

OUR OPINION

Let the public in on key decisions about schools

There's a wry saying that no good deed goes unpunished. You need no further proof than what happened when Dallas School Board member Dennis Gochoel tried to let the public in on the next round of expensive construction and renovation, this time at the high school.

Gochoel, who is chairman of the board's property committee, had a memo sent to the media from the district office on October 22, seeking publicity for a public meeting October 28, at which four architectural firms would review their proposals for the project. The notice was a breath of fresh air from a district that has in the past been criticized for making little effort to openly discuss significant moves with parents and taxpayers, giving the impression — deserved or not — that decisions are made without the messiness of building a consensus within the community.

Alas, the hoped-for openness lasted but a couple of hours. Later in the day, district personnel were told by David Usavage, board president, to call off the meeting. The matter, he told a reporter, would probably be dealt with at Monday night's board work session. But an agenda prepared for the board did not list the architects proposals as a topic.

It's not as if Gochoel trampled on protocol when he scheduled the public review. Holding such a session was discussed at earlier board meetings. As chairman of the property committee, he sent an e-mail to all board members inviting them to help him sift through the 12 proposals that were submitted by the Oct. 21 deadline. When he received no takers, he selected four and sent another note about the Oct. 28 meeting, which was envisioned as an open interview of the firms by board members and administrators, with the floor then open to questions from the public.

Perhaps this is only a temporary delay in the board's scheme to let the public in on such an important aspect of the district's operation. We certainly hope so, and will be looking eagerly for the next scheduled date.

Old Shoe game is sports competition at its best

Rabid fans would call the term "friendly competition" an oxymoron. Some of them were shocked when players for the St. Louis and Los Angeles Dodgers shook hands at the conclusion of their baseball playoff series, suggesting the gesture was in opposition to the win-at-all-costs principle of professional sports.

We've got news for them; friendly competition is alive and well, and if they'd like to see it in action they should come to next Saturday's 56th Old Shoe football game at Dallas High School. That's when this year's teams will square off with an intensity that transcends records or statistics, battling through four quarters to claim the bronzed shoe trophy signifying a year's worth of effort and practice compressed into 48 minutes of play. That's if the game doesn't go to overtime.

We can make this guarantee; fans will see a game punctuated by moments of individual and team greatness. Then they'll see the coaches and players, especially the seniors, congratulate each other for their desire and execution, probably by shaking hands.

A lot has changed since the first Old Shoe game in 1948. Schools have been consolidated, populations have grown and perspectives have matured. But the tradition of a clean, hard contest played on a crisp fall day endures, for both the players and fans to enjoy and appreciate. Sportsmanship and an appreciation for your opponent's skills and hard work are as much a part of that tradition as are blocks, tackles and passes.

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

• On Nov. 1, 1512, the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, one of Italian artist Michelangelo's finest works, is exhibited to the public for the first time. "The Creation of Adam" was among his epic ceiling frescoes, which took years to complete.

• On Nov. 3, 1928, cartoon star Mickey Mouse appears in "Steamboat Willie," an animated short produced by Walt Disney. "Steamboat Willie" was the first fully synchronized sound cartoon ever produced, with Mickey's squeaky voice provided by Walt Disney himself.

• On Nov. 4, 1939, the first air-conditioned car, a Packard prototype, debuts at the 40th National Automobile Show in Chicago. Despite widespread acclaim, the expensive accessory would not be within the reach of the average American for several decades.

• On Nov. 6, 1946, actress Sally Field is born in Pasadena, Calif. Field knew as a child that she wanted to act, and by age 17 she had landed the title role in "Gidget," playing a perky teen surfer. She won Best Actress Oscars in 1979, for "Norma Rae," and 1984, for "Places in the Heart."

• On Nov. 5, 1968, in one of the closest elections in U.S. history, Republican challenger Richard Nixon defeats Vice President Hubert Humphrey by less than 500,000 votes. Nixon campaigned on a platform designed to reach the "silent majority" of middle-class and working-class Americans.

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The fields' fall bounty. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

Greenway vision and values report is published

The long range future, potential benefits and continuing challenges to the Susquehanna Greenway are all a part of the newly published "Susquehanna Greenway - A Vision for Connecting Communities to the River." Often referred to as the vision and values statement, the document synthesizes the three years of planning for the Greenway and looks at the years ahead as the plan takes shape in the 22 Pennsylvania counties through which the river flows.

The SEDA-Council of Governments has led the planning effort, heading a team which includes public, community, and environmental organizations. The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership is the

program's public arm.

Susquehanna Greenway — A Vision... clearly defines the Greenway, referring to it as a "linear corridor," "land- and water-based," and "a mix of public and private property." The report extends well beyond the river itself, stating, "The scenic environment of the Susquehanna region and the river that defines it beg to be discovered." It elaborates on both economic and recreational opportunities in the region and says the Greenway will "...set a new course for Susquehanna Valley communities."

Ongoing, river-related challenges are not ignored, including pollution, new pressures for development of the region's water resources and increased

urbanization. The Greenway, says the report, will play an important role in conserving the region's land and water assets, and its cultural heritage. Already a major attraction, both locally and beyond, the Greenway will "...further elevate the Susquehanna among America's treasured rivers..."

Potential benefits are spelled out, and fall within the general categories of recreation, economy, environment and community. While some are readily apparent, such as environmental education, others are less obvious, e.g., opportunities for exercise, wellness and healthy living.

For planning purposes, the Greenway planning team divided the 22-county Susquehanna

region into six geographic areas or "reaches," corresponding to the segment of the river within them. For instance, the western-most reach extends from Carrolltown to Lock Haven, the southern-most from Harrisburg to the Maryland border.

Each of the reaches is featured in the vision and values statement with maps, photographs and an outline of key local issues.

Susquehanna Greenway — A Vision... is now available for viewing on the Greenway Web site, www.susquehannagreenway.org. A limited number of printed copies are available. For information, interested individuals may contact Ann August at SEDA-COG, 570-524-4491 or e-mail aaugust@seda-cog.org.

70 Years Ago
Nov. 2, 1934

TRACES HISTORY OF KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

Attorney William Brewster of Kingston, the author of a widely-known history on this section, addressed the Men's Club of Trucksville M.E. Church on



ONLY YESTERDAY

Monday night. He traced the growth and development of this section from the days when the Indian roamed these hills and gave an interesting account of incidents connected with the life of William Trux, one of the founders of Kingston Township and the man after whom the town of Trucksville was named.

Action was taken this week to secure a State Emergency Education Appropriation for Dallas and vicinity and if the projects suggested by the local committee are approved, \$600 monthly will be paid to capable local persons who will carry on the 20-week program. Prof. J.S. Martin, supervising principal of Kingston Township schools, and Eugene Lazarus, a member of the Dallas School Board, conferred this week and made arrangements to have a group of local persons sponsor the project.

Three hundred twenty-five persons from all parts of the Back Mountain section and neighboring areas attended the big dinner given at Kunkle Community Hall last Tuesday night by A.C. Devens. W.A. Atkison of Waverly, N.Y., was the speaker. It was the first event of its kind in two years.

60 Years Ago
Nov. 3, 1944

WOUNDED SOLDIER RETURNS TO STATES

Word has been received here

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

that Pvt. John MacCullough has returned to the United States aboard a hospital ship and is now at the U.S. Army Station Hospital at Camp Edwards, Mass. John lost a leg below the knee and was severely wounded in the other while fighting in France on July 31. Since that time he has been in an English hospital.

The movement set on foot by Dallas Kiwanis Club for later week day mail collections, as well as a mail collection on Sundays from post offices in Dallas, Shavertown and Trucksville, is meeting with favorable response throughout the Back Mountain region. Howard Isaacs, president of the club, estimated this week that the cost of such service to the post office department would not be great.

The dollar drive in the Back Mountain region is now at its height. With just two days to go GOP women are intensifying their campaign efforts to marshal a quota of fighting dollars to keep this state in the Republican column and send the Dewey-Bricker ticket to victory at the polls on Tuesday. The Dallas committee, with Mrs. Nelson Thompson as chairman has already forwarded \$100 to the State Committee and will have well over \$200 by the time the campaign closes on Saturday night.

50 Years Ago
Oct. 29, 1954

2-YEAR-OLD SAVED FROM DROWNING

Larry Spaciano, 2-year-old baby son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Spaciano, Maple Street, Shavertown, was saved from drowning Thursday morning by the swift action of young Ted Kocher, a garbage collector of 55 Barber Street, Swoyersville, formerly of Shavertown. Ted pulled the child, who had fallen into a duck pond, out of the water and performed artificial respiration.

Chief of Police and Mrs. Edgar Hughes of Harveys Lake are on two weeks vacation touring the eastern coast and New England. Assistant Walbridge Lienthal is in charge of the police department while Chief Hughes is away.

40 Years Ago
Oct. 29, 1964

DALLAS HOME VANDALIZED; GATE OF HEAVEN WINDOWS DEFILED

Halloween vandalism in Dallas borough in the past week included some expensive soap damage on finished wood paneling on the outside of the home of R.G. Dickinson, Park Avenue, on Thursday afternoon. Police officer Alexander MacCulloch said some sort of lemon soap was used. The damage is irreparable without planing the wood. MacCulloch also said that obscenities were scrawled on windows at Gate of Heaven School on Thursday night with soap.

Postmaster Ed Buckley issued "Halt" sprayers to city carriers for protection against toothsome pooches, according to announcement today. The sprayer is a small cylinder gun, now being issued to mailmen around the USA, which shoots a stinging repellent designed to temporarily blind a dog and cause it to turn tail and run.

Dallas Township police investigated some Halloweening in Shrine Acres Saturday night, when trees by the Moyer home were liberally decorated with rolls of toilet paper. Also being watched Tuesday night was Arthur Newman's cabbage patch in East Dallas, object of some juvenile hankey-pankey.

30 Years Ago
Oct. 31, 1974

COLLEGE MISERICORDIA FORMS CIRCLE K CLUB

College Misericordia's newly formed Circle K Club was formally inducted into the Kiwanis organization last week in ceremonies conducted at the Irem Temple Club by the Dallas Kiwanis Club. During the ceremonies, district lieutenant governor Charles Charles officially welcomed each of the 45 Misericordia students who comprise the Circle K Club.

Scott Enslin, 11-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Enslin, Howell Road, RD 7, Shavertown, competed against

an opponent from Rahway, N.J., in the area punt, pass and kick competition in his age group on Oct. 27 at the Yale Bowl, New Haven, Conn. The event was held during the Giants pro-football game. After defeating 4,500 youths throughout the United States to qualify as one of the two area finalists, Scott was runner-up to the Rahway youth.

Leo Corbett, Wilkes-Barre City Engineer, and member of the Charter Study Commission, was guest speaker at the October meeting of the Gate of Heaven Parent-Teachers Guild. Mr. Corbett, introduced by Kenneth Adams, president, spoke on the newly-proposed home rule government for Luzerne County.

20 Years Ago
Oct. 31, 1984

PROGRAM ADOPTED IN DALLAS SCHOOLS

The Dallas School District will soon become the only school district in the area to adopt the "Here's Looking at You, Two" program, which consists of curriculum geared toward combating drug and alcohol abuse by children. Robyn Jones, health teacher at the Dallas Junior High School, and an avid runner, spoke with a fellow runner one day who informed her of the availability of the program from the Comprehensive Health Education Foundation.

Sam Soltis, Shavertown, an administrative fellow at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, has authored a series of four articles, which will appear in "Hospital Bottom Line," a monthly magazine publishing current topics in health care. The series, which begins with the November 1984 issue and continues each month until February 1985, examines the home health industry in the state of Ohio.

Lehman Brownie Troop 641 recently held a troop Halloween party. A cake sent in by Joan Conrad helped the girls celebrate the birthday of Girl Scout founder Juliette Lowe. Leaders are Helen and Judy Gunt, Neighborhood director, Charlene Cook was a costumed guest.