

EDITORIAL

Keep discussions about public business public

The Kingston Township supervisors and the board's solicitor mended at least part of the broken fence with residents when they reappointed two new supervisors last week. The action came after protesters - including this page - suggested that the decision to appoint John Versari and Cornelius Allen to fill vacant positions had been reached improperly, perhaps even illegally, before any public discussion of their qualifications was conducted. Paul Sabol, the chairman of the supervisors, admitted as much in numerous interviews with reporters, apparently unaware that a meeting between himself and the only other remaining supervisor, J. Carl Goodwin, constituted an official gathering.

Benjamin Jones III, the board's solicitor, was troubled enough by suggestions of impropriety to speak at length to others in the legal field before recommending that a second set of special meetings be held to make the appointments as correct as they could be under the circumstances.

We hope this episode has chastened the Kingston Township Supervisors, and will encourage them to make certain all their deliberations are conducted properly and in public. They are not alone among local government bodies in frequently seeming to have their minds made up before meetings begin, often voting on agenda items with little or no discussion. That isn't fair to the people who put elected officials into office, and who expect to participate in the management of their communities.

Music is worth the expense, effort

The Lake-Lehman school board made the right call in voting to hire a second music teacher to serve students in the district. The issue of music education was brought to a head when Edward Richards, until now the sole music teacher, resigned from the extra duties as marching band director, raising the possibility that band would become strictly an extra-curricular activity. Last week's action may result in Richards' ouster as high school concert band director, a fate he seems willing to accept for the good of the district's music program.

It's not easy for school boards to support music in this manner given the current financial pressures districts face. As the state contribution to school budgets has shrunk by 40 percent in recent years, many districts have cut back spending on music and other classes deemed unessential. But Lake-Lehman has a long, proud history of musical excellence, and the board has recognized that commitment is needed to maintain it.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



No nation mixes business and government quite like Italy, where the wealthiest businessman is also Prime Minister, a position close to our presidency. Imagine if the U.S. was like that, and we had President Bill Gates, instead of just most-disliked-and-envied-high-tech-magnate Bill Gates. Here are a few headlines you might read in The Washington Post:

Tax break asked for owners of huge new homes

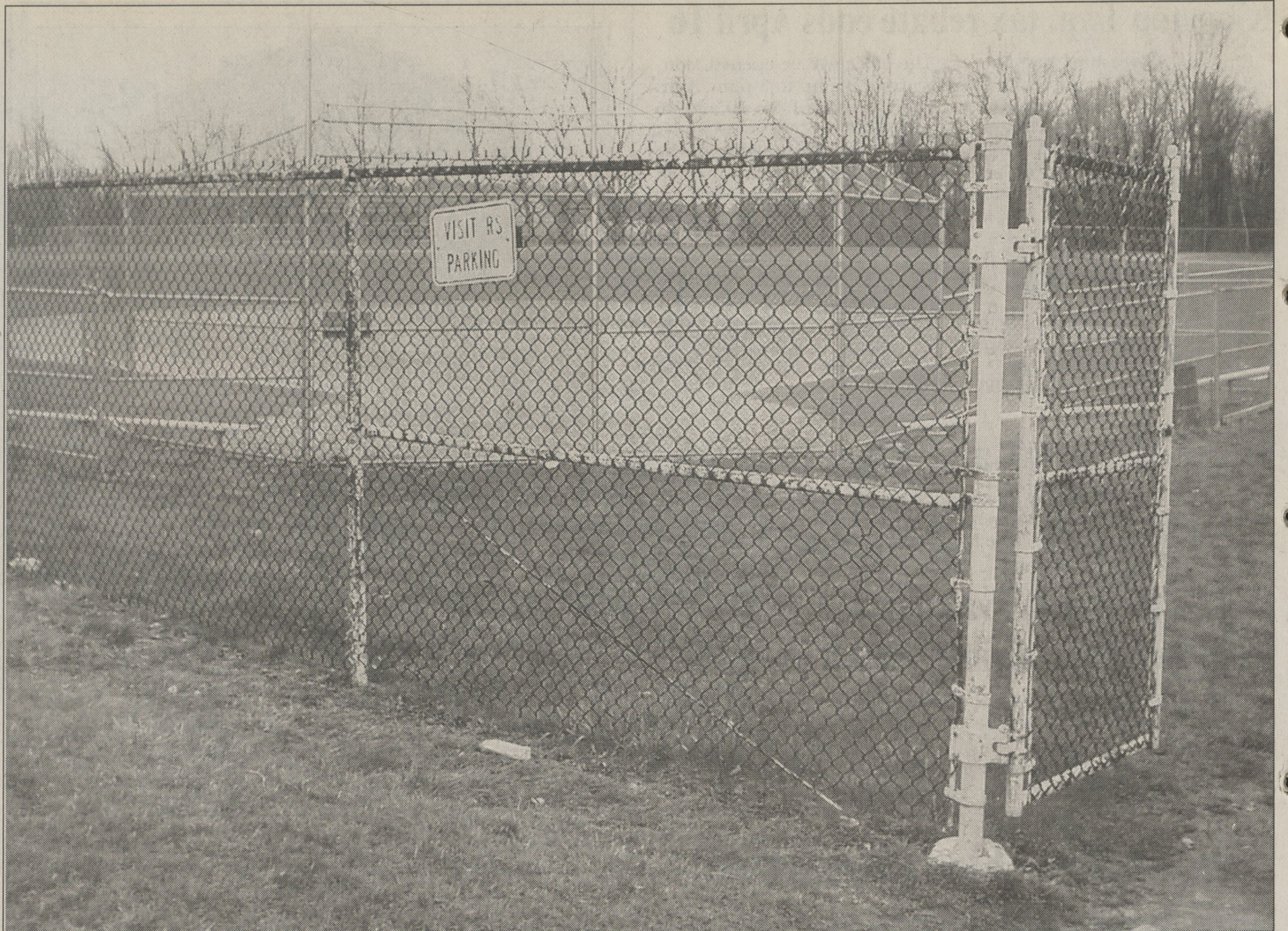
President Bill Gates today proposed legislation that would give tax deductions to owners of new homes costing more than \$40 million to build. While the President's spokesman denied the proposal was crafted because of Gates's own experience with his mansion overlooking Lake Washington, opponents pointed out that only richer-than-smart owners had spent such an astounding sum on their trophy dwellings.

Apple investigated by EPA

Prodded by the White House, the Environmental Protection Agency today launched an investigation into the safety of the latest Apple computer, the Imac quadrilateral. The agency said it has received three complaints of paper cuts suffered by users sliding a hand along the edge of the machine's colorful, ultra thin display screen, which floats on a cushion of air generated by the cooling fan. "Windows based PCs don't have this problem," said I.M. Asuckup, EPA administrator, "because they're still boxy and beige."

MSNBC becomes everyone's home page

President Gates today signed an order requiring all internet service providers to make MSNBC the default home page. The president's critics called the move a "bald-faced attempt to monopolize the internet." They were joined at a press conference by the heads of AOL Time Warner, Yahoo, Verizon and others, at which it was revealed that the Google search engine had been taken over by the government, and the top entry in every category began with "Microsoft." Gates denied any collusion with the company he led before being elected, pointing out that his interest in the company was being held in a "blind trust," which is directed by his 2-year-old daughter.



Opening day seems so far away. Photo by Ron Bartizek.

LETTERS

Supervisor explains reasoning behind appointments

Editor,

As Chairman of the Kingston Township Board of Supervisors, I am writing in order that I may clarify my position relative to the appointment of two new township supervisors.

The unfortunate passing of Herbert Hill and William Tippet, coupled with the resignation of Randall Glidden placed the Kingston Township Board of Supervisors in an unprecedented position. The selection of worthy replacements for these gentlemen who had given so much in their service to our township was a task which I hope future supervisors are not again faced with. As one of two remaining duly elected supervisors, it was my goal to work cooperatively with my colleague, Vice Chairman J. Carl Goodwin, in selecting replacements as quickly as possible.

Fortunately, the framers of our township Home Rule Charter had the foresight to provide

for such an unusual turn of events. The continuity of township government was not interrupted and two replacements have been named in accordance with the provisions of the Home Rule Charter.

The candidates who had submitted letters of interest to fill these vacancies all held outstanding credentials. Many letters of recommendation and support were also received on behalf of several candidates. As you know, a few individuals had extensive prior experience with the township, and of course, they were my personal friends.

Throughout my career of township service which spans nearly 40 years, I have had the good fortune to serve the citizens of Kingston Township as Chief of Police, a member of the Trucksville Volunteer Fire Company, the Kingston Township Ambulance Association and the Back Mountain Police Association.

As a resident, volunteer and township employee, I have always placed the welfare of Kingston Township above all else. It is with pride that I have watched our township grow and prosper into a model community. As a township supervisor, I am committed to the preservation of the open, honest and progressive township government which has become our community's hallmark.

In selecting our new township supervisors, I looked to the future and not to the past. Just as our township has grown, so have the complexities of township government. It was my goal to insure that the Board of Supervisors would remain a diverse group of individuals, capable of administering governmental affairs in a fair and impartial manner. There is a great deal to be said for experience, but in this instance, I personally was looking for individuals who would bring to the board

new ideas and a fresh perspective on township government. I firmly believe that Mr. Versari and Mr. Allen will provide this new objectivity and progressive leadership. They have the professional background and ability to guide our township in the right direction.

Significant challenges are before us, most notably the selection of a fifth township supervisor as well as a new township manager. I will continue to approach these issues in a fair, open and impartial manner. It is my sincere goal that Kingston Township remain a progressive and model Home Rule community. Along with my fellow supervisors I will continue to give my all in service to the citizens of Kingston Township.

Paul M. Sabol, Chairman
Kingston Township
Board of Supervisors



Carol King

Charlotte Raup, a Master Herbalist and a Pennsylvania State Master Gardener, will be at the library on Saturday, April 27, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. to demonstrate the making of herbal vinegars for medicinal uses or for cooking. She will also talk about the usage, doses, safety, and side effects of the top 20 medicinal herbs. Copies of her flyer are at the front desk.

Library luncheon: If you have just returned from your winter stay in Florida (or elsewhere), call the library by Friday (675-1182) to see if it is still possible to get a reservation for the Friends' 14th Annual Spring Luncheon. It will be held at The

Herbalist, gardener will appear April 27

Apple Tree Terrace, Newberry Estate, Dallas, on Thursday, April 18, starting at 11:30 a.m. The speaker is editor Esther Davidowitz of Kingston.

Book Club: The Book Club meets in the Community Room at the library at 1 p.m. on the third Monday of each month from March to December. New members are welcome.

Board Report: Librarians take any opportunity to make friends for the library and to work for good causes. Martha Butler even went to jail! She participated on March 14 in the Muscular Dystrophy Association Lock-Up at the Holiday Inn. There she spent an hour making calls to library staff, friends, and patrons, whose donations to the MDA helped to release her from jail.

On April 24, the library will participate in the Back Mountain Business & Professional Association Business Fair at the Stax & Co. restaurant.

Several groups of children toured the library during March. Marilyn Rudolph and Janet

Bauman met with the District Children's Librarians to plan Summer Reading activities.

Statistics for March: total circulation: 7,899; books, added: 252; new borrowers, 81; and active borrowers: 14,446.

Book reviews: The evening discussion group (now meeting on Thursdays) met and discussed the book, "A Fine Balance," by Rohinton Mistry. Pam Oliveira reports that the book did not receive a positive review. "It takes place in 1975 in an unknown village in India. Four individuals come together for different reasons and the book chronicles their lives. For us, the story just wasn't worthy of 600+ pages. The book gives wonderful insight into the caste system of India and some of the country's political history, but we didn't feel it was a good story."

Their next book is "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," by Maya Angelou. They will meet on Thursday, April 25, at Little Nicky's at 7 p.m. All are welcome. Call Pam at 674-9935 for further information.

The Monday morning group recently read Amy Tan's "The Bonesetter's Daughter." Like her previous books, "The Joy Luck Club" and "The Kitchen God's Wife," this novel centers around a mother-daughter theme. It starts off in contemporary San Francisco, where the daughter is trying hard to help her mother deal with the onslaught of Alzheimer's Disorder, and flashes back to a Chinese village where the mother lived as a child. The author, a consummate story-teller, leads the reader through many unexpected twists and turns. The book was praised by the majority of those present.

New display: Now on display in the library is a collection of mining and blasting artifacts owned by John J. Pagoda, Jr. He is interested in collecting additional artifacts related to the anthracite region, specifically, Plymouth and Nanticoke, and especially of the Loree Colliery, Larksville. You may reach John at pagodaj@ptd.net, or (570) 779-1811.

the Dime Bank Title & Trust Company of Wilkes-Barre has been notified of his new position, with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation of Washington.

At a meeting of the Kingston Township School Board a resolution was passed to advertise for bids on the proposed new high school building to be erected on the Kasherback plot.

At the Himmler Theatre some of the movies that played: Hell Divers with Wallace Beery; Shanghai Express with Marlene Dietrich and Clive Brooks; Ben Hur with Ramon Navarro, The

Camp with Jackie Cooper and Wallace Berry.

60 Years Ago - April 10, 1942

SPECIAL REGISTRATION FOR BACK MOUNTAIN VOTERS IF HELD

A special registration of Back Mountain Region voters for participation on the May Primary Elections if being held in the Dallas Borough building on Mill street and provides the last opportunity for local citizens to register party preference without traveling to the courthouse in

Wilkes-Barre.

Four men were called for military service by officials of Local Draft Board No. 1 at Wyoming. The men called were John Kudzinski, Dallas; Paul Wesley, Dallas; Frank Pearce Bennallack of Shavertown and Benjamin Harrison Jones, Shavertown.

Local men who make up the Dallas Volunteer Fire crew battled five large brush and forest fires within 48 hours. The location of the fires were: Kunkle, on

The Dallas Post

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70 Years Ago - April 8, 1932

LOCAL MAN GETS HIGH POSITION

George A. Augheron of Fernbrook, former vice-president of

See YESTERDAY, pg 7