

## Keep Toby's Creek a part of Back Mountain community

By **ALYSSA MENZEL**  
Dallas Elementary School

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Toby's Creek has been an important part of the Back Mountain community for many years. How would you like to see it dried out and forgotten? Well, I wouldn't. Toby's Creek in the past was used for fishing, mills, and such. Toby's Creek was well-used in the past by mills powered by the water to produce goods. There used to be

many mills that ran along the side of the creek. The mills harmed the environment because many trees had to be cut down to build the mills and make room for them. These trees helped slow the flow of water in Toby's Creek. The running water

supply was also low because of how much the mills were using. Toby's Creek used to be stocked with trout by Rich Adamchick, but he stopped stocking it two years ago when adults started taking nets and catching all the fish. Therefore, the children could not fish. The people that were catching all the fish ruined it for the children. In the future, I hope that Toby's Creek will be cleaner and the

water will always be running and it will be a happier, more playful place to be. I want to be able to look into the creek and see children swimming and playing in the clean water. I want to see trout and other kinds of fish swimming down the stream as children are fishing. And most importantly, I want Toby's Creek to be an important part of the Back Mountain community once again.

## LUZERNE FAIR WINNERS

More than 10 Back Mountain winners were among the first-, second- and third-place winners in various contests at the 43rd Annual Luzerne County Fair. The first place winners from the Hershey chocolate contests, the angel food cake contest and blue ribbon apple pie contest will represent Luzerne County at the 2006 Pennsylvania Farm Show. Here's a list of the contests and the respective winners:

- Angel food cake contest: First place, Lori Piazza of Edwardsville; second place, Sharon Twardowski of Pittston; third place, Esther Alles of Dallas.
- Blue ribbon apple pie contest: first place, Andrea Karcutskie of West Pittston; second place, Dorothy Miller of West Pittston; third place Sheryl Gardner of Trucksville.
- Carved pumpkin contest: first place, Dana Marie Yozwiak of Dallas; second place, Elaine Yozwiak, Dallas.

- Decorated pumpkin contest: first place, Olivia Davison; second place, Lois Noble of Hunlock Creek and Laura Derhammer of Wyoming; third place, James Rogowski of Hunlock Creek.
- Decorated and carved pumpkin contest: first place, Elaine Yozwiak of Dallas.
- Chili contest: first place, Gigi Hernandez of Kingston; second place, Dave Miller of West Pittston; third place, Shelly Alexander of Hunlock Creek.
- Design the cover of the fair premium guide contest: first place, Ashley Fedak of Larksville; second place, Allison Farris of Mountain Top; third place, Amber Sypniewski of Plymouth.
- Hershey cocoa cake contest: first place, Bonnie Chocallo of Wyoming; second place, Emily Havrilla of Mountain Top; third place, Sheryl Gardner of Trucksville.

## Toby's Creek has played important role in local history

By **JAMES DEL PRIORE**  
Dallas Elementary School

Through the years Toby's Creek has had different amounts of importance to the Back Mountain. The creek starts from Irem Temple Country Club and flows through Dallas, Shavertown, and Trucksville before ending in the Susquehanna River. History records show that as early as 1773 businesses were built along the creek. Water wheels were used to power different kinds of mills. Water was directed onto the wheels. There were sawmills, gristmills, paper mills, foundries, tanneries, and the like. The people running these businesses were not aware of the damage they were causing to the creek. By cutting down all of the trees, they caused the water flow

to the creek to become undependable. In general, at the time people really weren't concerned with environmental problems. The lack of consistent water flow led to the end of all of these businesses on the creek. Today, we can improve the vegetation around the creek to help make the water flow more consistent. If there is more vegetation around the creek, it will help keep the flow of water to the creek gradual and the height of the creek will stay more even. Water flows into the creek from above by run-off water. It flows into the creek from below through aquifers. This is porous rock with water in it. Also, we must keep the area around the creek free of litter and garbage. This will keep pests away from the

creek. We must also be careful to not build parking lots and sidewalks too close to the creek so there are fewer water runoff problems. Toby's Creek can make an ideal

recreational area. Areas around it can be used for hiking and biking. The creek can also be stocked with fish. Toby's Creek can be a real asset to our community.

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