

OUR OPINION

Let's get together and control our destiny

Two meetings that took place simultaneously last week illustrate the potential and perils facing our region. In one, at the Dallas Township municipal building, developers struggled to meet minimal planning and zoning requirements for projects that may add nearly 250 households. At the other, in Shavertown, frustrated citizens and officials tried to make sense out of a study of flood protection measures that offered few concrete paths to improvement. What was lacking at each was a connection between the two topics, development and flooding, the latter being a symptom of the former's effect on our environment.

Both the proposed 101-lot Saddle Ridge and the 145-lot Goodleigh Manor will increase storm water runoff into Toby's Creek. In the case of Saddle Ridge, water that runs down from the north side of the subdivision will enter a small stream near Wyoming Road, which flows into the headwaters of Trout Brook. As it makes its way downstream, that water will be joined by runoff from the southern side of Saddle Ridge, which the plan shows being directed into Trout Brook in a pipe that will run under Lower Demunds Road. Trout Brook, is a major tributary of Toby's Creek, so its increased volume has a direct effect on the frequency and severity of flooding in Shavertown.

The disconnect between these two linked issues illustrates the critical need for an authority that can cross municipal boundaries as effectively as do flood waters. To an extent, we should expect the Department of Environmental Protection and other state agencies to play that role, but judging by the results of the flooding study, they are not up to the task. That leads to the obvious conclusion that the Back Mountain Council of Governments, now in its infancy, must be nurtured and fortified with greater cooperation and support so that it can act in the best interests of all of the region.

The strains of increased population, housing and commercial development are not going away; if anything they are increasing at a more rapid pace. The combined power of concerned citizens and officials from multiple municipalities can give us a fighting chance to harness these forces instead of allowing them to overwhelm us.

You can help give us a fresh face

Once in a while, opportunities come along for us to give a little help to the place we live in and care about, without expending a great deal of money or even of effort. One of those times is looming this Saturday, when volunteers throughout the Commonwealth will pull on garden gloves, grab hold of trash bags and set out to clean up unsightly litter that has been callously tossed from the windows of speeding cars, dropped along roadsides by uncaring bicycle riders or has blown in from some other locale.

There will be at least three venues here in the Back Mountain where we can do good for ourselves, our neighbors and the environment we all share. The work might not seem like much — removing discarded shopping bags from tree limbs, picking up beer and soda cans or raking leaves — but it can make a big difference in how we feel about ourselves and how others perceive us. There's probably no better indicator of community self-image than the volume of trash lying in plain view. If there is none, we assume the people who live nearby take pride in their surroundings, and in themselves. But if roadsides and stream banks are marked by ugly refuse long after the snow has receded, we — rightfully — think no one in the town cares a whit about the responsibility they have to their environment or their neighbors.

You don't need to make a big commitment to be part of this attack on visual blight — even if you show up for just an hour you will be helping to make our hometowns a little cleaner and more respectable.

You can help even if you don't pick up a single scrap of rubbish. Just as with a disease, the easiest way to address the litter problem is to prevent it in the first place. So, please, wait until you get home to toss out that gum wrapper or empty bottle. Every little bit makes a difference.

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 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.

Letters can be sent many ways:

By e-mail to: thepost@leader.net

By mail to: The Post, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18711.

By using the drop box located in the Uni-Mart convenience store on Route 309 in Dallas, across from the Dallas Shopping Center.

Always include a daytime phone number for verification.



Can't resist a peek at the photographer. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

Emergency Medical Service Award nominations due April 25

In recognition of National Emergency Medical Service Week, Geisinger Health System is accepting nominations for the 2005 Emergency Medical Service Awards. Nominations must be completed and sent to or dropped off at the Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center Emergency Department or the Geisinger Medical Center Emergency Department by April 25.

For the second year, Geisinger will recognize emergency services providers who have made significant contributions in heroism and community service while providing essential care every day as the medical front line. Multiple winners will be chosen by an awards committee and honored at a presentation during EMS week, May 15-21.

The winners will be selected by a panel of judges comprised of healthcare

professionals from Geisinger's Emergency Department that will review the nominations and choose the award recipients based on merit for heroism and community service. Heroism is defined as the use of extreme personal measures in an effort to help save a person's life. Community service is described as providing outstanding service while serving in the capacity of EMS provider by providing leadership, commitment, and education in the communities they serve.

Members of any local emergency medical service, including paramedics, emergency medical technicians, first responders, dispatchers, firefighters and police are eligible. Nomination forms are available online at www.geisinger.org/ems.pdf or in Geisinger's Emergency Departments.

Corrections and clarifications

An entry in the Only Yesterday column published April 3 contained the incorrect spelling of a name. Taken from the April 6, 1945 newspaper, the item stated that Marine Pvt. Joseph Rushinko of Beaumont had been killed at Iwo Jima. The correct last name is Rusinko. The error was made in the 1945 paper.

An entry in the column published March 20 regarding the resignation of Mary Reistetter Ehret as food service manager at Dallas High School, while taken entirely from an article that appeared 20 years earlier, could be read to imply a link between her resignation and a telegram that announced the cafeteria union workers' intention to begin selective strikes. Ehret said last week that she left Dallas to take another job and to pursue a career in dietetics.

70 Years Ago
April 19, 1935

GRUDGINGLY,
DAYLIGHT SAVING
TIME ADOPTED

Adoption of Daylight Saving Time in the valley will force

Back Mountain communities to observe the same system, beginning on Sunday,

April 28. There has been some opposition to the plan in this section but it is believed that the majority of towns will approve. Thirty-five other Pennsylvania cities and towns, ten less than last year, will go along this year.

ONLY
YESTERDAY

Responding to the Post's Trade Expansion Contest, readers brought news items to the newspaper and won points in a contest with prizes totaling \$650. Among the tidbits: The oldest man to present himself at Dallas Dairy was Peter Culp, 93; Edward R. Tinklebaugh wore the largest hat of anyone to visit Charles Gregory's, size 7 3/4; the oldest car registered at Oliver's Garage was a 1923 Dodge coupe owned by George Norton; Jane and Wayne Perrin, age 2 years 7 months, were the youngest twins at Devens.

Representatives of the Department of Interior, National Parks Service, have been making surveys in the vicinity of Kitchen Creek and securing options on farms, dwellings, and nearby properties. Appraisals have been made of much of the property in the vicinity, but most owners have considered the offers "too low."

60 Years Ago
April 20, 1945

MISSING FLYER
REPORTED SAFE

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Burkhardt, of Hunlock Creek R.D. 1, have received word that their son, Cpl. Edwin A. Burkhardt, who has been missing since his flight over Germany on December 17, 1944, is now back with American Forces.

Sunset Hall on Lake street, familiar Dallas landmark for five generations, has been sold by the owner, Mrs. Morgan A. Wilcox to Geroge Uebe, textile importer-exporter of Boonton, N.J.

Technician Sergeant Charles Billing, 33, died April 3, on Luzon according to a War Department message received yesterday morning by his wife, the former Elizabeth Frantz, whose home is at 4 Brook Street, Shavertown.

50 Years Ago
April 22, 1955

STORE OPENS IN
CENTERMORELAND

Stacy Schoonover, DeMunds, has opened the Center Lumber & Hardware Co., in the former James Winters store building at Centermoreland.

Westmoreland High School was represented at the Northeast District State Band in Hazleton by two band members, Joan Sickler and Keith Yeisley. Joan plays the flute and Keith plays the cornet.

John Parrish, Wyoming R. D., has a crew at work dismantling

the 46-room Jennie house at Skytop. Built in 1847, it was, until 1953, used as an annex to Skytop lodge. Mr. Parrish has found many interesting things while razing old structures in the past, such as letters dated as late as 1828 and human skeletons.

40 Years Ago
April 15, 1965

REESE MAKES RUN
FOR TAX COLLECTOR

Thomas E. Reese, a lifelong resident of Dallas, announced his candidacy for the position of tax collector, being vacated by Arthur Dungey, who has held the post for 32 years. If elected, Reese said he would establish an office at 65 Main Street.

A pan left over the burner of a kitchen stove was responsible for a fire in the kitchen of the Russel Montedonico home, W. Center St., Shavertown, on Thursday evening.

Golfers could sign up for the 1965 Amateur Sweet Valley Open Handicap Golf Tournament, to be played at the Sweet Valley Golf Course. The entry fee was \$1, and clubs could be rented for 25¢.

30 Years Ago
April 17, 1975

LEGION POST SLATES
"POLACK NIGHT"

The Dallas American Legion Home Association planned its annual "Polack Night," featuring Polish delicacies and a band. Bill Motyka was chairman, assisted by Al "Ciccarelski," Ted Kostrabala, Gus Shuleski, Harold "Brobtski," Tom "Reeski," and Bud "Shanski."

Scott Slocum won the mile and 880 yard runs as Dallas opened the track and field season with a 98-52 pasting of Northwest. John Majewski won the high jump with a leap of 6'6".

A substantially expanded summer recreation program for all boys and girls in the Lake-Lehman School District may well bring cheers from both the youngsters and their parents. James Mahon was hired as project manager, assisted by Sandra Ashton and Richard Gorgone.

20 Years Ago
April 17, 1985

SEVEN VIE FOR
SCHOOL DIRECTOR
POSITIONS

Seven Dallas residents are seeking one of the four available seats on the Dallas School Board. The voting will take place in May as Dallas voters will choose four of the following seven candidates: John Cleary, Dr. Mahmood Fahmy, Dr. William D. Camp, Tom Landon, JR., Jim Richardson, Tex Wilson, and Pat Gregory.

Monty Evans of Dallas has been named chairman of the 1985 Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, it has been announced by members of the Library Board of Directors.

Ed and Bernadine Weiss, the Dallas couple who repeatedly have been the victims of vandals, suffered yet another attack on their home. Twenty friends and neighbors accompanied the Weisses to a Borough Council meeting last February, in which discussion centered around starting a neighborhood crime watch.

Fresh Air Fund planning 2005 summer visits

The Fresh Air Fund is seeking volunteers and host families for the summer 2005 visits of children from New York City. Each summer, more than 5,000 children, ages 6 to 18, spend two weeks or

more with host families in suburban and small-town communities in the northeast and Canada. Local Fresh Air Fund volunteers recruit and interview prospective host families, check references and coordinate activities.

For more information or to volunteer, call Denise Moskaluk at 674-3707. To learn more about The Fresh Air Fund, visit www.freshair.org.

Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week? A: Only in The Post

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

Erika Calvert
ADVERTISING

Pat O'Donnell
PREPRESS MANAGER