

Finalists

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penalty, it must be administered fairly and justly, based upon the facts of the crime, and regardless of gender." Bush said in one of Rebecca's references.

Because she was writing about a contemporary figure and a recent event, Rebecca relied almost exclusively on the Internet to do research for her paper. She cited web sites from several newspapers and broadcast outlets as references, including the *Houston Chronicle* and the *British Broadcasting Corporation*.

While she concluded that Bush showed remarkable political courage, Rebecca isn't sure he made the correct decision. "I still don't know," she said, "because there were so many people against it, even the Pope."

Tony Lumbis stayed closer to home with his subject. Luzerne County Commissioner Tom Makowski. He felt the newly elected commissioner took a courageous stand on raising the dikes in Wyoming Valley, and instituting a county 911 system.

"The number one reason that made these decisions so hard to make was that they involved raising taxes, something that will obviously come up during election time," Lumbis wrote.

Tony's father, a lawyer who frequently has business at the county courthouse, suggested Makowski as a potential subject, and Tony interviewed Makowski in his office. That tactic caught the judges'

"Since I'll be voting next year, it made me realize to look below the surface of issues."

Tony Lumbis
Finalist in "Profiles in Courage Essay Contest"

attention. "Several people noted that he took the initiative to go and talk to the person," said Shelley Sommer, director of the Profile in Courage Award.

Tony said entering the contest has made him more aware of government, and he now is more likely to bring up a political topic around the dinner table. "Since I'll be voting next year, it made me realize to look below the surface of issues," he said.

Both finalists said they were surprised at their selection. "Top 10 out of 600, anyone would be surprised," Tony said.

Along with about a half dozen classmates, they entered the contest as an assignment in the American Studies class taught by John Comitz, who is proud of his charges.

"They're having a pretty good run at it," Comitz said, noting that Rebecca and Tony were both going to the state History Day competition after finishing second in the local event, held two weeks ago.

Funds

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location. Ask the teller about the Shotwell Fund.

The daughter of Colleen Gornik and Robert Snotwell Jr. was severely burned by the fire that destroyed the home at 132 Hillcrest St.

After going through a skin graft operation at St. Christopher's Hospital in Philadelphia, Rikki Sue is doing well, said her grandmother, Mrs. Robert Shotwell Sr. "The doctors are pleased with the operation. Her vital signs are good. We just have

to wait and see that the skin graft will take," she explained.

James Balavage, Kingston Township police chief, said it has been confirmed that Rikki Sue has her vision and her heart and lungs are in good condition.

The fire occurred on April 5. Police have ruled out the possibility that the blaze was caused by an electrical malfunction and are still investigating the cause.

-Kylie Shafferkoetter

Troop 693 to hold car wash April 25

Boy Scout Troop 693 will hold a car wash April 25 at the Harveys Lake Municipal Building from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$5 donation. Call 639-5158 for more information.

Land Trust invites public on Bird Walk

The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust welcomes the PA Society of Ornithology compiler, Scott Killam, to lead a Bird Walk through nearly 90 acres of farm and wetlands, Sat., May 2 at 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We will leave at 7 a.m. from Hillside Dairy in Shavertown or 7:30 a.m. from Hunlock Creek Post Office on Route 11. Car pooling is suggested.

The walk will be held at the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society Sanctuary at the Houck Farm off of Route 93 in Nescopeck Township.

It is a free activity open to the public. Refreshments will be provided by the Land Trust after the walk. Monetary donations to the Land Trust are always welcome.

Call 696-5545 to make a reservation and to receive instructions in case of inclement weather. Be prepared to walk in the mud. Bring binoculars, bird guides and cameras.

Fields

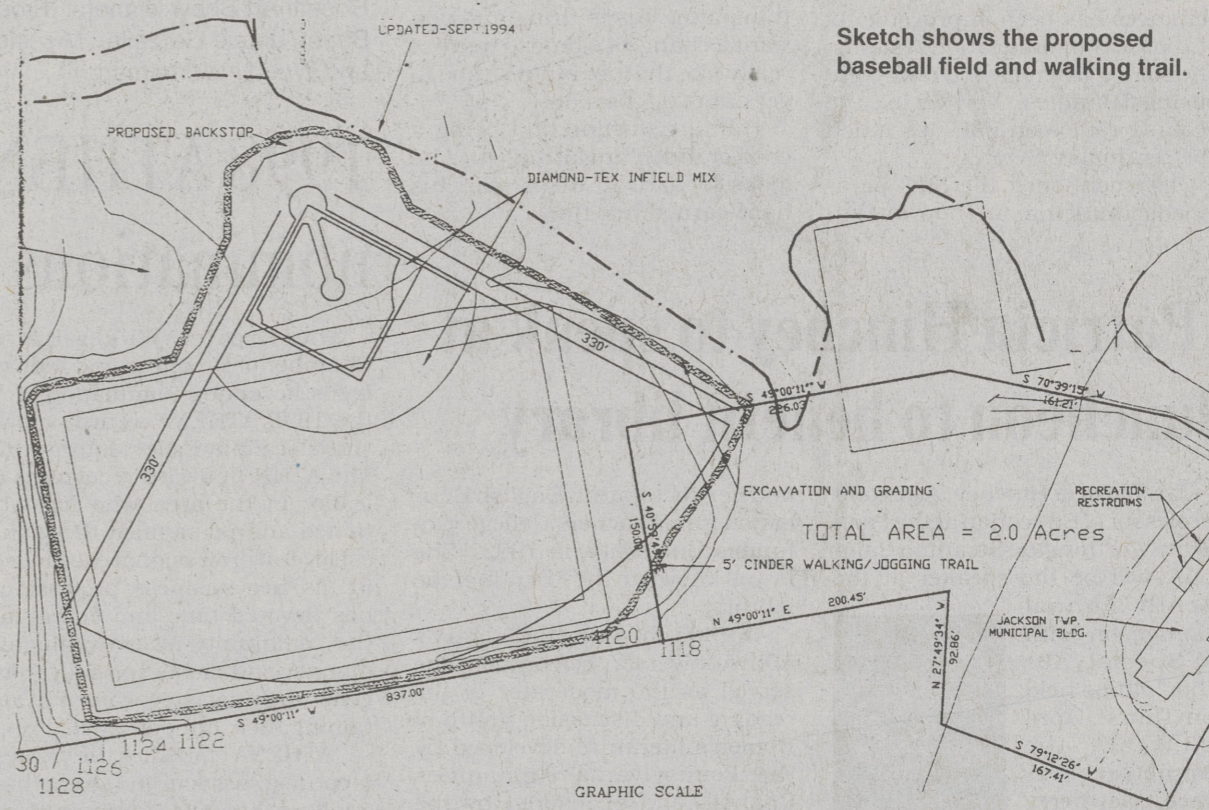
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The Jackson Township Supervisors will be opening the bathrooms in the township building for the use of park-goers. "The only thing we ask is that the teams who use the field keep it cleaned up," Tribendis said at a recent recreation board meeting. "We don't have a work crew other than the board."

The project hasn't been undertaken without the support of the community. So far, American Asphalt has donated stones. Eastern Penn Supply Company has donated pipe to help fix drainage problems and Hillside Dairy has donated a sign. But that doesn't take into account all the individuals have donated their time to the project.

Karen Whipple doesn't serve on the recreation board now, but she was a member for eight years. She recalls that erecting the soccer field was a slow process. "We explored every avenue there was to get everything moving," she said. Although it was a slow moving process, Whipple acknowledged the work of the volunteers who helped with fundraising and donations.

"It's exciting to see people getting behind it," Whipple said. "I hope that excitement continues to churn over there." She also said she was encouraged by the progress the board is making. "I'm really excited about what's happening over there. I think if we can



Sketch shows the proposed baseball field and walking trail.

Distinguished judging panel includes three Kennedys

Rebecca Kaufman and Anthony Lumbis are in select company as two of 10 finalists in the Profile in Courage Essay Contest. The contest, now in its fourth year, is offered to students in nine states — the New England states, plus New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. It will be offered nationwide next year.

More than 600 entries were received this year, and a review committee chose the top 100, which were read by staff members of the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. The final 10 essays are judged by the same committee that selects the winner of the Profile in Courage Award, which honors an elected official who has shown extraordinary political courage and leadership. Both contests are sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation.

The judges include three members of the Kennedy family: U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy; Caroline Kennedy, John F. Kennedy's daughter and president of the Kennedy Library Foundation; and John F. Kennedy Jr., vice chairman of the foundation. Noted historian and author David McCullough, former U.S. Sen. Alan Simpson and Ambassador William vanden Heuvel, former special assistant to Robert F. Kennedy also serve on the panel, along with eight other people.

The winner of the essay contest will receive a \$2,000 college scholarship and will be invited to the Kennedy Library to participate in the ceremony recognizing the 1998 Profile in Courage Award recipient. Each state finalist will receive a \$500 prize, and 25 second-place finalists will receive a print created for the Kennedy Library by Jamie Wyeth. All winners receive a paperback edition of John F. Kennedy's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Profiles in Courage*. An excerpt from the winning essay will be published in the John F. Kennedy Library newsletter.



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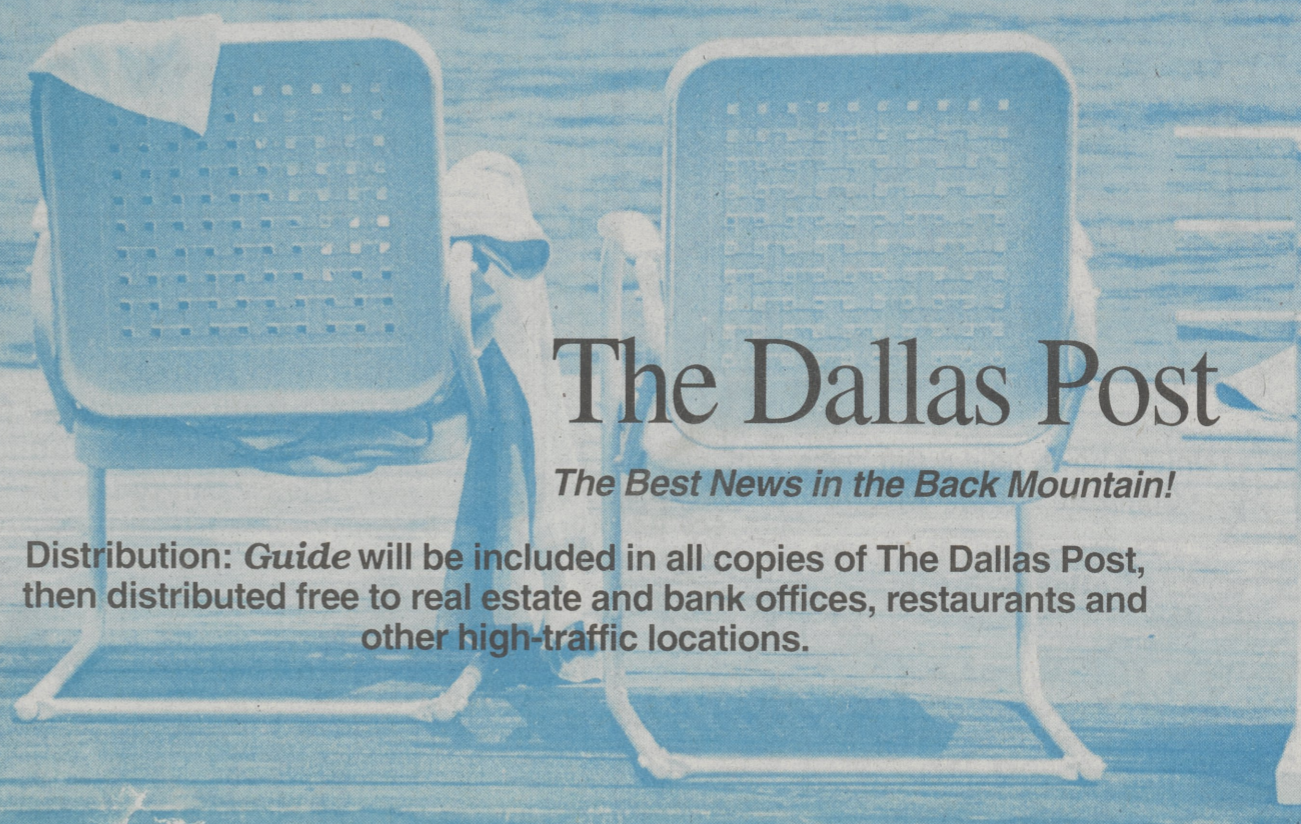
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