

EDITORIAL

## Harveys Lake needs help to protect water quality

The latest test results of the water in Harveys Lake are not encouraging, for humans or fish. It appears that a ban on fertilizers that contain phosphorus on land around the lake has done nothing to lower unacceptable levels of nutrients, which foster the growth of algae that crowds out other forms of life in the lake.

Harveys Lake is a natural treasure that deserves a better fate. It is also a body of water that belongs to everyone in Pennsylvania, not just those who own waterfront property. That fact would suggest that the state should take a larger role in addressing the lake's health, a task that seems to be out of reach for the borough. While the fertilizer ban is written into law, there has been no visible enforcement of it, making it unclear whether such a measure could have the desired effect. Another possibility is that the restricted area needs to be enlarged to include all of the lake's watershed. Still another concern is whether sewage from lakefront homes is being controlled sufficiently; evidence was presented to the borough council last year of overflows into the lake, but there has been no reported follow through.

The lack of effective action can't be blamed entirely on the borough, though. Pennsylvania's largest natural lake merits more attention from the state Department of Environmental Protection and other agencies that have the personnel, expertise and authority to reverse the downward spiral in water quality. Until that is forthcoming, it's unlikely much will change, making algae blooms and weakened fish stocks the norm, rather than the exception they should be.

## But will they make the same mistakes?

Congratulations to the Lake-Lehman High School students who placed first through third at the Regional History Day competition, held last month at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. Their outstanding work will take them to the state level competition in May, and from there, hopefully, on to nationals in June.

Activities like this don't get the same recognition as sports, and that's a shame. The research and presentations that won judges' approval have taken virtually the entire school year to complete, and have required as much dedication as any touchdown run or three-point basket — or perhaps more. We look forward to reporting their results as they move up the ladder of competition.

## Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



Gather 'round, children, for today's lesson in government finance.

You may have been told by some of your elders that there are certain rules for living. There's a list of 10 that most everyone knows, even if they aren't church-going. You know, the stuff about killing, cussing and graven images, whatever those are. Money isn't mentioned directly, although there is a caution about paying more attention to what your neighbor has than caring for what is your own. You've probably heard about the financial thing from your parents, or maybe grandparents — you know, those old fogies who talk about the Great Depression, which occurred around the time dinosaurs roamed the earth. Then there's smoking, drinking and drugs, those terrible vices your parents constantly warn you against, making them even more appealing.

Well, my name is Ed Rendell, and I'm here to correct some of the bad advice you've been given. Here's how things really work here in the richest nation the world has ever known:

- Sin is bad for the people who can't afford their bad habits.
- But it's good for you, little children, because we're going to tax the bejeesus out of it to buy new school books.
- You might worry that making sin more expensive would mean we'd get less tax money, but we know better. You know how hard it is to eat just a few chocolate chip cookies, or to play a video game at the arcade just once? It's the same with drinking, smoking cigarettes and gambling, but the difference is the people who do those things don't have to ask mom and dad for an extra quarter. They can spend all their quarters, and no one can stop them.
- So, bad habits are good! At least in the short term, which is all most of us in elected office care about.

Now remember, until you become an adult, which can happen as early as age 18 or as late as ... well, never, you shouldn't do any of those bad things. But you'd better hope other people do, or we all might have to pay what it's worth for public services.

**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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Silent sentinel of the season. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

## GUEST COLUMN

## The West offers reminders of, lessons for the East

MATTHEW J. LLOYD

Sweat runs down my forehead, drips into the corner of my eyes and causes a sting. I pause atop the peak to take in the view. My breaths still pant to the beat of my footsteps. I look out upon the mountains and valleys, and I think of those who came before me.

I think of my forefathers traveling west across the Atlantic Ocean and settling in this New World. And then I think of their children and grandchildren exploring westward still, journeying across this continent for the first time. I think of Lewis and Clark setting off, leaving their families and homes, and heading into the unknown. I think to myself, "how far we've come."

Then I think of these rugged mountains and wide open landscapes. I think of the Wild West and the draw it still has on the soul.

For me the west is just as much an idea of an ideal as it is a territory on a map. My idea of the West is one where past meets present, where dream meets reality.

I moved west dreaming of liv-

ing a life more simple and pure. I dreamed of making my home in a small cabin among the Rocky Mountains. I dreamed of spending my time in the mountains. Moving west was my dream of setting off on my own to discover myself, to make something of myself. All this could only be achieved by packing my bags, like Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, and going there.

This spring will mark the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's appointment to explore the west. Both men returned east after their voyage, but neither remained there long. The pull of the west drew Lewis to accept the job of Governor of the Louisiana Territory and Clark as Indian Agent of the West.

This May will mark the third anniversary of my journey to a small cabin against the backdrop of Wyoming's Wind River Mountains. I make my living by guiding people into the mountains and educating them about the values of wild places.

Unlike Lewis and Clark's time, there are now towns in the west. I live near a small town called Lander. Yet western towns like Lander have their own history,

they are living relics of what towns used to be. Lander's central business district is located on Main Street. The town's residents all work, shop and eat in establishments along Main Street. Main Street is where I go to mail letters home to my family — just like the Pony Express.

My family and friends often ask me if I'll ever move back home. My reply is, "maybe someday."

The truth is I regularly daydream of saddling up and heading back east. I dream I'll one day come home to a place not unfamiliar to my new home in the west. I dream of an old modest farmhouse surrounded by forested rolling hills, open meadows of hay bordered by old stone walls of piled fieldstone. I will enjoy walks around nearby lakes filled by flowing streams trickling from pure springs.

I dream of living near a centralized community where people come together to conduct daily affairs — working and eating and shopping downtown instead of sitting in traffic jams while commuting to some remote box store.

My new home in the West and

my old home in the East face similar fates. Will preservation and conservation save our last natural resources? Will proper planning and development restore and renew our communities? I guess only time and seeing our dreams become reality will tell.

I am headed back down the mountain. The sweat beads on my forehead slower now and doesn't run far enough to sting my eye. Now I feel a different sting. I know this sting gets a bit deeper with every mile I am from home.

I feel like I've been gone from home so long, and this sting has become numbing. But it's true. And it reminds me of a home and a family I love so much. Leaving home is the price one pays for going west. The west is where we discover ourselves. But I've also discovered that my home will always be back in the Back Mountain.

Matthew J. Lloyd is an instructor at the National Outdoor Leadership School in Lander, Wyoming. He grew up in Dallas and graduated from Wyoming Seminary.



70 Years Ago - April 14, 1933

### BIG SEED SHIPMENT IS RECEIVED HERE

One of the largest shipments of garden and field seeds ever received in Dallas was delivered to the Risley Hardware Company from Alfred J. Brown, Co. of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Robbery of two Tunkhannock stores and the theft of more than \$1,000 worth of merchandise was cleared up by State Police. Six Womung County youths, five of them less than 18, were arrested.

The treasurer of Dallas township school board received a check for more than \$3,500 from Luzerne County commissioners in land returns paid to the commissioners by township taxpayers whose taxes wereturned during 1932.

60 Years Ago - April 9, 1943

### NEW INDUSTRY WILL OPEN SOON IN SHAVERTOWN

A new industry that will employ between eight and ten people and may later increase that number will open soon in the old Shavertown Dairy Building

### Letters, columns and editorials

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.

on Main St., Shavertown. The industry is a chicken and turkey dressing plant.

An honor roll erected by Local 217 of International Fur and Leather Workers and commemorating the service to their country of eighty young man and women from Noxen and vicinity will be dedicated.

Miss Helen Koslofsky, Harveys Lake soprano who scored a marked success in her recent appearance in Carnegie Hall, has been invited to sing in New York Town Hall in the near future.

50 Years Ago - April 10, 1953

### DALLAS-KINGSTON EVALUATION SET FOR NEXT MARCH

Evaluation of Dallas Borough, Kingston Township Joint schools has been approved by Harrisburg and will take place next March, according to a report read at a meeting of the joint board. In preparation for evaluation, teachers' meetings will be arranged for every second Friday, with school dismissed half an hour early to give added time.

The 1953 financial effort of Back Mountain Branch Town and Country YMCA will be led by R.E. Neal, of Goss Manor. Neal is the Manager of the Wilkes-Barre Neisner's store.

Some of the movies that played at the Sandy Beach Drive-In Theatre: "Denver & Rio Grande" with Edmund O'Brien, Sterling Hayden; "Hurricane Smith" with Yvonnee DeCarlo, and John Ireland; "I Confess" with Montgomery Clift, Anne Baxter.

40 Years Ago - April 11, 1963

### LITTLE LEAGUE "FARM" TEAMS PLANNED

Expansion of the league to eight teams and development of a farm league are projects of Back Mountain Baseball for Boys organization which fostered the 1962 state champion Little League All-Stars. At a meeting some of the plans were to expand the league to eight teams, projects of building a new refreshment stand and press box, at the little league field in dalals Township, and the development of a farm league.

Ninety five local residents had chest X-rays when the Wyoming valley Mobile Unit visited the Back Mountain area.

Caddie Labar says he would be glad to take a vicious dog off the hands of anybody who wants to get rid of one, after being robbed again recently. Several months ago, his store was broken into and two revolvers, four radios, two tape recorders and a spotting scope on a tripod were taken.

30 Years Ago - April 12, 1973

### POLICEMENT TO HAVE PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS

Dallas Borough police chief Ray Titus reports that the new, countywide police communications system will have its effect on the borough's police communication system soon. Contracts are set for the acquisition and installation of radios, he stated. All cruisers will have radios and

will be interconnected with all other police cruisers in the area on this side of the Susquehanna.

Dallas area manager of Commonwealth Telephone Company, R. Dale Wagner, announced that fire company emergency phones in the Back Mountain were put under strict surveillance equipment, due to the rash of annoyance calls on fire company lines during the last few weeks.

Dallas Senior High School track team will vie for its seventh consecutive District 2 title against G.A.R. Hanover Lake-Lehman, Dunmore, Carbondale, and Forest City, when the season opens.

20 Years Ago - April 13, 1983

### NEW FIRE COMPANY PUMPER IS READY FOR THE ROAD

Dalls Fire Company members are thrilled with the arrival of their rebuilt 1953 Class A Pumper, which one fireman described as "solid as a tank." After having a new diesel motor installed as well as new brakes, the pumper is now classed for insurance purposes as a 1983 model. The rebuilding of the fire engine was done by the American LaFrance Company in Dunmore at a cost of \$45,000.

Frank Coulton of Harveys Lake is seeking reelection for council at Harveys Lake. He serves as chairman of the council.

Some of the items you could at Dallas Nursery: dwarf and cherry trees, \$8.99; fruit trees, \$6.99; turf food, 50lb. \$9.95; lime, 50lb. \$1.83.

- 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.