

OUR OPINION

Help make sure cleanup was only the beginning

Have you ever felt the embrace of icy tentacles of dread while anticipating a task that seemed to loom like a gigantic oak in your path? That may be how the organizers of the Toby (or Toby's, depending on your preference) Creek cleanup, held April 24. When that week began, only about 10 people had signed up for the event, part of the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, which took place statewide. Here, the cleanup was organized by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, which has conducted streamside cleanups for four years. An adjunct group, the Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition, is led by Holly Frederick, a Back Mountain native who was on hand at Toby Creek to get the troops fired up. Oh, and 50 people, not 10 showed up to devote a chunk of their time and energy to hauling tires, trash and brush out of the stream bed.

The experience of that morning is a perfect illustration of what can be accomplished when a community pulls together to support a worthwhile goal. In this case, beyond the much-needed scrubbing, the cleanup was an important step in laying the groundwork for a "greenway" to link the borough center with the Back Mountain Trail, which supporters are slowly and surely nudging up to the campus of College Misericordia. The connection will be a boon to merchants and a joy for walkers who will be able to enjoy a peaceful stroll alongside the stream, away from the hustle, bustle and noise of Memorial Highway.

Planned activity to beautify the Back Mountain is a stark contrast to the decades of thoughtless development that have preceded the present moment, creating a chaotic jumble of roadways, businesses, signs and utility poles. Many communities never recover from the state we are now in, but instead sink further into the morass of tasteless commercialism that afflicts places where people have given up the fight against it. We don't want to be like that, and plenty of our neighbors have taken up arms in the company of volunteer organizations that are steering our future in a new, more attractive and agreeable direction. Public officials are on this farsighted bandwagon as well, working to amend and adopt ordinances and practices that can be used to guide future development and influence what is already here.

While the cleanup was focused on Dallas Borough, the concern and action are not that limited. We are a region, not a random collection of towns, and what happens in one community affects and is affected by the occurrences in others. The creek is a perfect example — it flows from the middle of Dallas Township traverses the borough and then tumbles through Kingston Township. Along the way, it picks up volume — and debris — from tributaries that flow from Lehman and Jackson townships.

So, we're all in this together, and we all stand to benefit by taking a more assertive stance in charting our environmental and economic future. Anyone who doubts our ability to have an effect should have been there when, in a few hours, an admittedly short stretch of Toby's Creek was relieved of its trashy burden. There's more work, and more potential, where that came from.

Kids today!

What's the matter with kids today? Not a whole lot, at least not with the ones in the Lake-Lehman Key Club, who are marking the club's 40th anniversary year by shattering records for membership and fundraising.

Pennies add up, club members found. When the counting was finished, they had raised nearly \$2,000 in their Pennies for Patients campaign to help the Leukemia Society. They also sell daffodils for the American Cancer Society and raise money for UNICEF, among other projects. It's not all about money, though. In this time of conflict, Key Club members sent cards to about 100 members of the armed forces who are serving overseas, many of them Lake-Lehman graduates.

The club's success hasn't occurred in a vacuum, and credit must be given to its advisors, the latest being Gail Honeywell, who has done such a good job she was recently named Advisor of the Year in the northeastern Pennsylvania district. The Lake-Lehman club won Club of the Year honors as well.

Congratulations to the club members and their advisor for a job not only well-done, but continually done better. We don't know how they're going to top this year's achievements, but it seems certain they will try.

Letters, columns and editorials

Editorials, which are the opinion of the management of The Post, appear on the editorial page and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. Any artwork represents the opinion of the cartoonist, and columns are the opinion of the author.

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 addressing the same topic 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.

THE POST

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A little Southern charm — only briefly — captured in the Back Mountain. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LIBRARY NEWS

Donuts and Discussion planning for new season

It's time for the Donuts and Discussion group to get under way! Students from 10 to 13 years old may begin signing up on Monday, May 10, by calling the library at 675-1182. The organizational meeting will be held on Monday, May 24, from 4:30 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. At that time the group will vote on the books they will read, order their books, and discuss meeting days and times. Interested boys and girls are asked to



CAROL KING

look over the list below of award-winning books from which the four books will be chosen for discussion this summer. Other books may be suggested — come to the meeting with your suggestions.

"A Long Way from Chicago," by Richard Peck; Ruby Holler, by Sharon Creech; "Surviving the Applewhites," by Stephanie S. Tolan; "The Ear, the Eye and the Arm," by Nancy Farmer; "Walk Two Moons," by Sharon Creech; "The Other Side of Truth," by Beverly Naidoo; "When My Name Was Keoko," by Linda Sue Park; "The Kite Rider," by Geraldine McCaughrean; "The Hobbit," by J. R. Tolkien; and "My Side of the Mountain," by Jean Craighead George.

The librarian reported that 17 Head Start children from St. Paul's Lutheran Church and 59 children from Trinity Nursery School visited the library in the month of March. In addition to the regular Story Hours, Title I students from Dallas have been coming to the library each week for reading. Here are a few statistics for the month: total circulation, 9,618; books added, 181; new borrowers, 81; active borrowers, 16,436.

On display this month is the decorative shot glass collection of Joshua Tyler Perrella, age 9.

College Misericordia plans Alumni Weekend

The golden anniversary class of 1954 will be honored at the College Misericordia Alumni Weekend, scheduled for May 21-23 on the Dallas campus. All alumni are welcome to attend part or all of the four-day event. Other classes that will be recognized during this weekend will be the classes of 1929, '34, '39, '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94 and 1999.

The weekend starts on the afternoon of Thursday, May 20, with registration in the Banks Student Life Center. Activities begin on Friday, May 21, with a continental breakfast in the center, followed by a tour of the CM campus. In the afternoon, alumni may participate in the Alumni Volunteer Program with on-campus training sessions in Kennedy A of the Banks Student Life

Center. Dr. and Mrs. Michael MacDowell will host the attendees of the class of 1954 and earlier for a Golden/Golden Plus Luncheon in their home, with entertainment provided. The Alumni Association will hold its annual board meeting at 3 p.m. in the library.

One of Northeastern Pennsylvania's most popular bands, Which Doctor, will perform on Friday evening from 8-11 p.m. in the Banks Student Life Center. The event is also open to the public. Reservations are required and the cost of tickets for those not attending the reunion weekend is \$15 per person. Reservations can be made for this event though the CM Box Office, 674-6768.

Alumni and family members may attend workshops during the morning of Saturday, May 22, including a trail walk starting at the Mangelsdorf Field and floral arrangement class in the Fireside Lounge. The Alumni Family Picnic will be held from noon until 3 p.m. outside the Banks Student Life Center.

Other events of note that day include the alumni Mass at 4 p.m. and the cocktail reception and awards dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. The weekend concludes with an alumni champagne brunch Sunday morning beginning at 10 a.m.

For more information, or to register, visit the CM website, www.misericordia.edu/alumni or call the Alumni Relations Office, 674-6764.

70 Years Ago
May 4, 1934

INDIAN CHIEF SPEAKS AT DALLAS HIGH SCHOOL

Chief Blackbird, whose Chippewa subjects once ruled the northern Wisconsin Wilderness, told Dallas Borough High School students his inspiring story of his unselfish work on behalf of the Redman.



ONLY YESTERDAY

John Henning, president of the Wyoming National Bank in Tunkhannock, has been elected a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

Items that could be purchased at the local A&P: flour, 24 pounds, 85¢; brooms, 35¢ each.

60 Years Ago
May 5, 1944

LOCAL BASEBALL GOES ON DESPITE WARTIME

Dallas Borough, last year's champs, won the first two games of the season. Friday they were the victor over Lake Township's team and they quickly defeated the Kingston Township team, Tuesday.

Dorothy Cornell, daughter of Mr. and

Mrs. Willard Cornell of Hunlock Creek, is valedictorian of the senior class at Lehman High School.

Sgt. B. Willard Crispell of Harveys Lake celebrated his birthday yesterday somewhere in England. He was employed at Hayfield Farm prior to entering the service.

50 Years Ago
April 30, 1954

TOP 3 MRS. WYOMING VALLEY FINALISTS HAVE BMT ROOTS

Back Mountain rated 100 percent in the roster of finalists for the title of Mrs. Wyoming Valley. They are: Mrs. Charles Eberle, Mrs. Woodworth B. Allen and Mrs. Robert Maturi.

State and Township police are investigating the early morning robbery of the Kingston Township Veteran's Assoc. building in Trucksville.

40 Years Ago
April 30, 1964

BUILDING BOOM IN DALLAS TOWNSHIP, HARVEYS LAKE

The Back Mountain is experiencing its greatest increase in home building activity, most notably in Shrine Acres and Hemlock Gardens, near Harveys Lake where George Ruckno is adding a number of Blue Star All-Gas Homes.

Ernest Gay has again taken charge of arrangements for procuring the car for the annual library auction.

30 Years Ago
May 2, 1974

DRY CONDITIONS BLAMED FOR BRUSH FIRES

Dry conditions in the woods and fields coupled with careless burning have led to a rash of fires in the Back Mountain.

The seventh annual Cherry Blossom Festival will get underway this weekend, May 3-5, in Wilkes-Barre.

20 Years Ago
May 2, 1984

AT 90, REV. RIDALL IS STILL PREACHING

Rev. Archie Ridall, 90, who is pastor of the Outlet Free Methodist Church, first heard his calling at age four. He started serving the Outlet church at age 75.

The Waterfront Inn at Harveys Lake has new owners, Jeffrey and Wayne Collinson, formerly of New Jersey.

Sunday's earthquake which registered a few points on the Richter scale has prompted one local insurance company to offer earthquake insurance.

Fresh Air Fund seeks host families

Since 1877, New York City children growing up in low-income neighborhoods have experienced the joys of summer in suburban and small-town communities through The Fresh Air Fund's Friendly Town Program. By welcoming visitors into their homes

during the summer, host families give Fresh Air children a break from the sometimes dangerous, hot and crowded city streets.

For more information on hosting a Fresh Air child, contact Denise Moskaluk at 674-3707 or The Fresh Air Fund at (800) 367-0003, or visit The Fund's Web site at www.freshair.org.