

**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 That's exactly what is going on in high school football schedules, as the drive to crown a state champion has superseded the simple values that high school athletic contests can provide.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 making.

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.

## Publisher's notebook

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 tax-haters, 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](mailto:dalpost@aol.com)

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Harvest time architecture. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

## LETTERS

### SPCA works to save pets, can use your help

Editor:  
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 the country.

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 animals last year.

We urge readers to take this 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 community.

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.

Edward Gross  
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 Formicola 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 cli-

ents, 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 WB BPO 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-Barre 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 work, dedication and clinical excellence.

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 covering both Pasco and Pinellas counties.

Xenakis graduated from Florida State University 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.

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144 North 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 113, 400 Third Avenue, Kingston PA 18704  
Mundy's district encompasses: Dallas Borough, Dallas Township except for the north voting district, and Kingston Township.

ONLY YESTERDAY



70 Years Ago - Nov. 2, 1929  
**DALLAS POST SUBSCRIPTION AVAILABLE AT A COST OF \$1**

From an advertisement in The Dallas Post. This is your opportunity to get a real bargain. Send in your subscription at \$1 now, read this newspaper for a full year and get a Lindsey Bread Knife absolutely free.

The dedication of St. Therese's Church will take place Nov. 3 at 10:30 a.m. Bishop Thomas C. O'Reilly D.D. of the Scranton Diocese will officiate. Rev. Francis Duffy of World War fame will speak.

60 Years Ago - Nov. 3, 1939  
**TRUCKSVILLE LUNCHEONETTE READY FOR BUSINESS**

A new luncheonette and soda fountain at Main Street and Carverton Road, Trucksville will be opened by Harold Lloyd within the next 10 days. Equipment has been arriving daily and Mr. Lloyd has been busy installing it. The establishment will be one of the most attractive in this section.

The possibility of a milk strike among local dairymen loomed this week as farmers charged that the Milk Control Board had gone back on its promise to authorize an increase in prices by Nov. 1. This section has never had a milk strike.

50 Years Ago - Nov. 4, 1949  
**RURAL FREE DELIVERY SERVICE EXPANDED**

Postmaster Joseph Polacky has announced that 65 additional families will receive rural free delivery service after Nov. 16 because 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 will also receive rural delivery.

Lehman Scotties copped the Back Mountain football championship Saturday downing Dallas Township Redskins 7-0 before a large crowd on the Dallas gridiron. This victory added to its 27-7 win over Kingston Township gives Lehman possession of the "Golden Football Shoe", emblematic of the Back Mountain Championship.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 5, 1959  
**REPUBLICAN SUPPORT DECLINES SLIGHTLY**

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-partisan Democratic county candidates. In Dallas Borough where Democrats mustered a last minute bipartisan slate for all Borough offices, the contest was hot with all regular Republican candidates winning while county candidates had a nip and tuck battle all the way.

30 Years Ago - Nov. 6, 1969  
**SHAVERTOWN POST OFFICE TO REMAIN OPEN**

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 May.