

# Year review

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from National Utilities for a 49 percent rate increase, in part because of complaints of poor service.

John Oliver, Lake-Lehman baseball standout, was ranked the 19th best high school player in the nation by High School Baseball USA.

**Feb. 7:** Ruth Peters was sworn in as a Dallas Township police officer, the only woman officer in the Back Mountain. "It's about time," said District Justice James Tupper.

Flood damage was adding up for area towns, and all the bills weren't in yet. Officials hoped for federal and state reimbursement for much of the cost.

Rich Klick won the Dallas Gridiron Club Spirit Award. Sidelined with a broken leg, he continued to attend all the team's games and practices.

**Feb. 14:** A fire that ripped through condominiums at the Newberry Estate was ruled accidental. No one was injured, but several units were damaged or destroyed.

Westmoreland School PTO members presented a petition to the school board containing more than 600 signatures, asking that their school not be closed.

Erin Edwards, a Lake-Lehman student, won two gold medals in the Keystone State Winter Games held at Montage Mountain.

**Feb. 21:** The Back Mountain Memorial Library announced that it would launch a campaign to build a new children's wing. Dr. Wallace Stettler is leading the drive.

Lake-Lehman won the district wrestling title for the third consecutive year, beating Meyers 252-215 1/2.

Wendy's Restaurant opened near the center of Dallas.

**Feb. 28:** Harveys Lake Borough learned that there wasn't much state or federal money available for continued study of algae in the lake. Officials pondered low-cost alternatives.

Jonelle Elgaway, who fought her way back from serious injury, announced she would attend Ohio State, and play field hockey at the Big 10 school.

In Franklin Township, revisions to the zoning ordinance were on the table once again. Some officials thought zoning needed to be tightened.

**March 6:** Student teachers who attended King's College were told they weren't welcome in Dallas schools, because King's offers a tuition discount to graduates of parochial high schools.

The Dallas girls' basketball team beat Bishop Hoban 40-38 to earn a slot in the state playoffs. It was the Lady Mountaineers' first trip to the post-season.

Michael Davies was off to the state level competition in "Math Counts," having placed second overall in a contest at Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

**March 13:** Rob Lewis and Margaret Bakker, local architects, saw one of their designs published in a special issue of *Fine Homebuilding* magazine.

Jonelle Humphrey, assistant chairman of the AIDS council at Dallas High School had heard enough; she lectured a critic who said condoms have a high failure rate.

The Dallas girls were ready for the second round of the state basketball tournament, having dispatched Shamokin 54-37 at Susquehanna University.

**March 20:** Governor Tom Ridge paid a visit to Offset Paperback, and spoke about his plans to reform the state Workmen's Compensation laws.

The Liquor Control Board raided the American Legion post in Dallas, and confiscated four video poker machines, three pin-ball machines and nearly \$6,000 in cash said to have been wagered.

Harry Owen, who had been in charge of maintenance at the Kingston Township municipal building for 35 years, retired. "He's one heck of a great guy," said former police chief, now supervisor Paul Sabal.

**March 27:** In an interview with the Post, Lisa Caputo, press secretary to First Lady Hillary Clinton, described her job as hectic, but fulfilling. "It's been an incredible four years," she said.

The Harveys Lake Women's Club was collecting items to send to servicemen and women assigned to the Bosnia peacekeeping force.

The on-again, off-again dredging of the Outlet at Harveys Lake was off again, as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it wasn't convinced there was a flooding problem caused by beaver dams.

**April 3:** The state Public Utilities Commission slapped a \$5.1 million fine on National Utilities, which owns small water companies in the Back Mountain, listing

*"I can't stand living in Dallas this week."*

Hugh Boice

Jan. 24, 1996, Super Bowl week

a variety of failings.

District Justice James Tupper fined a Dallas Twp. man \$100 for shooting a neighbor's cat. Warren Dailey also had to pay \$77.50 in court costs.

The Jackson Twp. supervisors voted to sue American Asphalt Co., claiming the company was mining more than 800 feet outside of the designated zone.

**April 10:** About 30 Back Mountain flower growers and florists protested the arrival of the "Flower Tents" in the area. They claim the transient merchant has an inherent cost advantage over businesses that are open all year long.

Finally, installation began on new traffic signals along routes 309 and 415 began. The first intersection to be worked on will be at routes 415 and 118.

Tom Byron, an eighth grader from Dallas at Wyoming Seminary, had a few things to be proud of, including a second place finish in the state geography bee and second in the county in "Math Counts."

**April 17:** Retirees could swell the next Lake-Lehman budget by as much as 30 mills. Seven teachers have said they will retire at the end of the year.

Customers of National Utilities poured out tales of woe at a public hearing about the company's request for a 49 percent rate increase. "The water is so bad I won't even give it to my dog," said Marc Kovalchik of Midway Manor.

Ryan Murray captured three gold medals at the Northeastern PA swim championships at Abington Heights High School. His brother Donny took a fourth place and a seventh place, and was part of a medley relay team that set a record.

*"The water is so bad I won't even give it to my dog."*

Marc Kovalchik

National Utilities customer

April 17, 1996

**April 24:** A group of parents approached the Dallas School Board, asking that a swimming pool be added to the high school. The school's swimming team now uses other schools' pools for home meets and practice.

Letters from Lake-Lehman students have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine* and *Newsweek*, thanks to a writing program in American Studies classes taught by John Comitz and Jane Smith.

Mark Belenski turned in his best marathon time ever in the Boston Marathon, finishing in 3:03:08.

**May 1:** Dr. Bruce Goeringer and his wife Jan were in the audience for the auction of the belongings of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. They had fun, but the prices kept them from buying anything.

Officials of the Department of Environmental Protection were stumped by high levels of lead found in three private wells in Franklin Township.

Dr. Curtis Goodwin was back from a trip to Trinidad and Tobago, where he and other optometrists provided dispensed 3,100 pairs of donated glasses to poor residents.

The Dallas tennis team was undefeated and atop the standings, behind the play of a trio of seniors, Tim Reich, Quinn Kavanaugh and Dave Germick.

**May 8:** Parishoners of Shavertown United Methodist Church prepared to honor Jim Wert, who was retiring as pastor after 14 years.

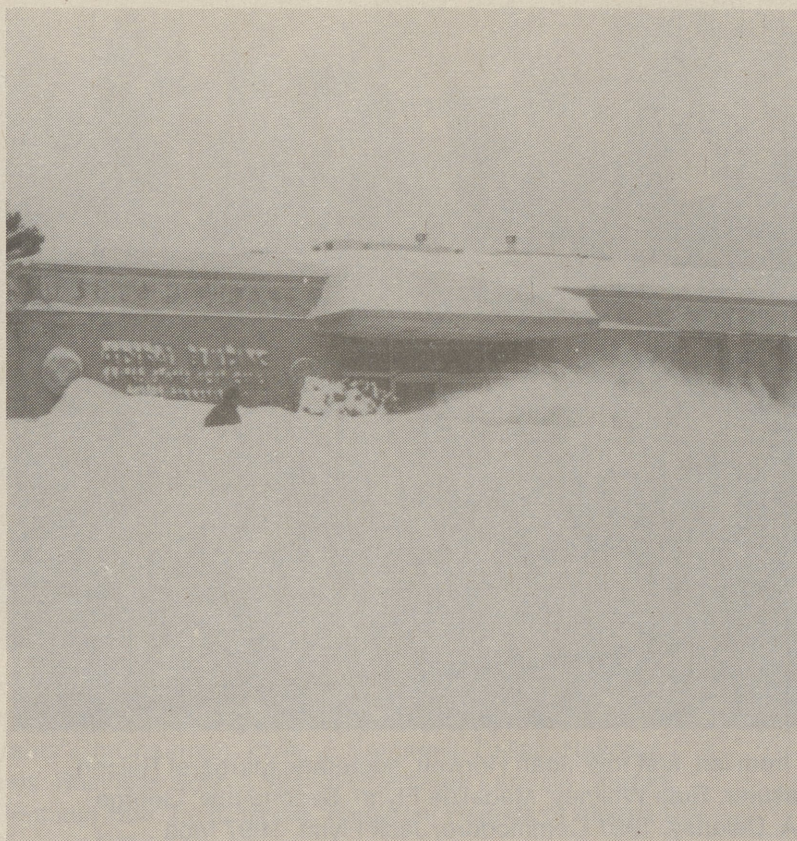
In an effort to control costs, the Lake-Lehman school district discussed cutting back on shop and business classes. But many residents objected.

The 46-acre former Yalick farm along route 415 in Dallas Township was listed for sale at \$2.5 million.

Students and teachers weren't fully convinced the plan to implement a four-period day at Dallas High School would work. They asked for more time to study the idea.

**May 15:** The federal Environmental Protection Agency said it could take another two to three years to clean up chemicals from gasoline that leached into soil in Lehman.

The Dallas school board voted to require that teachers who have taken a sabbatical return to the



Tommy Johnson dug out the Dallas Post Office after a record-breaking snowfall in January.



Chicago Bulls' center Bill Wennington donated signed items to the 50th annual Back Mountain Memorial Library auction. Ernie Ashbridge was chairman.

classroom for at least one year before retiring. Four teachers had indicated they wanted to retire at the end of the year, but the board said no.

Anita Kuchemba brought home her third award for bus driving skill from the School Bus Drivers' Safety Rodeo. She finished third, and came in second and third in past years.

**May 22:** Lake-Noxen school officials dedicated the "Lolly Larkins Reading Corner," to honor the beloved teacher who died in 1995 after a long battle with cancer.



Students helped dedicate the "Lolly Larkins Reading Corner" at Lake-Noxen School.



The Dallas girls' basketball team went to the post season for the first time, and won their first round game.

may be coming back. Annie Root and friends are planning an English show for June 2 at the Luzerne County fairgrounds.

Three fires set within two miles and 35 minutes of each other have been ruled arsons by the state fire marshal.

Brad Dieffenbacher took the silver medal in high jump at the state championship track meet. He leaped 6'7".

**June 5:** Work was nearly ready to begin on "Pendragon Plaza," at the site of the former Howard "Duke" Isaacs auto dealership in Trucksville.

*"Now that I have a hot plate, we'll make rain in class next week."*

Mrs. Carol Williams

Lake-Lehman fifth grade teacher

Sept. 4, 1996

Mrs. Rosalie Albert's seventh grade class at Gate of Heaven School raised more than \$1,000 to donate to mission projects. They used a variety of methods, such as bake sales and defrayed allowances to reach their goal.

Heidi Yankowski Heeb, a graduate of Dallas High School, missed a shot at the Olympic bicycling team when she finished 20th at qualifying events.

**June 12:** Tax collectors for Dallas school district hope their lawsuit against the district will return their commission rates to former levels. Rates were cut as much as 55 percent last year.

Leigh Pawling of Franklin Township was selected as an "Emerging Artist" by *American Artist* magazine.



Children released monarch butterflies at the official kickoff of the fund drive for a new children's wing at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

Troy Strauser, former Lake-Lehman standout, completed his final year of college baseball at Penn State in fine fashion. He hit .333, scored 36 runs and drove in 18 in the leadoff spot.

*"The old building has served the district very well, but it's past its prime."*

Robert Roberts

Principal of Lake-Lehman Middle

Level building

Oct. 23, 1996

**June 19:** The state board of dentistry allowed Dr. William Watkins to return to practice, following a hearing about the death of a three-year-old boy under his care.

Westmoreland School graduated its first DARE anti-drug classes. Students pledged to "strive to live my life drug-free and violence-free."

Mike Adamshick went 3-for-4, including a home run, and was the winning pitcher as the Back Mountain Legion team beat Hanover 9-8.



Marie Manzoni held tight to the state championship trophy win by the Lake-Lehman field hockey team.

**June 26:** It was a wild ride when local police chased Joseph Richard Rossi, 32, from Dallas Township to New Albany in Bradford County. Along the way, two cruisers were damaged and one officer injured slightly.

The Astros won the Back Mountain Major League title, downing the defending champion Rangers 8-4. David Walters banged out three hits for the winners.

A group of property owners in the Sandy Beach section of Harveys Lake banded together to try to help the borough clean up eyesore properties.

**July 3:** No matter where the Dallas school district tries to build a replacement for Westmoreland Elementary, it will cost \$6 to \$7 million, said the engineers for the project.

The White Sox never trailed on their way to the Back Mountain Major League Softball title. Molly Guntli pitched the whole game for the winners.

**July 10:** Plans were set for the 50th edition of a Back Mountain tradition, the library auction. Chairman Ernie Ashbridge and lots of helpers were ready to set records.

A few months ago, 9-year-old Ryan Ulbrich underwent surgery for a heart problem. Today, he's finished the baseball season by pitching a complete game. He's the son of Jeff and Barbara Ulbrich of Trucksville.

The Shavertown United Methodist Church welcomed new ministers, Rev. Douglas Clark and his wife, Jane Bryant Clark.

**July 17:** Responding to complaints from local businesses, Kingston Township hiked the fees for transient merchants from \$10 per year to \$300 per month, and

required that they have adequate parking and sanitation.

The Quick family of Kunkle practice a faith that is part of American history. They are Quakers, members of a group that meets in Wilkes-Barre.

Back Mountain won the District 16 Junior League title by inching past West Pittston 12-11. The winning runs were scored on a heads-up play by John Bucha and John Nackley.

**July 24:** The state DEP said liquid found in tanks at the closed Native Textiles building in Dallas Borough was not hazardous. Officials inspected a 20,000 gallon tank and four 5,000 gallon tanks at the site.

The Dallas school board was leaning toward a new building at the main campus, but Westmoreland parents still pressed to keep their school in Trucksville.

Harveys Lake Borough Council banned the use of fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus, hoping to cut down on nutrients that help algae sprout in the lake.

The National League 9-10 all-stars got only three hits in a game against Newport Township, but that was enough to come away

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