



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

Bonnie Silveti, left, and Shirley Ceitner helped Margaret Bakker welcomed guests and handed out nametags.

## Land trust

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state of New Jersey will not have one square inch of developable land left. "We don't want that to happen in Pennsylvania," said Ayers.

The organization changed its name several years ago to reflect a broader focus. The NBLT now works with people and communities in the three counties where the north branch of the Susquehanna River flows — Luzerne, Wyoming and Susquehanna. It mainly helps landowners by drafting a legal document to be permanently affixed to a deed. This conservation easement details the uses and activities prohibited on that land in perpetuity. This guarantees that the land will be forever protected according to the wishes of the owners.

"A land trust can offer a third party protection to land owners," explained Will Conyngham, another original member. "It is the only type of organization that can do that."

According to information in the group's brochure, Pennsylvania lost one million acres of farmland and forest to development between 1992 and 1997. The state's top economic products are farming and tourism. Land trust members are looking for ways to preserve the landscapes that produce our food and attract tourists.

The NBLT is growing and now has about 400 members. In addition to educating people about sustainable growth and offering guidance for preserving family lands, they help expedite land use programs like the Luzerne and Wyoming County farmland preservation programs, assist municipalities with land use decisions, help sportsmen conserve their hunting grounds and more.

"We guide townships and municipalities through expertise we can offer in ordinance writing so

communities can develop wisely," said Ayers.

The organization has also undertaken the reconstruction of the Noxen Railroad Depot, which was built in 1863, and stands along Bowman's Creek in Wyoming County. The project fits into their mission of preserving land and historical sites. It is a gateway to the largest portion of State Gamelands in Pennsylvania. Noxen is surrounded by 100,000 acres of preserved land made up of gamelands, Ricketts Glen State Park and several private properties conserved through the land trust.

"The station will serve as a museum and conservation center for the area," said Ayers. "We will have some railroad cars in the back to serve as offices."

NBLT is also offering a new educational project for schools, scout groups and interested adult groups. EnviroScape is a watershed demonstration model complete with mountains, residential areas, sewage treatment facilities, a golf course and streams. Sprinkled cocoa turns into muddy rivers when the model is "rained" on with spray water bottles. The discussion and demonstration include information on the effects of pesticides and fertilizers, land use and types of pollution and is a great way to show how everything we do affects the environment.

A Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener grant provides the funds necessary and Donna Thomas of Sweet Valley takes the environmental demonstration on the road.

For more information about this or any NBLT program or to become a member, call their office in Trucksville at 696-5545 or visit their new web page at [www.nblt.org](http://www.nblt.org).

## Toy bingo

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12 crowd. The young players were thrilled with anything they won, whether it was a pack of cards, a Barbie, or a Home Depot tool set. Everyone went home happy and full of Christmas cheer including the parents, who said fundraisers such as this are "a nice alternative to door-to-door selling." Meeker added, "They said they would see us next year which is always nice to hear."

The Hunlock Creek Fire Department helped the freshman class keep costs down by lending the school their bingo ball blower. "This was our largest turnout and our biggest profit," Meeker said. "We spent like \$60 all together. We'll profit well over \$400." The money will be spent on various class activities, including the freshman-sophomore semi-formal dance.

## Mendygral graduates basic training

Air Force Airman Justin T. Mendygral has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and customs; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training and special training in human relations. In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Mendygral is the son of Jill Mendygral of Harvey's Lake, Pa. He is a 2001 graduate of Lake Lehman High School.



AIRMAN JUSTIN T. MENDYGRAL

## Holiday trash pickup schedule

DAMA wishes to remind customers that there will be no collection of trash or recyclables on: New Years Day-Tuesday, Jan. 1 For both holidays, Tuesday collection will be on Wednesday.

DAMA is pleased to announce there will be a no bag limit on trash through Monday, Dec. 31. The normal two bag limit will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2002.



# Eat, THINK, And Be Wary... Don't Drink And Drive!

## Don't be a statistic . . drinking and driving can be a deadly combination



If you're going to drink alcohol this holiday, plan ahead so you aren't behind the wheel. Stay where you are, arrange for a designated driver, call a cab or a friend, just don't drive drunk.

And remember - Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk

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