

EDITORIAL

## Teenagers lead the way with public safety efforts

Two teenagers have stepped into the forefront of public safety in the Back Mountain in recent weeks, and they represent a much larger group of young people who are concerned about big issues, even if they don't express them openly.

Angelo Georgetti and Dan Piccolo know firsthand about life and death, and both have taken action that might save local families from heartbreak. Angelo's father, Larry, a beloved figure in youth sports and the schools, died unexpectedly of a heart attack nearly two years ago. In response, the Lake-Lehman senior has organized a benefit golf tournament that will raise funds to purchase an automated external defibrillator for the Lehman Ambulance and Fire Company, which serves his hometown. Angelo says there's no way to tell if the device might have saved his father's life, but there's a good chance it will save others.

As a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Dan Piccolo has seen the results of reckless, careless or impaired driving and he wanted to give his classmates at Dallas High School a clearer view of what can happen to anyone who disobeys the rules of the road. He organized a demonstration last week at the school complete with ambulance personnel, a medical helicopter and two "victims," one of whom did not survive a mock two-vehicle crash. Judging by the expressions on students' faces, he made his point.

These are just two examples of young people who are making a positive difference in the community. If you'd like to help them, call 675-6462 to participate in the golf tournament, or any local fire and ambulance department to investigate volunteer opportunities.

### Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



An article in last Friday's *New York Times* raised deeply troubling questions about tactics used by television networks desperate for advertising dollars. It seems that NBC has been selling segments on its show, "The Other Half," to companies like Clorox, Hyundai and others, with the only disclosure coming in the closing credits under the terms, "Promotional consideration provided by . . ." In one instance, the hosts, Dick Clark, Danny Bonaduce and Mario Lopez, competed against members of the audience in a make-believe game show about housekeeping. Sounds like Clorox got its money's worth on that one.

You can imagine how shocking this revelation was to those of us accustomed to the time-honored tradition of separating the news and advertising sides of the media business, such as Knight Ridder Incorporated, publisher of The Philadelphia Inquirer, the Miami Herald and other high-quality newspapers nationwide. We are committed to maintaining our credibility by building a solid divider between departments, much like an Allan Block wall, available at fine distributors in your area.

I think it's totally unfair for the network to take such an underhanded approach to raising ad revenue. They should show more respect for an audience that is accustomed to such sophisticated fare as "Pajama Streetwear Fashions." Imagine replacing that sort of programming with car-buying tips from your favorite Hyundai pitchman. This is almost as reprehensible as the non-too-stealthy placement of sponsors' merchandise in the "Survivor" series, or a deal between Wendy's and the producer of Rosie O'Donnell's show to have her eat a Wendy's salad — or two, or three — on stage.

No, you won't find this newspaper engaging in slippery tactics such as this. We'll maintain a secure grip on integrity with a little help from Tacky Finger fingertip moistener, or Acco Swingline rubber fingertips.

This high standard also applies to our photographs, which are taken with an Olympus digital camera, great for outdoor or indoor use under all lighting conditions. And while some newspapers and magazines have been known to alter photos, we won't put our versatile, easy-to-use Adobe Photoshop software to such nefarious uses.

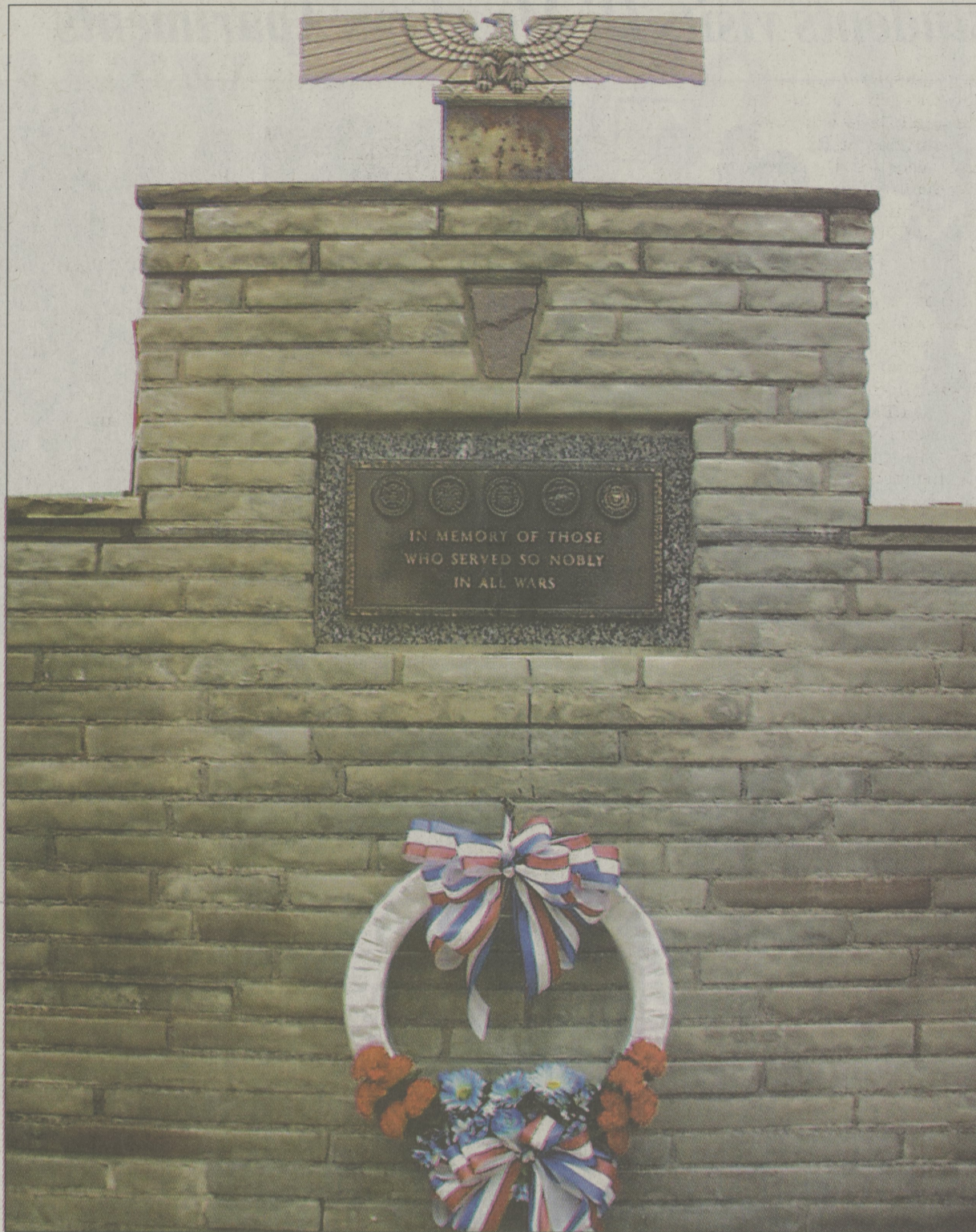
If you still doubt our integrity, you can check with the Better Business Bureau, a highly respected organization that keeps tabs on commercial entities across the U.S. They charge a membership fee.

### Share your opinion

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published, subject to the following guidelines:

- Letters should not exceed 500 words.
- No writer may have more than one letter published during a 30-day period, except as a reply to another letter.
- Letters must be signed and include the writer's home town and a telephone number for verification.
- Names will be withheld only if there exists a clear threat to the writer.
- The Post retains the right to accept or reject any letter, and to edit letters for grammar and spelling, as well as to eliminate any libel, slander or objectionable wording.

In addition to letters, we welcome longer pieces that may run as columns. The author or subject's relevance to the Back Mountain will be the prime consideration when selecting material for publication.



Silent tribute to fallen heroes. Photo by Ron Bartizek.

### LETTERS

## Students say thanks for food drive support

Editor,

We are currently, juniors at Lake-Lehman High School, Lehman. In order to fulfill our senior requirements, we chose Luzerne County Head Start, Inc. and the service project, National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive. On behalf of the children, families, and staff, of Luzerne County Head Start, Inc., we would like to extend our gratitude to the local letter carriers of the United States Postal Service for the collection and delivery of food to LCHS during the National Letter Carrier's Food Drive held on May 11.

We received a colossal amount of food, which was distributed to the families of children enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start program throughout Luzerne and Wyoming Counties. This was made possible due to the dedication and hard work of Letter Carriers and the generosity of the people of the Wyoming Valley. Thank you to all the Head Start volunteers, staff, student volunteers form Lake-Lehman High school, and the Harvey's Lake community, whose efforts helped in the massive chore of receiving the food and in turn, delivering to those in need.

We also would like to thank the Commission on Economic Opportunity for coordinating local efforts to "stamp out hunger." We also would like to take this opportunity to thank, Mrs. Kelly Lyons, Social Service Specialist at L.C.H.S. for all of her guidance during our project. It was a pleasure and honor to work with all of the organizations involved with our senior project.

Andrew and Christopher Coombs  
Lake-Lehman High School  
Luzerne County Head Start, Inc.

### What's on the Horizon?



Sarah P. Carr

Seven hundred and fifty evergreen seedlings are only the beginning of veterinarian Doug Ayers' plans for his Noxen farm. He's planting them this spring to provide wildlife shelter and erosion control, secure in the knowledge that no future owner of the farm will ever bulldoze them to build houses on the land that borders Bowman's Creek as it runs down from North Mountain through Noxen toward the Susquehanna River.

On December 31, 2001, he gave the North Branch Land Trust a conservation easement on the entire 123-acre property that will forever limit development and encourage projects to improve the land. The property is nearly surrounded by thousands of acres of Gamelands 57. Part of it is flat pasture land in a wide bend of the creek; across the dirt road are steep slopes thick with hickory, maple, and immense oak trees. An open hillside holds Doug's small orchard of apple trees — many of which he grafted himself — as well as the grave of his father, Dr. Donald Ayers, a conservative Republican environmentalist (no, that's not necessarily an oxymoron) who died this past winter and who loved the wild lands as much as Doug does.

The land shelters a wide variety of wildlife, from the rare and

## Noxen farm preserved forever

elusive fisher to deer, bear, coyote, and turkey. There are native brook trout in Bowman's Creek, and many species of amphibians in the wetland areas near the creek. The Noxen farm is just a tiny addition to the 6.3 million acres of land in the United States currently protected by conservation easements held by some 1,400 land trusts/conservancies. The Nature Conservancy has also protected approximately 12 million acres. The total acreage now protected is larger than the combined areas of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island!

This is the largest single easement that NBLT has accepted, and brings its total of preserved land to nearly 400 acres. Our land projects have the potential to bring the local total to 10,000 acres in the next year or two.

There is no such thing as a "standard" easement; each one is carefully worked out by the landowner and the land trust staff so that its terms fit the landowner's wishes for the property. The document sets forth the reasons why the property is worthy of protection, identifies what is currently on the property (buildings, water sources, plant and animal species, etc.), and specifies what may or may not be done to the property in the future. The easement document is signed by the landowner(s) and the land trust officers, and is then filed and indexed in the county Recorder of Deeds office. Supporting documentation — species lists, photographs of boundary markers, buildings, and natural features, etc. — may or may not be filed with the document.

Properties are monitored regu-

larly by the easement holder's staff to make sure that the easement's terms are not being violated. The current farmhouses, post-and-beam barn, and other outbuildings on the Ayers farm will remain, and may be replaced if they are destroyed. The easement permits two additional building sites.

The uses of the remainder of the property depend upon its nature. The easement's emphasis is on protection and enhancement of native species; for example, activity in wet areas is limited to projects such as improvement of habitat for trout or native plant communities. Doug originally intended to forbid timber clear-cutting, but changed his mind when he learned that seedlings of black cherry, which he wants to regenerate, will grow only in a cleared area where they receive full sunlight. Any logging for commercial sale must be done under a plan developed by a professional forester. Farming activities need soil conservation plans based upon standards of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or the Penn State Agricultural Extension.

The easement acknowledges the tangible benefits of land preservation, like preserving forested open space in the Susquehanna River watershed to protect drinking-water sources. It also recognizes the intangibles, like the pleasure that passers-by heading for the trails up through the gamelands toward Mountain Springs and Ricketts' Glen will take from the sight of a well-kept farm and unbroken woodlands.

The value of Doug's farm is

### ONLY YESTERDAY



70 Years Ago - May 27, 1932

### NEW AMERICAN STORE AT HARVEYS LAKE

For convenience of residents of Harveys Lake and vicinity, American Stores, Co., has opened a new and up-to-date branch store with all equipment and services to serve for Lake patronage.

Some of the items you could get at A & P stores were: butter, 3 lbs., 59¢; cigarettes, carton \$1.25; potatoes, 6 lbs., 29¢; hams, half lb., 13¢; tomato soup 3 cans, 19¢.

Kingston township school board, at a special meeting adopted the budget for the school year of 1932-93 and named the high school teachers, all being reappointed. Edwin Hay was elected treasurer at \$400 per year.

60 Years Ago - May 29, 1942

### RECORD LEHMAN CLASS OF 41 TO GRADUATE

A graduating class of 41-largest in the history of the school-will participate in Commencement exercises at Lehman Township. Valedictorian of the class is Martha Hadsel.

The Lake Township High School graduating class will hold its Commencement program, with diplomas going to 18 students.

A five-room frame dwelling, located on a farm near Beaumont, burned to the ground. The house, owned by Walter Derhammer of Alderson, was unoccupied for the past several years.

50 Years Ago - June 6, 1952

### AREA FAILS TO MEET ITS CANCER DRIVE QUOTA

The Back Mountain Region has fallen short of its \$2,000 quota in the current Cancer Drive. Even with an extension of the campaign's closing date, the area has contributed less than \$1,000 according to Mrs. Harry Ohlman, chairman.

Commonwealth Telephone Company announced that all numbers at Harveys Lake will be changed to enable subscribers to dial Dallas numbers.

William Roger Oney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Oney, of Shavertown, was chosen Boy of the Month at Westmoreland High School. Bill was honored at the Dallas Rotary dinner at Irem Country Club.

40 Years Ago - May 31, 1962

### BACK MOUNTAIN BASEBALL FOR BOYS OPENS SEASON

Opening ceremonies for Back Mountain Baseball for Boys was held at the Little League Field in Dallas. Clinton Brobst, head basketball coach at Dallas Senior High school was speaker.

John Miliuskas, director of Lake-Lehman High School Band, will direct a Back Mountain Community Band to be sponsored by Back Mountain Memorial Library.

Sister Mary Augustine, the former Mary Kern, daughter of Mrs. Marion A. Kern and the late Edw. Kern of Idetown, is doing work for retarded children at the Benedictine school in denton, Maryland.

30 Years Ago - June 8, 1972

### OPPOSITION VOICED TO WATER AUTHORITY PLAN

An "quietly angry" crowd of over 600 Back Mountain residents banded together to form a Back Mountain Taxpayers Association, with the objective of protesting the formation of an area water authority.

Hanson's Park, could possibly be closed all summer due to litigation which stems from a family dispute. Organizations and clubs have been advised to seek reservations elsewhere.

Steve Asby of Shvartown is the latest of an ever-increasing number of Back Mountain children to join the ranks of news

## The Dallas Post

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

P.O. BOX 366, DALLAS, PA 18612 • 570-675-5211

Ronald Bartizek  
GENERAL MANAGER

Timothy J. Raub  
REPORTER

William J. Dunn Jr.  
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC.

Ruth Proietto  
AD PRODUCTION MANAGER

Darlene Sorber  
OFFICE MANAGER

Terry Quinn  
PAGE DESIGN

See HORIZON, pg 7

See YESTERDAY, pg 7