in bad condition.

Huntsville Boy Scouts will put on a drive to collect clothing of all kind and old toys for the poor children. The Boy Scouts in their spare time will fix all broken toys so they can give them to the poor children on Christmas.

Lehman High School and Kingston Township High School will meet on the Kingston Township field on Thanksgiving morning to decide the football championship of the Back Mountain Section.

50 Years Ago - Nov. 17, 1944 SGT. GENSEL IS LISTED MISSING IN ACTION

First evidence that Dallas Kiwanis Club's campaign to obtain evening and Sunday mail pickup at Trucksville, Shavertown and Dallas Post Offices is bearing fruit it was revealed this week when postmasters at these offices received instructions from the Post Office Dept. to make a survey and report of all mail posted at the local offices after closing hours.

S/Sgt. William Gensel, radio operator on a B-24 Bomber of the 15th Air Force, stationed in Italy, has been missing in action over Austria since Oct. 16, according to information received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gensel of Jackson Township from his wife in Chicago.

Now playing at Shaver Theatre, "Double Indemnity" starring Barbara Stanwyck and Fred MacMurray.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 19, 1954 FIRE DESTROYS 20-ROOM BAICHER HOME

Dallas-Franklin Township schools got the green light for erection of a four classroom and shop addition to the present High School building Tuesday, according to Ray Kuhnert, supervising principal. If no complications develop, Kuhnert hopes ground can be broken in March, with expectation the addition will be ready for use in September.

A \$35,000 fire early Wednesday morning destroyed the palatial 20 room home of Harry S. Baicher at Harveys Lake. Built about 1910 by the parents of Senator T. N. Wood, and occupied by him and his family until 1948 when it was sold to Baicher. The property was one of the show places at Harveys Lake.

You could get - Fryers, 39¢ lb.; rib roast, 59¢ lb.; cranberry sauce, 2 lg. cans, 37¢; Nabisco Sugar Honey Grahams, 1 lb. pkg., 33¢; Cut-Rite Wax Paper, 2-125 fl. rolls 47¢.

30 Years Ago - Nov. 19, 1964 LEHMAN TO GET BLINKER LIGHTS

Lehman will get its blinker traffic lights for protection of school children crossing the highway, said supervisor Michael Godek, discussing the matter Tuesday at Lake-Lehman School Board meeting. Blinker lights will carry with it during times of school arrival and dismissal a 15 mph speed limit, causing cars to crawl through Lehman Center where they have been accustomed to take it at 50 miles plus.

The deplorable condition of Pioneer Avenue, with its broken and knotted berms was brought to the attention of Kingston Township supervisors by Dr. Walter Mokychie, who resides alongside the well-traveled state road. His complaint is shared by many who must travel the area daily and wonder why better care is not given.

Wyoming Redskins ended the reign of Dallas Mountaineers as two year champions of the West Side Conference last Saturday by upsetting the titlist 6-0 before more than 2500 fans at the Dallas field.

20 Years Ago - Nov. 21, 1974 DALLAS CAFETERIA OPERATING IN RED

A motion to purchase sneakers for members of Lake-Lehman girls' and boys' varsity basketball team was defeated by a vote of 7-2 following considerable discussion at the district's school board meeting Nov. 12. The bid to buy sneakers for the basketball squads was rejected after several board members expressed concern that the measure would set a precedent and necessitate the purchase of footwear for all school sponsored activities including the band.