

## OUR OPINION

## Dallas board must explain and justify its strategy

The game of musical chairs in the administration offices of the Dallas School District continues on, raising the question of whether the district will be better or worse off when the music stops.

The sudden, but not unexpected, resignation of Superintendent Gil Griffiths is only the latest wave in an ocean of turmoil that has engulfed the district since the November 2003 elections that brought a new alignment of interests to the school board. Some of the new board majority's actions have been troubling to parents whose children have reaped the benefits of a district that has made notable strides in both its facilities and academic performance. They wonder why principals they trust have been told that their opinions about new hires aren't very important; why some of those hired have been far from the top of the applicant pool; why temporary assignments were made to cover important administrative positions until Assistant Superintendent Michael Speziale returns from a one-year sabbatical; and why a respected and proven superintendent was made to feel so unwelcome that he felt it prudent to leave the district before his contract expired.

Throughout this year, rumors have run rampant about the board majority's plans, which have not been widely shared with the public. Those suspicions have proven true more than once, while the board's justification for its moves has gone little further than "because we can."

Dallas still has a core of motivated, skilled administrators and a supportive school community. But both those qualities could be put in jeopardy by a board majority that has yet to express an overarching rationale for its disruptive maneuvers. If there is one, parents and taxpayers deserve to know about it.

## A winning program keeps the Back Mountain clean

It's remarkable how quickly we humans adapt to change. Barely a decade ago, verbal battles raged over the airwaves and at lunch counters, as Back Mountain residents argued the merits of a then-new trash pickup and recycling program. There were high-minded positions about government interference in people's lives and day-to-day concerns about the cost to property owners of limited means.

And now? Putting out trash on the appointed day and properly separating recyclables are second nature, while none of the predicted calamities have come to pass. In fact, we've done such a good job, the state Department of Environmental Protection has awarded our communities a \$50,000 grant that will be used to enhance the program, which is operated by the Dallas Area Municipal Authority.

Some of the grant money will be used to support a compost site at DAMA headquarters in Trucksville, where residents can drop off lawn waste and pick up free compost. Another portion has been parceled out to the three participating municipalities — Dallas Borough and Dallas and Kingston townships — to offset the expense of their popular spring cleanup programs. The rest will be used to keep the already reasonable rates down.

To employ an often misused phrase, this program has proven to be a win-win for the people of the Back Mountain.

### MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

- On Oct. 27, 1904, the first rapid-transit subway system in America is opened in New York City, with Mayor George McClellan at the controls of the train as it runs beneath Manhattan. Today, the New York subway system is the largest in the world.

- On Oct. 29, 1929, Black Tuesday hits Wall Street as investors trade 16,410,030 shares on the New York Stock Exchange in a single day. Billions of dollars were lost, wiping out thousands of investors. In the aftermath of Black Tuesday, America spiraled downward into the Great Depression.

- On Oct. 30, 1938, Orson Welles' production of H.G. Wells' "War of the Worlds," a fictional drama about a Martian invasion in Groves Mill, N.J., airs on the radio program Mercury Theater. The show sparked a panic among listeners who believed the play was an actual news broadcast.

- On Oct. 31, 1957, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. is founded in California. Toyota's first American headquarters were located in an auto dealership in downtown Hollywood, Calif., and by the end of 1958, 287 Toyopet Crowns and one Land Cruiser had been sold.

- On Oct. 28, 1967, Academy Award-winning actress Julia Roberts is born in Smyrna, Ga. Her parents ran an acting workshop in Atlanta, where she began studying as a teenager.

- On Oct. 26, 1984, at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California, Dr. Leonard L. Bailey performs the first baboon-to-human heart transplant, replacing a 14-day-old girl's defective heart with the walnut-sized heart of a young baboon. The infant, known as "Baby Fae," survived the operation but died 20 days later.

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THE POST

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Squiggly shapes of the season. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

### LIBRARY NEWS

## Baked goods welcome for Halloween, Election Day



CAROL KING

The Haunted Library will be in business again this Friday and Saturday, Oct. 29 and 30, from 6 to 11 p.m.

There is a charge of \$5 per person. The spooks and ghouls will reign inside the library, while activities for younger children will be held outside. The food booth will be open all

evening. Contributions for the Friends' bake sale will be welcome. Bring them when you come to enjoy the festivities, or drop them off at the library during the afternoon. Non-sticky cookies and bars are requested.

The Friends will also hold a bake sale on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 2. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Plan to pick up goodies for the week! Again, contributions of baked goods will be welcome.

They may be brought to the library on Monday evening up until 8:30 p.m., or bring them with you when you come to vote.

Details of the Friends' annual fruit sale have been firmed up and will be publicized in the Post. The deadline for prepaid orders will be November 15.

If there are any questions about the above information, please call the library at 675-1182.

70 Years Ago  
Oct. 24, 1934

### \$45,000 FIRE RUINS OLD CAR BARN HERE

Flames levelled the old car barn along the Wilkes-Barre Railway Corp tracks at Dallas early Wednesday morning, causing a loss which was estimated by traction company officials to be \$45,000.



### ONLY YESTERDAY

street car, discovered the blaze and summoned the local firemen. The building was about 30 years old. Nine cars were stored in it.

Despite the drought of last summer, four Luzerne County potato farmers reported excellent yields of potatoes this past week. They are William B. Tressler, Sybertsville; Thomas Pollock, Lake Silkworth; George L. Rice of Lehman Township; and Luther E. Smith of Briggsville, Nescopeck Township.

Alvah Fassett of Tunkhannock was selected this week as chairman of the district of Young Republicans of Pennsylvania, which includes Susquehanna, Wyoming, Luzerne, Columbia, Lackawanna, Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties.

60 Years Ago  
Oct. 27, 1944

### D.A. IDE NAMED DALLAS MANAGER

D.A. Ide, for the past nine years manager of the Montrose District of the Commonwealth Telephone Co., comprising the towns of Montrose, Hallstead, Springville, Brooklyn and Susquehanna, has been named manager of the Dallas District to succeed Harold Payne, recently promoted to assistant general manager of the company.

Two postal cards in his own handwriting and arriving on

the same day are the first direct information Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nulton of Beaumont have had from their son, Paul Jr., since he was taken prisoner by the Germans on July 17. The two cards, one written on July 31 and the other on Aug. 5, arrived in the same mail this week.

Trucksville Service Mothers Club welcomed three new members at its meeting on Monday night in the Trucksville Hose House. They are Mrs. Samuel Harrison, Mrs. Thomas Ayre and Mrs. John Helfrich. Mrs. Harold Shappelle gave a detailed report on the card party held recently at the high school.

50 Years Ago  
Oct. 22, 1954

### SCHULTZ WILL SPEAK TONIGHT

Mrs. Frank Ferry, Dallas District Democratic Chairman, announces that Osborne Schultz, candidate for State Senator, will speak tonight between 7 and 7:30 at the Honor Roll in Dallas Borough. Mr. Schultz, a resident of Shickshinny, and of Pennsylvania Dutch extraction, is secretary of Shickshinny School Board. He is also the representative of a trucking company.

Cpl. Albert L. Dymond, in Korea for the past 16 months, will leave for home with the Third Division this month. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dymond, West Dallas, he graduated from Dallas-Franklin Township schools in 1950. Basic training was taken at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky.

Karl Chamberlain, resident of Shavertown for 32 years, has taken over the Snack House Restaurant, formerly operated by Peter Malkemes in Trucksville. He will be assisted by his daughter, Karlene and his sons, Robert and Kenneth.

40 Years Ago  
Oct. 22, 1964

### SMOKING WASHER BRINGS OUT FIREMEN

A car hit the medial divider on the new highway just below

Carverton Road light in Trucksville around 8:15 Saturday night and was spun around twice by impact, but the Kingston driver was not hurt. Leroy G. Space, 22, told police he was passing another car, northbound, and was forced over toward the divider.

Shavertown firemen answered a call to 60 Lehigh Street on Monday morning when they received word that a cellar was full of smoke. One inspecting the home, President Andy Roan found an overheated motor on a washer causing the trouble and recommended an appliance repairman.

Traffic lights long overdue at several intersections in Kingston Township are expected to be installed within the next several weeks. Bids submitted last Wednesday evening at the regular meeting of Kingston Supervisors showed a wide variance in price of installation, ranging from \$22,642 to 13,950. Board voted to call in the two lowest bidders, Kenneth Rowlands, Plymouth and Robert L. Thomas, Kingston, to see if specifications were followed. Installation will probably not be completed until early December.

30 Years Ago  
Oct. 24, 1974

### TRUCKSVILLE F.D. NAMES LIFE MEMBERS

Overruns in several areas of the Dallas Borough budget prompted extensive discussion by councilmen at the Oct. 15 council meeting at the Dallas Borough Council. Stating he was "throwing up a red flag" of alarm, councilman Pete Arnaud said overruns existed in several areas of the budget including electric bills, police car repairs, insurance premiums and printing costs.

Seven members of the Trucksville Volunteer Fire Company were presented with life memberships in the company at a dinner held in honor of life members recently. Bob Sabol presented gold cards to G. Wilbur Nichols, Ralph Hazeltine, Ray Gemmel, Fred

Turner, Samuel Lawson and David N. Schooley. Dr. J. Rolland Crompton, also elected to membership, was ill and could not attend.

Patricia Brooke, a Rotary Exchange student from Rhodesia, was featured speaker on the program at the Dallas Woman's Club's regular meeting. Patricia attends Lake-Lehman High School and has been in this country since January. She is being hosted by Mrs. Paul Wolensky of C and will return to Rhodesia in December.

20 Years Ago  
Oct. 24, 1984

### AMERICAN LEGION NOTES 50 YEARS

Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post 672 held installation of officers Saturday evening at the Legion Home, Memorial Highway, Dallas, marking the beginning of the local legion's 50th anniversary, which was chartered April 29, 1935, at a meeting of the county committee.

The AV (Audio-Visual) Gang at Lake-Lehman High School recently toured the studios of WBRE-TV Channel 28, guests of Jim Miller, WBRE's sports director. The students, who are responsible for the video-taping of events at Lake-Lehman School, where shown how television shows are organized, how sports programs are set up and the procedures of filming an event.

Eugene D. Gorski M.D., an associate with the Geisinger Medical Group in Wilkes-Barre and a staff physician at the Geisinger Family Health Center in Dallas, has recently been notified by the American Academy of Family Physicians that he passed his board examinations and is certified in family practice. Dr. Gorski resides in Dallas with his wife.

Only Yesterday is compiled from the back-issue files of The Post.

### Letters invited

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

writer's home town and a telephone number for verification.

Letters should not exceed 500 words. 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, or by e-mail to: post@leader.net

They may also be left in the drop box located in the Uni-Mart convenience store on Route 309 in Dallas.