EDITORIALS

Old Shoe Game is too good to give up

Something's wrong when a statewide bureaucracy threatens local traditions. That's exactly what is is going on in high school football schedules, as the drive to crown a state champion has superseded the simple values that high school athletic con-

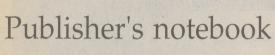
tests can provide.

Here's what's happening: The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), which regulates high school sports, has come up with a scheme in which schools would only play those of similar size, regardless of geography. Since there aren't enough similar-size schools in this area to fill out a season close to home, there will be a "superconference" that will pit teams in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties against one another, and bring in Williamsport for good measure. While this may make perfect sense to a paper pusher in Mechanicsburg, it disrupts matchups that have been years — sometimes decades — in the

It wouldn't be so awful if the new scheme only meant that teams would play most of their games against similar opponents, but the demand that not a single game can vary from the plan may mean the loss of long-time rivalries that have brought communities together for decades. One of the best of these is the annual "Old Shoe" game between Dallas and Lake-Lehman. If we're lucky, both schools will be in the same size class in coming years, and the game will go on without interruption. But Dallas is barely above the cutoff for Class AAA this year, and Lehman has been just below it but growing, so it wouldn't take much to throw a monkey wrench in this key Back Mountain event.

Local coaches and school personnel aren't at all fond of the new arrangement, but had little choice other than going along when a majority of their counterparts did so. If they didn't, they could have found themselves unable to schedule games at all.

It certainly is an accomplishment when a local team wins a state championship, as Dallas did in 1993, but it doesn't make sense for the PIAA to have the power to squeeze out games like the Old Shoe on the questionable grounds that such games aren't a fair test. Surely the hundreds of players who have strapped on pads for this contest over the years would dispute such a mindless contention.



Ron Bartizek



I never dreamed the day would come when I would consider folks in the Deep South ahead of the Northeast, but I was wrong. Voters in Alabama proved they have more common sense than northerners when they rejected a referendum to institute a state lottery. The pundits speculated that conservative religious forces defeated the plan, but it really doesn't matter - Alabamians have been spared the biggest shell game of our time, which has been foisted on an unsuspecting public by a majority of states.

State lotteries began in New Hampshire, that bastion of taxhaters, who decided that gambling was a way to fill state coffers "voluntarily," instead of by repressive levies. In principle, I suppose that has some logic, although practice often veers off in other directions from intentions. If that was all there was to it, maybe I wouldn't mind much, but state governments have gone far beyond calmly offering a game of chance to the public. We now have instant games, lotto games, keno games - a range that is more confusing than the menu in a Chinese restaurant.

And it's not just the games, it's how they are presented. If any private business advertised the way the lotteries do, they'd be hauled into court in a New York minute. Commercials don't just suggest we go out and buy a couple of tickets, they tell us this is the way to riches beyond our wildest dreams. And the promotion works. A recent poll found that most people thought the lottery was a better way to get ahead than old-fashioned

hard work and saving. You may have noticed, as I have, that most people lined up for tickets look as if they haven't been getting that far along, and therefore are most susceptible to the come-ons. It also seems that many of them are older, which is ironic given our state's constant reminders that the lottery "benefits older Pennsylvanians." Maybe the ticket buyers think it's a wash, they buy tickets and the money just comes back to them anyway. Sort of a "win-win" deal. Fat chance. By the time they pay out, compensate the stores that sell tickets, buy millions in advertising and run a bloated bureaucracy, only a small percentage of the money spent on tickets finds its way back to beneficial programs, which themselves have overhead costs.

I'm not the biggest foe of government by any means, but if there ever was a program that delivers far less than it takes from our pockets, this is it. Even worse, we have trained a generation of citizens that get-rich-quick schemes not only sound attractive, they are endorsed by our leaders. What a message that is.

> You can send items to the Post by e-mail dalpost@aol.com

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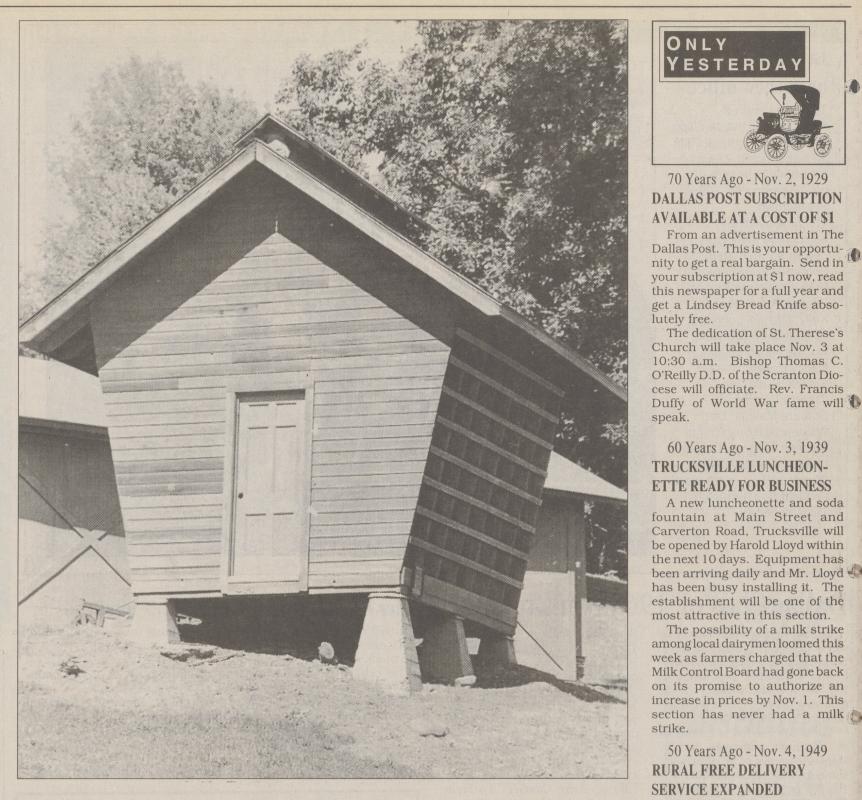
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Harvest time architecture. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

SPCA works to save pets, can use your help

November 7-13, 1999, marks National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week, an event sponsored by The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) in recognition of the lifesaving services provided by animal shelters, like the SPCA of Luzerne County, across

Whether returning a lost cat to his owner, rescuing a dog roaming a busy street, or matching up a family with their new animal companion, the employees at the SPCA of Luzerne County work

hard to make your community a better place for all its residents.

In 1999, the HSUS and the SPCA of Luzerne County would like to especially recognize the important contributions of the staff and volunteers who give their time, skills and support to help animal shelters across the country help our community's neediest animals. The SPCA of Luzerne County cared for over 8,000 ani-

mals last year. We urge readers opportunity to visit the SPCA of Luzerne County, ask about our programs, and learn about the many ways the public can assist us in helping the abused and homeless animals in our commu-

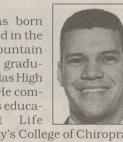
The SPCA is located at 524 E. Main Street, Plains Twp. Visiting/adoption hours are Monday through Friday from 11 til 3 and 5 til 7 and weekends from 11 til 3. For information on how to become a shelter volunteer call 825-4111.

> Director of Development SPCA of Luzerne County

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Dr. Brad Bryant Jr., D.C. has joined the staff of the Back Mt. Chiropractic Center. Dr. Bryant will be joining Dr. Santina Whited and Dr. Matthew Fornicola in their practice.

He was born and raised in the Back Mountain and is a graduate of Dallas High School. He completed his education at Life



University's College of Chiropractic, Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Bryant may be reached Mon.-Fri., at the Back Mountain Chiropractic Center, 675-1190.

Theodore B. Wampole, Jr., Sales Representative for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in Dallas, has been granted the LUTC Fellow Designation.

The LUTC Fellow is given to individuals who meet or exceed qualification standards determined by the organizations that jointly sponsor the designation, LUTC and the National Association of Life Underwriters (NALU).

The designation marks an agent's long-term commitment to professionalism on behalf of clients, establishes the agent's competence and business experience, marks a commitment to NALU's Code of Ethics and fosters additional professional development.

Wampole is a member of the Wyoming Valley Association of Life Underwriters and has been active in the profession for 16 years. He also serves the community as a member of the WBBPO Elks Lodge #109, Finance Committee Chairman at Central United Methodist

Church, Chairman of the City of Wilkes-Barre Fire Civil Service Commission, Tee Ball coach for North End Little League and as the President of the Killer Bees Athletic Club, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting amateur athletics in the Wilkes-Barrre area. He resides in the North End of Wilkes-Barre with his wife, Susan and their three children, Nicholas, Teddy III and Alexander.

IN THE SERVICE

June L. Curran, R.N. was recently honored as the 1999 recipient of the Martha Everett Award at Penn State Geisinger Medical Center in Danville.

The award is presented to an emergency room nurse who exemplifies the attributes of caring, team covering both Pasco and Pinellas work, dedication and clinical ex-

June, a graduate of Dallas Senior High School and Robert Packer Hospital School of Nursing, resides in Danville with her husband, David M. Curran. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Tippett of Shavertown.

Sean Kelly Xenakis, a 1991 graduate of Dallas High School, has been named an Assistant State Attorney for the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida. Xenakis is working with State Attorney Bernie McCabe of Florida's Sixth Judicial Circuit counties

Xenakis graduated fromn Florida State Unviersity in 1995, and received his Juris Doctor Degree last May from the Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg, FL. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Randall J. Xenakis of Dallas

winning while county candidates had a nip and tuck battle all the 30 Years Ago - Nov. 6, 1969 SHAVERTOWN POST OFFICE TO REMAIN OPEN

70 Years Ago - Nov. 2, 1929

From an advertisement in The

The dedication of St. Therese's

60 Years Ago - Nov. 3, 1939

A new luncheonette and soda

The possibility of a milk strike

50 Years Ago - Nov. 4, 1949

Postmaster Joseph Polacky has

announced that 65 additional families will receive rural free de-

livery service after Nov. 16 be-

cause of an extension of R.F.D. Rte 3. Forty families will be benefited by improved mail service in

the Maplewood Hts. section of Dallas Township and 25 families

living along Rte. 309 between

Goss Manor and the intersection

with Memorial Highway at the Y

Back Mountain football champi-

onship Saturday downing Dallas

Township Redskins 7-0 before a

large crowd on the Dallas grid-

iron. This victory added to its 27-

7 win over Kingston Township

gives Lehman possession of the

"Golden Football Shoe", emblem-

atic of the Back Mountain Cham-

40 Years Ago - Nov. 5, 1959

The Back Mountain area with

the exception of Lake Township

stayed in the Republican column

during Tuesday's voting but the

solid Republican majorities of

former years waned as hundreds

of Republicans dissatisfied with

GOP party leadership, split their

tickets and voted for the bi-parti-

san Democratic county candi-

dates. In Dallas Borough where

Democrats mustered a last minute

bipartisan slate for all Borough

offices, the contest was hot with

all regular Republican candidates

REPUBLICAN SUPPORT

DECLINES SLIGHTLY

Lehman Scotties copped the

will also receive rural delivery.

Despite speculation to the contrary, it appears Kingston Township residents need not fear loss of their Shavertown Post Office. At least not for the present. Rumors began spreading when discovery was made the lease at the present facility was going to expire in '71 culminating a 10 year agreement with Wyoming National Bank, owners of the property. A spokesman for Wyoming National Bank told The Post that he was not aware of any plans to move Shavertown Post Office from the presently occupied building on Memorial Highway at termination of the lease.

20 Years Ago - Nov. 1, 1979 **ELECTION BATTLES HEAT UP**

The two headline contests in elections next Tuesday as far as Back Mountain residents are concerned are the county commissioners race involving local resident Joseph "Red" Jones and the venomous Harveys Lake Council race which may be the most heated race in Luzerne County. Jones with his Republican running mate Frank Trinesewski of Wilkes-Barre faced down the Republic organization to win the primary last

LEGISLATORS' DIRECTORY

Federal Officials

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DC 20515 Senator Arlen Specter (Republican) Wilkes-Barre: 826-6265

Washington: (202) 224-4254 senator_specter@specter.senate.gov 116 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre PA

or 711 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510

Senator Rick Santorum (Republican) Scranton: 344-8799 Washington: (202) 224-6324 Fax: (202) 228-4991 e-mail: senator@santorum.senate.gov 527 Linden St., Scranton, PA 18503 120 Russell Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510

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State Senator Charles D. Lemmond (Republican) (717) 675-3931 e-mail: smurphy@pasen.gov

22 Dallas Shopping Ctr., Memorial Hwy. Dallas PA 18612-1231 State Representative George Hasay

State Representative Phyllis Mundy (Democrat) 283-9622 or 655-3375 Suite 113, 400 Third Avenue, Kingston

287-7505 or 542-7345 or 474-2276 or

Hasay's district encompasses: Harveys

Township, Ross Township, and Dallas

Lake, Lehman Township, Jackson

Township, Lake Township, Franklin

144 North Mountain Boulevard,

Township's north voting district

Mountaintop PA 18707

(Republican)

Mundy's district encompasses: Dallas Borough, Dallas Township except for the north voting district, and Kingston Township.