



Nice doggie

Nancy Dukes and Toby, her standard poodle "therapy dog," paid a visit to Trucksville Nursery School recently. She has three poodles that are used in Pet Assisted Therapy at hospitals and nursing homes in the region. Above, from left, Meghan Bloom, Sergey Galkina, Bobby Graham and Max Cook get a close look. At right, Nancy shows the children what a good dog Toby can be.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



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The economic viewpoint



Howard Grossman

A recent event in the history of Northeastern Pennsylvania may result in actions which would promote 21st Century life in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Sponsored by the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania (EDCNP) and co-sponsored by 16 higher educational institutions serving the region and 12 corporate sponsors, a Regional Economic Summit Conference was held at Split Rock Lodge on October 9, 1997. Purpose was to review the opportunities which exist and develop recommendations dealing with the 21st Century and Northeastern Pennsylvania. This major event attracted over 200 persons and featured 11 panel presentations, two major speakers and other activities.

Probably five major activities dominated the panel presentations and the comments by the major speakers. These included the following:

- A call for significantly more regionalism.
- A call for many more public-private sector partnerships.
- A call for regional planning.
- The need for tax reform in Pennsylvania.
- Enhance workforce development.

The two major speakers included Dan Whalen, President/CEO of Bell Atlantic Pennsylvania and Michael Fairbanks, graduate of the University of Scranton and a co-leader of the Monitor Company in Cambridge, MA. Whalen spoke on the increasing role of

Economic Summit looks to 21st century in region

telecommunication as an economic development tool, pointing to specific projects which have come to Northeastern Pennsylvania and elsewhere as a result of a telecommunications policy. He noted the Pennsylvania legislation enacted by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor in 1993 and suggested the opportunities which exist in the 21st Century to use telecommunications as a dominant tool for economic expansion.

Fairbanks electrified the luncheon crowd with a 75 minute presentation concerning his view of what is happening in some third world countries and how the needs of those countries and the style of function and activity has applicability to Northeastern Pennsylvania. He pointed to the need for extremely specific strategies for economic growth and referred to principles which he recently wrote in a co-authored book titled "Plowing the Sea".

The 11 panel presentations covered topics of importance to 21st Century life in the region. They included the following:

1. Transportation
2. Economic Diversification
3. Intergovernmental Cooperation
4. Municipal Land Use Planning Issues
5. Environmental
6. Human Services & Housing
7. Telecommunications
8. Current Funding Programs for Municipal Governments.
9. Training & Education
10. Technology
11. Legislative

A special report will be published in the near future outlining the results of the conference and sent to those in attendance as well as other public, private and

non-profit leaders across the region.

Among the distinguished panelists were Luzerne County Commissioner Tom Makowski, Pike County Commissioner Gene Garvey, Carbon County Commissioner Charles Getz, City of Wilkes-Barre Mayor, Tom McGroarty and many private sector leaders involved in the economic development of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Also participating were members of the local industrial development community across the region.

A State of the Region 1997 address was given by the EDCNP Executive Director outlining what we might look for in the 21st Century in Northeastern Pennsylvania with some specific recommendations for action.

Tom Heaney, President of EDCNP opened the Conference. Bill Kelly, President and General Manager of WVIA was overall conference moderator and Anna Cervenak, External Affairs Manager of Bell Atlantic and former EDCNP President summarized the conference.

Following the completion of the all day event, WVIA conducted a one-hour taping for future presentation on their station and featured five members of the presentation panel from the conference as well as Michael Fairbanks.

For further information pertaining to the Regional Economic Summit Conference, the results thereof, and other activities dealing with the economy of the region, contact EDCNP, 1151 Oak Street, Pittston, Pa 18640.

Howard Grossman is Executive Director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He lives in Dallas.

Library news



Nancy Kozemchak

The Back Mountain Memorial Library circulated 6,236 books during the month of February: adult fiction 2,458; juvenile fiction 1,600; adult non-fiction 1,462; juvenile non-fiction 716. Reference questions answered 246; Book Club books circulated 187; interlibrary loan transactions 32; CDs 49; audio tapes 370; and videos 263. New books added to the collection adult 85; juvenile 30; withdrawn, juvenile 79. New

Annual fundraiser to begin

borrowers: adult 46, juvenile 36; re-registrations, adult 39; juvenile 42. Total active borrowers as of February 28 = 10,789.

The 'Friends of the Back Mountain Memorial Library' have been busy at work on the annual appeal to the public for funds to help maintain the building and the business of the library. Shirley Forney, chairperson and the steering committee of the 'Friends' spent many hours preparing the mailing. The funds derived from this campaign have become one of the major financial supports for the library. The theme for 1998 is "Libraries are not 'made,' they grow".

The 10th annual 'Luncheon With A Special Author' sponsored by the 'Friends' has been set for Thurs., April 23. A reminder to keep this date open.

New books at the library: "Sudden Mischief" by Robert B. Parker is about Brad Sterling, former Harvard football player, ne'er-do-well, and Susan Silverman's long-out-of-touch husband and by all appearances a successful businessman.

"And Then You Die" by Iria Johansen is a nerve-shattering novel, a story of deadly greed and global terror. A seasoned photojournalist, Bess Grady, has honed her craft, then an easy assignment turns into a desperate journey into fear.

"All I Need is You" by Johanna Lindsey is about Casey Straton, a headstrong child with her mother's eyes and her father's stubborn temperament. The responsibility of running her late grandfather's ranch goes to Casey, her older brother.