

OUR OPINION

Ordinance update should not get the brushoff

Complaints about excessive noise emanating from a factory on Lower Demunds Road have prompted calls for revisions to the noise ordinance in Dallas Township. Other residents have suggested that all the township's ordinances, written four decades ago and updated on a case-by-case basis since, need a thorough going over. Given unabated development pressure, that sounds like a wise idea. But at a recent meeting, Supervisors Chairman Phil Walter resisted, citing a desire to "get by on 9 mills" of property tax while "everybody's crying they want a road paved, they want this done, they want that done."

Perhaps those cries should be taken more seriously. It may be that they reflect the changing nature of the township's population, one that would not mind paying a little more to support prudent spending for services that would help guide growth in housing and business that seems as inevitable as the next sunrise.

The fact is, after paying their school and county taxes, most property owners hardly notice the much smaller amount levied by their township or borough. Yet, their local government has the greatest impact on day-to-day quality of life in their hometown. In this particular case — bringing the township's rules and regulations into the 21st century — it would make sense to consider the long-term benefits that would accrue from a one-time expense.

OTHER OPINION

Law enforcement needs help to police gambling operations

By State Sen. Jeffrey E. Piccola (R-15)

The newly passed law which brings slots to Pennsylvania will make our Commonwealth second only to Nevada in the number of gaming establishments for slot machines. Obviously, Pennsylvania will be at a competitive advantage due to the large number of slot parlors which will be in operation throughout the Commonwealth. However, Pennsylvania Law Enforcement — the Pennsylvania State Police, district attorneys and the Attorney General — will be at a serious disadvantage when it comes to investigating and prosecuting criminal activity arising out of gaming.

I have consulted our Commonwealth's law enforcement community about the legalization of slots at racetracks and other establishments. They speak with one voice as to their greatest concern of the infiltration of organized crime into the operation of slots facilities as well as the communities which house them. The 14 licenses which are created under the new law will authorize slots at racetracks and stand-alone parlors in the four corners of our Commonwealth and points in between. Pennsylvania's police and prosecutors are not armed with the tools they need to prevent and prosecute organized crime's influence in the newly established gaming industry.

During the late hours of the Senate debate on the new law, I attempted to amend the gaming bill to include a "Racketeering and Corrupt Organizations" (commonly referred to as RICO) component. It would have given our law enforcement community a critical tool which is used to prosecute and shut down organized crime operations. Its criminal sanctions are the toughest Pennsylvania has to offer — felonies of the first degree. Its civil sanctions empower a judge to wipe out a business enterprise which is operated by the proceeds of criminal racketeering activity.

States which have had casinos and slots operations for years have RICO as a crucial element of their state statutory schemes. New Jersey's law, upon which much of Pennsylvania's new law is based, contains a RICO provision. New Jersey and other states with casinos and slots also ban felons from ever obtaining a license to operate a gaming establishment. But not Pennsylvania! The new law allows felons to get gaming licenses, as long as their crime was committed at least 15 years ago.

Felonies are serious crimes. Preventing the infiltration of organized crime into the gaming industry is serious business. The Pennsylvania State Police and district attorneys will be at an extreme disadvantage as a result of the weakness of the law enforcement provisions of the new law. Consequently, I am prepared to fight for these and other tough law enforcement measures pertaining to gaming. Included in these provisions, will be the creation of a Division of Gaming Enforcement within the Office of Attorney General. Our district attorneys do not have the staff resources to prosecute the criminal offenses which will arise out of gaming activity. The Attorney General's office must be enhanced in order to develop the expertise to assist our counties in these prosecutions. I am hopeful these will be enacted when the General Assembly returns in the fall.

Letters invited

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published, subject to guidelines regarding relevance and suitability.

Please keep letters to 500 words or less.

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.

Send letters to: The Post, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18711.

THE POST

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

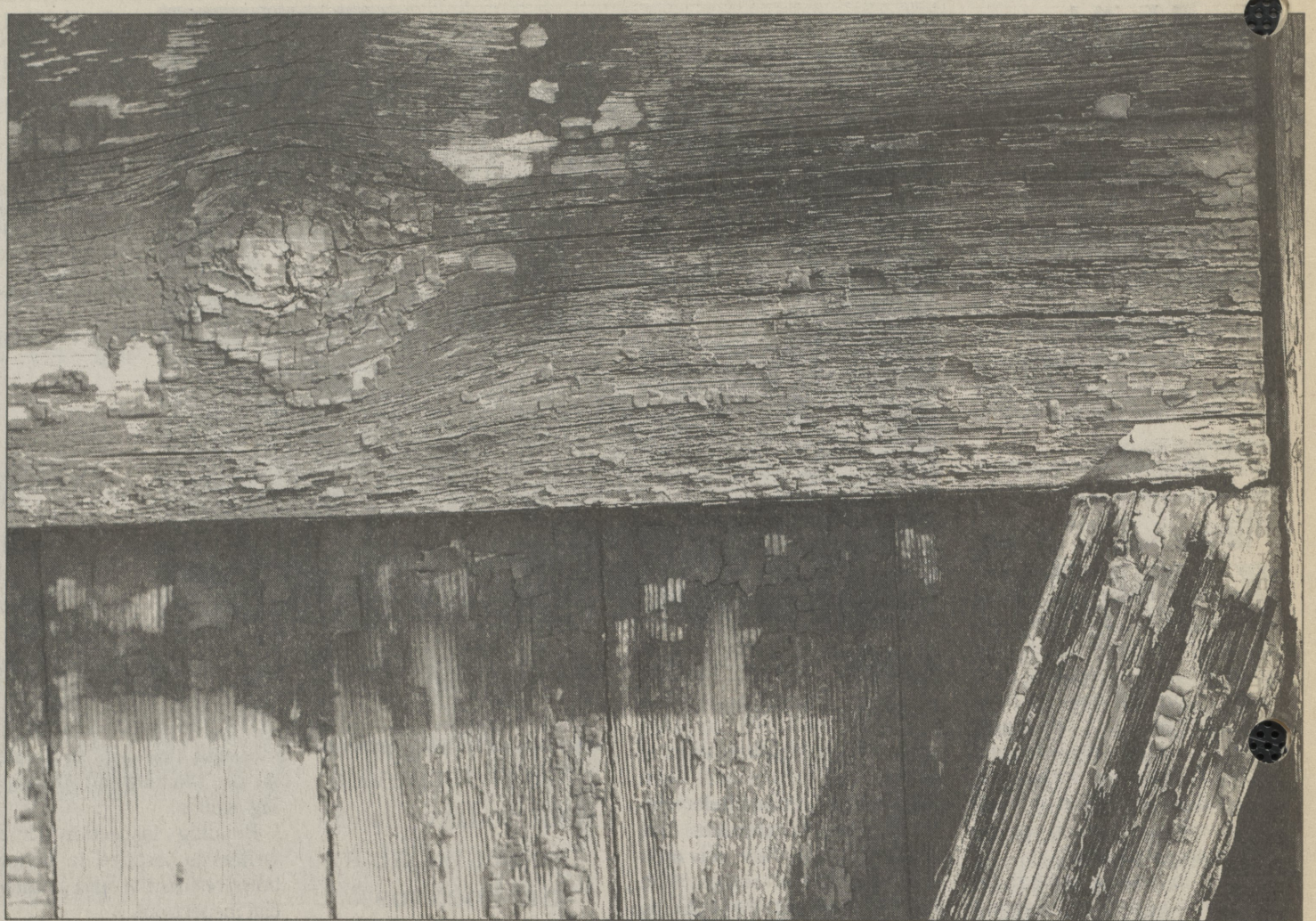
15 N. MAIN ST., WILKES-BARRE PA 18711 • 570-675-5211
thepost@leader.net

Patrick McHugh
PUBLISHER

Ronald Bartizek
EDITOR

Justin Wisnosky
ADVERTISING

Greg Stauffer
AD PRODUCTION MANAGER



Ageless beauty in wood. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LIBRARY NEWS

Update on summer library activities for young people

On Monday, July 12, the Donuts and Discussion group will meet to discuss "My Side of the Mountain," by Jean Craighead George. All members are encouraged to attend because a group picture will be taken on that day. The book was chosen from the "We the People Bookshelf," awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to only 1,000 libraries in the country. The Bookshelf, located in the children's room, includes 15 hardcover books with the theme of Courage, geared to help young people learn more about American history and important ideas in American culture.



CAROL KING

Wednesday, July 14, is the date of the next program in the Discover New Trails at Your Library summer reading game series. Judy Adamic from Ricketts Glen State Park will talk about "Nature Fun and Safety" from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Children's Room. If your child hasn't yet signed up for the summer reading game, it's still not too late to come in and fish in the "pond" in the children's room for instructions about reading eight books this summer. The final wrap-up will be on July 30.

Young Adults, ages 12 to 18, are accepting the challenge of reading books and writing reviews about them. Sign up at the library if you haven't already done so. The reviews are posted on the bulletin board near the main desk in the library. A drawing will decide who receives the award of \$50 offered by Target, so the more books you read, the greater the chance that one of your slips might be drawn. Pepsi-Cola of Wilkes-Barre will award prizes for run-up. Everyone is invited to read the reviews, which may help you decide on a book that you'd like to read.

70 Years Ago
July 13, 1934

WATER SHORTAGE
DRAWS CRITICISM

Complaints of an inadequate and unsatisfactory water supply were directed at Dallas-Shavertown Water Co. this week by residents of the two communities served and it was apparent that there will be this summer a repetition of the action taken last year by local residents. Local residents indicated this week that unless the present unsatisfactory condition is eliminated and the water supply improved, official action will be taken again.

ONLY
YESTERDAY

A number of local men will be among the khaki-clad guardsmen who will entrain at Lehigh Valley Station, Wilkes-Barre, at 6:40 tomorrow morning for Indiantown Gap and two weeks of warlike maneuvers. Included in the group from Dallas and vicinity are Al Milliner Camp, Trucksville; J. Young and P. Young, Shavertown; George Lewis, Harold Rood, and Edward Kotchi of Dallas.

Attractive, steel signs directing motorists to Harveys Lake or Tunkhannock are to be erected at the junction of the highway on Main Street, Dallas, by Wyoming Valley Motor Club, Norman Johnstone, secretary of the club, announced this week.

60 Years Ago
July 14, 1944

PANEL APPOINTED,
WILL SUPERVISE
USED CAR PRICES

Three members of the automobile price panel, who will supervise the new price ceilings which go into effect on July 10 on used automobiles, have been appointed by Dallas War Price and Rationing

Board. Members of the panel are Allan Sanford, chairman; Leslie Warhola and Harry Ohlman.

Missing in action since May 29, when he engaged in a routine bombing mission over Germany, Raymond Sutton, 26, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ziba Sutton, Sutton Road, Trucksville, is now a prisoner of war, according to a war department message forwarded to his parents this week.

A 1933 Nash, driven by James George, employee of Mrs. Theodore Frantz of Stonehurst, nearly toppled into Harveys Lake last Tuesday when, out of control, it went through the guard rail. Mr. George was driving from Warden Place to Stonehurst when the brake rod became disconnected. It smashed through the guard rail but caught before going into the lake.

50 Years Ago
July 9, 1954

DIRIGIBLE FLIES
LOW OVER DALLAS

Back Mountain residents were thrilled Tuesday afternoon with the sight of a big silver dirigible coming in from the west and flying so low over Dallas that they could see members of the crew. Some expressed the opinion that it might be a Navy craft. There was no doubt in anybody's mind that it was NOT a flying saucer.

Hanford Eckman was installed as president and William Valentine as vice president at the dinner meeting of Dallas Rotary Club held at the country club last Thursday. Other officers installed were, treasurer, Harold Titman; and secretary, Leslie Warhola.

A motorist recently parked his car in the middle of a railroad track, walked 100 feet away from the crossing and watched a freight car smash his car to smithereens. When police charged the motorist with failing to observe a railroad stop sign, he cheerfully replied, "That's the last time I'll have to drive my wife to work."

40 Years Ago
July 9, 1964

HIT-AND-RUN DRIVER
ESCAPES, LIGHTS OFF

A car driven by Judith Wright, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Wright, Orchard View Terrace, was victim of a hit-and-run accident at Pole 136, Harveys Lake, at 11:20 p.m. Saturday. Three witnesses ran out into the road to get the car's license number, but the driver put out his lights and drove off at a high rate of speed. The car was identified as possibly a white Pontiac or Chrysler.

Ralph M. Sands, prominent Holstein breeder and owner and operator of Sandsdale Farms at Carverton, has been hired by the Pennsylvania Holstein Association to select the cattle for the Pennsylvania State Sale to be held in Harrisburg on Sept. 14. Mr. Sands has captured many honors with his prize herd.

Quick thinking and knowledge of first aid measures saved the life of Allan "Torchy" Wilson, 62, Noxen, when he was bitten by a rattlesnake on the Fourth of July at 1 p.m. The injured man immediately sucked the venom from his finger and applied a tourniquet with a handkerchief. Rattlesnake serum was administered and intravenous injections applied. Wilson was released from the General Hospital on Tuesday.

30 Years Ago
July 11, 1974

FORD FOUNDATION
GRANTS \$120,000
TO MISERICORDIA

College Misericordia had received a Ford Foundation Grant of \$120,000, it was announced today by Sister Miriam Teresa RSM, college president. Misericordia was among 177 colleges and universities in the Northeast and Puerto Rico to be considered for the Ford Foundation award and is one of the 12 institutions that actually received grants this year. Total money awarded is \$2,000,000.

The house being constructed by Joseph Schroeders for his family, 65 Holcomb Ave., Trucksville, has an addition that may seem unusual — a tree on the rooftop. Mr. and Mrs. Schroeders, who moved from Holland 18 years ago, observed this Dutch custom while building their home. On completion of the roof, a tree is placed upon it for three days to celebrate that the house is half-way finished. The workers join in a beer drinking festivity for their accomplishment.

John J. Carey, executive director of the Alcoholism Council of Luzerne County, announced today that Thomas R. Robinson, Kingswood Drive, Dallas, was elected president of ACLC at its annual meeting.

20 Years Ago
July 11, 1984

TORNADO DAMAGE
MAY REACH MILLIONS

Richard Boice simply shook his head in near disbelief and recalled the almost unbelievable events that took place in the Harveys Lake area last Friday evening. The disaster Boice spoke of was a tornado which ripped through parts of Sweet Valley and the Sun section of Harveys Lake Friday evening at approximately 6:10 p.m. The twister left over 60 area homes damaged in its wake.

Friends and relatives galore gathered Friday evening to welcome home Gina Major, the new Miss Pennsylvania, at a homecoming reception held in her honor at Gus Genetti's Motor Inn, Wilkes-Barre. Miss Major, a native of the Back Mountain area and a graduate of Lake-Lehman High School, won the Miss Pennsylvania crown about three weeks ago.

J.R. Fagan, director of the Northeast Region of the Pennsylvania Game Commission is pleased to announce the installation of a "Toll-Free Law Enforcement" telephone in the Dallas Headquarters. To report a game thief, just pick up the telephone and dial 1-800-GAME-LAW.

Deadline for submitted news is Wednesday at noon.
E-mail is the best method - thepost@leader.net