

# The people speak and Box returns to KT super post

By SARAH HITE  
shite@mydallaspost.com

Jeff Box was recently sworn in for a third term as Kingston Township supervisor, but the appointment was a bit unexpected. Box didn't run for re-election in 2011 - not even in the primary. But he won the seat left vacant by former supervisor John Solinsky after residents wrote his name on the ballot more than anyone else's moniker, and the rest is history. "I'm flattered," Box said of winning the write-in vote. Solinsky dropped out of the race in August, which left one seat vacant on the board. Supervisor James Reino Jr. won another term, and newcomer Gary Mathers was elected for a four-year term on the board in the November general election. Box, 51, wanted to step down

from his position due to "work reasons," but Kingston Township residents had other plans for the longtime public servant. "When I got the call from the election bureau that I received the most write-in votes, I just couldn't walk away," he said about his decision to stay in the position. "I'm glad folks in Kingston Township still have confidence in me." Box's third term comes after a long history in Kingston Township governmental affairs. He started his foray in municipal government in the early 1980s as a student intern in the Kingston Township office. "I developed a fondness for municipal management," said Box. "Good management is an absolute necessity." After he graduated from Wilkes College in 1985 with a degree in business administration and political science, it

"When I got the call from the election bureau that I received the most write-in votes, I just couldn't walk away."

Jeff Box  
Kingston Twp. supervisor

wasn't long before he found himself back in the Kingston Township municipal office. He became involved with the township planning commission when he moved to Shavertown with his wife, Maire, in the late 1980s. Then Box nabbed a job as the township manager in September 1988, which he held for 13 years. "It was like a dream come true," he said. During those years, he saw the township grow and municipal government change, but he still feels citizens receive the most for their money on the lo-

cal level. "One of the things I've always admired about Kingston Township is its tradition for solid public service," said Box. "Citizens truly receive \$1 of service for every \$1 in taxes, and I'm pleased to have been a part of continuing that tradition." Box resigned from his position as manager in 2001, and afterwards, the township board of supervisors went in disarray. Within just a few weeks, one supervisor resigned and two passed away, leaving two mem-



Jeff Box decided not to run for re-election as a Kingston Township supervisor but returned to the position as voters elected him in a write-in campaign.

## BACK MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

# Lake Township may be newest member

By SARAH HITE  
shite@mydallaspost.com

Lake Township is gearing up to become a member of the Back Mountain Community Partnership, as members discussed the township's inclusion at a meeting Jan. 19. Amy Salansky, a Lake Township supervisor, attended the partnership meeting to retrieve more information about joining the group. The partnership currently includes Dallas Borough and Dallas, Franklin, Jackson, Kingston and Lehman townships. "I would like to be able to take back the information I obtain today ... back to my other two supervisors to kind of seal the deal and join with you guys," she said. Lake Township officials sent the partnership a letter last month about the process of entering into the governmental partnership. Solicitor Jeff Malak said Lake Township will need to pass an ordinance, affirming its inclusion in the group. The partnership will make a recommendation for or against Lake Township's participation, and a unanimous vote from each individual municipality will be needed before Lake Township can join. Then the partnership will need to vote to amend the intergovernmental cooperation agreement to include Lake Township. Vice Chairman John Wilkes Jr., of Jackson Township, said Lake Township is already part of

the Back Mountain Regional Emergency Management Agency. Chairman James Reino Jr., of Kingston Township, said supervisors also sent a letter of support for the partnership's latest grant application. In other news, Wilkes discussed the sharing of code enforcement and third-party inspection services among partnership members. He said many of the municipalities have similar comprehensive plans drawn up by the same organizations and similar zoning ordinances. Wilkes even pointed out that three municipalities in the partnership - Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and Jackson Township - currently have an assistant zoning officer in common. He thought more research may be able to provide citizens with better services and a cost savings for local governments. "Sometimes these things save money, and sometimes they don't," said Wilkes. "It's worth looking into." Wilkes also said having a full-time, regional zoning office would provide better service to residents. For example, the Jackson Township zoning office is only open until noon most days, which could be a hindrance to the permitting process for residents. Reino said the partnership will conduct research before next year's township reorganization meetings to see if the idea is feasible.



Members of Cub Pack 155 watch one of the Pinewood Derby heats at the Trucksville United Methodist Church Hall.

# START YOUR ENGINES

Cub Scout Pack 155 holds annual Pinewood Derby at TUMC facility.

By EILEEN GODIN  
Dallas Post Correspondent

"Gentlemen - Start your engines" kicked off Cub Scout Pack 155's Pinewood Derby on Jan. 20 in the Boy Scout room of the William and Melba Dickson Educational Facility at the Trucksville United Methodist Church. The derby race is an annual event held by the Boy Scouts of America. Although Pack leader Russ Banta does not know how long the local Cub Scouts have been participating, he said the derby originated in 1953 in California. There were no limits to the local Cub Scouts' imagination as car designs stemmed from the traditional sports cars and a Herbie "The Love Bug," to the unique such as a pink Breast Cancer Awareness ribbon. All cars had to meet a weight limit of five ounces and a length of seven inches. The Cub Scouts voted Sammy Santangelo's car, Angry Bird inspired from the video game, Best in Show. All Scouts received a blue ribbon for building their race cars and participating in the

event. Families filled the Scout room to standing room only capacity to cheer for their favorite cars. The excitement of the night was contagious. Cub Master Rick Ostroski thanked sponsors of the event, including the Trucksville United Methodist Church, Trucksville; Pizza Perfect, Trucksville; AA Auto Parts Store, Dallas; Domino's Pizza, Dallas; Metzgar Aluminum Inc., Shavertown; and Impressions Media, Wilkes-Barre.



Matt Cheskiewicz, of Dallas, places his pine-block racecar onto a scale to check its weight.

## BMPA DONATES TO ADOPT A COP PROGRAM



The Back Mountain Police Association recently donated another \$1200 to the "Adopt a Cop" program created by Fallen Officers Remembered to help purchase two new bulletproof vests for local law enforcement officers. The BMPA has been a yearly contributor to the program for several years and raises the funds from proceeds of the annual Back Mountain Police Association Golf Tournament. Kranson Uniform was also instrumental with the purchase and fitting of the vests. From left, are Gina Boyle, FOR co-founder; Ranger Darren Kramer, BMPA secretary and golf tournament coordinator; vest recipient Officer William Acuff, Dallas Borough; Officer Martin Maransky, BMPA president; Jaclyn Poceschi Mosley, FOR co-founder.

## Locals named to dean's list at The University of Scranton

Several Back Mountain residents have been named to the dean's list at The University of Scranton for the fall 2011 semester. They are Nicole E. Clemson, Dallas; Christopher B. Donahue, Dallas; Sara J. Krogulski, Shavertown; Rosemary A. Shaver, Shavertown; Edward S. Stredny, Dallas. Also, Rebekah Stuart, Dallas; Cory C. Templeton, Trucksville; Paul J. VanLoon, Dallas; Lauren Weaver, Shavertown. To attain dean's list, a student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better with a minimum number of credit hours.