

EDITORIAL

Healthy local business community is an asset

The Christmas shopping season just completed was a disappointing one for most national retailers, who reported sales that were barely above — and often below — the prior year. That really shouldn't surprise anyone, given three consecutive years of stock market losses, rising unemployment and concerns about terrorism at home and war on foreign soil. Fortunately, local stores fared better, and that is a good sign not just for business people, but for the community as a whole.

A huge influx of national chains to this area in recent years has brought consumers more choices and probably lower prices on some goods, but it has also put pressure on local merchants that lack huge marketing budgets and the ability to fund expansion with profits from established stores. Instead, they must rely on personal service and community involvement to retain and attract customers. And it's working for most of them; shoppers not content with whatever a big chain wants to push on them find someone eager to please behind local counters, and store owners respond in part by supporting school and youth activities, clubs and volunteer organizations. That is not to say large companies don't do the same, but it would be unreasonable to expect them to feel a great attachment to every one of the hundreds of places they do business, particularly when things aren't going well.

We can be pleased that the Back Mountain supports so many independent local businesses. Together, they are one of the vital components that help the region to maintain a unique identity and spirit.

Prudent steps for local government

It's often asked rhetorically why government can't be run more like a business. Jackson Township supervisors have taken that question to heart and adopted resolutions to better control the township's operations and budget. Two of the three resolutions deal with employee/employer relations, formalizing evaluations and complaints about poor performance. The third sets up an expenditure ledger for each department with an eye toward making actual spending conform to the budget. It may seem these measures conflict with the small town informality that infuses our municipalities, but that wouldn't be a correct impression. There's no reason why small towns — just like small businesses — shouldn't strive to conduct their affairs prudently and efficiently, which is the goal of these actions.

The fundamental purpose of any government organization is to serve the people who support it with their tax dollars and loyalty. To that end, Jackson Township also is developing a code of ethics for supervisors that would set as expectations that elected officials would treat citizens with respect and serve their interests. It may seem unnecessary — even insulting — to have such a formal code of conduct, but there are enough examples of officials who ignore the public good as they pursue personal privilege or political gain to make such a statement more than welcome.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Random thoughts at the close of one year and the start of another:

- After three years of stock market declines, shouldn't we adjust the name of retirement accounts from 401(k) to 201(k)?
- We must be doing something right, since there haven't been any terrorist attacks in the U.S. since 9/11.
- If global warming brings more golf weather in the Northeast, is that a bad thing?
- We had two palindromic years within little more than a decade — 1991 and 2002. It will be 110 years before there's another one, in 2112.
- What good does a little revenue sharing do for baseball as long as the Yankees make so much money they can hire players just so no one else can get them?
- Cadillac and Led Zeppelin, made for each other? I don't think so.
- So, we're going to invade Iraq because if Saddam Hussein were to attack us first, the economy would be severely damaged. Two problems with that argument: Saddam doesn't have the capability to strike the U.S. and the present administration doesn't seem to need any help wrecking the economy.

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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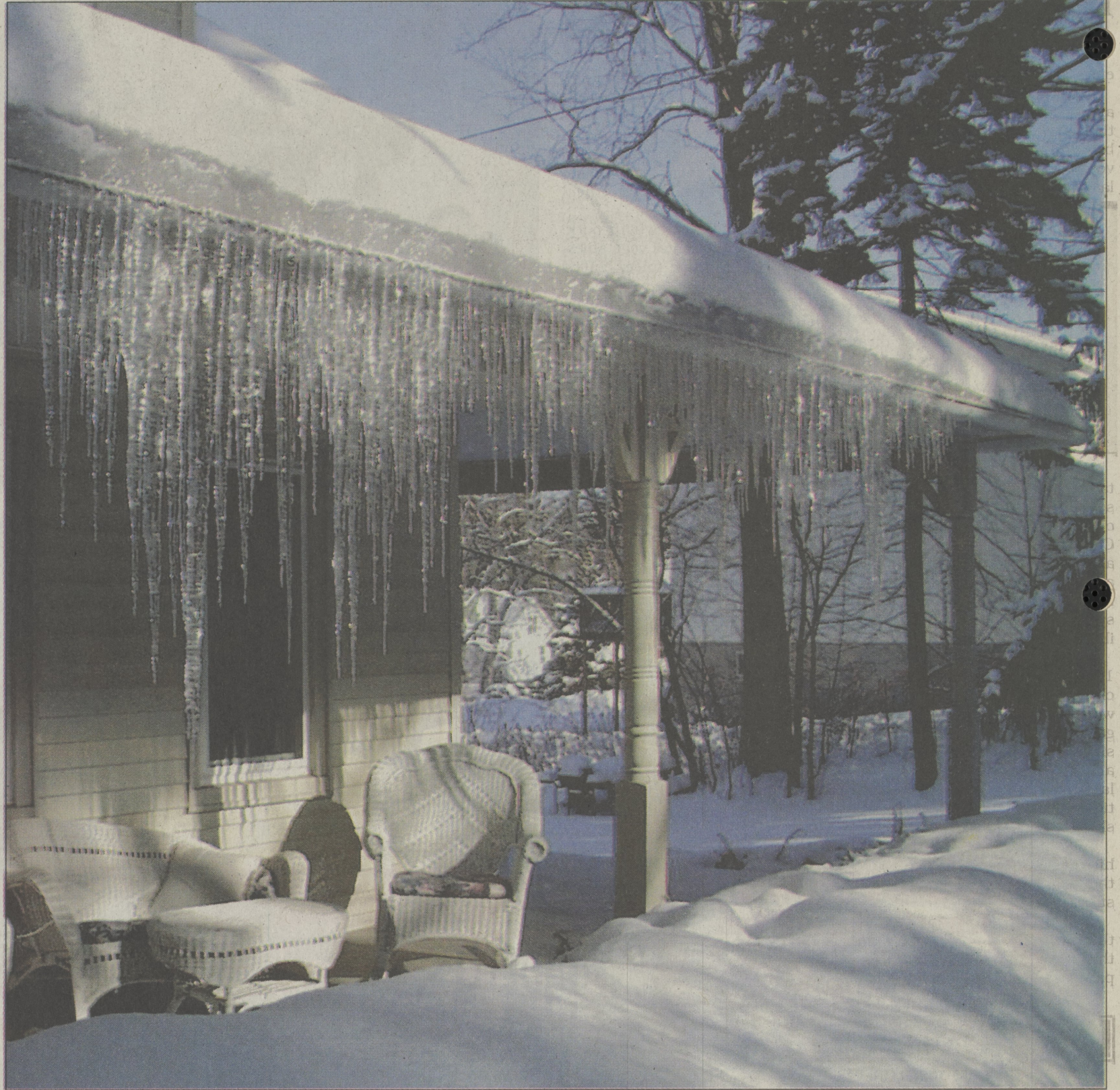
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Big icicles from little raindrops grow. Photo by Ron Bartizek.

Library adds new, memorial books to collection

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

FICTION

- "By the Light of the Moon" by Dean R. Koontz
- "Final Witness" by Simon Tolkien
- "The Guards" by Ken Bruen
- "Fat Ollie's Book" by Ed McBain

NON-FICTION

- "The Sea Hunters II" by Clive Cussler
- "American: beyond our grandest notions" by Chris Matthews

"Gardening with Conifers" by Adrian Bloom
 "Got Verse: Valley Poetry Anthology" edited by Melanie Maslow Lumia

SCIENCE FICTION

- "A Gift of Dragons" by Anne McCaffrey

REFERENCE

- "China" edited by Dimitri Cavalli
- "Consumer Reports Buying Guide 2003" LARGE PRINT EDITION
- "Diamond Dust" by Peter Lovesey
- "Tourmaline" by Joanna Scott
- "The Last Girls" by Lee Smith

"Street Boys" by Lorenzo Carcaterra

AUDIOTAPES

- "December 6" by Martin Cruz Smith
- "Lonely on the Mountain" by Louis L'Amour
- "I, Richard" by Elizabeth George

SPECIAL DONATIONS

"Valley Forge: making and remaking a national symbol" by Loretta Treese, donated by Daddow-Isaacs Post 672 American Legion

MEMORIAL BOOKS

Back Mountain Memorial Li-

brary announces the addition of new memorial books.

In Memory of Deborah Evans, "Beethoven: the music and the life" by Lewis Lockwood, presented by Maggie Van Kuyk
 In Memory of William C. Butler, Jr., "Wagons West" by Frank McLynn, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Nicholson

In Memory of John Loy Allen, "Political Writings/Thomas Paine" edited by Bruce Kukl, presented by Carol and Frank Snyder

In Memory of Thomas Neuhard, "The Zoom Trilogy" by Tim Wynne-Jones, presented by Richard and Maryann Selders



70 Years Ago - January 13, 1933

C.A. FRANTZ ELECTED DALLAS BANK PRESIDENT

At the annual meeting of stockholders of First National Bank, Dallas, C.A. Frantz was elected president to fill the vacancy caused by the death of George R. Wright who had served the position for more than twenty-six years.

Announcement was made at a meeting of Dallas borough school board of the resignation of Donald S. Wormley, director of physical education and instructor of mathematics. He will assume his new duties as coach of baseball and basketball and instructor of mathematics in the High School at Mattituck, Long Island, N.Y.

George H. Bronson, well known Sweet Valley merchant, was appointed postmaster at Sweet Valley.

60 Years Ago - January 8, 1943

SERIOUS FEED SHORTAGE MAY CUT FARMERS' WAR PRODUCTION RECORD

Feed dealers throughout the Back Mountain region and

Luzerne County and northeastern Pennsylvania, are faced with the most severe shortage of dairy, poultry and other general purpose feeds in their history. Cause of the shortage is attributed to transportation difficulties both into and out of the big mixig plants in Buffalo and other grain terminals.

Stella Cummings, Dallas, has been awarded a portable radio by the sponsors of the QUIZ KIDS radio program, for a question used on the program.

Fred M. Kiefer, Chairman of the Dallas War Price and Rationing Board, warned that after January 31, it will be illegal for motorists to operate automobiles not approved for continuous operation. In the four weeks since the tire inspection plan went into effect, only a small percentage of passenger automobiles have been inspected.

50 Years Ago - January 9, 1953

COUNCIL TAKES ACTION TOWARD GETTING NEW BOROUGHS BUILDING

First steps toward a new Borough Building were taken at the meeting of Dallas Borough Council with appointment of a committee to survey possible locations and obtain architect's preliminary sketches and prices for construction.

Dr. Sherman R. Schooley Day is scheduled for February 2 at Dallas Borough school, according to an announcement made by Wyoming Valley Blood Donation center. Grateful patients who have been ministered to by Dr. Schooley or who have safely given birth to children under his care, will have an opportunity to

express their affection for the physician.

Mrs. Ruth Turn, organist and choir leader at Dallas Methodist Church, was elected second vice-president of North East Region Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs, in charge of music for hospitals, especially veterans, of the region.

40 Years Ago - January 10, 1963

DALLAS MAN, PEARL HARBOR VETERAN, WINS 20-YEAR SERVICE PIN IN TEXAS

A Dallas man who was at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese struck, has received his twenty-year service award for work with the federal government. John Garbutt Jr., Dallas, received his pin at Amarillo Air Force Base, Texas.

Lehman Township Supervisors will break ground for the new municipal building. Five acres, including a pine grove and a creek, have been procured from Joe Parks on the Huntsville Road adjacent to Lehman Golf Course.

Some of the clothing on sale at The Globe in Luzerne were: boots, values to 6.99; \$2; misses' skirts and slacks \$1.48 ea.; boys' pants \$1.28; men's sweaters (to \$9.95) \$2.88 and \$3.88; men's sport shirts \$2.48.

30 Years Ago - January 11, 1973

6 COMPANIES ANSWER FIRE CALL AT PARK

At least 70 men from six Back Mountain fire companies worked throughout the cold night battling flames inside the rambling

structure of Hanson's Amusement Park. Answering the police call was patrolman James Faerber. Damage to the building was extensive.

Edward Richards was re-elected permanent chairman of the Kingston Township board of Supervisors at its reorganization meeting.

Richard A. Bombick of Dallas was one of 72 State Police cadets to graduate in commencement exercises at the State Police Academy in Hershey.

20 Years Ago - January 12, 1983

PRISON CITIZENS GROUP WANTS ACTION

The State Correctional Institution of Dallas Citizens Committee made several specific requests following a meeting with officials of the prison. The committee is headed by Pat Rusiloski. The group is asking SCID officials to review siren routes, installing a central warning system and implementing a fulltime day police officer. This request follows the recent escape of prisoner William DelBuno.

Christopher Alexander, was named the Cooperative Education director for College Misericordia. Alexander was formerly an Admissions Counselor at the college.

The new building on the Lake Highway has just been readied for occupancy and two of its three rental units are already filled, with inquiries concerning the third. Gus Walter's building, adjacent to the Towel Outlet, has been leased by Jan Verbinski, owner of Back Mountain TV Appliance and Satellite.