

EDITORIALS

The Back Mountain political pot is stirring, as candidates for office gear up campaigns leading to the May 15 primaries. There are even a couple of places where the November election will be meaningful, since both Democrat and Republican candidates will be on the ballot.

That's not to say there are exciting races at every turn; as in past years there will be no challenges to sitting office holders in several towns. Perhaps that's because every single voter is satisfied with the state of affairs, although we doubt that is the case. And it's not as if there aren't issues that need to be addressed, from keeping a handle on development to fixing roads, but apparently few people are willing or able to commit the time and effort needed to run for and hold public office. In some cases, the only ones who are also collect a weekly paycheck from the township or borough, a situation that might raise eyebrows among an electorate that was more involved.

The Post looks forward to bringing readers information about the candidates and issues, and we hope each and every voter pays attention, then makes sure to cast a ballot where it matters. And we hope that next time around, there are more candidates to cover, with more ideas about what's best for the Back Mountain.

Math, science students showing the way to excellence

Back Mountain teenagers have been hauling in the honors for science and math recently, a good sign for their future and that of the region. Students at Dallas, Lake-Lehman and Gate of Heaven have performed well in regional competitive programs, and some have earned advancement to the next level. But all of them deserve commendations for putting in the time and effort required to go beyond the school day in this area of interest.

Excellent students may not be in the headlines as often as are athletes, but in the long term they will reap the benefits of their hard work and study.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Here's the scene: I'm sitting behind three cars at the traffic light at South State Street and Grove, with my blinker on, hopping to turn left onto West Grove. The light turns green and I approach the intersection, but the left-turn signal has gone out. However, a driver coming slowly the opposite way on State thinks he or she will do me a favor and let me turn, even though she/he has the right of way. The way he/she does this is by waving in sweeping motions across her/his dashboard, as though cleaning the windshield in virtual reality. What this helpful gentleman/lady fails to realize is that an 18-wheeler is about to whiz past her/him on the right, and if I follow his/her lead I'll become permanently embedded in the pavement. (I hope you noticed there is no gender bashing in the preceding paragraph; I've seen it both ways.)

The same thing could happen coming down North State to Highland, or while trying to turn across Rt. 6-11 in Chinchilla. I know these folks are just trying to be nice, but they could get me killed!

I like it better when every driver is on a mission, and we all know what it is — take every advantage possible in the competition for four-wheeled superiority. Anyone who has spent much time driving in and around major cities knows what I'm talking about: if there's an inch of free space between the cars in the next lane, wedge into it; there's a five second grace period after a light turns red when you can still go through it; when in doubt about hitting the brake or accelerator, always choose the latter.

It's not that I don't appreciate nice people, but they can do serious harm when the rest of us don't share their charitable instincts. I mean, Ronald Reagan was supposed to be a really nice guy, but if your tax rate went down in 1981, then your job evaporated, it didn't matter what his intentions were.

Anyway, I know what I'm going to do next time a kind-hearted motorist waves me into oncoming traffic. I'm going to stand my ground, and gesticulate like a maniac until they make the first move. Then I may just cut them off, all in the interest of their betterment as drives you understand.

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Welcome to spring. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

Programs for parents of pre-schoolers

The last two in a series of special programs for parents of the pre-schoolers attending the Wednesday story hours will be given on March 21 and 28. A representative of the Family Services Association will discuss a different topic each week. Call the library, 675-1182, for further information.

Gardening books: Ruth Tetschner, always atune to timeliness, invites everyone interested in gardening to browse through the collection of gardening books available in the book store.

Book discussion groups: Pam Oliveira of the Monday evening book discussion group sent this report about "Eddie's Bastard:" "Overall we rated it a 7.9 and found it incredible for an author's first novel. The chapter titles were a unique and innovative way to move the reader through the book. We also found the reincarnation theme to be a great way to tie all the characters — past and present — together". The group will meet on March 26 at 7 p.m. at the Stax Restaurant

to discuss "We Were the Mulvaneys," by Joyce Carol Oates. Pam says that "all are welcome even if they haven't read (or finished) the book!" The Monday morning book discussion group will also meet on March 26, and will discuss Corelli's Mandolin, by Louis de Bernieres.

Mother-Daughter Book Club: See the Times Leader's weekly page, "Yak's Corner," for information about the formation of Mother-Daughter Book Clubs. The Back Mountain Memorial Library offers its facilities as a meeting place. Call the children's librarian for further information.

Display: Alice Rae Kutish has put on display a selection of embroidered items on the theme of "Leaves," done by members of the Wyoming Valley Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc., of which Alice is the current president. One of the items was done by the late Beverly Marchetti, a very active member of the Library Friends. The national organization of embroiderers has been in existence for 44 years; the local



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chapter is 18 years old. Their aim is to teach the story and the techniques of different kinds of embroidery, including canvas, crewel and cross-stitch. It is an excellent medium to encourage creativity. Alice learned to embroider at the age of 5 at her grandmother's knee. She and others in the local chapter give classes and travel to exhibits and seminars with their collection of embroidered items.

Mark your calendar for future events! Thursday, April 26 — 13th Annual "Luncheon with a Special Author" at the Newberry Estate. Thursday through Sunday, July 5-8 — 2001 Library Auction on the library grounds

'All politics is local'

Thomas "Tip" O'Neill
Former Speaker of the House

Shouldn't your advertising be, too?

Love him or hate him, Tip O'Neill knew one thing — when the votes are counted, it doesn't matter what people who live outside your district think about you. That's as true in the Back Mountain as it is in Back Bay, so if you're planning campaign advertising for a local office, put it where it will count the most...in The Dallas Post.

The Dallas Post is all local, all the time. Our readers are among the most influential and active in the region, so

getting their vote might mean getting even more — their influence with friends and neighbors. Sure, the city papers can claim more circulation, but what good does it do if the readers live in Wilkes-Barre, Pittston or Mountaintop? Not a bit.

Put your advertising where the votes are — in The Dallas Post. Call today for low rates and other information.

The Dallas Post

Serving the Back Mountain for 112 years

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YESTERDAY

70 Years Ago - Mar. 20, 1931

GIRL SCOUTS PREPARE FOR WILKES-BARRE RALLY

More than 1,000 girl scouts from all parts of the valley will take part in the colorful "Festival of Youth." Pretty folk dances in costume will be performed by various troops. Mrs. Edward Conrad is the music committee chairman. Some of the Girl Scout troops who will be participating are: Dallas Troop 107, Goss School Troop and the Shavertown Troop No. 9, Trucksville Troop No. 19, Lehman Troop No. 30. The Festival of Youth will be the first production of its kind to be given by the Wyoming Valley Council Girl Scouts. Laketon High School basketball team of the Bi-County League closed its league schedule by defeating Kingston township 32-26. The victory gives Lake boys a clear record with 10 straight wins and no losses. For the Lake boys Kuchta and Traver starred, while the entire Kingston team played well during the first half. Krumelbien and Rowlands were high scorers for Kingston township. One of the first motion pictures of its kind ever filmed will be shown at Himmler Theatre. The picture is "Silent Enemy." It was produced by a group of cameramen and technicians who braved one winter in the wilds of Canada to film primitive Canadian Indians and wild animals. The Indians were trained and coached to act before the camera. The theme of the story has to do with the great silent enemy, hunger, which is the constant enemy of wilderness people.

60 Years Ago - Mar. 21, 1941

RICHARD JONES WINS CONTEST

Following a pattern that put him in fourth place last year in the Pennsylvania Forensic League oratorical contest, Richard Jones, 17, Kingston Township High School senior and son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Jones of Shavertown, won the Luzerne County contest at West Hazleton with his original oration, "The Light Shall Burn," written on the Constitution. This is the third time he has won a county contest. Nancy Parks, Ted Parks and Betty Naugle of Lehman High School were among the 138 band members chosen from approximately 30 different schools in the North East District of Pennsylvania to take part in the annual music festival in Bloomsburg High School. Parents of local boys with the 109th at Indiantown Gap are well pleased with the broadcast that originates from down there every Thursday night and is carried by W.B.R.E. The broadcast is sponsored by the Boston Store. Albert McKeel, of Lehman, spoke a few words to the home folks last week. Sergeant Sterling Hendershot, of Luzerne, is in charge of the broadcast.

50 Years Ago - Mar. 23, 1951

COACHES ACCEPT TEAM TROPHIES

Presentations of trophies to coaches of winning teams in Back Mountain Basketball League was made at a meeting of Back Mountain Athletic Association at Herman Kern's home, Harveys Lake. Coach Robert M. Ghomas, Dallas Township, accepted the Dallas Post trophy for presentation to the girls' basketball team, Coach Bob Becker, Kingston Township, the Dallas Bank award for the boys' team. James Besecker has opened an insurance agency and real estate office on the second floor of the Gregory Building on Main Street. Besecker expects shortly to give up his lease on Dallas Service Station and devote all his energies to the new business and to his work as Justice of the Peace and Sixth District Republican Committee chairman. Dr. Roger Owens, Spring Street, Dallas, home on a short leave from a five week stay at Fort Sam Houston, left for Fort Dix where he will spend an indeterminate

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