

EDITORIAL

Voters will have plenty to choose from this election

This year's May primaries will offer something that is often missing from local elections — choices. That is not the case in every township, but 2003 is shaping up as the liveliest local election year in recent memory.

Perhaps the most notable municipal faceoff will be in Kingston Township, where seven Republican candidates have filed to fill the three available seats. A year ago, the township was shocked by the deaths of two supervisors and resignation of another, with the result that three men were appointed to the board. All three will be listed on the Republican ballot, indicating they take seriously the responsibilities they were asked to assume last spring.

The Dallas School Board race is another that will offer plenty of options, as nine cross-filed candidates vie for five open seats. Lake-Lehman voters will find contested races in each of the district's three regions. Harveys Lake continues its tradition of being a two-party borough, with five Republican candidates and four Democrats seeking one of the four open positions.

It wasn't that long ago that Back Mountain voters had little reason to pay attention to local elections, since there was seldom a meaningful contest, and sometimes not even enough candidates to fill the openings. That's still the case in some places, such as Dallas Township, where Phil Walter is the only name on the ballot for the open supervisor seat. But elsewhere, a new generation of citizens has emerged, ready to devote time and talent to leading the community. We can't agree with or support them all, but we salute their eagerness to enter the public arena.

Everyone into the pool!

The wider community now has a chance to enjoy one of the features it has provided for students, the new swimming pool at the Dallas Middle School. Public sessions have begun, as have clinics for youngsters who want to gain competitive training in swimming and diving.

This pool belongs to the people who paid for it, as do all public and school facilities. And it's not the only resource being used outside of school hours and events - youth sports programs can be found on school grounds in every season. But those are organized competitions. This one is different; you and your family members don't have to join a team or attend practice. Just show up at the appointed time and make use of the wonderful facility your tax dollars funded.

Family swimming sessions are held Mondays from 5-7 p.m. and Fridays from 6-8 p.m. Adult lap swimming and exercise are conducted Tuesdays from 5-7 p.m. and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. There is a nominal charge, and you must be a resident of the Dallas School District.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



An argument before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court holds open the possibility that reporters can be sued for reporting the outrageous public comments of politicians, or anyone else, I suppose.

The case stems from a libel suit filed by a councilman in Parkesburg, about an hour west of Philadelphia, against another council member who, in a public meeting, called him and the mayor "liars," "criminals," "draft dodgers" and "child molesters." The question before the court is whether the news media can report, in a neutral manner, outlandish comments of public officials without including verification of the truth or falseness of the charges.

Think of the pressure such a responsibility would put on journalists. When Richard Nixon said, "I am not a crook," reporters would have had to hold the comment back until they could prove he hadn't erased those 18 minutes from the tape. Let's not even get into "I didn't inhale," and, "I never had sexual relations with that woman."

If we can't report the inane, foolish and reckless spoutings of public officials — along with their erudite and polished orations — what good are we? And what about the voters who inadvertently elect and employ incompetent, stupid or venal officials? In the Parkesburg case, the councilman who made the idiotic comments lost the next election, in part because the public was informed about his behavior. Would covering for his ridiculous charges have better served the public interest? I think not.

The press is far from blameless in the transmission of unverified information, but usually in much less obvious circumstances, like when they dutifully accept government handouts and pass them on unquestioned in the news columns. That's a lot more dangerous than reporting about lame-brained officials who fail the most basic tests of competency.

War does not prevent us from sharing a good joke; sometimes it even inspires a few. Have you heard this one? Because of the war, all the Wal-Marts in Iraq are closing. Word is they've all become Targets.



Last snow, old barn at Hayfield. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

Dallas High lock-in party well worth the money and effort

Editor,

For the past three years, I have been a volunteer chaperone at the Dallas High School graduation lock-in party. I feel I must respond to Mark Albrecht's concerns over the lock-in.

The purpose is to provide a party or final gathering for graduating seniors. This is done in a safe environment. No drugs, no alcohol, fights or the like. Mon-

ey are raised by parents through solicitation of businesses, townships, bake sales, etc. These dedicated folks do such a good job at this, that they can reward the graduate as opposed to bribing them with an average of \$140 per student.

This program keeps students off the streets and out of trouble for one night. My experience with these students has always been positive, which is a tribute

to their upbringing and education.

What value a life Mr. Albrecht? For the cost of grocery order we can help prevent tragedy due to a poor judgement one night that statistically is a high risk.

Local municipalities could take a lesson in fund raising from the dedicated parents and they need not justify themselves to anyone. We have had other

school districts visit our program to develop their own lock-in affair, always with positive response.

What we don't need are people who want to put a negative spin such a fine program. How about showing up for the next lock-in and scrutinize for yourself what it's all about. That's where I'll be.

Michael Pajl Shavertov

LIBRARY NEWS



Carol King

The First Aid and Safety course, for 12- to 18-year-olds, will be held on April 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the library. There is a fee of \$25 payable to the American Red Cross. Call the library for further details.

Classes for Young Adults: The second American Red Cross

babysitters class scheduled for April 12 is filled. There is now a waiting list for a possible third class. Call the library, 675-1182, if you are interested in taking this course.

National Library Week: A series of activities will take place at the library in celebration of this week, starting on Monday, April 7, at 6:30 p.m. with the "I Love the Library" Magic Show for all ages. On Wednesday, April 9, there will be a Library Open House from 1 to 4 p.m.

On Thursday, April 10, a Successful Perennial Gardening Seminar will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Speakers Beverly Turner from Perennial Pointe and Nancy Meyer will show

slides of Nancy's outstanding perennial garden, share techniques for successful gardening, address gardening problems unique to the Back Mountain Area, and talk about this year's newest perennials. Bring your gardening problems and questions for discussion. Call the library to make reservations for the seminar.

The babysitters class on Saturday, April 12, concludes this busy week.

Easter library hours: Please note that the library will close at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, and will be closed all day on Good Friday, April 18.

Book review: The book dis-

ussion group reviewed "What Went Wrong? — The Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East," by Bernard Lewis. The group found it scholarly and enlightening, and, above all, timely. We are very fortunate to have in our group Iran Fahmy, who was born in Iran. We thank her for her contribution to our understanding of the current situation and the historical background of the present conflict. We highly recommend the book.

Library luncheon: An article about this May 1 event appears in this issue. Be sure to make early reservations for this rite of spring.



70 Years Ago - April 7, 1933

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES STEM SCARLET FEVER CASES

Decrease in the number of scarlet fever cause in this section indicated that the danger of an epidemic had been overcome and that continued care on the part of parents and school officials will remove the hazard entirely.

For the first time in its history Dallas borough high school athletic association closes its fiscal year showing a profit, and with much of the indebtedness of previous years wiped clean from its books.

Some of the items you could get at the American Stores Co. were: applesauce, 3 cans 19¢; peaches, 2 big cans 29¢; peas, 2 for 29¢; Post Toasties, 2pkgs. 15¢; Ivory Soap, 4 cakes, 19¢.

60 Years Ago - April 2, 1943

RED CROSS DRIVE EXCEEDS QUOTA BY 27% IN AREA

With seven days remaining before the official close of the

campaign, Red Cross leaders in the Back Mountain Region were jubilant last night when it was revealed that they have raised \$3,277.82, exceeding their goal of \$2,575 by \$702.82.

A one-week scrap drive to raise funds for the American Red Cross was launched by students of Dallas Borough schools. At the same time a special drive for the cans was conducted by students of the sixth grade. Previously, the local schools collected 69,680 pounds of scrap and were among the leaders in the school scrap drive in Luzerne County.

Jane Lohman, Trucksville's first and only woman postmaster, is leaving the postal service involuntarily. She has served as postmaster and assistant postmaster at Trucksville for the past eighteen years under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

50 Years Ago - April 3, 1953

MISERICORDIA BLOOD DONOR DAY NETS 138 PINTS

Blood Donor Day at College Misericordia netted 138 pints, collected by a staff of twenty-nine. According to Sister Annunciata Blood Donor day will be a semi-annual feature of student life.

Farmers and dealers form as far away as Harrisburg, Lancaster, Williamsport, and Binghamton, as well as those from the Back Mountain comprised

the largest crowd ever seen at Charles Long's annual auction of farm machinery.

Chairman Mrs. Robert Maturi and Mrs. Harold Flack, announced that \$729 was raised for the Back Mountain Heart Drive. This was more than double the amount raised in 1952.

40 Years Ago - April 4, 1963

JACKSON TOWNSHIP HANDED NEW ROAD WOES

A refusal by Larksville borough to help Jackson Township maintain a border-line stretch of Route 599, also known as "Steele's Farm Road," was referred to consideration of solicitor Jonathan Valentine at a board meeting.

Proposed new Dallas Post Office building, site still unspecified, received encouragement by virtue of a \$238,100 grant under Accelerated Public Works program by a Senate sub-committee.

South Pioneer Avenue thoroughfare was blocked twice within a week when two heavy portions retaining walls on neighbors property toppled.

30 Years Ago - April 5, 1973

JET-POWERED PLANE LANDS ON HARVEYS LAKE

A twin engine jet seaplane made several illegal landings on Harveys Lake. W.T. Howell, inspector for the General Aviation District Office in Allentown, ex-

plained if the FAA has no regulations governing the landing of seaplanes on lakes, but the state does.

A plan to finance Lake-Lehman's new elementary school by issuing general obligation bonds won the unanimous support of the district's school directors at a special meeting of the board.

Greenstreet News Co., which published the Dallas Post, the Abington Journal, and the Mountaintop Eagle, was cited by the Professional News Media Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania for dedication and unselfishness during the flood emergency last June.

20 Years Ago - April 6, 1983

'NURSE OF HOPE' SEEKS STATE TITLE

Mary Simon, Wyoming Valley's "Nurse of Hope," was in Carlisle competing on a statewide level for the American cancer Society title. She is among 54 candidates for the state "Nurse of Hope."

The first program of the Back Mountain parents and Kids (P.A.K.) is to be presented at the Trinty United Presbyterian Church, and Ron Gaetono will deliver the sermon.

William L. Moyer, esq. was recently appointed vice-president and general counsel for Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises, Inc.

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Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week? A: Only in The Dallas Post