

## EDITORIALS

## Schools should be useful to those who paid for them

Local school administrators are much too quick to dismiss the notion that Back Mountain residents might appreciate the chance to learn something new or shake a leg in evening classes. Some other school districts make better use of their facilities by hosting dance and fitness classes, computer instruction, Red Cross CPR courses and much more. But not Dallas and Lake-Lehman. Here, the administration assumes that since no one has offered to extend the use of the facilities taxpayers have paid for, no one really cares. But we wonder if that's true.

The Abington Heights district is one good example of what can be done at school after hours. Not only are computer training and financial planning available to adults, the school's fitness center and swimming pool have regular hours for use by the general public, even though fees sometimes don't cover the cost of staffing them. "It's something we feel should be offered," says the district's director of continuing education programs.

There are reasons other than profit and loss to open the school buildings to the adult public. One of the best is to reinforce the feeling that the schools are part of the wider community, not ivory towers set high on a hill. Astute educators rue the decline of parental participation in schooling, and welcoming parents into the same rooms and hallways their children inhabit each day might go a long way toward reviving that connection. Evening classes also could help ease the transition for new families, since the Back Mountain offers precious few places for them to get to know their new neighbors except at sporting events.

Dallas is now considering a new fieldhouse and perhaps a pool, both of which could be great additions to the community, if they are available to all. But at the moment, it is uncertain if all the new facilities will be open to all the students, never mind to the public.

It's time for the board and administrators of the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts to take a fresh look at how wisely and well their facilities are being used, in the context of the institutions' place in the social fabric of the Back Mountain. When they do, we hope they'll take the next logical step — to find ways that the entire community can take advantage of the resources they have bought and paid for.



The ice is off the ponds, and spring is ready to . . . well, spring. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

## Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



Being the parent of a 10 and soon-to-be 14-year-old, I have no choice but to keep in touch with popular culture. I can avoid most of the television shows geared toward pubescent boys and girls by hiding in another room. (From what little I've seen, I guess adolescence lasts until about age 35, at least for lawyers.) But in the car I'm often a captive audience for 97 BHT or other radio stations aimed squarely at the Britney Spears and Backstreet Boys set. And I've noticed something interesting going on; hit songs have become like cats, with multiple lives as they are returned to the airwaves as a "remix." The record companies have obviously discovered the ultimate brand extension — sell the same thing in a different package over and over to the same people. Thus, a slow song is remade with a fast tempo, and vice versa. And they all get the disco treatment to turn them into party songs.

This has gotten me to thinking about our business. We go to the trouble and expense of putting out a completely new paper each week, but maybe we don't have to. We could simply change things around a little and reissue a paper two or three more times before producing an entirely new one. So, this is what we'll try starting next month:

- The first week's paper will be the usual Dallas Post you've come to expect, crammed with photos and articles that have appeared nowhere else.

- For the rest of the weeks in a month, we'll make the paper look and read differently. For example, we always have "out-take" photos from events, and we'll substitute those each week. Headlines will be re-written of course, since those and photos are what will make each issue appear to be unique. We can also change the articles somewhat. With computers, we can replace words with synonyms (or maybe homonyms) by using our program's find/replace command. By the last week of the month, we will eliminate all words with more than two syllables.

We realize that people shouldn't be expected to pay full price for an issue that isn't entirely original, so the price will drop a nickel each week. Subscribers who choose to do so will be able to order just the first issue of each month for half the normal rate.

There you have it, the newspaper version of modern marketing. Now, if we could just get an Internet site going, we could figure out how to give away what we now get paid for. That may not seem smart, but if we become TheDallasPost.com, we should be able to issue stock worth a few hundred million before anyone notices.

Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week?

A: Only in The Dallas Post.

## The Dallas Post

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## Library news



Carol King

The Monday evening book discussion group will meet on March 27 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the library. The book to be discussed is *The Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood*. Newcomers are welcome. For further information, call Pam Oliveira, 674-9935; or the library, 675-1182.

Two books were discussed at the recent meeting of the Monday morning group, the January meeting having been cancelled because of a snowstorm. The first book, *Pride and Prejudice*, was one of six novels written by Jane Austen between 1811 and 1813, and it is astonishing that they are still extremely popular. There are, in fact,

## Jane Austen still rates '10'

Jane Austen Fan Clubs in England (perhaps in this country, too? We have one such fan in our discussion group.). Life in the middle-class Bennett family in *Pride and Prejudice* centered around the prospects for getting its daughters married off successfully (i.e., to rich men of a higher social class), which doesn't fit in with today's "modern woman" concept — but because Jane Austen describes English country life of that era so vividly, limns her characters so clearly, and unfolds the plot of her story so intriguingly, readers are beguiled into reading on to find out what will happen next. Over half of those present gave the book a rating of 9 or 10. Other votes ranged from 6 to 8.

The book for February was *The Reader*, by Bernard Schlink. He was born in Germany in 1944 and lives there today. The story is a complex one, and our discussion was highly animated. Some readers remarked that it was the first book they had read that dealt with the effects of the Third Reich on

the second generation. Some of those present felt that the first 80 pages could have been condensed and the plot moved ahead more quickly. There was general agreement that one of the main themes of the story was that of guilt and how it guided the characters' actions. As always, we analyzed the main characters and their motivations. (We often wonder how the author whose work we are discussing would react to our comments.) Ratings for this selection ranged from 4 (1 vote) to 9 (2 votes); 8 received the greatest number of votes.

A nostalgic note: *Peanuts: A Golden Celebration*, by Charles M. Schulz, is No. 1 on the *New York Times* Best Sellers list for March 5.

Marilyn Rudolph, Children's Librarian, announces that a special program, "Cinderella's Storyland," will be held April 12 to celebrate National Library Week. Registration will be required. More details will be given next week.

## Dallas High School reunion organizers seek classmates

Reunion committee members for Dallas Class of 1980 are looking for addresses for the following people:

Kimberly Barby, Barry Baseski, Wayne Beakley, Lori Leib Bolton, Cynthia Davis Boyd, Timothy Brennan, Barbara Brody, Devin Brunges, Pamela Carey, Edmund Castellani, David Cevasco, Molly Duffy Chandiramani, Richard Crane, John Deitz, William Dewey, Brent Dille, Karen Dillfield, Ronald Dombrowski, Robert Edwards, Michael Evans, Lois Faller, Lis Spar Fischer, Lynn Noone Fisher, David Friedman, Donna Gashi, Conrad Goeringe, Allan Gordon, Wilson Gregory,

Robert Groblewski, Candace Garrison Hatten, Catherine Kemmerer Hayes, Pattilyn Heist, Sharon Herbert, Shari Hodges, Lauren Hrynysn, Diana Saunders Ide, Molly Brace Janczek, Robin Jones, Bijan Movafegh Joorabi, Robert Kalafsky, Jennifer Kern, Michelle Krivak Kirk, Janet Davies Kleinhample, Dawn Eveland Klemunes, Marilyn Knepp, Connie Jo Suder Koenig, Kimberly Ellsworth Lane, Thomas Lehet, Jeffrey Matus, James McDonald, Mary Beth Kile McMurtry, Leonard Nordfors, Mark O'Neill, Lori Sorber Panzetta, Francis Parsons, Morgan Phillips, Andrew Pinter, Renee Young Prescott, Mark Reihus,

Susan Ridall, Charles Rollman, Trudianne Rozelle, Brenda Johnson Saxe, David Scutt, Jeffrey Seizys, Chester Shemanski, Rodman Shoemaker, Diana Schroders, Bernard Somon, Kenneth Sitkowski, David Stibgen, Harold Stout, Reba Bolton Strickler, Nancy Frantz Thomas, Norma Bordley Thomas, Margaret Kopetchney Toma, Mary Harris Villa, Laurie Wallace, Lynn Warneka, Diane Wendling, Lisa Cissarelli Wincek, Neil Wodaski, Kevin Yeyesley.

Information on anyone, please call Suzanne Williams Gallagher at 714-2969 or E-mail: dallas\_reun80@hotmail.com.

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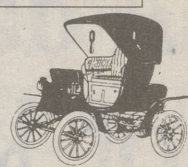
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144 North Mountain Boulevard,  
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Hasay's district encompasses:  
Harveys Lake, Lehman Town-  
ship, Jackson Township, Lake  
Township, Franklin Township,  
Ross Township, and Dallas  
Township's north 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 - March 7, 1930

## DALLAS BOARD CONSIDERS ADDING YEAR TO H.S. STUDY

All students interested in the organization of a school band are asked to meet at the Dallas Township vocation school this morning at 10 a.m. Instruments will be furnished to all students wishing to become members of the band. Instruction will be free. Professor Rich will be the director of the band and practice will be held once a week throughout the remainder of the school term and during the summer months.

Plans for the addition of the twelfth year to the high school curriculum were discussed at the meeting of Dallas borough school board held in the high school building on Tuesday night.

60 Years Ago - March 8, 1940

## BACK MOUNTAIN STUDENTS COMPETE IN SPELLING BEE

Pupils from the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades of Shavertown and Trucksville schools will compete in a spelling bee to be held at the high school on March 20, from 1:30 to 3:30. The two best spellers will represent the local school at a county contest on March 29.

You could get: 1 doz. eggs - 25¢; Boneless fish fillets - 10¢/lb.; Pork chops - 15¢/lb.; Scot toilet tissue - 3 rolls 20¢; Scot paper towels, 2 rolls 17¢.

50 Years Ago - March 10, 1950

## DALLAS RECEIVES FUNDING FOR POLICE PENSIONS

Dallas gets \$19.22 as its share of the funds available for police pensions, as announced by Auditor General, Weldon B. Heyburn, Harrisburg. The total for the entire state is \$225,084.89 distributed among 563 municipalities of the Commonwealth.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hilbert celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary by having an open house. They received 82 cards and many gifts from friends and family.

40 Years Ago - March 10, 1960

## BLIZZARD CATCHES SCHOOL OFFICIALS OFF-GUARD

In the midst of a howling blizzard, schools of the Back Mountain area dismissed children at lunch time on Thursday. Buses had to crawl through 10 inches of snow to make their rounds. Forecasts of heavy snow which did not materialize on two occasions during February, caused school administrators to decide not to call of sessions before school started.

Women of Prince of Peace will hear a talk on antique glass and furniture, given by Eugene W. Hanley and Robert Davis, of the Silver Sleigh Antique Shop, Tuesday evening.

30 Years Ago - March 12, 1970

## DALLAS ROTARY CLUB NOTES ANNIVERSARY

Dallas Rotary Club's charter night will be commemorated at the regular meeting of the club tonight at 6:30 at the Irem Country Club. Earl Phillips, president of the Dallas Club, has urged members to be present at the commemoration of the beginning of the club which dates back to the 1920's.

The Dallas Senior High School band will present its annual spring concert March 20, in the school auditorium. Included in the program will be the senior high school band, the stage band, a 100-piece grade school band, woodwind trio, brass ensemble, the senior high school choristers and the major-ettes.

20 Years Ago - March 6, 1980

## HORTICULTURE EXPERT OFFERS GARDENING TIPS

E.V. Chadwick, county extension director, Penn State Extension, will conduct home gardening classes at 7 p.m. on March 24 and March 31, at the Kingston Township Municipal Building. Township residents are invited to participate in the sessions which were very well received last spring.

Gate of Heaven Browne Troop 623, recently held a father-daughter evening. The girls prepared and served light refreshments. The father-daughter teams then completed bird feeders which will be on display during Girl Scout Week.