

2011

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its 50th annual big roast. The pig roast benefits community projects spearheaded by the legion and its members.

- The new, 17,000 square foot Geisinger medical clinic opens. It is located on the newly-named Lt. Michael Cleary Drive, off Dorchester Drive, in Dallas Township and offers more services to Back Mountain residents.

- Victims of a fundraising scheme headed by former Dallas High School guidance counselor John Wolensky are able to make claims in order to recoup the misappropriated funds. Wolensky pocketed money from a fundraiser in which students were overcharged as much as \$15 for a practice SAT test between 1997 and 2008. He also took money from student meal accounts and football helmet funds.

- Misericordia University announces a major expansion plan that will include new field space, two new dorms and a new arts building on the campus. Earlier in the year, the college announced the start of its football program for 2012 and the expansion will accommodate the program and more students on campus.

- The HOPE clinic at the Back Mountain Harvest As-

sembly Church announces it will include eye care in its free services. Later in the year, the clinic begins to offer free dental services to those in need.

- Gov. Tom Corbett announces major cuts to the public education system, and Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts begin to face difficult decisions in terms of employee and program eliminations.

APRIL

- Korean War veteran and Trucksville resident Tom Dombroski attends a free trip to Washington, D.C. to visit war memorials as part of a Crestwood student's senior project. It is the first time the 80-year-old would see the memorials.

- Bishop Joseph Bambera announces Gate of Heaven School in Dallas, along with three other schools in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, will not reopen for the 2011-12 school year. The decision leaves many families with students in attendance at the 60-year-old Catholic school facing challenging choices.

- The Dallas School Board approves a teachers' contract through 2015.

- Lake-Lehman School Board Vice President John Peter Farrell dies in an automobile accident on Route 29 in Noxen Township. His school board seat is taken over by his wife, Lorraine, and the board eventually votes to name an autism classroom at Lehman-Jackson Elementary in honor of the late board member. The Lake-Leh-

man Foundation also offers a scholarship in Farrell's name.

MAY

- The Back Mountain Community Partnership wins two awards for its ability to bring communities together. The group won the Third Annual Excellence in Township Planning Award from the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and the 2011 Community Progress Award from the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce.

- Dallas graduates celebrate the former high school building, the construction of the new building and 50 years of Dallas at the Tearin' It Up for the Tear-down all-class reunion at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds.

- A special breakfast to honor the remaining World War II veterans in the Back Mountain Ecumenical Group is held at Irem Temple Country Club.

- Trucksville United Methodist Church celebrates the completion of recent renovations and its 100th year inside the church on Knob Hill Road.

JUNE

- Renovations are complete for the greenhouses at The Lands at Hillside Farms and a formal dedication is held in honor of volunteers and donors who helped with the project.

- The former Dallas High School is demolished to make way for a parking lot at the new school. The last senior class to attend all four years at the 1960s-built building also graduates and members of the first class to attend school at the



Workmen carry away asbestos material while bricks from the old Dallas High School would be crushed and recycled as the foundation for the new parking lot in June.

building are invited to speak.

- Franklin Township approves its first-ever comprehensive plan.

- Both the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school boards raise taxes for residents after facing major challenges with state funding.

JULY

- The development of a non-denominational Christian school, called Rock Solid Academy, in the Back Mountain is announced. RSA President Mark DiPippa begins to raise funds and tour churches to attract attention to the planned school.

- The Back Mountain Bloomers hold their 2011 garden tour to support the Anthracite Scenic Trails Association.

- The 65th annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction is held. The closing event, the auction of local artist Sue Hand's original painting of the event, fetches more than \$6,000 for the library.

- The Dallas Area Municipal Authority votes to start its own solid waste collection program, hoping it will result in savings for its customers.

AUGUST

- Nine cows at The Lands at Hillside Farms are rated "excel-

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK FILE PHOTO/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Friends Vanessa Ryan and Madison Riley talk in the school yard in April after dismissal at Gate of Heaven School in Dallas, the day after it is announced that the school will be closed.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK FILE PHOTO/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Eric Martin, left, and Carol Sweeney work the auction block at the annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction in July.

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<p>2002 Chevrolet Malibu \$3,995 STK# 41041B</p>	<p>2003 Ford Windstar Minivan \$5,995 STK# K3101A</p>	<p>2002 Hyundai Elantra GT Hatchback \$5,395 STK# K2069A</p>
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