

**EDITORIALS**

## Shoes should go, but more needed at Lake-Lehman

The suggestion that property taxes in the Lake-Lehman School District might rise 30 mills sends shudders through the spines of many district home owners. A 16 percent increase in their taxes could be the straw that broke the bank for some, driving the cost of home ownership beyond their means.

At the same time, the district remains alone in the region as a supplier of shoes to athletic teams, a sore point with critics of the district's financial management. While a minor item, it is a symbol to them of the discipline they say has been lacking on the board and in the administration. What they may be forgetting, however, is that Lake-Lehman has had a total tax increase of only five mills — 3 percent — in the last five years, and is running on empty with little money in reserve.

Lake-Lehman serves both the wealthiest and poorest sections of the Back Mountain, but overall has not enjoyed a growing grand list on the scale of neighboring Dallas, which has managed to avoid a tax rate increase for several years even as budgets have expanded. Combined with slimmed down state and federal contributions, the modest revenue base makes it both more difficult and more critical that the district run efficiently.

The district's largest expense is teaching salaries, which are being swelled by early retirement incentives that will save the money in the long run, but represent a short-term expense.

Taxpayers' fury at higher millage is likely to intensify in future years, and it is incumbent upon the board and administration to seek savings where it makes sense to do so. Dispensing with the district's role as a shoe store seems one good place to start, though a small one. At the same time, if the district's education quality suffers because of imprudent budget cuts, the tax base will grow even more slowly, and a spiral of decline will begin.

## Media shares some of the blame in little flyer's death

The tragic death of 7-year-old Jessica Dubroff wasn't an accident. It was as close to murder as you can get without charges being filed. The police have a name for this: Negligent Homicide. It means someone died as a direct result of the negligence of another, and the death could easily have been avoided. All one need do is listen to the mother to understand the extent of Jessica's parents' indifference to the danger they willingly placed her in. Let's not waste time trying to figure out if the instructor or Jessica was flying the plane, or if they should have sat out bad weather before taking off. All of that is irrelevant. A 7-year-old should never be put in the position little Jessica was, and anyone who pushes a child into such a stunt should be held accountable.

Unfortunately, the media played the role of accomplice in this loathsome affair, gleefully promoting the outrageously irresponsible flight. Even after the crash, headline after headline trumpeted "Jessica's dream," as if a first-grader conceived the idea and determined its final outcome. So, the glory hound parents were egged on by news people who suspended good sense for the sake of the story, and now are politely questioning the imprudence of the adults who contrived this scheme. The whole thing is sickening.

There's always hope that some good will come out of tragedy, and perhaps that will be the case now. If Jessica's mother continues to spout her irresponsible tripe, and editors recognize that they have a duty to ignore harmful reports equal to the need to publish useful ones, maybe Jessica won't have died in vain. As for her mother, the years of anguish she faces are insufficient compensation for the harm she helped bring to an innocent child.

### Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Got a call from Newt Gingrich the other day. Well, it wasn't really Newt, it was a brief recording he made, and I was one of a select one million Americans on his list. I was honored. Newt said his Republicans had passed nine of the 10 Contract with America items, and warned that if his mates didn't retain control of Congress, I would be a captive of the "old, failed liberalism."

Actually, Newt was quite mild compared to the fund raiser who then came on the line. She said, "You and your business will be in serious trouble," if President Clinton is re-elected and Newt's party loses control of Congress. I wasn't sure if that was a warning or a threat. Then she offered to send a replica of Newt's gavel, if I sent her \$250. I didn't need a gavel, so I declined the offer.

### Do you agree? Disagree?

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post, and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. We welcome your opinion on contemporary issues in the form of letters to the editor. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Please include 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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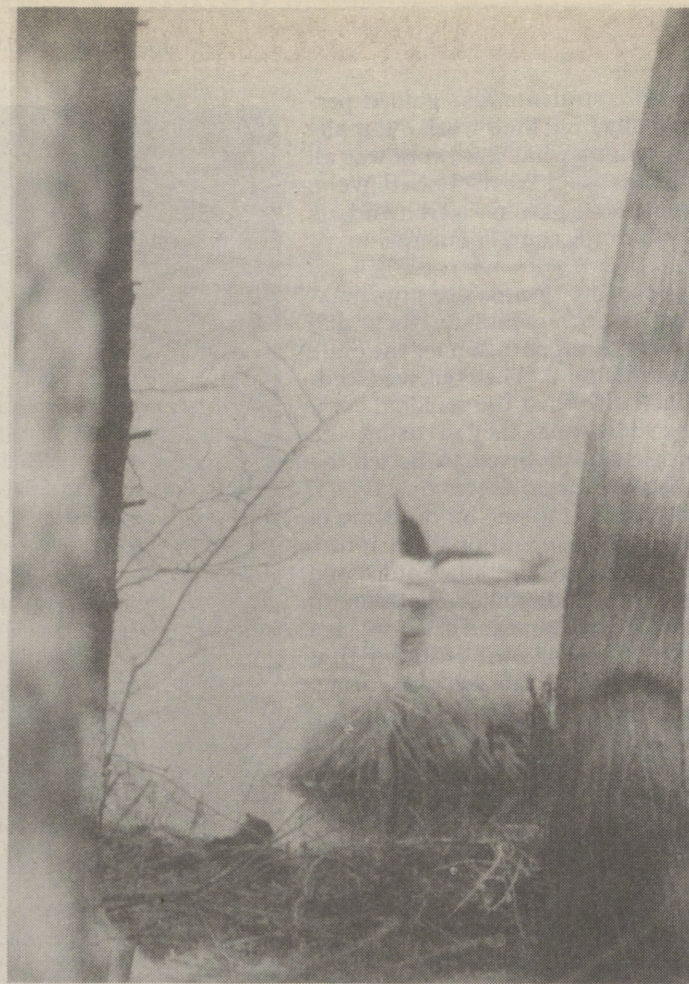
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**They're back.** A flock of American mergansers has returned to the Huntsville Reservoir, where they were first sighted last fall. Very timid birds, they scramble at the slightest disturbance. In left photo, three ducks swam quickly away from the photographer. At right, a lone male appeared to be swallowing a fish. Photos by Charlotte Bartizek.

### LETTERS

## Flower tents are the target of a witch hunt

Editor:

You asked if I agreed with articles or editorials in your paper. Well, some I do and some I don't. And since I'm granted freedom of speech by our Constitution which also proposes a free enterprise system, I have a comment concerning two articles and an editorial.

I'm referring to the two front page articles by Grace Dove "Florists protest tents," and "Tents" have unfair advantage, shop owners say." The editorial was en-

titled "Time to toss out the flower tents."

It seems to me, people, it's time we grew up. First because someone brings a different ball game to our game, we have to chase them away?

Are we afraid of a little competition - no matter where it comes from? Or is it because we have had our way so long that we can't stand to have someone else interfere.

Are some of these same businesses going to try and stop me

from growing my own flowers? Are they going to say that I can't have garage sales? Are they going to try and run me out of town for speaking my mind?

Let's grow up, for God's sake, we are in the late 20th century going on "witch" hunts.

Will Aldrow  
Dallas

P.S. The businesses represented at the town meeting in Kingston Township seem to forget they started that way, right guys?

## Flower tents don't help the Back Mountain

Editor:

Your recent editorial on the flower tents was right on target. When we allow transient vendors to set up in our Back Mountain community are we sending the right message?

Allowing businesses to operate temporarily in a tent is not good

for the Back Mt. These businesses do not pay local taxes nor do they encourage permanent jobs or support of community activities. They are here to take advantage of prime selling time and then gone.

The message we are sending is that we welcome transient businesses that are more appropriate

for a bazaar or a carnival.

Our Back Mountain is a great community, let's keep it that way. I invite readers and residents to please support businesses that are permanent contributors to our community.

Ralph Edwards  
Pres. Huntsville Nursery Inc.

## Many thanks to those who helped Troop 640!

Editor:

My name is Stephanie Yavorchak. I am the troop leader of Brownie Troop 640. Our troop has participated in many activities this year and I would like to extend my gratitude to the many people in our community.

In October we went to the Pizza Hut in Dallas. The girls each made their own pizza. The girl that ran the tour did a great job. She was very kind and patient with the 11 girls in my troop. Also in October, we had our Halloween party, where the girls painted faces on small pumpkins. The pumpkins were donated by Mr. Civarillas pumpkin stand near the old Sunshine Market on Rt. 309 Wilkes-Barre. The girls had a lot of fun with them. We also went to a Halloween Dance held at the V.F.W. in Kingston. It was well planned. We all had a wonderful time. I hope it becomes an annual

event.

In November, we took a tour of the Wegmans store. The tour guide was very good. The best part of the tour was seeing the meat and ice cream freezers. We also took a tour of the Price Chopper store. The tour guide was exceptional. He kept the girls interested the entire time. He was also kind enough to end the tour in the bakery, where he allowed the girls to have some goodies. Which, of course to them, was the best part of the tour.

In December, we had a Christmas Bazaar at the West Side Mall in Edwardsville. We made angels from cellophane paper, foam balls and pipe cleaners. The cellophane paper was donated by the owner of The Courtyard on Main Street in Nanticoke. The angels came out beautiful. We sold them at the bazaar which was a great success.

In January, we went to Auntie Ann's pretzel place at the Wyoming Valley Mall, where the girls each made their own pretzels. The tour guide did an excellent job. Aside from making pretzels, we also learned where pretzels originated, where most of them are made today, and how to make the flavorful dough they use at Auntie Ann's.

In March, we had a Booth Cookie Sale at K-Mart on Rt. 309 in Wilkes-Barre. It was very kind of the manager to let us use a space in the front of the store, where we would get the most visibility. The girls learned the responsibility of making the right change.

Thank you again for making my first year as a Brownie leader an enjoyable one.

Stephanie Yavorchak  
Leader of Troop 640  
Shavertown

## Undercover cops don't need to wear wires

Editor:

State Representative Phyllis Mundy, D-120th Legislative District, proposal to pass a law to let undercover cops wear a wire in order to protect themselves is a Pandora's Box. This will infringe on Mundy's own constituents constitutional rights. Lawmakers such as Mundy are nearly as dangerous to your rights as the common criminal. If this law is passed, a so-called amendment could be added and your rights are totally gone.

If Mundy did her homework, she would know there are electronic signaling devices the undercover policeman could use to set off to alert his backup officers, to let them know he was in trouble. Police departments in other states use them, at an affordable price.

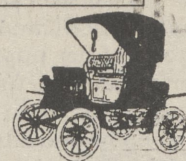
Lawmakers like Mundy, who use law and order as an excuse to get votes from a crime fearing public, reminds me of another lawmaker and chancellor who once said, "Gun control would

help our police efficiency, stop the increase in crime and put criminals away for good." His constituents agreed with him. Born in Austria in 1889, his name was Adolf Hitler.

The civil liberties union and the NRA, have fought for years to protect constitutional rights against misguided legislatures, such as Rep. Mundy, who may have honest intentions but never studied history.

John Pitcavage  
Shavertown

ONLY YESTERDAY



### 60 Years Ago - Apr. 24, 1936 TOWNSHIP STUDENTS PRESENT COMEDY

"Hobgoblin House" a 3-act mystery drama, will be presented May 6 at the Dallas Borough School auditorium by the junior class of Dallas Township. This play is filled with horrifying shrieks and ghostly situations. It promises to be a real thriller. The play is being directed by Miss Margaret Wallace.

Dallas Borough Council reduced its tax levy 1/2 mill at a meeting in the borough building Tuesday cutting the millage from 16 to 15.5. Reduction was accomplished by cutting the sinking fund from three mills to 1.5 mills, increasing the general fund from 10 to 11 mills and keeping the light fund at three mills.

### 50 Years Ago - Apr. 26, 1946 MEMORIAL TREES PLANTED ALONG HI-WAY

More than 50 former servicemen and employees of the State Highway Department under the direction of John Clark, State Highway Department forester, started planting memorial trees along the highway from Trucksville to Idetown early Wednesday morning. Many men recruited by Commander Frank Ferry of Daddow-Isaacs Post American Legion represented Wyoming Valley Posts as well as every Back Mountain vets organization.

Now playing at Shaver Theatre, "Pride of the Marines" with John Garfield, Dane Clark and Eleanor Parker.

### 40 Years Ago - Apr. 20, 1956 RENOVATIONS TO ST. PAUL'S ARE COMPLETED

Five school boards ironed out their differences at Wednesday night's jointure meeting, leaving a smooth and unruined surface for the Dallas Area Schools jointure, which is slated to go into effect July 2 if board members adhere to their present resolution to sign articles of agreement next Tuesday evening.

With their \$50,000 church expansion and renovation program completed except for minor details, the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Shavertown is making plans for a three-day rededication service early in May. Former pastors of the church, which was formed in 1925, will play a leading part in the services.

### 30 Years Ago - Apr. 21, 1966 WOOLBERT LEAVES FOR SOUTH AMERICA

Noxen Fire Co. saved a home on Race Hill Monday morning, after a quick-witted head of the household assured all windows remained closed, called the fire company, evacuated his family and then threw buckets of water on the hot spot until firemen arrived. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Trowbridge and their three children living in the two story home owned by Lloyd Newell escaped injury.

Judy Woolbert, R.N., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Woolbert, Shavertown, left by plane for Philadelphia yesterday for Miami, FL where at midnight she will enplane again for Bogota, Columbia and Quito, Ecuador. She will spend two months in the South American countries, where she will work and study with underprivileged children of the Mestizo Indians who live in the foothills of the Andes Mountains.

### 20 Years Ago - Apr. 22, 1976 RECORD NUMBER OF BRUSH FIRES IN AREA

A rash of brush fires has afflicted the Back Mountain area during the past week, reaching what at least one fire chief termed, "a record number." Residents burning trash or yard refuse have found their fire moving out of control. One brush forest fire in Lake Township, Monday took firefighting crews from three departments all day to extinguish.

John Majewski turned in a high jump of 6-7 3/8 inches to set a new school record in the Mountaineers meet with Bishop Hoban at the Mounts field Thursday. He broke his own school record of 6-7 set the week before. Last week's jump was less than two inches short of the state record which is 6-9.

**If you missed *The Post* - you missed the news!**