

2009

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May

- The Spencer Martin Memorial Bike Ride for Habitat '09 was held May 3 at Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus in Lehman Township. The 30-mile bike ride benefited Wyoming Valley Habitat for Humanity.

- A brand new clubhouse opened at Irem Temple Country Club on May 12. Construction on the new 26,868 square foot facility began in July 2008 is available for the general public to rent. The total cost of the project was slightly more than \$7 million.

- The Second Annual Dallas Rotary Club First Responders of the Year Awards was held May 14 at Appletree Terrace at Newberry Estates in Dallas. Rotary Club members first came up with the idea for the awards two years ago as a way to recognize associates of the 14 fire departments, 13 emergency medical services departments and six police departments of the Back Mountain.

- Dallas Borough officials sought the help of residents after vandals damaged both of the township parks. Residents were encouraged to call 911 if they saw suspicious activity in the parks.

June

- John F. Prater was the valedictorian at Dallas High School commencement on June 5 just as his father, Dr. John M. Prater, was 30 years ago.

- Dallas School District officials broke ground June 16 for the new Dallas High School. The school is being constructed behind the current high school and is being built to accommodate 1,200 students with core areas that can accommodate 1,400 students since growth is expected to continue in the Back Mountain.

- Dallas Township received \$1 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The money will be used as reimbursement for various repairs performed throughout the township as a result of the June 2006 flooding.

- The newly-formed Back Mountain Community Partnership met publicly for the first time on June 18 at Insalaco Hall at Misericordia University. The inter-municipal alliance is composed of Dallas, Franklin, Jackson, Kingston and Lehman townships and Dallas Borough.

July

- Wooden animals from a carousel that once operated at Hanson's Amusement Park in Harveys Lake were recently returned to the area. Dallas resident Liz Martin, of the Brass Ring Foundation, confirmed that the animals were being stored in a secret location in the area.

- The 63rd Annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction was held from July 9 through July 12 on the library grounds in Dallas. The event was extended to Monday, July 13 after heavy rain on Saturday forced organizers to close the event for the evening.

- Dallas Borough Council approved a downtown master plan concept on July 15. Borough Manager Tracey Carr said the plan includes increased retail space, parking, light posts, trees, sidewalks, bike racks and garbage receptacles.

- A special meeting was called by Kingston Township supervisors on July 14 to discuss the Kingston Township Ambulance and Rescue Association's financial future and its ability to handle calls. Tom Nalbhone, president of the association, suggested a merger of the ambulance association and the Trucksville Volunteer Fire Company.

August

- About 20 blind and visually impaired children from "Camp Sight" made the trip to Harveys Lake on Aug. 4 to take a ride on Glenn Davis' 24-foot pontoon boat. Bill and Joan Hilbert, of Harveys Lake, and Bill and Pat Littleton, of Laffin, also agreed to take the children for rides on their boats.

- For the first time in five years, there was no Harveys Lake Homecoming in August. Carole Samson, who serves as a council member in the borough, said she began making the arrangements for this year's event, but other borough officials did not support it.

- Katie Rusonis, 17, of Sweet

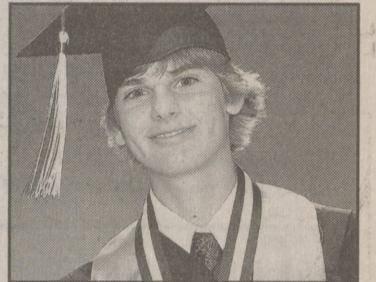


Receiving a lifetime award at the Second Annual Dallas Rotary Club First Responders of the Year Awards in May for their work with the Sweet Valley Fire and Ambulance Co. were Alice and Bob Walsh.



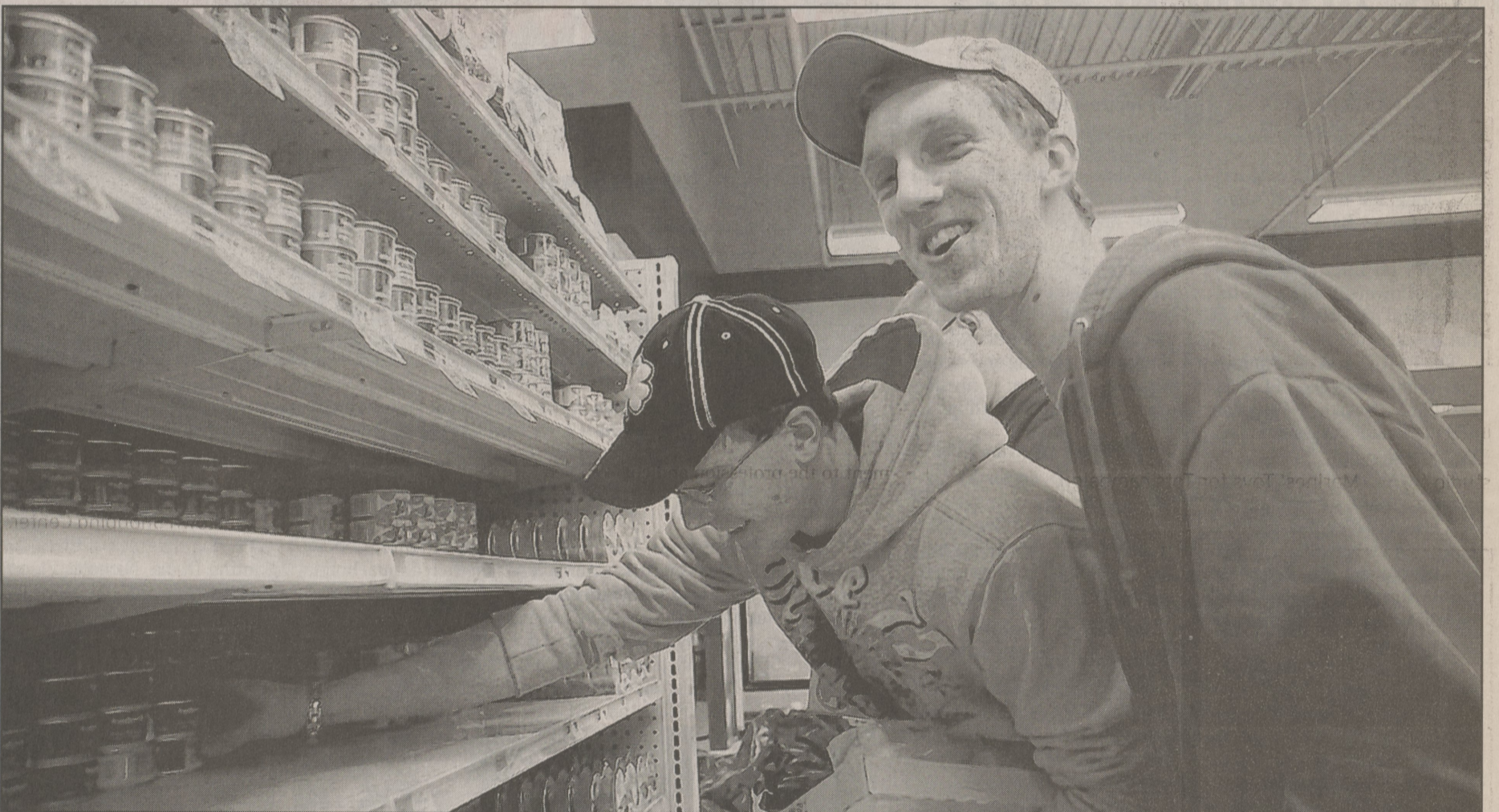
CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/FILE PHOTO

Three Wintersteen carousel horses that once operated at Hanson's Amusement Park at Harveys Lake made their public debut at the Dallas Harvest Festival.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/FILE PHOTO

John Prater, Class of 2009 valedictorian at Dallas High School, walks to the podium to address his classmates in June.



Jason Nolan and Tim Koplak stocked shelves last March at the new Thomas' Market in Dallas. The store, located in the Country Club Shopping Plaza where Bi-Lo had been, opened March 14. The Shavertown store continues to operate.

Valley, organized a motorcycle run to raise money for American RSDHope and John Heinz Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine in Dallas. Rusonis has suffered from RSD, or Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, since the fifth-grade.

- The 25th Annual Arts at Hayfield was held on Aug. 30 on the campus of Penn State Wilkes-Barre, featuring more than 100 artisans, musicians and crafters as well as multiple food vendors.

September

- The Jonathan R. Davis Volunteer Fire Co., also known as the Idetown Fire Co., hosted an open house in celebration of its 50th anniversary on Sept. 12 at its fire hall at Route 415 and Idetown Road in Lehman Township.

- The Lake-Lehman and Dallas field hockey teams held a joint fundraiser for Corey Ehret, a 15-year-old Dallas High School sophomore, on Sept. 13 at the Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School track. Ehret was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma, a form of childhood cancer, in his left cheek muscle in June.

- The Seventh Annual Dallas Harvest Festival was held on Sept. 20 throughout downtown Dallas. The festival was born in 2002 when a small committee decided to have a block party to promote downtown Dallas Borough the following year.

- Andy Mears, an architect with Johnson Mirmiran & Thompson, presented Dallas Borough Council with the final plan for renovations to Kenneth Young Memorial Park. Mears said neighbors and members of the community overwhelmingly requested the conversion of Burndale Road into a cul-de-sac

in order to block traffic from going by the park.

October

- The American Diabetes Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania 2009 Step Out: Walk to Fight Diabetes was held on Oct. 3 at the Dallas Middle School track. The annual event was moved to Dallas this year because many of the participants were from the Back Mountain.

- Ground was broken on Oct. 5 for a new football and multipurpose playing field at the Back Mountain Recreation Inc. complex. The field will serve as home to the Back Mountain Youth Football and Cheerleading League as part of the 130-acre complex on Outlet Road.

- The Elementary Foreign Language Academy in the Dallas School District, run by the high school's International Club, celebrated its 10th anniversary with a public barbecue on Oct. 17 at the high school.

- The Dallas Post held its Second Annual Best of the Back Mountain reception on Oct. 26 at Fire and Ice on Toby Creek in Trucksville.

November

- Ten Back Mountain veterans were featured in a short film titled "In Their Own Words," which was shown during Rep. Karen Boback (R-Harveys Lake) and Misericordia University's Annual Veterans' Appreciation Ceremony on Nov. 7 in the Lemmond Theater at Misericordia University.

- Rosemary Hozempa learned that her painting "Heaven Sent" would become an Easter Seal 2010 Lily Seal. The Dallas woman's painting was one of 11



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/FILE PHOTO

Rosemary Hozempa, a Dallas beautician/salon owner created a picture for the 2010 Easter Seals campaign.

paintings of lilies up for vote on www.easterseals.com to be featured in the Easter Seals 2010 Lily Seals.

- Representatives of the Back Mountain Community Partnership learned Nov. 19 during their monthly meeting at Misericordia University that three member municipalities were approved for a \$239,000 grant.

- Seventh-graders from Dallas Middle School visited the Junior Achievement Finance Park in Pittston Township on Nov. 23 and Nov. 24. The field trip to the facility is the culmination of a nine-week Junior Achievement course called "Money Matters" taken by all seventh-graders at the school.

December

- The owners of Pizza Perfect and Back Mountain Creamery decorated a 50-foot pine tree on the old train trestle above the businesses on Carverton Road in Trucksville.

- The Back Mountain Economic Development Council met with local officials and business owners on Dec. 10 at Misericordia University to announce



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/FILE PHOTO

Derek Siperko found this pig very fascinating at the 2009 Dallas Harvest Festival in September.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/FILE PHOTO

Mary Kay Covert, Dr. Joan Greulich, Dorie Zinn and Jeff Pace attended The Dallas Post's 2009 Best of the Back Mountain reception in October at Fire and Ice on Toby Creek in Trucksville.

the launch of www.backmountain.org, the new official Web site of the Back Mountain.

- Members of Cross Creek Community Church in Trucksville put on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" on Dec. 13 at the church. In the church's version of the play, Scrooge not only changed his ways to lead a better

life but also found "transcending love by accepting Christ."

- Dallas Township Police Officer Brian Feeney and Chief of Police Robert Jolley present their new K-9 dog, Aron, to the public at the Dec. 15 supervisors meeting. The department's former K-9 dog, Macko, developed lymphoma and was put down in September.