

## MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

- On Dec. 16, 1773, in Boston Harbor, a group of Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British tea ships and dump 342 chests of tea into the water. The tea was worth more than \$700,000 in today's currency.
- On Dec. 17, 1843, Charles Dickens' classic story "A Christmas Carol" is published. Dickens' father, a clerk in the navy pay office, was thrown into debtors' prison in 1824, and 12-year-old Charles was sent to work in a factory. The miserable treatment of children and the institution of the debtors' jail became topics of several Dickens novels.
- On Dec. 14, 1909, the famous brick surface of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (the "Brickyard") is completed.
- On Dec. 12, 1913, two years after it was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris, Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece "The Mona Lisa" is recovered inside Italian waiter Vincenzo Peruggia's hotel room in Florence. Peruggia had previously worked at the Louvre and had participated in the heist with a group of accomplices dressed as janitors on the morning of Aug. 21, 1911.
- On Dec. 13, 1950, an unknown actor named James Dean appears in a Pepsi commercial, dancing with other teens around a jukebox. Dean would later personify the angry, restless youth culture in films that made a deep impression on the American public, including "Rebel Without a Cause" (1955).
- On Dec. 15, 1973, Jean Paul Getty III, the grandson of American billionaire J. Paul Getty, is found alive near Naples, five months after his kidnapping by an Italian gang. J. Paul Getty secured his grandson's release by paying just \$2.7 million, the maximum amount that he claimed he was able to raise.
- On Dec. 11, 1985, the Unabomber kills his first victim. Hugh Scruton was killed in his computer store in Sacramento, Calif., by a mail package that exploded in his hands.

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## STRANGE BUT TRUE

- Ants can be found virtually everywhere in the world - the only places where the ubiquitous insects aren't found are around the North Pole and the South Pole, and on frozen mountain peaks. There are 12,000 known species of ant, and entomologists estimate that there are 10 trillion ants worldwide. If you were to lump all of them together, the combined weight would be roughly the same as the weight of all the people in the world.
- British historian Edward Gibbon wrote the six volumes of his literary masterpiece "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" in 20 years. It took Noah Webster 36 years to write his dictionary.
- It was beloved star of film and television Lucille Ball who made the following observation: "The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly and lie about your age."
- As the cold season progresses wherever you are, you might think longingly of a nice long vacation in Hawaii. And with good reason: In the winter, Honolulu has an average high temperature of 80F.
- If you're planning on starting or expanding your family, you might want to keep this in mind: A new baby in the home typically increases electricity consumption by 25 percent.
- Every September, the town of Shreveport, La., traditionally hosts the Olympics. The Office Olympics, that is. Teams, which must be made up of five men and women who are actual office employees, compete in such events as the Office Chair Roll-Off, the Water Break Relay and - my personal favorite - Toss the Boss.
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- Thought for the Day: "I refuse to spend my life worrying about what I eat. There is no pleasure worth forgoing just for an extra three years in the geriatric ward." - John Mortimer.

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## HANDMADE JEWELRY ON DISPLAY AT LIBRARY



Harveys Lake resident Samantha Mattie, a student at Kutztown University, is displaying her collection of handmade jewelry at the Back Mountain Memorial Library throughout December. Mattie, 19, has been hand-crafting jewelry for about 10 years. She designs pieces for herself and for gift-giving. Her pieces are mainly made with beads she purchases from craft outlets, but she also enjoys purchasing old and antique jewelry from sales and auctions, dismantling the materials and recreating her own pieces. Some of the unusual items on display include a green pearl-like necklace, a bracelet made of buttons, a decorated hair comb, a silver ring, a dragonfly pin and a lariat-style necklace. Mattie recently completed a class in making jewelry with silver, hoping the new skill will help expand her designs and ideas. Mattie is a sophomore at Kutztown, where she is majoring in professional writing.

## The Dallas Post

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A small impact makes a mighty ripple. A simple hymn offers a deep understanding. A small building, a few pews and quiet reflection create an island of peace. These are truly joys to the world.

## 'Capital Crimes' among books added to library shelves

The Back Mountain Memorial Library on Huntsville Road in Dallas recently added the following books to its collection. The library also accepts donations of memorial and honor books. If you would like to donate a book in someone's honor or memory, call the library at 675-1182.

EXPRESS  
(1 week)

"Capital Crimes" by Jonathan and Faye Kellerman  
"The Shape Shifter" by Tony Hillerman  
"Nature Girl" by Carl Hiaasen  
"A Christmas Secret" by Anne Perry  
"Cross" by James Patterson  
"Valley of Silence" by Nora Roberts  
"Murder at the Opera" by Margaret Truman  
"Rumpole and the Reign of Terror" by John Mortimer  
"Santa Cruise" by Mary Higgins Clark  
"The Stabbing in the Stables" by Simon Brett

"The Right Attitude to Rain" by Alexander McCall Smith  
"Hundred-Dollar Baby" by Robert B. Parker  
"Skeleton Coast" by Clive Cussler

## FICTION

"Capital Crimes" by Jonathan and Faye Kellerman  
"The Shape Shifter" by Tony Hillerman  
"Nature Girl" by Carl Hiaasen  
"The Rising Tide" by Jeff Shaara  
"A Christmas Secret" by Anne Perry  
"Cross" by James Patterson  
"Valley of Silence" by Nora Roberts  
"Pool Me Once" by Fern Michaels  
"Santa, Baby" by Jennifer Cruise, Lori Foster & Carly Phillips  
"Murder at the Opera" by Margaret Truman  
"Rumpole and the Reign of Terror" by John Mortimer  
"The Stabbing in the Stables"

by Simon Brett  
"The Right Attitude to Rain" by Alexander McCall Smith  
"Hundred-Dollar Baby" by Robert B. Parker  
"Skeleton Coast" by Clive Cussler  
"When Madeline Was Young" by Jane Hamilton  
"Berlin" by Pierre Frei  
"Ines of My Soul" by Isabel Allende  
"The Righteous Men" by Sam Bourne  
"The Scroll of Seduction" by Gioconda Belli

## NONFICTION

"Novels, 1973-1977" by Philip Roth  
"The Art of Putting" by Stan Utley  
"The Secret Message of Jesus" by Brian D. McLaren  
"Miller's Antiques Price Guide 2007"  
"The Blind Side: evolution of a game" by Michael Lewis  
"Culture Warrior" by Bill O'Reilly

"One Night in a Bad Inn" by Christy Leskovar  
"Blood and Thunder: an epic of the American West" by Hampton Sides

## MYSTERY

"You Have the Right to Remain Puzzled" by Parnell Hall  
"Santa Cruise" by Mary Higgins Clark

## BIOGRAPHY

"Lessons in Becoming Myself" by Ellen Burstyn

## REFERENCE

"Evolution" edited by Jennifer Curry and In-Young Chang  
"Jobs in America" edited by David Ramm  
"Representative American Speeches 2004-2005"

## BOOKS ON CD

"Cross" by James Patterson  
"Dear John" by Nicholas Sparks  
"Hundred-Dollar Baby" by Robert B. Parker

70 YEARS AGO  
Dec. 11, 1936SOCCER MIGHT  
REPLACE FOOTBALL

Officially noting recent suggestions that local high schools drop football and substitute soccer as the fall sport, Dallas Borough school officials this week were seriously considering promoting the new sport here next year.

The suggestion came originally from sports fans who resent the humble position of local scholastic elevens when contrasted to the fast and impressive football played in the Wyoming Valley.

Faced with the necessity of building football teams from small student bodies and slim budgets, local high schools take terrible beatings at the hands of bigger valley teams each year.

This year, the four local teams in the Back Mountain - Dallas, Westmoreland, Dallas Township and Lehman - scored a total of 129 points all season, while their opponents rolled up 451. Lake Township has already dropped football as a sport. Other school districts, faced with the heavy expenses for equipment, training and medical services, would like to find a way to eliminate the annual deficits.

Although it's a faster game, soccer is said to be less dangerous than football. It is also a less expensive sport. There is already a league in the Wyoming Valley and the sport is attaining great popularity in the larger colleges.

**(Editor's note: Despite the attempts, soccer didn't become a sport at Dallas or Lake-Lehman for almost 50 years. The pro-**

grams became league play in the early 1980s).

50 YEARS AGO  
Dec. 14, 1956YOUNG GIRL  
SWALLOWS  
COLLECTION

Loyalville Methodist Church services were interrupted Sunday morning in the midst of the Rev. Paul Clemow's sermon, when a small girl choked on her Sunday School collection money and was carried gasping and struggling from the building.

Bernadine Ruth Darnell, 4, daughter of Chief Petty Officer and Mrs. Arthur Earl Darnell whiled away the sermon time by playing with two shiny new nickels. She sampled one for taste and couldn't get it back.

Bernadine was admitted to Nesbitt Memorial Hospital in Kingston on order of family physician Dr. Richard Crompton. A fluoroscope revealed the nickel was halfway down, firmly lodged. Another X-ray showed it had slipped when the muscles relaxed. About 45 minutes later, Bernadine yielded up the nickel and was peacefully sleeping off all of the excitement in the children's ward.

Quick on the heels of Kingston Township's decision to post 35 mile per hour signs along Memorial Highway came discussion this week - both pro and con on the issue.

The decision by the supervisors was spurred by petitions signed by 600 Kingston Township residents, who asked that a 35 mile-per-hour speed limit be enforced from the Dallas Township line to the Courtdale Borough line.

Here are what some Back Mountain citizens thought of the project when interviewed by The Dallas Post:

W.H. Jeter of Dallas: "The highway is safe at 40 miles an hour anywhere, but whatever the speed limit is should be enforced. If you make it 35 and don't enforce it, then the man who obeys the limit is a menace on the highway. I'm not in favor of posting a (lower) speed limit just for a bluff."

David Schooley, Trucksville: "I'm all for it. I was one of the 600 who signed the petitions."

Thomas Gerrity, Harveys Lake: "With the present condition of the highway and its narrowness, 35 miles an hour is probably all right. Traffic should be restricted, but the (speed) limit is probably too low to continue for very long."

Mrs. Jean Kuehn, Dallas: "Well, from Hillside on down to Luzerne you sometimes have to make a little time. Go slow, and someone blasts a horn at you and calls you a cement creeper and one of those lousy women drivers."

40 YEARS AGO  
Dec. 15, 1966DALLAS MEETS,  
L-L CANCELS

Six members of the Dallas School Board braved the elements Tuesday evening to vote on a number of matters - including the approval of the district's first woman bus driver, Mrs. Helen G. Rau. A snowstorm dropped approximately 8 inches of snow on the Back Mountain that night.

The most important vote involved converting the senior high school to gas heat. The recommendation was made by property committee chairman Milton Evans, who said the changeover will save the district \$5,000.

At Lake-Lehman, the school board directors were unable to gather a quorum because of the snowstorm and the condition of

some roads. Three board members, Franklin Patton of Noxen, along with Moelwyn Williams and Willard Sutton of Harveys Lake, were able to attend the meeting. At 8:30 p.m., members who were not at the meeting were called and told not to attempt traveling to the meeting and the sandwiches went back into the freezing locker.

Devens Mill in Dallas has been sold to Agway Farms Inc., which will continue to supply local farmers with feeds, as well as home, garden and farm supplies. Agway did not buy the buildings, but has purchased the business continued by Mrs. Harold LaBar after her father's death.

Mrs. LaBar will leave the mill, which has been much a part of her life since childhood, on Dec. 17. Her father, Austin C. Devens, moved to Dallas in 1930 and established the local mill, having managed a feed store in Harveys Lake and Kunkle prior to his taking over the Dallas mill.

30 YEARS AGO  
Dec. 9, 1976CABLE TELEVISION  
IN JACKSON TWP?

Cable television might be coming to Jackson Township. Solicitor Blythe Evans read a revised ordinance at the Dec. 6 meeting of the township supervisors that would solve problems customers might have with their cable systems. Residents can avoid the \$10 installation fee by getting their name on the list within the first three months.

Kingston Township zoning board moved that the former Shavertown Elementary School property is zoned properly for plans submitted by Burger King at the zoning board meeting Tuesday night. The board also gave the company a temporary go-ahead on the building permit.