

The Dallas Post

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15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18711 • 570-675-5211
news@mydallaspost.com

Richard L. Connor
PUBLISHER
829-7202
rconnor@timesleader.com

Dotty Martin
EDITOR
970-7440
dmartin@mydallaspost.com

Christie Delicati
ADVERTISING
970-7111
cdelicati@timesleader.com

Rep. Boback opposes delaying of mammograms

Dear Editor:

I was incensed by the release of new guidelines recommending later and fewer mammograms for American women. This is not health care reform, but health care regression.

For almost 20 years, the American Cancer Society has encouraged women to get yearly mammograms starting at age 40, but now a government task force is telling health care providers and women that mammograms can be put off for a decade and performed less frequently, citing false positives and the anxiety that women feel from a questionable mammogram.

Really, I fear it is a case of putting a price tag on human life.

Ask any breast cancer survivor and I am certain she will tell you the anxiety she felt after receiving a call from her doctor that her mammogram results required further testing was far more comfortable than the prospect of not finding out about a breast tumor until it was too late. In my book, a false-positive test is better than overlooked cancer cells that could result in death.

The jury is still out on the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' new cervical cancer screening guidelines, but I will be vigilantly watching how these recommendations impact health insurance coverage for annual cervical cancer tests. Health care reform will not be paid for at the price of women's health.

Scaling back health screenings is not the way to reduce health care costs. Preventive measures, including screening, go a long

way in saving health care dollars in the long run. An initial investment in more nutrition, exercise and weight loss education would go so much further than depriving women of life-saving mammograms and other important tests.

As my mother used to always say, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." That being said, these guidelines are backward.

If we are to truly reform our health care system, we must remember that it is about saving human lives, not about saving money. This task force can cite all the statistics in the world, but I will never be convinced that cutting back on mammograms is worth the cost of even one human life.

I am working on legislation to address these recommendations and I look forward to providing details about my early legislation in the near future. I also have a petition available on my Web site, RepBoback.com and in my offices, urging the federal government to continue coverage of annual mammograms for women as advised by the American Cancer Society.

We all need to remember that these "statistics" are real women. They are our mothers, our sisters and our daughters. I urge the federal government to look beyond the numbers and see the devastating impact a change in policy could have for our nation's women.

Karen Boback
State Representative
117th District

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

• On Dec. 10, 1901, the first Nobel Prizes are awarded in Stockholm, Sweden, on the fifth anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor of dynamite and other high explosives. Although Nobel offered no reason for his creation of the prizes, it is believed he did so out of moral regret over the increasingly lethal uses of his inventions in war.

• On Dec. 12, 1917, in Omaha, Neb., Father Edward J. Flanagan, a 31-year-old Irish priest, opens the doors to a home for troubled and neglected children. Today "Boys and Girls Town" includes a grade school, a high school and a career vocational center on a farm 10 miles west of Omaha.

• On Dec. 7, 1925, future Tarzan actor Johnny Weissmuller sets the world record for the 150-yard freestyle swim. Already a gold medalist from the 1924 Olympics, Weissmuller competed again in 1928, taking five gold medals in all. In 1931, MGM cast Weissmuller to play the title role in "Tarzan the Ape Man."

• On Dec. 11, 1946, in the aftermath of World War II, the United Nations votes to establish the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), an organization to help provide relief and support to children living in countries devastated by the war.

• On Dec. 13, 1950, an unknown actor named James Dean appears in a Pepsi commercial. Dean would later personify the angry, restless youth culture in the film "Rebel Without a Cause" (1955). He died in a car crash in 1955 at age 24.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jill Spencer, of Meeker Road in Lehman Township, took this close-up shot on a fall ride at Grassy Ridge Orchard in Noxen.

SHARE YOUR PICTURES WITH OUR READERS

"YOUR SPACE" is reserved specifically for Dallas Post readers who have something they'd like to share with fellow readers.

Submitted items may include photos or short stories and should be sent via e-mail at news@mydallaspost.com, by fax at 675-3650 or by mail to The Dallas Post, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711.

Information must include the submitting person's name, address and a telephone number in the event we have questions. Readers wishing to have their photos returned should include a self-address/stamped envelope.

Items will be published in the order in which they are reserved. The editor of The Dallas Post reserves the right to reject any items submitted for publication.

1989 - 20 YEARS AGO

Boyer's Broncos, from the Dallas Middle School, recently became the sixth grade intramural soccer champions. The victors received a plaque recognizing their achievement. Team members are: Chester Pollick, David



ONLY
YESTERDAY

Rambus, Jamy Kozak, Rick Shupp, Lynn Kilduff, David Frederick, Charles Snyder, Brian Berlew, Joseph Noon, Greg Cobleigh, Ryan Dauksis, Melanie Love, Karen Kaleta, Rebecca Hoover, Kristen Nackley, Heather Gryziec, Leah Vincelli, Connor Ennis, Shannon Newell, Kevin McDonald, Griffin Bicking, Edward Williams, Jennifer White, Natalie Gulich and Abbey Redmond.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library Book Club had a surprise birthday party for Mrs. Florence Crump at its November meeting. Mrs. Crump celebrated her 95th birthday on December 2. She was honored for her many years of dedicated service to the library, in the book store, the book booth at the library auction and as president of the Book Club for the past 10 years.

Attendees of the party included: Elin Northrup, Frances Linskill, Marilyn Rudolph, Nancy Kozemchak, Mrs. Bernard Banks, Sr., Grace Martin, Irene Davies, Peggy Love, Phyllis Rivers, Blanch Thompson, June McCloskey, Dorothy Sanders, Betty Bierly, Marion Young, Dorthea Sweitzer, Orceil Davis, Elizabeth Stoehr, Martha Parker, Ruth Heintzelman, Bennie Matchett, Jo Bonham, Jane McMichael and Charlotte Oley.

1979 - 30 YEARS AGO

Eighteen Dallas High School students have been chosen for the 1980 edition of Who's Who Among American High School Students. They are: Sharon Reishus, Krystina Butler, Tara

Strauser, Brenda Beckerman, Michele Arcuri, Walter Weir, Thomas Sincavage, Scott Keller, Jeff Seizys, Michael Getz, Wendy Baird, Tammy Boudreaux, Ingrid Fries, James Thomas, Susan Watchulonis, Linda Akers, Marisa Bolinski and Michelle Thomas.

The Webeles of Lehman Cub Pack 241 recently received their ribbons and two year pins. Webeles include Chris Hampel, Joe Schwartz, Michael Bigus, Frank Riggins, Brian James, Chris Landmesser, Scott Schultz and Todd Krupa.

The Gate of Heaven Girls Basketball team opens their season on Monday when they travel to Avoca to play St. Mary's. Members of the varsity team are: Patti Judge, Susan Ruthkowski, Lori Movicki, Janel Jorda, Jill Solinski, Margaret Purcell, Debbie Gardner, Kathy Dixon, Julie Napieralski, Ellen Joyce, Pam Solinski, Leah Slattery and Kathleen Kelley.

1969 - 40 YEARS AGO

The old Linear plant on Route 309 in Fernbrook is being scrubbed from the top of its high water tower down to its new five-inch thick concrete floor in preparation of printing operations which will commence early in January. Valley Paperback controller Robert Fritz announced recently.

Dallas was chosen by the company as its relocation site for three reasons, Mr. Fritz claims. The existence of adequate plant facilities was an important feature, Mr. Fritz suggests, as they faced the prospect of a costly building program otherwise. Second, he says, Pennsylvania is much closer than is Arizona to the New York City-based publishers for whom Valley Paperback prints books.

Finally the labor market in and around the Back Mountain area is considered by top company officials as being "very good," Mr. Fritz concludes.

Junior Girl Scout Troop 624 of Dallas recently held their investiture and rededication at Dallas

United Methodist Church. The girls who participated in the services were Jean Otto, Carrie Arnold, Melanie Williams, Ellen Stair, Joan Otto, Cynthia Duffield, Rebecca Morton, Donna Katyl, Beth Stegner, Nancy Grabowski, Holly Garris, Gail Simon, Donna Bogart, Judy Lemmond and Robin Templin.

1959 - 50 YEARS AGO

Back Mountain Church Basketball League will begin another season Saturday night with three games on tap. Managers and teams are: Stan Davies, Shavertown; Red Brace, East Dallas; Tom Richardson, Prince of Peace; Bill O'Connell, St. Theresa's, Clint Brobst, Huntsville; and George Searfoss, Harvey's Lake.

Mrs. Sheldon Evans, Shavertown, entertained members of the Executive Board of Dallas Senior Woman's Club at their recent meeting. Mrs. James Huston was assistant hostess. Present at the meeting were Mrs. Donald Clark, Mrs. Robert Maturi, Mrs. Jack Stanley, Mrs. Al Antanitis, Mrs. Edwin Roth and Mrs. Stefan Hellerspeak.

At the Himmler Theater, Dallas, Clark Gable and Canoll Baker were featured in "But Not For Me."

1949 - 60 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Meeker, of Beaumont, will be residing in their new built home on the Tunkhannock Highway at Beaumont Sunday after next, weather permitting, according to Earl Johnson, contractor and builder, who is supervising erection of the two-story concrete block home and garage replacing the one burned to the ground two weeks ago.

It is being constructed by Meeker's neighbors who have offered their services gratuitously. Over 40 persons have answered the call of Johnson and Ellis Meeker, brother of Dan, when they discovered that the latter was trying to reconstruct a home on the site of a dilapidated build-

ing that had stood rotting for years.

Carverton Girl Scout Troop 109, Brownies and Troop 256, Intermediates held an Investiture and Fly Up ceremony recently at Carverton Methodist Church. Receiving their wings were Judy Richards, Phyllis Culver, Donna Perrego, Ruby Dixon, Marion Weiss, Marguerite Engle, Lois DeWolfe and Mary Ann Andrews.

Other scouts invested were Sally Dawn Edwards, Shirley Wall, Ruth Ann Shales, Bonnie Sickler, Lois Ryman and Betty Ann Harris.

1939 - 70 YEARS AGO

Creditors of Michael Fieger, former Hillside business man and an ardent Nazi who fled secretly to Germany last June with his American-born wife and two children, have traced his whereabouts to a small town in Bavaria, Germany.

Fieger, an early admirer of Hitler, is understood to have been under observation by government agents before his sudden departure, not only because of his frequent correspondence with representatives of the Nazi government but because of circumstances surrounding his entrance into this country.

An important Nazi leader is understood to have assured creditors that the German government would co-operate in demanding that Fieger settle his accounts, but the opening of the war interrupted negotiations.

A threatened epidemic of scarlet fever at the Dallas Township schools was checked effectively this week when health authorities, swinging in to action after five cases had been reported in the township, took 600 cultures and placed 16 detected carriers under observation.

Information for "Only Yesterday" is taken from past issues of The Dallas Post which is 120 years old. The information is printed here exactly as it appeared in the newspaper years ago.

"WHEN DO YOU THINK THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT SNOW WILL FALL IN THE BACK MOUNTAIN?"



"By December 20 - two inches."

Theodora McCoy
Harveys Lake



"Thursday, Dec. 3 - three inches."

Tom Duffy
Lake Silkworth



"January 15 - that's about when it starts getting cold. Not more than eight inches, though."

Cecil Martin
Noxen



"I'm hoping December 16 - 57 inches. That's my husband's birthday. You have to like snow to live here."

Laura Womer
Roaring Brook



"December 7 - that's Pearl Harbor Day and my son's birthday. About three inches."

Chuck Boytin
Sweet Valley



"Christmas Eve - oh, jiminy, three inches."

Susan Klamovich
Sweet Valley