

EDITORIALS

Send a message with a vote for Red Jones

The Dallas Post hasn't endorsed candidates in the county commissioner race for many years. That changes today, for two reasons.

First, Joseph "Red" Jones is the only serious challenger for the office in two decades who comes from the Back Mountain. He has served honorably on the Lake-Lehman school board for 14 years, including his present stint as chairman. Equally important, he has been active in community life outside of politics, always willing to lend a hand to good causes and families in need.

Second, we are disgusted by the attack ads filling the airwaves with venom and nastiness directed at Jones by his Democrat opponents. These vicious spots have brought the worst side of national politics to an essentially local race, and we all will be losers if the candidates they are produced for succeed with them. The entire series never once mentions the Democratic candidates or any positive policy they may have. Perhaps they have none, based on Frank Crossin's comment to the Back Mountain Business & Professional Association that he believes government shouldn't actively try to improve people's lives.

For his part, Red Jones has suggested that the commissioners sit down with the Chamber of Commerce and others to coordinate strategies that might attract employers. That is about the only positive proposal any candidate for commissioner has offered in the past several elections.

It is important that Luzerne County voters reject the type of campaign being run by Democrat candidates Frank Crossin and Tom Makowski. They should be sent a clear message that we won't tolerate slanderous tactics. At least one of them will be elected to office, but if enough voters withhold their vote perhaps the point will be made. We recommend that you vote for Red Jones on Nov. 7.

Statewide code makes sense

It hasn't gained much attention, but a bill moving through the state Legislature deserves support. House Bill 1128 would establish a statewide building code based on the national BOCA uniform construction code. It also would require that local governments justify changes from the basic code and would provide for certification and training of building inspectors. This legislation is particularly important here, since some municipalities lack a clear, up-to-date code, and are lax in enforcing what they have. A few years ago the Dallas fire chief refused to inspect a multi-family home, for example, because he lacked any standards by which to do so, and feared that if there was any subsequent problem he would be held legally responsible.

Having a code is only half the battle, of course. Back Mountain towns vary greatly in the degree of inspection and enforcement that takes place. Often, it is none at all after the initial building permit is granted, and no one knows for sure if the actual construction matches the plans or is built properly.

House Bill 1128 would be a first step toward insuring integrity of construction in our buildings. That is good for our pocketbooks, and for our safety.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



An independent review of the proposed national budget reveals that, on average, families with incomes below \$30,000 annually will pay higher taxes while those in the upper ranges will pay less. That is due mostly to cutbacks in the "earned income credit" which rewards low-income workers with a tax rebate, or even a payment. Before you jump up and scream that this is some liberal government giveaway, remember that Ronald Reagan praised it as the most important fiscal measure produced in his administration. There's also little mention in the proposed cutbacks in Medicare and Medicaid to indicate that the burden of higher fees and reduced coverage will fall on the families of the elderly and infirm. I agree that we need to get our fiscal house in order, and these programs (and Social Security, which no one wants to talk about) must be better controlled. But I also think we should be honest about who gains and who loses in the process. That isn't happening right now.

This year's Old Shoe game between the Dallas and Lake-Lehman football teams is shaping up to be a classic. Both teams sport impressive records and rosters, but each has stumbled at some point in the season. It's a must-win for the Black Knights, who were upset by Nanticoke last week. Dallas, meanwhile, could use a victory to cement its claim to a playoff spot. I must admit to not being a big football fan (I know that's heresy in these parts), but have always been impressed with the maturity and ambition players on these teams consistently exhibit. Both squads are sprinkled liberally with honor students as well as superb athletes, and the years spent practicing and playing toward a goal have taught valuable lessons. Good luck to both teams, and especially to the seniors who will be playing their last regular-season game.



Grumpy? The holidays are coming. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

Setting the record straight about Red Jones

Editor:

I would like to set the record straight concerning the number of recent degrading and unfair political articles related to Red Jones' candidacy for Luzerne County Board of Commissioners.

When opposing candidates who are seeking the top county elected positions resort to using only negative advertising in an attempt to destroy an opponent's reputation, they clearly expose their own inadequacies. Moreover, such tactics prove that the candidates have nothing positive or worthwhile to share with the public about themselves. The cheap shots used by Crossin and Makowski not only ridicule Red Jones but also take a slam at the voters who placed him in office and make an attempt to diminish the educational success attributed to the entire Lake-Lehman School District. The political attack by Crossin and Makowski was engineered by their political stooge, Ed Mitchell, who is paid for developing political assassinations. Ed Mitchell plays the role of a political prostitute; he sells himself to the highest bidder.

During my 37 years as an educator at Lake-Lehman, I have never seen a Lake-Lehman Board of Education member who demonstrated dishonesty in any respect. All board members have

been honest and dedicated in representing the voters who placed them in office. When individual members realized the need to raise taxes to continue to improve the educational program, they bit the bullet and raised taxes accordingly. However, not all board members voted for every proposal; they voted as their own conscience dictated. This is an example of democracy in action.

Over the years, Lake-Lehman became a first class school district because of the actions and concerns of board members who knew what the public demanded. Red Jones was one of many who sought to achieve outstanding band, athletic, vocational, business, social and academic programs. Eighty percent of the graduation class of 1995 continued their education in various colleges across the country. Eighty percent is something to brag about! Funny; Mitchell, Crossin and Makowski didn't mention anything about 80%.

Red has served the school district well for 14 consecutive years. One doesn't get elected to a school board time and time again unless a majority of the voters approve and appreciate what the official accomplished for them. Red never said "Read my lips, No More Taxes". This ex-Marine is tough,

and you can go to the bank on his promise to fight for the best for the district, parents and kids.

Does Lake-Lehman have financial problems? The district has a few financial problems that are quite unique to the Back Mountain school. Lake-Lehman is the second largest district geographically in Luzerne County; only Hazleton Area is larger. Transportation costs are extremely high for the district in its efforts to bus students over an area of 154 square miles. In contrast, Wyoming Valley West covers only 14.7 square miles. Another major financial problem is attributed to the fact that the Lake-Lehman district has no large industries, hotels or shopping malls to help defray the costs of education. The district is basically a bedroom community for the residents who work in the greater Wilkes-Barre Area.

In conclusion, good schools cost money to maintain. Life in the Lake-Lehman School District is quite pleasurable and uplifting since good schools produce good kids. And it follows, good kids enhance good families and good families promote good neighborhoods. Lake-Lehman is a good neighborhood.

Jay Zaleskas
Retired Lake-Lehman Principal

ONLY YESTERDAY



60 Years Ago - Nov. 8, 1935 - BORO MULLS INSTALLING FIREPLUGS

A committee of Dallas Borough councilmen has been named to confer with Dallas Water Co. to obtain an estimate on the number of fireplugs which would be needed to provide the adequate protection to the town and the cost of installing necessary fireplugs in the borough.

Republicans were victorious in County and local offices. Kingston Township Republicans retained control of township offices. Although as in other local communities Democrats made gains. All Republican nominees for office in Dallas Twp. were elected with decisive majorities. The school district contest was the only one in Dallas Borough which had a 2-party contest. Clydd Lapp, Republican nominee for school director in the borough defeated his sole opponent Raymond Harris, Democratic candidate by an 8-3 majority.

50 Years Ago - Nov. 9, 1945 - BURGLARS HIT LAKE TWP. HIGH SCHOOL

In keeping with his progressive leadership as an all-around community minded hardware merchant, Lawrence Updyke, owner of Dallas Hardware & Supply Co. will start construction before the first of the year on a 20 x 60 foot concrete and steel addition to his store on Main Street. The addition will more than double the present floor display space.

Lake Township High School is the latest victim in a string of robberies that have been carried out during the last 24 months in 24 rural schools within a radius of 45 miles. \$126 from the milk fund was taken from a filing cabinet. Several teachers' desks were ransacked but the thieves missed one containing \$200 belonging to the Ring Fund of the senior class.

Since reopening two weeks ago North Star Dressing plant in Shavertown has processed and shipped more than 60,000 lbs of broilers. The plant is operating five days a week and employs 20 persons.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 4, 1955 - STRICTER SCHOOLBUS SAFETY LAWS NEEDED

Dallas-Franklin-Monroe Twp. school board meeting at Beaumont Tuesday saw a grave need for repeal of present school bus laws and passage of a more stringent regulation. Frank Townend pointed out that a loophole in traffic regulations allow a car to pass a loading or unloading school bus without even slowing down, unless the bus halts at a place where two school stop signs protect it.

In an exciting though orderly and well-mannered election Branch A-23 Levers Auxiliary Section of Amalgamated Lace Operators of America, an independent union, retained its position Wednesday as bargaining agent for the employees of Natona Mills.

You could get - Pork butts 29¢ lb.; standing rib roast 59¢ lb.; Iceburg lettuce, 2 lg. hds, 23¢; cucumbers, 4/25¢; Bridge Rye Bread, 2 lvs., 29¢.

30 Years Ago - Nov. 4, 1965 - SERVICE CLUBS HONOR JOHN BUTLER

John Butler, Scoutmaster Extraordinary, was tapped as Citizen of the Year Thursday evening at Irem Temple Country Club, the award highlighting the Fifth Annual Joint Dinner Meeting of Dallas Kiwans, Lions and Rotary Clubs.

The most recent of area funeral homes will welcome the public to its formal opening November 6 and 7. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Badman have remodeled a mid-Victorian dwelling into a modern funeral home which still retains the grace and atmosphere, which is the chief charm of Dallas. The sharply angled intersection of Machell and Lehman Avenues has been gentled and a further easy approach attained by laying of a black-top driveway encircling the house.

Kenny and Robert Rice announce the sale of Orchard Farm Restaurant to Dine-Way Inc. The company plans renovations to the extent, although the estimated \$100,000 cost of the whole transaction will be chiefly the purchase price of business and property.

LEGISLATORS' DIRECTORY

Federal Officials

Congress

Representative Paul E. Kanjorski (Democrat)
Wilkes-Barre: 825-2200
Washington: (202) 225-6511
10 East South Street, Wilkes-Barre PA 18701-2397 or 2429 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515

Senator Arlen Specter (Republican)
Wilkes-Barre: 826-6265
Washington: (202) 224-4254
116 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre PA 18701

Senator Rick Santorum (Republican)
B-40 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510
Washington: (202) 224-6324
Fax: (202) 228-4991

State Officials

State Senator Charles D. Lemmond (Republican)
(717) 675-3931
22 Dallas Shopping Ctr., Memorial Hwy., Dallas PA 18612-1231

State Representative George Hasay (Republican)
287-7505 or 542-7345 or 474-2276 or 477-3752
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 (Democrat)
283-9622 or 655-3375
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.

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Ronald A. Bartizek
PUBLISHER

Charlotte E. Bartizek
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Peggy Young
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC

Grace R. Dove
REPORTER

Paul Rismiller
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CLASSIFIED/TYPESETTING

Jill Gruver
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