

THE POST

50¢

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

Baker, Boback roll to Republican nominations

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

Somewhere, Gerry Stinson is smiling. After all, it was the late Dallas High School civics teacher who sparked Lisa Baker's interest in politics and government when she was a student in the late 1970s.

Baker captured the Republican nomination for state Senator in the 20th District earlier this week with a convincing win against four opponents. The Lehman Township resident will face Democratic nominee Robert McNamara, superintendent of the Blue Ridge School District, in the November general election.

"He's crossed my mind through the whole process," said Baker, referring to Stinson, who passed away in December 1999. "I feel very fortunate to have known someone like Gerry Stinson who inspired me to serve."

The 1979 Dallas High School graduate wasn't the only Back Mountain resident to win an election

for a state office. Harveys Lake resident Karen Boback earned the Republican nomination for state Representative of the 117th Legislative District with a close win against Dallas mayor Tim Carroll and six other opponents.

"I'm still on cloud nine," said Boback, who defeated second-place Carroll by 214 votes in unofficial results. She will face Democrat Fred Nichols Jr. in the general election. "I love this community. Getting the chance to possibly represent the community and the entire district is a wonderful opportunity."

Carroll's name was taken off the ballot for six weeks when a Commonwealth Court ruled he failed to disclose pertinent information on his financial disclosure statement. The state Supreme Court overturned the decision May 1.

"I think being off the ballot for six weeks is the reason we're No. 2," said a gracious Carroll, who took a bouquet of congratulatory flowers to Boback's campaign office Wednesday afternoon. "We were led to believe it would be a quick (Supreme Court) decision. The layoff took us out of the race.



Lehman Township resident Lisa Baker gets a hug from state Senator Charles Lemmond at her celebration party at the Irem Temple Country Club.

We lost the ability to raise campaign funds.

"On the other hand, it's a great decision for Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, I had to pay the price."

Baker won her election with 12,290 votes and she handily won all six counties in the district, which includes parts of Luzerne, Monroe and Sus-

quehanna counties and all of Pike, Wayne and Wyoming counties.

Dallas chiropractor David Madeiera finished second with 5,902 votes, followed by Kingston mayor Jim Haggerty's 4,572 votes. Dallas School Board member Russ Bigus was fourth with 3,539 votes, while psychotherapist Carl Sutton of Dallas Township finished with 535 votes.

"I was overwhelmed with the show of support from family members, friends and people I never met before," Baker said. "People wanted to put signs in their yards or make phone calls. Others wrote letters and sent e-mails. We had 400 volunteers who were part of campaign. It was very humbling."

Despite the loss, Bigus says a fire to serve the community still burns inside of him.

"I really feel that down deep I'm meant to be involvement in politics and public service," said the 35-year-old. "Lots of people called me after the election and encouraged me to continue. Will I run again? That's hard to answer today. But I know it's in my blood."

DALLAS HORSE AND PONY SHOW

Annual competition season begins with event in Dallas Twp.



Brooke Evans, Dallas, gives her horse Heartbreaker a kiss before riding him in the Dallas Horse and Pony show.

FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

A real class act



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Gate of Heaven semifinalists Morgan Gilhooley, left, and Alyssa Joan Lanne perform their skit in the Scranton Diocese forensics competition.

By GENELLE HOBAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS – There were plenty of dramatic voices at the annual Diocesan Forensics Competition recently held at the Gate of Heaven School on Machell Avenue.

Students in fifth through eighth grade acted out various dramatic presentations during the contest.

"Forensics is judged on both facial and vocal expression with only a few gestures," said Anne Marie Lohin, the forensics coach at Gate of Heaven. "The judges look for eye contact, annunciation and pronunciation. The students don't even use props."

More than 14 schools competed from the four regional divisions – north, central, south and west. The students acted out various plays in teams of two and three.

"My team acted out 'May I Help You' by Joanne Miller," Allie Banks, a Dallas resident said. "It was about a lady who went to renew her driver's license and the clerk gives her a hard time. Memorizing the lines took me a couple of weeks. It was the most challenging part of it."

The 12-year-old Banks and her teammate Devin Phillips, also a sixth grade student, placed fourth in the junior varsity division.

Phillips, 12, said she had no trouble memorizing her lines, but she was nervous before she went on stage. She said once she got up there she was fine and actually had a lot of fun.

"I thought we did pretty well over all," Banks said. "I will probably do drama when I get to high school."

One of the varsity teams from Gate of Heaven also took fourth place at the competition.

Seventh-graders Nathan Albrecht, Stephen Ruch and Kyle Wesley acted out "Eat a Can" by Leon Kaye.

"It was about a dog food commercial, except a person who was trying to act like a dog was eating the dog food," said Wesley, 13. "It was pretty funny, actually."

Albrecht said he likes to test his limits and see the best he can do.

"I joined the Forensics Club in fourth grade and my team

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No horsin' around



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

A determined Julianna Davis jumps Lovita Loca over an obstacle.

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. – It's surprising how a little horsing around can be fun – and a how lot of it can help kids grow up, give adults purpose, and benefit the community.

"People are mesmerized looking at the horses and we love to have people come to just watch the show," said Brenda Pugh, manager of the Dallas Horse and Pony Show that took place last weekend at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds.

The show was one of 30 held by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Horsemen's Association during the spring, summer and fall in Luzerne, Wyoming and Lackawanna counties. The participants competed for cash, prizes and year-end points.

"There is a special bond between kids and horses."

Jane Morris
Veteran horse show announcer

"There is a special bond between kids and horses," added Jane Morris, a veteran horse show announcer at the fairgrounds and former teacher in the Lake-Lehman School District. She is also the treasurer of the NPHA.

The competitors do more than admire and love their animals. Most often they are responsible for the care of the horses, including grooming, cleaning the barn floors, and all the extra care required to show them off in the arena.

Curtis, Kyle and Brooke Evans care for their three horses every day, except in the mornings when they're getting ready to go to school in the Dallas School District. The Evans children seem confident and relaxed going into

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