

Haunted

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Although she described the financial situation as "bleak," Young said the budget cuts have provided the library with an opportunity to reinvent itself.

"There's a lot of changes going on in Dallas. We'd like the library to be more the center of the community and that people see it as such. It really has a lot to offer," she said.

After finding out about the budget cuts, library supporters began tossing around ideas about how to make up for the loss. Young said the haunted house idea just stuck.

Since making the decision to do the haunted house, the library has been successful at attracting volunteers from church youth groups and school key clubs to help with the endeavor, said Young. Neiman is one of those volunteers.

A Boy Scout leader, Neiman has already been taking his "odd" collection of Halloween props to Camp Acahela every year, and he's happy to add this event to his to do list.

"I enjoy being with the kids; this is one holiday they can let

"We'd like the library to be more the center of the community and that people see it as such."

Nadine Young

Chairperson of fundraising and development
Back Mountain Memorial Library

their hair down. They (the library) need the money, they need the help; I enjoy the props and we have a good time with it," he said.

Neiman also organizes the annual children's auction, which is conducted by his scout troop.

Asked what will happen if the library doesn't raise the \$70,000 it needs, Young said specifics haven't been discussed by the board.

"We don't even want to go there. We're all feeling pretty positive that we can pull this off," she said.

She said she knows the haunted library won't make up all of the financial shortfall and said other fundraising ideas are being discussed.

"We're trying to take a pro-ac-

tive approach here and not wait to find out how bad it will be — because it looks pretty bleak.

"We're looking at this as an opportunity."

The haunted house will be in the basement of the library, an already spooky place, said Young. Because the library building was originally a school, "a haunted school theme" is planned.

Several activities will take place outside of the library, including a graveyard, face painting, pumpkin carving and food booth.

The Back Mountain Haunted Library will run Friday and Saturday, October 24 and 25 from 6 to 11 p.m. and Sunday, October 26 from 5 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person.



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

Angie and Henry Cebulski direct members of College Misericordia's cross country team in loading the sea cannister. Pictured from left are: Assistant Coach Dave Allison, Jeff Dahlgard, Bobby Dmuchowski, Coach Frank Kinkead and Jared Kohler, in truck. Mike Petrikonis and Justin Sandy were also on hand to help.

Local haunts benefit charities

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

With Halloween quickly approaching, you may have a hard time deciding which Back Mountain haunted house to visit. Now that there are three, the choice is more difficult than ever. But whether you choose the ever-evolving Lehman Haunted Barn, the seriously scary Penn State Haunted Forest or the newest one, the Back Mountain Haunted Library, relax, much of the cost of your ticket will go to a charitable cause.

If you're feeling generous, sample all three to support a wide range of causes.

Penn State's Haunted Forest is a favorite for many. It features a haunted hay ride, Halloween decorated Hayfield House and of course, the scary haunted forest.

Nolan Bennet, Penn State Wilkes-Barre Student Government secretary, said the Haunted Forest raises thousands of dollars for cancer research

every year.

"In 2001, the last year we held the haunted forest, we raised \$14,000," said Bennet.

The money is donated to the Four Diamonds Fund, a national organization which pays for cancer research, as well as other costs those with cancer have to endure, said Bennet.

"It goes to pay for medical bills for families that can't afford them, as well as for whatever they might need like clothing," he added.

About 40 volunteers, mostly students, and some staff, will participate in the fundraising event.

The Haunted Library is the newest spooky spot in the area. Nadine Young, chairperson of the Fundraising and Development Committee, said the haunted library will sport a "school theme." All proceeds will go toward the library's operating budget.

Young said in the wake of a \$50,000 cut in the state's contribution to the library, the haunted library is a way to try to

make up the difference.

"For a family of four, you can get a whole evening if entertainment here for \$20."

Other outdoor activities will include face painting, pumpkin carving and a food booth.

The Lehman Haunted Barn has been around since the 1980s. On average it grosses \$30,000 over five weekends in October, much of which is donated to charity and youth organizations.

"We started it for our youth group, it was something fun to do, we called it the Haunted Barn Ministry," said

Jonathan Pineno, coordinator of the barn.

As the scope of the project and the amount of money coming in grew, organizers decided to donate a large portion to charity, said Pineno. They created the Wyoming Valley Children's Aid Fund which distributes money to those in need.

Check the calendar page for listings of dates, times and locations.

Crime Watch will hand out Halloween goodies

JACKSON TWP. — The Jackson Township Neighborhood Crime Watch invites all residents to visit the Jackson Township Municipal Building on Halloween, Friday, October 31, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Children will receive a Halloween goodie bag.

All residents are welcome and encouraged to speak with members of the Jackson Township Neighborhood Crime Watch for information on how we serve our community.

Ask about obtaining a Crime Watch PIN# for your family.

Low-cost dental care at LCCC

The Luzerne County Community College Dental Health Clinic at the College's campus in Nanticoke is open to the public. The clinic provides low cost preventive dental hygiene services including teeth cleaning, dental x-rays, and fluoride treatments.

For information or an appointment, call 740-0446 or (800)377-LCCC, ext. 446.

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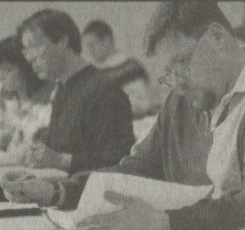
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