

THE POST

50¢

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS AND LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

"You take every day and live it to the fullest. I've learned a lot from this experience. They don't know a lot about childhood cancer. I've always wanted to go into the medical field. Now, I'm thinking about researching childhood cancer. Maybe my experience will someday help others."



Beth Carey is playing basketball Lake-Lehman High School after battling cancer.

FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

PEOPLE PROFILE

An active voice to help others

BY GENELLE HOBAN
Post Correspondent

Editor's note: This is the first of a series of occasional stories that will feature Back Mountain residents who are active in the different aspects of our community. If you have a story suggestion, e-mail editor Dave Konopki at dkonopki@leader.net or call him at 829-7248.

TRUCKSVILLE - From attending municipal meetings to writing books to working part-time at his consulting business, Thomas Dombroski is a very active member in the Back Mountain community.

After turning his business over to his children approximately seven years ago, Dombroski began regularly attending Dallas School Board meetings and Kingston Township supervisor's meetings, as well as various meetings at the county level.



DOMBROSKI AT A GLANCE

Who: Thomas Dombroski

Age: 75

Hometown: Trucksville

Family: Married for 49 years to his wife Nancy. The couple has four children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Occupation: Partially retired from the consulting business, author, and a former chemical engineer.

"When I turned my things over to the children I was able to spend more time in the community," he said. "I always wanted to help in the community, especially with the senior citizens."

About 15 years ago Dombroski, a resident of Trucksville, said he saved the Dallas School District a lot of money when the teachers were trying to rush through a 14 percent increase.

"I saved them \$8 million which was used to build

Wycallis Elementary and the balance was used up in the middle school expansion," he said. "I was a big part of implementing Act 72, as well."

Dombroski was also an instrumental part in implementing the dual enrollment option in the Dallas School District.

"It took a year and a half, but now students can work on college courses while they are still in high school," he said. "I came up with the idea for dual enrollment from my nephew who lives in Florida who earned 67 college credits while in high school."

Most recently the 75-year-old was involved when the Aqua Pennsylvania Water Co. took over in Kingston Township.

"I'm concerned about the senior citizens," he said. "The company put out a falsified memo and I filed a formal complaint because the company was trying to ramrod the meters into homes up there."

Dombroski said his mission is to prevent senior citizens from being forced out of the Back Mountain because of high property taxes.

At the county level Dombroski lends his helping hands to the Valley Crest committee, the ongoing reassessment, and as the chairman of the Wyoming Valley Flood Protection

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An inspiration for all

Beth Carey remains upbeat during a battle against cancer

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

LEHMAN TWP. - Speaking with a maturity that belies her young age, Beth Carey calmly talks about the last seven months of her life as though she's discussing the time she had at summer camp.

And not like a 15-year-old who has been battling cancer.

"Hearing her talk about it, she makes it sound as though it was a walk in the park," said Cheryl Carey, after listening to her daughter's interview with a reporter. "But that's how she's handled this situation. She's been poked and prodded, but through it all she kept telling us that she would be OK. She's amazing. Words cannot express how very proud we are of her."

Last January, Carey went to the doctor after a nearly sleepless night because of severe pain and swelling in her elbow. An aggressive player who frequently dives to the floor, she thought it might be an injury she received while playing basketball for the Lake-Lehman freshman team.

And when x-rays didn't show any damage, she was sure of it.

"I didn't think it was a big deal," said the daughter of Mike and Cheryl Carey of Dallas. "I didn't have any idea."

On April 3, the Carey's family doctor sent Beth for an MRI. When the results showed something suspicious, she was sent to the Hershey Medical Center for a biopsy.

The result: non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of cancer that affects the lymph glands and bone marrow. It can also affect the brain and spinal fluid.

"My first thought was that I was going to lose my daughter," said Cheryl Carey. "My second thought was 'how to do tell your teenage daughter that she has cancer and she's going to lose her hair.'"

The oncologist told Beth Carey that only one in 100,000 adolescents have non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. But he also told her it was very treatable with short, but intense, chemotherapy treatment. Carey underwent four sessions of chemotherapy last summer. The first two included a dose of 10 different drugs. She was also given two chemotherapy



Beth Carey lost her hair after receiving chemotherapy. It's growing back and is almost 2 inches long.

treatments to take home.

"I never realized teenagers got cancer," she said. "I always heard about young kids and older people getting it. It was strange to hear."

Although the chemotherapy did its job by killing the cancer, there were adverse side affects. Carey became very ill following her second treatment and spent four days in the hospital, receiving two pints of blood and antibiotics.

She also lost her shoulder-length hair, at first in little strands. And then in clumps. Carey wore a wig while her hair

began to grow back. She no longer wears the wig, instead sporting her brand-new, thick hair that's 1 1/2 inches long.

Carey's battle against cancer - and her hair loss - have been an inspiration to her teammates. Especially Lauren Spencer.

In early December, the Black Knight junior had 10 inches of her hair - which hung down to the middle of her back - cut off so she could donate it to Locks of

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An entire community comes together for blood drive in honor of Lt. Cleary

American Red Cross event nets more than four times the units donated last year.

By GENELLE HOBAN and DAVE KONOPKI
Post Staff

DALLAS - First Lt. Mike Cleary always felt the Back Mountain was a special place. Protecting the way of life in this community is one of the reasons he joined the military, said his father.

And last weekend's turnout at a blood drive for the American

Red Cross is another example of why the 1999 Dallas graduate felt the way he did about the Back Mountain.

Almost 200 members of the community went to the Gate of Heaven Church to donate blood in memory of Cleary. The 24-year-old platoon leader in the 3rd Infantry Division was killed Dec. 20 during an ambush near Samarra, Iraq. Cleary and his men were returning to their unit after successfully destroying a large cache of weapons in a bomb fac-

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FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Charles Rado, Dallas, donates blood while Don Holdredge, Pat Suraka and Jessica Ohl wait for their turn in line.

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