

**EDITORIAL**

# Cool heads, flexibility needed in police negotiations

It didn't have to come to this, but the Dallas Township supervisors and police officers are at loggerheads over a new employment contract. The disagreement is headed for arbitration at this point, but that option can be avoided if both sides cool off and negotiate directly and reasonably.

The officers rightly point out that they are paid about 15 percent less than members of comparable police departments in nearby Back Mountain communities. In addition, many of them pay one-half their health insurance premium; that share now averages \$134 per month, or \$1,608 per year. That amount will rise as premiums increase with each coming year.

For their part, the supervisors have pointed with pride at a tax rate that hasn't budged over the years, even as the township's population has swelled. The absence of challengers for the supervisor posts appear to indicate that many residents are pleased that taxes haven't increased, even if police salaries and amenities have been lagging.

It's hard to argue against the officers at a time when personal and institutional security is such a high priority. With only seven full-time officers, a salary hike that would bring Dallas Township in line with other departments is hardly a budget buster. And there's reason to believe incremental increases could be negotiated that would allow the costs to grow over a few years, since no one seriously expects an arbitrator to grant 15 percent raises next week or next month.

Could paying more for police protection strain the township budget? Sure, but there are few, if any, services more important to the people who live in the township, and — as with anything — you get what you pay for.

Both sides were overheated when the police contract came up for discussion at the latest township meeting, and remarks were made that won't help the two sides reach an agreement. But with cooler heads and sufficient flexibility by each party, this dispute can be resolved to the satisfaction of both, and for the benefit of Dallas Township citizens.

## Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Now that Americans have settled - at least superficially - back into our normal routines, it's interesting to look back at the last few weeks for lessons of enduring value. One thing that struck me and many others in the days following September 11 was how quickly and completely we abandoned the topics that only a day before had seemed to be of such import. For example:

- The U.S. stock markets were closed for four days, yet the world of commerce did not come to a halt, banks didn't run out of money and markets abroad managed to hold their own, considering the circumstances. Hardly anyone talked about the latest high-flyer or the recent collapse in technology businesses.
- Professional baseball and pro and college football took an unscheduled week off, but there were no reports of people flooding emergency rooms suffering from withdrawal symptoms. Even Barry Bonds' pursuit of a new home run record barely earned a mention, and no one seemed to miss the usual barrage of coverage of every activity that could vaguely be described as a sport.
- The Gary Condit scandal vanished in an instant and has not returned - thank goodness!
- Business at local stores and restaurants slowed to a crawl for a few days, but there were no reports of panicked business owners predicting the demise of their enterprises, even if such a possibility was likely.

All in all, Americans reacted just as you would expect of people who know what is really important in this life. We hugged our kids more, we counted our blessings and we vowed not to knuckle under to murderous thugs who hijack not only airplanes but worthy religions in order to justify their bloodthirsty fantasies. Then we did what we could to help the victims of this senseless attack on the values that define a free people.

There's a lot of talk about winning the war against terrorism. I think Americans' behavior in the days following those heinous attacks indicates we're already on the side of victory. Now we need to find the courage and stamina to carry the battle to its proper conclusion, even if it may be hard to tell when we've "won."

**Q. Where do you find the most Back Mountain news and photos each week?**

**A. Only in The Dallas Post**



Fall is in the air. Photo by Jim Phillips.



70 Years Ago - October 2, 1931

### LOCAL TEAMS MEET ON GRIDIRON

A big crowd is expected when Dallas borough high school meets the Kingston township team at Dallas. It will be the first game of the season for Kingston township and the second for Dallas. Coach Hick is coach for Kingston and Coach Wormley is coach for Dallas. Creswell Drilling company of Forty Fort has been awarded the contract for drilling the new well of the Dallas-Shavertown Water company in Shavertown. The new well will be the fourth and largest well owned by the company in Shavertown. At the Himmler Theatre some of the movies which played: Arizona, with John Wayne; Young As You Feel with Will Rogers; Forbidden Adventures, starring Mitzi Green and Jack Searle; and Sporting Blood, with Clark Gable.

60 Years Ago - October 3, 1941

### AIR RAID WARDENS MAKE PLANS FOR BLACKOUT

District air raid wardens and their deputies throughout the Back Mountain region are busy organizing assistant deputies and patrolmen who will assist

during the "blackout". Alarms will be sounded over community fire sirens, from fire engines sirens and by police cruiser sirens. Burgess H.A. Smith is the air raid warden for Dallas Borough. The second lane of concrete on the new Harvey's Lake highway was completed into Dallas and contractors moved equipment to the vicinity of Castle Inn to begin paving the third lane. Work on the Harveys Lake end has moved along ahead of schedule. Miss Louise Miller, previously and instructor of mathematics in Lake Township High School, has been appointed teacher of English and social subjects at Dallas Township High School to fill the resignation of Thorwald Lewis, who has accepted a position in the schools of Teaneck, N.J.

50 Years Ago - October 5, 1951

### DIRECTORS CHOOSE WESTMORELAND AS NAME FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Dallas Borough Kingston Township Joint School Board voted to name its Senior High School, Westmoreland School. The name was suggested by a committee composed of six citizens for Dallas Borough and Kingston Township. For Kingston Township: David Schooley, Ralph Hazeltine and James Martin; for Dallas Borough, Ralph Rood, Howard Risley and Charles James. At Acme Markets some of the items you could get: cake mix, 1lb. pkg. 25¢; grapes, 2lb. 29¢; apples, 4lbs. 25¢; potatoes, 4lb. 25¢; sliced american cheese, 8 oz. pkg 35¢.

Mangled remains of three helium filled balloons from the

Bucktain Balloon Derby launched at Lock Haven have been discovered in the Back Mountain. One was found in East Dallas by Josephine Krispin, another was found by Fred W. Dymond 3rd on his way to Centermoreland, and the last one was found by Robert Cyphers, of Carverton, on the farm of Harvey Coon.

40 Years Ago - October 5, 1961

### NATURAL GAS COMES TO CENTRAL DALLAS

Central Dallas rattled with the sound of jack hammers as workmen began ripping up the pave along Memorial Highway from Parry's Gulf Station to Henry's Jewelry Store to make war for natural gas lines that will serve the Back Mountain Area.

Faithful supporters of Back Mountain Memorial Library gathered at Irem Country Club at a dinner for Miss Miriam Lathrop, who after sixteen years as pilot of the Library, will leave for her new home in Arizona.

McCrory's through its new manager Mr. Boyer, announces a new credit plan for accommodation of families in the Back Mountain who with to fill all their needs at one time. For seventy years, McCrory's has been a strictly cash basis.

30 Years Ago - October 7, 1971

### BACK MOUNTAIN BLOOD DRIVE EXCEEDS QUOTA

Some 293 residents and workers of the Back Mountain area responded to a call to give blood by the American Red Cross. The Red Cross bloodmobile came to the area seeking a quota of 160 and went away with 133 more

than anticipated.

A new shopping area which re-actor Alvin S. Rothstein promises will be "an asset to the area" is planned in Dallas Township. The shipping center will be located on 4.32 acres of property along Route 309 between the Overbrook Avenue overpass and the Forty Fort Dairy Bar. Rothstein purchased the land from Mr. and Mrs. James T. Durkin Jr. at a cost of \$60,000.

Navy Seaman Lawrence F. Waldow, son of Mr. and Mrs. S.F. Waldow, Shavertown, has graduated from recruit training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, III. He is a graduate of Dallas Senior High School.

20 Years Ago - September 23, 1981

### DALLAS BAND WINS FIRST PLACE

Dallas High School Marching Band, in its first ever field competition, took first place Sunday in the tournament held at Wyoming Area High School stadium. Under the direction of David C. Benn, this was the first field competition the Dallas band has entered.

A new computer terminal was installed at the Dallas Township Police Department last week, plugging into the county-wide computerized criminal information system.

Kingston Twp. has received a grant in the amount of \$35,000 for public improvements in the Kingston Township Neighborhood Strategy Area. Scheduled work includes storm sewer improvements consisting of piping and inlets, and street restoration and reconstruction.

# New books added to BMT Library collection

The Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dalals, announces the addition of the following books to their collection:

### FICTION

- "The Blue Last" by Martha Grimes
- "Envy" by Sandra Brown
- "Open Season" by Linda Howard
- "Too Beautiful for Words" by Monique W. Morris
- "Next of Kin" by Joanna Trollope
- "Black House" by Stephen King
- "Tell Me No Lies" by Elizabeth

- Lowell
- "Tell Me Why" by Stella Cameron
- "This Rock" by Robert Morgan
- "Seduction in Death" by J.D. Robb

### NON-FICTION

- "Barefoot Contessa Parties!" by Ina Garten
- "What Every Successful Woman Knows" by Janice Reals Ellig
- "War in a Time of Peace" by David Halberstam
- "A War in Dixie: Alabama v. Auburn" by Ivan Maisel
- "Careers for the New Agers &

Other Cosmic Types" by Blythe Camenson

### REFERENCE

- "PDR for Nutritional Supplements"
- "Best's Key Rating Guide"
- "Pennsylvania Abstract"
- "Shakespeare's World and Work"
- "The Statesman's Yearbook 2002"

### BIOGRAPHY

- "Fugitive Days" by Bill Ayers
- "President Nixon: alone in the White House" by Richard Reeves
- "Rain of Gold" by Victor Ed-

mundo Villasenor

### LARGE PRINT NON-FICTION

"The American Dream" by Dan Rather

### BOOKS ON CD

- "Seven Up" by Janet Evanovich
- "Rise to Rebellion" by Jeff Shaara
- "Boone's Lick" by Larry McMurtry
- "Hooking Up" by Tom Wolfe
- "Darth Maul: Shadow Hunter" by Michael Reaves
- "The Power of Positive Thinking in Business" by Scott W. Ventrella

## Post 672 to install new officers

Daddow-Isaac Post 672, The American Legion, will hold installation of officers, Sat. morning, Oct. 6. This will be a breakfast meeting. Breakfast at 9 a.m. sharp followed by installation.

Officers to be installed are: William Kupstas, commander; James M. Baloga, sr. vice commander; Theodor Mueller, jr. vice commander; Thomas E. Reese, adjutant; Edward Buckley, finance officer; Walter I. Galka, chaplain; Marlene Lukacinsky,

historian; Joseph Hudak & Chester W. Kunugonis, sgt. at arms; Sen. Charles D. Lemmond, parliamentarian.

Past Commander Leonard 'Kep' Gottshalk will open the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance; Amy Withers, National Anthem; and Rev. Dr. William Lewis, Dallas United Methodist Church, invocation. District Commander Walter W. Barteld and The 12th District Drill Team will install the officers.

## Dallas Nursery school registration

There are several openings for the preschool program at Dallas High School students who will be 3 or 4-years-old by Dec. 31, 2001 are eligible.

The sessions are held every Mon., Wed. and Fri. from 12:15 to 2:40 p.m. The program includes storytime, free play, arts and crafts, snack time and outdoor play.

Students must be residents of the Dallas School District. There is no cost for the preschool program. School begins Mon., Oct. 15, and ends May 22, 2002.

Any questions call the high school office at 674-7208. Parents can register at the high school office from 8:30-3 p.m., Oct. 4-Oct. 10. School is closed Mon., Oct. 8.

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